

Spring 2021  
ISSUE 70

# CHALGRAVE NEWS

*Celebrating Chalgrave*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Chalgrave Parish Church Cover photo by Tracy Malster



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**Deadline for next edition: 15 July 2021**

**Please send your contributions to: [thechalgravenews@gmail.com](mailto: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

Many of you will be looking back to this time last year and reflecting on how much has changed and how much is the same. Who would have thought that a year later we would be in another lockdown? Back then we might have been worried but we probably thought it would all be 'sorted out' by now.

Last spring the weather was unusually warm and sunny and if you were lucky enough to be working from home (or not working at all) you could get out and enjoy the Chalgrave countryside.

After some initial panics (toilet rolls!) things settled down and we adapted to our new way of life. We found new ways of doing things although usually they weren't as easy or as much fun as the old ways. We continued to publish and deliver the Chalgrave News in spite of having just one face-to-face editorial meeting outdoors last summer.

A year later, after a particularly cold and miserable spring we're all fed-up as we come to terms with the fact that Covid-19 will be something we have to live with for the foreseeable future.

But things are looking up at last. The vaccination programme has been remarkably successful so far, and we can now meet and hug and start making plans (with our fingers crossed).

So in the words of Chalgrave resident Colin McCausland (Page 36) '*Grab life, enjoy it while you can.*' just remember to be careful out there.



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.

# View from The House

## The tribute I gave to Prince Philip in the House of Commons.

*As we meet to pay our respects to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty the Queen and her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who are experiencing such a profound loss of from one of the twin pillars of their family's life. But it is a loss for all of us as well. The Duke of York put it well over the weekend when he said:*



*“We have lost the grandfather of the nation.”*

*My brother said to me over the weekend, “I will miss Prince Philip a lot. I have grown up with him. He has always been the quiet, strong presence at the Queen’s side,” and I think that feeling is very widely shared.*

*Although Prince Philip was born into a life of privilege and later lived such a life, we must remember that he arrived on our shores as a homeless refugee. In the proud tradition of these islands, we gave him welcome, and he repaid that welcome a thousand times over with a life of unstinting service to our country, the Commonwealth and the world. He was a man of many interests, but he will be remembered principally for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme. I noted the comments of one young man last Friday, who said that had it not been for the award scheme, he suspected he would have ended up in prison. Like so many families, my own children benefited from the scheme, which I am sure will continue to go from strength to strength—a living memorial to Prince Philip.*

*His other great interest of conservation and the environment fitted so well with his service to young people. It is of course young people who will reap the benefits of a planet and creation that is well cared for, and it is they who will feel most keenly its loss. The Duke was way ahead of his time in realising the profound danger of climate change and biodiversity loss.*

# View from The House

*In terms of being a role model, he showed how men can serve women while being men in their own right. Never have such role models been needed more, as we continue to learn of unacceptable behaviour by men towards women.*

*In 2017, he visited my constituency with the Queen to open the elephant care centre at Whipsnade zoo, and then to open the Priory View independent living scheme in Dunstable. Councillor Carole Hegley, portfolio holder for adult social care in Central Bedfordshire Council, showed him round and said of him:*

*“I saw his warm and friendly manner, his unique humour and the way that he made people feel at ease, talking to many guests as he toured the building”.*

*At the end of the visit, he received a gift from the oldest resident at Priory View, who was a good few years younger than the Duke himself.*

*As the royal family are united in their grief, I hope they will grow closer together and cherish each other even more, having lost one of their most beloved members. His marriage to the Queen was built on deep love and a shared Christian faith which, as we have heard from many bishops and clergy, was living and real. It is for that reason that we can ask with confidence that he rest in peace and rise in glory. He had an assurance that death was not the end, and it is the Queen and her family whom we must continue to support in their grief.*

## **Andrew Selous Member of Parliament for SW Bedfordshire**

Andrew's contact details are House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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

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



# Parish Assembly Reports 2020-2021

## Chairman of the Parish Council

The Parish Council has had to cancel, once again, the Annual Assembly because of the Covid 19 Pandemic. We hope that this is the last time we have to cancel the occasion and that next year we can have our normal gathering at the Memorial Hall, a mix of formal and social, where not only is it an opportunity to find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year but we also get up to date with other organisations in the Parish.



As we are not having our Assembly, we have asked organisations in the Parish to write a short report which we will collate and put into the next edition of the Chalgrave News.

As always, the Parish Council works hard behind the scenes to maintain and improve our community by monitoring planning applications, highways, fly tipping, footpaths, flooding and much more, as well as liaising with the Police, Central Beds. Council, our CBC Councillor Mark Versallion and with our MP Andrew Selous. We are also involved with anything that will have an impact on the Parish such as housing development around Houghton Regis, expansion of Luton Airport, the number of solar farms, protecting the Green Belt, and the de-trunking the A5 through Hockliffe. As well as having specific responsibilities, Councillors will attend other meetings for example Cllr. Green attends the Town and Parish meetings and I attend the BATPC meetings.

Our Emergency Plan continues to be in operation. If you need any kind of help the contact numbers are in the Chalgrave News. Thanks to Barbara Jackson for taking a lead on this.

We get a Precept every year which is part of your Council Tax. A third of this amount goes straight back into the community in the form of grants, we keep an amount in reserve for the unexpected and the rest is for the running of the Council activities. If you want to look at our accounts, please contact the Clerk.

As we want to maintain the rural nature of our Parish, we discuss all planning applications and make comments. Importantly, if permission is given, we check that the development adheres to the permitted plans.

Cllr. Jan Day has done a lot of work on maintaining and developing the Great Pond of Tebworth along with John, Paul Whitton, Barbara and others. As soon as we are able, there will be a 'work party'. If you can volunteer, we would be grateful for your help.

# Parish Assembly Reports 2020-2021

The unusual amount of rain we experienced earlier in the year created flooding problems, particularly for Parkview Lane. We have liaised with CBC and a plan is being developed that we hope will solve the problems.

As with other villages parking is a problem. Cars have been parked across pavements, on corners, and near junctions. We will at some point soon have yellow lines on the corner of Toddington and Wingfield Roads. We have been asking residents to park cars with consideration for others.

Fly tipping is a continuing problem in our Parish. We discussed having CCTV but decided that it will not stop the problem as they will only tip in another part of the Parish. Fly tipping is a national problem and we decided to press CBC and Government to come up with solutions.

The Lords Hill A5 roundabout is still a problem. Accidents are still happening. Mark Versallion arranged a meeting between Highways England and Toddington and Tebworth Parish Councils last year. It was a positive meeting but still nothing has happened. We originally brought up the issue in 2017.

You will be aware that there is planning application for a solar farm next to Tebworth. The Parish Council supports the use of Green Energy but is concerned with the number of solar farms in our area and the further loss of Green Belt.

The Parish Council has two awards to give each year. The first is the Millennium Award for under 18's for an achievement of some kind – educational, sporting, charity or service to the community.

The other is the Community Award for 18 years and above, again for an achievement or service to the community. If you know of anybody that deserves such an award, please contact any of the Councillors or Clerk. Finally, you are always welcome to attend any of the Parish Council meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of the month.

Currently, we are holding virtual meetings via Zoom. If you want to join these virtual meetings, please contact the Clerk for details.

**Phil Parry**



# Parish Assembly Reports 2020-2021

## Councillor Mark Versallion

Ward Councillor Mark Versallion kindly joined the Chalgrave Parish Assembly on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom. He updated the Parish Council and residents on the events of the last twelve months:



### 1. Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Performance

CBC's response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been extremely good. The national government has performed well with funding therefore there have been no savage cuts to services. However the government is putting pressure on CBC funding, especially for social services, which has resulted in a 5% increase in Council Tax. The new leader of CBC, Richard Wenham, may take a different approach to funding for the council

### 2. Solar Farms

Mark now has four applications for solar farms within his ward; Chalgrave Manor Farm, Tebworth, Tilsworth and the other side of the A5 opposite Hockliffe Road. Very few applications have been submitted within the rest of Central Bedfordshire. Mark is in favour of renewable energy but all these applications are in the Green Belt. There is a lack of policy for solar farms from Central Government.

### 3. Facebook

Mark has a Facebook page where he gives updates on current issues and takes questions and comments from the public.

Mark can be found at: CllrMarkVersallion,  
or on a web page at: <https://m.facebook.com/CllrMarkVersallion/>

Mark then took questions from councillors and residents. There were short discussions on the Green Belt, new housing and government policy on barn conversions.





# Parish Assembly Reports 2020-2021

## Andrew Selous MP

Andrew Selous MP for South West Bedfordshire kindly joined the Chalgrave Parish Assembly on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom.

He updated the Parish Council and residents on the following:

### 1. Traffic through Hockliffe

The traffic problems through Hockliffe have been going on for some time. Andrew is attending a meeting with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Highways England to find a solution.

### 2. Fly Tipping

Fly tipping has got worse. Apparently a lower weight of tipping has been collected but the number of incidents have gone up. An appointment is needed to go to a Tidy Tip but they are very good. CBC has bought LitterCam cameras to catch and fine drives who litter. Maidstone Borough Council is the first to pilot this technology.

### 3. Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

These take place on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Andrew suggested engaging with the candidates to find out what they are proposing.

### 4. Police Matters

This is an area of concern. The government has increased Bedfordshire Police's budget by 25% but this allocation is still not good enough. Leighton Buzzard had 34 Polcie Officers in 1998. Now it is a hub of only 8 and not open 24 hours. This is work in progress.

### 5. Travellers' Sites

Planning for Travellers' sites has adverse outcomes for the settled community. The current policy does not work well.

### 6. New Phlebotomy Clinic

A new Health Hub is proposed for Dunstable, which will include a Phlebotomy Clinic. This is good news locally.

### 7. Planning.

CBC's Local Plan will be in place by the summer, which will be good news as it means that CBC can turn down proposed development where it's not wanted.

### 8. Solar Panels

Andrew is concerned about the impact of solar farms on the landscape. He said that the country will need three times as much electricity in the future as we are providing now.

### 9. Agroecology

Bedfordshire NFU is looking at how to apply agroecological principles in this area.

### 10 Economics

Unemployment is much higher than it was before the pandemic with the under 35 age group being hardest hit.

Andrew then took questions from councillors and residents.

# CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



# BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

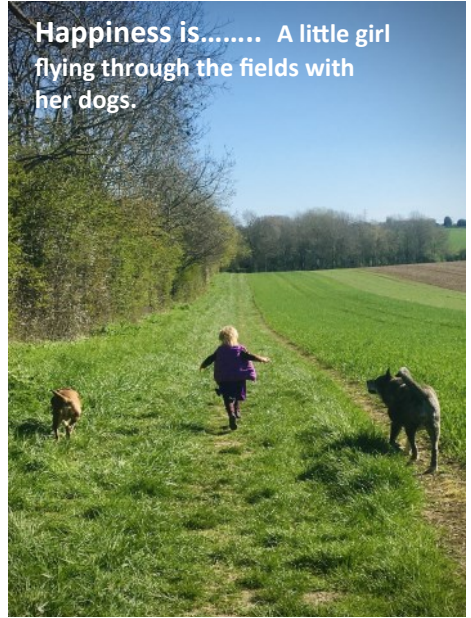


# KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



Happiness is..... A little girl flying through the fields with her dogs.



## Parish Assembly Reports 2020-2021

### Book Club Report 2021

There is nothing to report due to the pandemic. Hopefully when weather warms up, and stays warm, we will be able to meet up in the garden.

### Chalgrave News Report

The Chalgrave News is battling on through the pandemic and we have managed to deliver free quarterly magazines to the community throughout 2020. We have been very lucky to have plenty of willing contributors resulting in some very interesting articles. During the pandemic the magazine has offered support and contact to families in lockdown.

Raising funds is difficult just now so we are mulling over ideas to see how we can make some money for future editions.

We endeavour to report in a positive light the great things happening in the parish and publish reminders for future events and we invite ideas and articles from anyone in the parish and hope to continue to deliver in a fresh way each quarter. **The Chalgrave News Team**

# Parish Assembly Reports 2020-2021

## Chalgrave Memorial Hall

Unfortunately with the pandemic over the last year, there is little to report on the Memorial Hall this year. However may I take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for its continued support of the Memorial Hall and indeed its financial assistance toward the running costs of the Hall. We have in addition received £11,500 from the Central Bedfordshire Council to assist with our costs, and this has enabled us to maintain the Hall and provide for such necessities as electricity, oil and general maintenance. For the second year running, there will be no increase in the Hall charges

I think its worth restating three of the Trustees main objectives.

**Firstly** to ensure the Hall is as far as possible self-supporting, **secondly** to preserve and maintain it as a major Parish asset and **thirdly** to ensure it is available, accessible and affordable to the residents of the Parish.

In addition to the normal running expenses, we do need to continue to improve the Hall and facilities and I am sure you will have noticed that some time has been spent on the garden. We are further considering an upgrade to the kitchen but this will inevitably be the subject of an external grant bid.

We are very concerned that some individuals have damaged the guttering to the roof and we would ask parishioners to report any vandalism they see to any committee member.

Finally, the first booking on the Hall this year will be on May the 6<sup>th</sup> when elections are to be held for the Police Commissioner. Hopefully there will be more bookings as things improve.

**Roger Masters**



# CHALGRAVE NEWS FACE BOOK PAGE



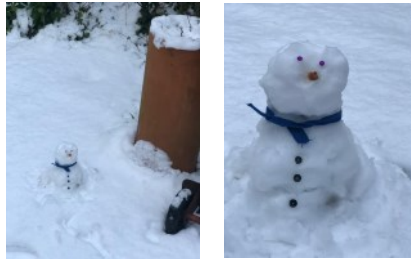
Chalgrave News has its very own face book page where lots of articles, links and updates are regular. You can access it on <https://www.facebook.com/ChalgraveNews>

If you 'Like' the page, updates will automatically be sent to you if you have a facebook account.

We started out the year reporting very heavy rainfall and flooding on some of the roads in the village. The S bend in Tebworth has been regularly flooded over recent years, as has the area near Signs of the Times. In Wingfield the road near Pond Farm was so deep in water some cars had difficulty getting through.

Then we had snow and people were posting pictures of snowmen. Not to be out done, I posted mine.

'Here's mine...'took ages!



Predictably, burst water pipes followed; one on ToddingtonRoad and the other outside Ivy Farm. Supplies to houses were affected for a while and the village pond got unexpectedly topped up!

Worryingly, we were receiving reports of local dog poisonings. There were even some dogs that died after being walked in Totternhoe Knolls and the Houghton Park area. It was good to know the police were taking it seriously and asked for anyone with information to contact them.

On a happier note, by the end of February, we were passing on advice about the local plans for coming out of Lockdown. Vaccinations were being rolled out at Toddington medical centre and at Priory House, Dunstable also.

Chalgrave WI president, Debbie Parry took to the roads in March to run 100 miles for breast cancer and raised an amazing £1850 with 85 people donating to her fundraising page. Well done Debbie.

# CHALGRAVE NEWS FACE BOOK PAGE



To try and help keep all of us fit and active, we streamed events from Virtual Village Hall that included, Yoga and meditation, Zumba, ballet lessons, art lessons and even pancake making.

In March and April we were alerted by District Councillor Mark Versallion about several proposed solar farms for this area, one at Chalgrave Manor, then another in the fields off Toddington Road, Tebworth and also another just outside Hockcliffe.

The number of solar farms that are popping up in this area seems disproportionate to other areas and is something we all need to keep an eye on. Even though green energy is a good thing, the solar farms really do need to spread more evenly.

We reported a car theft on Wingfield Road and a resident spotted suspicious youths hanging around near St Mary's Close. Residents were advised to stay vigilant and make sure their property was secure.

In late April, we were collectively worried by the disappearance of a young border terrier called Milo. You may have seen posters up in the village. Happily, over a week later, Milo was found, fit and well, if a little bedraggled, near Houghton Hall. We posted pictures of the happy moment Milo was reunited with his worried but intrepid owner.

Turned out the first Saturday in May was National Naked Gardening Day and we alerted all local gardeners ... of course!



## Celebrating Chalgrave's Heritage *A ghost story*



Thirty five years ago, when the old thatch next to the Queens Head came onto the market, I was living just down the road in the Schoolhouse and was already very familiar with the property; being friends with the current owners and the previous owners too.

I was also familiar with the stories attached to the house and the general acceptance in the village that the place had a resident ghost known as 'The grey lady'.

I was intrigued but took most of it with a pinch of salt.

Everyone in the pub at that time seemed to have host stories to tell and it seemed to me that Tebworth must be one of the most haunted villages in Bedfordshire if they were all to be believed.

Anyway, I'd never had any ghostly encounters myself, never spotted any UFOs or been abducted by aliens and had no reason to think I ever would. So we moved in and all was fine...for a while.

We started a bit of restoration on the property. Removing the hardboard cladding upstairs revealed beautiful old beams with jute ties that we thought must have held on the original thatch when it was built back in 1653. It was round about then that the noises started. The click of a latch, a door swinging to; most could be explained by 'just the wind' or the quirkiness of an old timber-framed house.

Then things seemed to escalate.

## Celebrating Chalgrave's Heritage *A ghost story*

One evening, as I was cleaning one of the bathrooms upstairs, I thought I saw something out of the corner of my eye. A few moments later the sound of heavy footsteps on the stairs sent my dog, Bumble, running to the top of the stairs and looking intently down at something unseen by me. There was no one else in the house. No one was in the drive outside the house. I struggled to explain to myself what had happened.

Other events followed. It was always upstairs and I started wondering if uncovering the beams had disturbed something.

One evening, Roger, who had been doing some painting in the main bedroom, came down looking perplexed. *'Why did you follow me up?'* he said. *'I didn't'* I responded. He turned as white as the pot of paint he was carrying and poured himself a stiff drink. Turned out he'd seen a figure in grey on the stairs and assumed it was me as I had a full length grey dressing gown at the time.

I told my friend who used to live there when it was the Post Office and General Stores. *'That'll be the Grey Lady'* she said. *'We used to see her all the time. She means no harm.'*

There were many incidents over the years. We kind of got used to it but, it was when my daughter refused to sleep in her own room I decide to take action.

A friend offered to 'clean' the house. She knew exactly what to do, she said, and turned up one day with a bunch of sage, a bell and a candle.

Whatever she did, it worked, and for the last twenty years I can honestly say we've been a ghost-free zone.

There are still spirits here though... of the liquid variety I'm pleased to say!

**Frances Masters**

If you have a ghostly story to share from our lovely parish, we would love to hear it .

Please send to  
**[thechalgravenews@gmail.com](mailto:thechalgravenews@gmail.com)**

# WILD CHALGRAVE – The Great Pond



## **February 2021**

After the driest April on record it's hard to remember just how much rain fell at the beginning of the year, but it wasn't the rainfall which left the Great Pond in Tebworth looking like this. Whilst responding to a burst water main Anglian Water pumped gallons of water into the pond until it almost reached the pavement.

Although the water level has now subsided there are some concerns that nitrates will cause excessive growth of algae and other pond weeds, but the rest of the wildlife doesn't seem to mind. There were lots of frogs and frogspawn in March and the moorhens are now back, presumably getting ready to nest.

Although lockdown has slowed some of our plans we have started planting the pond surrounds with more plants: mixed native hedging along the footpath boundary and marsh marigolds in the boggy margins of the pond. They're still very small but hopefully there will be more to come



# WILD CHALGRAVE – The Great Pond



**April 2021**



# Joke Corner

Hi, Max.

This is Richard, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt & hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. Richard

Max, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Richard dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. Max then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Richard.

## **SECOND TEXT MESSAGE:**

*Hi, Max. Richard here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned Spell-Check had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all. Nobby*

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## Chalgrave WI Bookclub

Book club has still been meeting on Zoom but weather permitting, we may get to meet up outside for our May chat. Fingers crossed we'll get back to meeting inside as a group for June/ July, depending on the rules by then.

We always have a chat about the monthly book choice and then tend to digress and talk about other topics loosely connected to the book and sometimes just random stuff going on in people's lives. We're a friendly bunch so if you fancy joining us please get in touch.

Books we have read recently are;

**The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne** - Forced to flee the scandal brewing in her hometown, Catherine Goggin finds herself pregnant and alone, in search of a new life at just sixteen. She knows she has no choice but to believe that the nun she entrusts her child to will find him a better life .

**Letter To My Younger Self: The Big Issue Presents...** A hundred inspirational people on the moments that shaped their lives. Many famous people have written letters to themselves in this book.

**Slade House by David Mitchell** - Turn down Slade Alley - narrow, dank and easy to miss, even when you're looking for it. Find the small black iron door set into the right-hand wall. No handle, no keyhole, but at your touch it swings open. Enter the sunlit garden of an old house that doesn't quite make sense; too grand for the shabby neighbourhood, too large for the space it occupies. A stranger greets you and invites you inside. At first, you won't want to leave. Later, you'll find that you can't!

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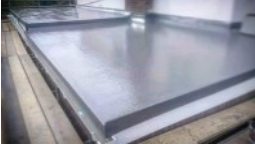
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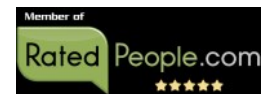
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# Our life in Chalgrave by Ken Green



We moved in as a family in 1971 [Decimalization year]. Lyn, myself and our two daughters Linda and Penny. Sally was born 4 years later. The company I worked for, Olivetti UK, was moving its headquarters to Milton Keynes. We had come from London and looked at towns first but one day I found this place and felt “We could be happy here”. We never made a better decision.

In those days it was a very close-knit community and not that common for newcomers to arrive and there was a lot of interest particularly about the “American lady”. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming though, even “those there Wingfielders”!

I think it was only a year later that our neighbour, Mrs Boutwood, at Forge Cottage, a lovely lady, who was president of the WI suggested we have a “village concert”. Lyn was up for it and I made costumes for the “blue tooth brush and the pink tooth brush” for Lyn and Sue Dokk-Olsen (now Sue Ryan, living in Mersea Island).

I said I would help with props etc. but they’d never get me on the stage but next year I was in it—that year and every year after and the concerts continued regularly year on year up to around 1998.

They were held in the old Village Hall, which was basically a concrete barn and water would be streaming down the walls with the condensation. Roger Fenwick was the compere to begin with and then, Alan Higgs. In later years our long suffering director was Roger Mence and our pianist was always Rhona who arrived in the nick of time and started playing without even taking off her coat.

The star of the show was always my good friend Brian Gridley a lovely character born in the village. There are some snips on the website [www.chalgrve.org](http://www.chalgrve.org)

We have since had Old Time Music Halls with Phil Parry as the MOC and Murder Mysteries arranged by Roger Masters. These have been intermittent but hopefully

# Our life in Chalgrave by Ken Green



there are more to come.

Lyn ran the Post Office for 18 years and heard all the gossip. There have been disputes going back many years as there are in many villages but apart from Lyn grumbling jokingly, when the bell rang about “Another drated customer” it seems that any bad feeling was soon forgotten.

It has been a very friendly parish over many years and it’s just so sad that there is some bad feeling at present. One specific thing is the loss of the “cricket field” but there have also been other differences. I just wish

that we could all accept people’s differences, mistakes, misjudgements and misunderstandings. We are all different and we all sometimes make errors of judgement and hold different views, but we should be able to move on and not hold grudges.

When we moved in there was a butcher, greengrocer, general store and post office. Now all we have are two pubs. We are so lucky that to date, the pubs are still here, and we need to give them our full support. Villages need pubs as a hub, and we need to put aside any prejudices and be sure that they survive in these difficult times.

It seems that these days there is bad feeling generally. Maybe Covid has not helped but I do think social media has a lot to answer for. Why do people post such hateful comments?

My point is, we used to have a friendly vibrant community and we seem to have lost a little of that.

I really would ask that all make concerted efforts to forget past incidents and indiscretions and move forward in good faith and consideration for others.

It is now two years since Lyn died and I miss her very much but it’s still a lovely place to live and I’m just so glad we chose to live here, and we had such a wonderful life together.

# Chalgrave WI

## Meeting Summary

We have been using Zoom for our monthly meetings and these have gone down very well. It means we have access to a much bigger range of speakers, and we have also welcomed WI members from other areas to join us. We hope to be able to resume face to face monthly meetings in the village hall from September this year.



Our **February** meeting comprised of a 10 minute AGM where I was reinstated as our President after a “gap year”! We then a great talk from Jenny Gibbs, “**The Turkish Shirley Valentine**”. She spoke about her life over the past twenty-seven years in this



lovely mountain village in inland Turkey, a village that has been 'forgotten by time'.

We had some great feedback:

- She was very entertaining - would be good to have her back sometime  
Thank you!
- She was very interested and jolly, a great pick me up
- Brilliant speaker, just what we needed. Would love to hear more of her stories.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the speaker, a real pick me up.  
Great to see everyone. Xx
- Fabulous speaker and what a gal! 😊

Our **March** meeting was a really inspiring talk from Jo Moseley who told us about how she came to embark on an epic journey coast to coast from Liverpool to Goole in Yorkshire on her **Stand Up Paddle board (SUP)**.

Jo took up exercise in 2013 after she found herself sobbing in the biscuit aisle of

# Chalgrave WI



Tesco's, looking at the chocolate Hob Nobs. She was 48, a busy working Mum, flying solo with her boys. Both of her parents were undergoing chemotherapy at the time and she was overwhelmed, anxious and desperate for a good night's sleep. She undertook a challenge to row a million metres for Macmillan Cancer Support and also ran a marathon. In 2016 Jo took up paddle boarding and in 2019 she became the first woman to stand up paddle board coast to coast from Liverpool to Goole, her

adventure took 11 days, collecting plastic pollution and raising money for the 2MinuteBeachClean Foundation and the surf therapy charity, The Wave Project.

Our **April** meeting was an interesting talk from Tim Mitchell a multi award winning lighting designer. He told us about the history of stage lighting. He talked about some of the productions he has lit – including at the RSC, the West End, Broadway and across the world. He has lit drama, musical theatre, opera and ballet.



Exeter's Birmingham Rep



Echelle EMC



Gay & Dolls West End/ UK Tour



A Christmas Carol RSC

In **May** we heard all about “Mothers' Ruin”.

Milly aka Mildred

Freeman, The Lady

Historian delivered her talk in full costume from her Victorian parlour.

We discovered the wonderful and downright naughty history of glorious gin. Starting in the early 1100s and traveling through to our modern gin revolution Mildred regaled us with tales of bravery, plague, royalty, law, fuddled Georgians and intoxicated sailors! One or two Music hall songs were thrown in for good measure!



# Chalgrave WI *continued*

## Future Events and Trips

- We were so inspired by Jo's story that we are planning having a go at **Stand Up Paddleboarding** this summer.
- We are also planning a **walk with Alpacas** on **Saturday 10 July** at Wilstead
- Assuming that the Covid restrictions lift we will be enjoying a summer Garden party in August

## The WI – Give us a Try!

We are a friendly and fun group, and we offer a warm welcome to any woman who would like to join us for one or two sessions to see if our WI is for you.

Please contact me for the Zoom Dial in details.

Debbie Parry / Chalgrave WI President

[Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com](mailto:Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com) Tel 07770 543797



## DEBBIES CHARITY RUN

This year Debbie Parry took up a challenge to Run 100k in March for the charity Breast Cancer Now.

Not only did she achieve it – she actually ran 100 miles – surprising herself as well as many of her friends and family.

This is like running from home to the white cliffs of Dover - or nearly 4 marathons!

She has been thrilled by the support of the community and she raised £1,850 for a great cause.



### *Devonshire In and Out pudding*



This is an old classic I am told that hails from my now part of the world, Devon! It's the perfect option for days when a pie or a crumble seem like a bit too much effort, it's an **Apple In and Out**. The name suits it perfectly, all the ingredients mixed together into the oven and out!

The original recipe for this uses water, feel free to omit if you want a dairy free apple pudding. ignore how it looks and how it does not seem to come together in the bowl, trust me it works perfectly. Looks pretty good when it comes out of the oven and tastes really homely.

#### **Ingredients:**

200g self raising flour

100g suet

100g golden caster sugar

4 medium Bramley Apples, peeled and sliced.

Milk to mix about 4-5 tablespoons.



#### **Method:**

Mix all the dry ingredients together.

Plonk it into a greased pie dish and pop it into an oven at Gas Mark 4 for about 45 minutes or until it's lovely and golden brown.

Serve warm from the oven with cream or custard. Perfect comfort food and without much effort at all.

# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Gardening in Chalgrave can be challenging. Those of you who planted Mediterranean plants to cope with the summer drought, might have lost some of them in the rains we had this year, the ground was so heavy and sodden. Conversely plants that like a lot of moisture may well struggle in the summer drought. But gardeners like nothing as much as a challenge, so I propose a little project for a shady part of your garden, to have a Tropical/Jungle area. The idea is to have lots of different shapes, textures and colours to the leaves, with horizontal and vertical accents.



The backbone of a Tropical/Jungle garden should be hardy shrubs and perennials which stay in the ground over winter.



Musa Basjoo



Rodgersia



Hosta 'June'



Tetrapanax



Phyllostachys Nigra



Acanthus Mollis

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Here are a few suggestions, but there are plenty of others to choose from. Ferns, Fatsia and grasses also add to the tropical feel. They are all hardy in Chalgrave

Most of the plants I have highlighted are usually grown for their foliage rather than flowers. Summer flowering bulbs could be added to provide contrast and colour.



Eucomis



Canna 'Tropicana'



Hedychium

Some of these bulbs are not fully hardy, so may have to be dug up for the winter. The Eucomis and Hedychium have proved hardy in Chalgrave. Other bulbs to consider are Cala Lilies, Gladioli and Dahlias.

To finish off, some annual climbers will add height and colour.



Ipomea Lobata



Tropaeolum



Ipomea Rubro Cerulea

So as we drift off into summer, some ideas for you to ponder.

Anyway enjoy your gardening, whatever the weather.

## Chemotherapy tales by Colin McCausland

Quick recap – diagnosed with Myeloma in October 2019, Chemo delayed because of COVID-19 so I started Chemo June 2020 to reduce the cancer as far as possible up until December of last year. I was going into hospital for my final phase of treatment in January this year.

COVID put paid to the January date so have been on “holding Chemo” since then waiting for a date for that phase 2 treatment.

And now I have it – May 12<sup>th</sup>

So what is Phase 2?

Basically, strong and aggressive Chemo that will kill the cancer cells plus my immune system, make all my hair fall out and make me lose weight (don't ask how). Then they put my stem cells back in my bloodstream which rebuilds my immune systems much quicker than leaving it to the natural process. Where did these stem cells come from I hear you ask? I had them harvested (that is the term they use) in December 2020.

I will be in hospital for 3-4 weeks then back home for recovery which is reckoned to take 1-2 months. Everyone is different so it is very hard to state “it will take 3 weeks to feel better” or “you will feel awful for 2 months” so I will just have to wait and see. I am reasonably fit and have so far dealt with Chemo fairly well so I am hopeful and positive!

My friend Nick is moving into my house while I am away to look after Billy (my dog) as I reckon he would find a different house and no Colin around a far too stressful experience. I'm referring to Billy not Nick.

So, if you see Nick walking Billy please make him feel welcome!

So is that the end of it all?

Unfortunately not (sad face) as with virtually everyone who has Myeloma it will come back (very, very sad face). The questions are how long will it take to return, will it return to the level where it needs treatment or will it return to such a low level that no treatment is necessary? And – as ever – there is no answer because it affects everyone differently.

## *Chemotherapy tales by Colin McCausland*

Also there is a new treatment just licensed for use in the UK involving being prescribed small quantities of certain Chemo drugs that will push back the return of Myeloma. But for how long? Once again every is different. So I'll be "cured" but with the possibility that the cancer will return to a level no-one can predict at a time no-one can predict. At which point – if it happens – I may need to go through a level of treatment that no-one can predict.

So - what lesson or option can one take in this situation?

Grab life, enjoy it while you can!

I never in my entire life thought I'd have this view but, in some way, staring at your own mortality is an oddly refreshing experience. It's going to happen, stop worrying about it, just make sure you enjoy every day, enjoy the sunshine and the rain and the wind and the sunsets and all the people around you

I wrote some time ago that in some ways this is the best thing that ever happened to me and I stand by that – if you want to know what is really important and what isn't, then this is a good way to find out.



# Chalgrave Memorial Hall

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<b><i>SUNDAY</i></b>			
10am – 10pm*	<b>£11.50 per hour</b>	<b>£23.00 per hour</b>	<b>£29.00 per hour</b>
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## USEFUL CONTACTS

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Clerk	Lesley Smith	874716	<a href="mailto:chalgravepc@btinternet.com">chalgravepc@btinternet.com</a>
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Chalgrave WI	Debbie Parry	07770 543797	<a href="mailto:Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com">Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com</a>
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