

A photograph of a garden pond. The pond is filled with water and surrounded by lush greenery. In the foreground, there are large, round lily pads floating on the water. A pink flower, possibly a Canna lily, is in bloom in the center of the pond. The background is filled with various plants, including ferns and large green leaves. The overall scene is a vibrant and healthy garden.

Summer
2021
ISSUE 71

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

Cover photo by John Wojdyla

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Please send your contributions to: thechalgravenews@gmail.com

The Chalgrave News team produces the Chalgrave News in good faith and we do all we can to ensure that no offence is caused to any individual or organisation. We also reserve the right not to publish articles and contributions submitted to us if they do not comply with our policy.

A note from the editorial team

We hope you have all enjoyed watching some of the Olympics. So much to see and so much good news from Tokyo for our very talented and hard working athletes. GB did very well equalling the number of medals they won in London without all those spectators to cheer them on. Lets hope our wonderful paralympians can also succeed in their chosen disciplines. We are glued to our screens!

What an organisational nightmare it must have been for the Japanese to bring off the games so well during a pandemic. Perhaps you have been tempted to try a new sport or do better at a sport you take part in at the moment. Or perhaps one of our younger members will take up Skateboarding and we will see them in Paris in 2024! One of our team has taken up a new sport and has written about it in this edition.

Our thanks to Aunt Agnes who has written to us again - are we ever going to get it right!

Hoping the weather will be kind to us as we all continue to enjoy our beautiful British countryside. Maybe we are in for an Indian Summer, fingers crossed!

Stay safe., everyone and be careful on those skateboards !



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

Below is Andrew's speech at the COP26 debate

(COP26 is the next annual UN climate change conference.)

'One hundred days to save the next 100 years—that is how John Kerry, the US climate envoy, described this moment in our planet's existence. It may sound dramatic, but the scientific consensus is that he is right. The United Kingdom bears a heavy responsibility to get the world to commit to doing the right thing, for the mainly poorer people who are dying today because of climate change in the global south, and for all future generations, as our own climate will definitely be affected if global warming goes above 1.5°C. The recent extreme heat in the western United States and in Canada, and the floods in Germany and in Belgium, have demonstrated that amply.



While not having one shred of complacency, we can take some encouragement from the fact that although only 30% of the global economy was committed to net zero by 2050 when the UK assumed the COP presidency, that figure has already risen to 73%. To achieve even more, we need to get three areas to work together in perfect harmony: technology, policy and markets. We need to get all three in the right place, because without any one of them, we will not achieve success. In my constituency, I am delighted that the A5 electric bus and car charging station has been given planning permission. It will provide a replicable model of how renewable energy can be used to charge buses, taxis and cars. I am also pleased that many more electric vehicle charging points will be installed across central Bedfordshire.

I will focus the rest of my remarks on agriculture. Two facts may surprise hon. Members. First, if food waste was a country, it would be the third highest greenhouse gas-emitting nation on earth. Secondly, in Africa, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture are higher than fossil fuel emissions, which are themselves much higher than they should be. At COP21 in Paris in 2015, the United Kingdom and many other nations—although not, unfortunately, the United States—committed to the “4 per 1000” initiative. Soil can hold more carbon than all organisms and plants on the planet combined. Only nature can increase the carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and water in soil while producing copious nutrient- rich food.

View from The House

An annual growth rate of 0.4% in soil carbon stocks in the first 30 cm to 40 cm of soil would significantly reduce the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere due to human activity. If we managed to achieve that, we would not only stabilise the climate, but ensure food security to provide food in sufficient quantity for a rapidly growing global population. To achieve it, we need to reduce deforestation and encourage agroecological practices that increase the amount of organic matter in soils to meet the “4 per 1000” target.

Agroecology is sometimes referred to as regenerative agriculture. Recently, I was pleased to attend the Groundswell regenerative agriculture farming conference with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Thousands of UK farmers have started to farm in a nature-friendly way and are making more money as a result.

In the past 40 years, a third of global crop land has been abandoned due to soil degradation. That disrupts the small water cycle, which desertifies land and causes soil desertification on a massive scale. As Walter Lowdermilk observed, those civilisations that have not practised soil conservation have quite literally ended in dust, so my plea to the Minister is to ensure that we build on the achievement of COP21 and ensure that agriculture is front and centre of everything we do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.'

Andrew Selous Member of Parliament for SW Bedfordshire

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or email –tracey.farrugia@parliament.uk

Chairman of the Parish Council

From the Parish Council -

Tebworth Solar Farm. You will be aware that there will be a planning application for a Solar Farm next to the village of Tebworth between the Toddington and Chalgrave Roads. We are aware that there are different views about the application. When the application is made it is important that you make your views known to Central Beds. Council. We understand that Enso Energy will be putting forward their application in September.



If the application is approved, we will want to know how our Parish will benefit from the development. We will also want to ensure that construction traffic does not come through the village.

Parking. Please do not park across pavements. We have had concerns raised about pedestrians having to walk in the road – including a person with a baby in a pram.

McDonald's. We have written to McDonald's raising the issue of the amount of discarded packaging in the Parish. We will not be the only area that has this problem, so we are interested to know their strategy about dealing with this problem.

Tebworth Great Pond. We are grateful for the work that Jan and John are putting into our village pond. It does need a lot of work and we are waiting for the appropriate time. Also, thanks to Paul Whitton for mending the gate and strimming the area.

Our meetings are no longer virtual, we are back in the Memorial Hall. You are welcome to attend, observe and make any comments/raise any issues in the Open Forum item on the agenda. Our next meeting is in September.

Phil Parry



CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB We are on the move! Sadly, we have lost the use of the field in Wingfield but the Club lives on.

The past year and a half has been difficult for obvious reasons. Families did manage to use the nets on a few occasions and also have a kickabout, but our plans for the club were put on hold.

We have had offers from other clubs to use their pitch and to play cricket matches against them. It is hoped that we can continue with our plans to play more social cricket. At our last Family Day, we had several new players sign up for cricket.

We are also continuing our plan to broaden our activities. Ed Morton has formed a Running Club under the Sports Club banner. This is a running club to socialise with the running community in the Parish and beyond. It is open to all abilities (including walkers), exploring local trails as well going over to Rushmere and Ashridge. If you want to join in contact Ed or go the Facebook page.

We are organising a Park Run social event on the 4th September -

**Saturday 4th September Social
Houghton Hall, Houghton Regis**

Timetable

8:30– Meet and Warm Up

9:00– Park Run/Walk or

Learn to Run training with NickTKCoaching.com

10:00– Coffee Break

10:30– Yoga in the park with Tashasyoga.com

11:30– Close or optional run back to Tebworth

Park Run registration required online at parkrun.org.uk

No Charge for participation, all abilities welcome and encouraged to join.



Follow us on

We are looking into developing a cycling club. We will continue to have our Golf Days. When conditions allow, we will have our popular Race Night and we are looking into having talks by representatives of different sports.

Phil Parry

KEEPING CHALGRAVE TIDY

Littering has become more of an issue during the past year, not least in our parish. During successive lockdowns, many more people have ventured outside for daily exercise and regular litter collection activities have been curtailed as other public services have taken priority. Along the Dunstable Road, for example, there did not appear to be a litter collection between October 2020 and March 2021. Cans, bottles, sweet and fast-food wrappers and sundry waste was strewn along the grass verges from the junction with Tebworth Road, past the golf course to the outskirts of Toddington. To be fair to our council, CBC, when I pointed this out, they acted promptly to send out a 3-person crew to clear it away. (Or maybe it was a coincidence!)

In recent months, near-daily walks have raised my awareness of the local litter problem. At one point, earlier this year, our end of Tebworth Road was renamed Stella Alley by some. At other times, discarded McDonald's wrappers have spoiled the appearance of Toddington Road between the A5 and Tebworth. In our parish, much of the litter seems to have been thrown from passing vehicles or discarded by small drinking parties in vehicles parked in the quieter roads. More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day. The cost to the taxpayers for street cleaning is over £1 billion a year. Street cleaning covers functions other than litter collection, but a rough calculation suggests that the disposal of every item of litter costs around 20p.



Litter is anything from a crisp packet or cigarette butt to a bag of rubbish. All litter is unsightly and makes our local areas look untidy and uncared for. Litter does not clean itself away. It can take years to degrade, causing harm to wildlife and habitats. The food that is discarded – whether it is half-eaten burgers, chips or apple cores – can attract pigeons and vermin, such as rats. Research shows litter

KEEPING CHALGRAVE TIDY

contributes to other types of crime and that people feel less safe in areas that are littered.

Dropping litter is illegal. People who drop litter can be fined or face prosecution in court. Authorised officers have the power to issue a fixed penalty charge of up to £80 for a litter offence, as an alternative to prosecution. If the offender is prosecuted and convicted in court, the fine could rise to £2,500.

When the litter situation in Tebworth Road became unbearable a few months ago, Anne and I collected 6 sacks of waste and debris from the nearby grass verges – including some unusual items (see picture). What was really heartening, was the number of folks who stopped for a chat to express their support.

While the primary responsibility for the removal and disposal of litter rests with duty bodies such as crown authorities, local councils, the governing bodies of educational institutions and so on, the tidy appearance of our community is something that affects us all. Every year the group Keep Britain Tidy organises the Great British Spring Clean as a community activity, the UK's largest mass action environmental campaign. This year over 160,000 volunteers took part, pledging to clear litter from over 1 million miles of pavements and verges. We're too late to join the national campaign this year, but there's no reason why we can't set a date for a community litter pick in Chalgrave Parish this autumn.

If you would like to join in, please contact me (07941 624419) and I will choose a mutually convenient date, probably mid-morning on a Sunday in October, with a bite to eat afterwards. Basic items of equipment, such as litter pickers, high-viz jackets and refuse sacks, etc. will be provided.

Peter Warburton



Chalgrave WI bookclub

We have managed to have a couple of face to face meetings since the last update and it has been wonderful!

For May we still had a zoom meeting but a couple of people met at each others houses and joined the zoom call from there.

For the June meeting about 8 of us met at The Plough in Wingfield, in their lovely garden. The staff were very accommodating, offering blankets etc. and it was lovely to meet up.

For July's meeting nearly all of us managed get together in a members garden, had a few drinks and nibbles, and chatted about this month's book and many other things besides! Everyone said how nice it was too be back together.

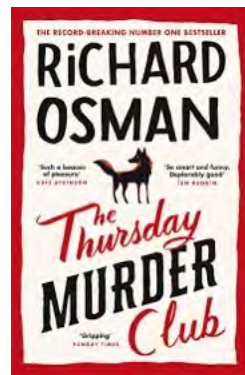
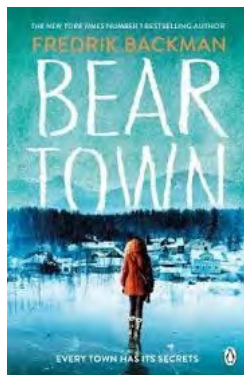
Books we have read recently are;

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig - everyone seemed to love this book and it gave us loads to talk about.

Beartown by Frederick Blackman - this book was slow to start, but keep going, by the end you won't be able to put it down!

The Thursday Murder Club By Richard Osman - generally well liked, but some confusion with names and who was who.

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)



TEBWORTH NEW TOWN

PLAN TO BUILD 25,000 HOUSES IN TEBWORTH

“Tebworth Dying Without Charm”

Mr W Hunter Deputy County planning officer said, “This is a dying village without a charm of its own” and proposes to build a “new town for 25000”

He said “Tebworth has been a dying village for years. There has been practically no increase in population over the past two censuses”

Mr Frederick Reeks a local estate agent said part of the land was of poor agricultural value and the remainder was arable land of medium quality and from a builder’s point of view the land lends itself to easy development. He added “Having regard to the nearness to Dunstable I consider that this site, which presents no physical difficulties is an excellent one for development at the rate of about eight houses per acre”

The first to deliver a blow to the visionaries who sit in the county planning offices is the **Charman of the Chalgrave Parish council Lieut-Col R M Roberts** who writes “I have read with amazement and disgust the remarks attributed to Mr W Hunter. The jackboot mentality is based, as so any of us recall, on first getting their victims into a dying state and kicking them to death”

There is no sympathy for the planners from **Ms J Cooper** who has lived in Tebworth for 34 years or from **Mrs V Osborn** the Butchers wife

The **Rector of Chalgrave, the Reverend F. Watson** would like to see the new town built around Chalgrave Church

The **landlord of the Queens Head, Mr H Carter** said “Tebworth has only one inn and apart from casual summer visitors the bar is not well supported so he sees the new town as a means of improving his trade

[Luton news 1950]

Thanks To Tina Harris. This is an excerpt from the scrap book of her grandfather Mr John Molyneaux senior.

If anyone would like to see the original cutting I can send it to them.

Ken Green

Chalgrave WI

In **June** Kerry Scolah talked to us about the Magic Circle. She is one of only 20 female members of the Inner Magic Circle. She spoke about how she got into magic and demonstrated some amazing tricks.



We were so inspired by Jo's story earlier this year that we had a go at **Stand Up Paddleboarding** in June – this was a great outing and a beautifully sunny day – lucky since I fell in the water a couple of times! Thanks to Kim for organising.



Sue Watling hosted a coffee morning in her garden. We had a great turn out and lots of lovely cakes!

In **July** WI President Lindsey Barrell (aka Ms Cherry Bombe) told us how Burlesque saved her life! This was a fabulously funny and heart-warming talk that covered how she discovered burlesque, and then the WI, and brought the two worlds together.

We now fancy having a go ourselves and may include nipple tassel making as part of our Christmas craft session.

Chalgrave WI



Sue Bollins organised a **walk with Alpacas**. This was another successful trip, enjoyed by all.



Our next event will be a summer garden party on Saturday 14 August. Plus 30 of us are going to see a Moulin Rouge stage show at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable in October.

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 them. Please take a look at our Facebook page or give me a call.

Debbie Parry / Chalgrave WI President / Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com
Tel 07770 543797

Tebworth Solar Farm – The case for.

In the last year the world has experienced a large number of extreme weather events and the consensus among climate scientists is that this is due to global warming. There have been extensive fires in Greece, Turkey, Italy and the United States; massive flooding in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, and the polar ice caps are melting at a rate of 13% per decade. The oldest and thickest ice in the Arctic has declined by 95%. This is leading to a massive rise in sea levels, by the end of the century sea levels are expected to rise by 0.3 metres if we reduce our carbon emissions and by 0.6 metres if we don't.

Alok Sharma, the UK government's climate chief has said "We are dangerously close to running out of time to stop a climate change catastrophe".

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that "human activity is unequivocally warming the atmosphere, oceans and land" and has described it as "Code Red for humanity".

We must therefore reduce our use of fossil fuels and turn to renewable alternatives, otherwise things will just get worse, not much of a legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren.

We are all going to have to make some sacrifices to achieve this.

Solar farms in conjunction with wind and wave power are some of the greener sustainable alternatives.

The environmental impact of solar farms is likely to be minimal after construction. Sheep will be able to graze under them, as is the case in the solar farm on the way to Leighton Buzzard. A possible greener alternative is to allow the grass to grow taller as a meadow, thereby increasing biodiversity and providing a valuable food source for pollinating insects.

Tebworth is a good position for a solar farm as it is close to the electricity substation.

Solar panels are improving in efficiency all the time and we need to use this technology to make this happen.

ENSO, the company applying for permission to build the solar farm at Tebworth, have stated that Public footpaths will be maintained and possibly extended.



Tebworth Solar Farm – The case against.

- There will be considerable noise and disruption during construction
- Solar panels are not attractive and there may be low level noise during operation
- Solar panels can only function during daylight and large batteries will be required to store excess electricity
- Solar panels and batteries contain toxic metals and concerns have been raised about whether they will be recycled at end of use and if toxins will be released if they are damaged
- Most solar panels in use in the UK are manufactured in China. There are concerns that slave and/or child labour is used in their manufacture and in mining the minerals required
- The triangle of land next to the proposed solar farm may be considered as infill and used to build new houses
- Tebworth Solar Farm could be the first of many in our area due to our proximity to Chalton electricity sub-station and the new cables recently installed.
- Central Bedfordshire Council(CBC) did not include Solar Farms in their recently published 20 year plan. So each planning application for a solar farm is considered independently and attracts a separate application fee for the council. Also the solar farm will pay business rates unlike agricultural land, so CBC may not be an impartial assessor of planning applications

TEBORTH SOLAR FARM

The views on these two pages do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Chalgrave News Team.

This is an important issue that each resident must decide for themselves. ENSO have not yet made a full planning application to Central Bedfordshire Council so you will have an opportunity to comment directly to the Council. Central Bedfordshire Council's recently adopted Local Plan does not include a policy on the number and locations of solar farms so each planning application is considered in isolation, without reference to other similar developments in the area.

THE CHALGRAVE NEWS TEAM

Chemotherapy tales—Summer 2021

Well Phase 2 of my treatment finally started on May 12th. I packed my suitcase, kissed the dog goodbye and headed into London and University College London Hospital – or UCLH for short.

Treatment Phase 1 – The Phoney War !

I had my one and only dose of chemo (Melphalan) on day 1. It consisted of me having a drip for about 40 minutes or so and while it was going into my blood stream the nurse put 6 ice lollies in front of me and instructed to eat as many of them as I could. I was a bit taken aback – it certainly wasn't what I was expecting but the nurse explained that the colder I could get my mouth and throat the less nasty side effects I would suffer later. So given that incentive plus the fact I like cold things I just about managed to eat them all. The nurse was very impressed – apparently many people only manage 1 or 2 but she was right – I had far less of the nasty side effects of melphalan than most people and certainly less than all the horror stories I'd been told about

Then on day 2 I had my stem cells (which had been taken from me in December and frozen) put back into me via another drip and after that I was sent to the NHS "hotel". The NHS "hotel" is to all intents and purposes a reasonable hotel just round the corner from UCLH. You get your own perfectly good room but it costs the NHS about a third of what it costs them to have you on the ward. The idea is you stay in the hotel until either you go home or - much more likely – you get to the point where your health has plummeted and you have to go onto the ward to be properly monitored and cared for.

So having had my chemo and stem cells I was now back in the hotel and feeling fine. Had to shield to some extent so no going out to pubs and nightclubs but I did hire a Boris Bike and cycled round London one afternoon.

Each morning I walked round the corner to UCLH and they checked my blood pressure, took blood tests, asked me how I felt etc.

Treatment Phase 2 – it all goes rapidly downhill !

After 2 days I felt a bit queasy. After 3 days I felt dreadful. By day 4 I had to stop at least twice while walking from the hotel to the hospital – a matter of 100-150 metres. I was absolutely exhausted. I have never been so completely exhausted in my life (and at 40 I ran the London Marathon).

Chemotherapy tales—Summer 2021

On day 5 (or possibly 6 or even 7 it's all very hazy) after staggering into UCLH the nurses said "Ok that's it – you're coming into the hospital" and I just nodded. I couldn't even walk back to the hotel. They had to go back to my room and pack my things up for me. I couldn't even walk to the ward – I had to be taken in a wheelchair.

It was during this phase I lost weight. Now we are all familiar with the term "lose weight" but I am talking losing a kilo a day for 8 days in a row. In those 8 days, I went from 100 kilos to 92. I could hardly eat, what I did manage didn't stay put very long and you really don't want to hear about the details.

Treatment Phase 3 – it very, very slowly gets slightly better

So now on the ward and things slowly, oh so slowly – start to get better. But I still struggled to eat and the food is frankly appalling. Unlike the care which is absolutely outstanding.

In Tebworth I sleep in a nice bed with a duvet with the window open. In hospital you sleep in a not-so-nice-bed with the windows sealed shut, you can't hear the weather or the wind or the rain or smell the countryside or hear the birds singing. Due to the treatment your temperature goes up and down and you can't simply adjust the amount of leg you stick out of the duvet or keep on getting out of bed to adjust the air conditioning to compensate for this. So, sleep is hard ! And the food is foul. Plus you get checked re blood pressure, temperature etc every 4-5 hours so as and when you do get to sleep it's inevitable that someone wakes you up.

I also got quite dizzy as the treatment drops your blood pressure. At one point they said "if you need to go to the toilet give us a shout and we will walk you there". I said I'd be fine. They said "No Colin - due to the treatment if you fall over and cut yourself you might bleed to death before we find you – so do call us if you want to go to the toilet". Hmmm... I thought - this is quite serious really isn't it ?

But I did begin to feel slightly better - or less worse - than the day before

So when - after 2 weeks - the Consultant asked me how I felt I politely asked if I could go home and she said.....Yes !!! I didn't actually feel anywhere near as well as I pretended but after 2 weeks away I just wanted my own home, my own bed, my own village. Boy did I miss this place !

Continued.....

Chemotherapy tales—Summer 2021 *continued*

At the time of writing, it's about 10 weeks since I returned home and I am starting to feel a bit like my old self again.

I do realise that not everyone has the positive outcome from a Cancer diagnosis that I have had and by my own rough calculation the NHS has given me about 5,500 extra days of life. "Thank you" seems totally inadequate under the circumstances but I don't know what else to say

A note on the care I received

I've never dealt with the NHS on such a serious level and I am simply left astounded and humbled by the quality of care, the professionalism and pure human kindness I received from every single member of staff both at UCLH and at the L&D - from the Consultant to the lovely lady who changed the bed each day - absolutely outstanding.

Colin McCausland

Signing Off

So that's it from Chemo Tales - thanks to everyone for all the help and support I been given over the last 22 months and thanks to everyone for reading my story.

Tokyo Olympics Fun Facts

- ◆ 205 National Olympic Committees + the IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR).
- ◆ 42 competition venues (for the Olympic Games).
- ◆ 33 sports and 32 International Federations.
- ◆ 339 medal events, including 18 mixed/open events.
- ◆ Five new sports have been added to the programme for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – karate, skateboarding, sport climbing, softball/baseball and surfing.
- ◆ As a result, the Tokyo 2020 Games are more youthful and more urban.



Celebrating Chalgrave's Heritage

Following the old photos in the previous Winter Edition I was interested to see the name Emerton as this was my grandmother's name.

Right > My Dad's mother and father ,
James Billington and
Louie Emmerton (Emerton) .

My Dad (Bernard) was born in 1914 and Uncle Albert was 1 year older than him. The photo below was taken when they were put into Barnardos after their mother died during childbirth. My Dad is on the left in the photo.

Dad was sent to Jersey and Uncle Bert, I believe, went to Wales. In the photo Dad was 6 and Uncle Bert was 7.



When Dad turned 15 he was put on the list of children for emigration to Canada and sent to Quebec but apparently he was not treated well and so saved his small wage until he had enough to buy a ticket and come back to England on a cattle boat (I think he said it cost him £10).

I know Dad's family lived around this area as I can remember visiting one of his uncles in Chalton and I know he had family in Stanbridge and surrounding areas.

Velda Cooke



WILD CHALGRAVE

'No-one likes me everyone hates me, think I'll go and eat worms. Big fat juicy ones, long thin stringy ones, see how they wriggle and squirm'.

Most people will have heard this rhyme at some time. There are versions of it in other languages and one account suggests it might refer to the 'ugly duckling' in Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale. While we probably wouldn't fancy eating worms they wouldn't do us any harm and they are an important food source for a wide range of creatures including birds, foxes, hedgehogs, moles, frogs, badgers and some ground beetles. There are 29 species of earthworm in the UK but only about 7 or 8 are likely to be found in your garden. Some are deep burrowers, such as the common earthworm which can reach up to 30cm in length. Others live on or just below the soil surface in leaf litter. The red coloured tiger or brandling worm is the one that lives in your compost turning all that decaying vegetation into lovely compost.

Earthworms move through the soil by muscular contractions that shorten then lengthen their bodies. They push soil out of their way as they go and can shift up to 10 times their body weight. Earthworms breathe through their skin which must be moist at all times. Oxygen and carbon dioxide diffuse directly through their skin, in and out of their circulatory system. They are hermaphrodite, having both male and female sex organs. They mate together in a slimy embrace and each worm is both the mother and father of its offspring.



Common earth worm

WILD CHALGRAVE



Brandling worm

As well as being an important food source for many creatures, earthworms play a vital role in maintaining soil fertility. They drag decaying organic matter into the soil for food or to seal their burrows. As they eat they also ingest small soil particles. As this passes through the worm's digestive system it is ground into a fine paste and the resulting worm poo contains minerals and plant nutrients. These are now much more readily absorbed by plants and act as a fertiliser. The burrowing of earthworms also improves soil structure by producing lots of small channels for air and water to penetrate the soil. Soils which contain lots of organic matter can absorb more water and are slower to dry out, a useful buffer against flooding or drought.

It has been estimated that healthy fertile soil can contain over 1.5 million earthworms per acre. In contrast over-farmed land has far fewer worms and excessive use of nitrogen based fertilisers can produce acid soils that are fatal for worms. Globally many earthworm species are threatened by farming practices, including a giant Australian species that can grow over 2 metres long.

So look after the worms in your garden – and please don't eat them.

Jan Day

WEST'S EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

This is local charity which gives grants for educational purposes to young people aged 24 or under living in the parishes of Chalgrave or Hockliffe.

In 1690 Francis West of Hockliffe left a legacy of £400 to purchase land to provide an education for the children of the poor inhabitants of Hockliffe and Chalgrave, to be split equally between the two villages. This fund was used to buy land at Simpson in Buckinghamshire and the rent paid for this property was used to fund a schoolmaster. In addition to making it possible for the children of the "poor sort of inhabitants" to learn to read and write any surplus income of the charity was to be used to clothe those whose parents could not afford to do so. If the poor inhabitants of Hockliffe and Chalgrave could not be persuaded to "suffer their poor children to go to school" then the income should be used "for the putting and placing out ... of so many of his poor relations children, either to school ... or [as] apprentices". Two relatives of West, Joseph Cooper and William Grant, were appointed trustees, and they in their turn appointed a certain Mr. Gould as the schoolmaster in Hockliffe. In 1709 Mr. Gould's share of the income from the Simpson land was £8 per annum. In the 20th century the land at Simpson was compulsorily purchased by the Milton Keynes Development Association so the capital is now considerable enabling grants to be awarded each year by the trustees.

Examples of grants include: a contribution to the cost of lessons in performing arts/sporting activities/educational school trips/Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Brownies. There is grant per half year for those studying full time for a degree or a contribution towards post 16 education.

These are only examples. Anything that helps or furthers the education of young people 24 and under living in Chalgrave or Hockliffe will be considered.

The Trustees meet twice a year – January and July. Applications will be considered at the January meeting if received by the Clerk on or before the 31st December. For the July meeting, the cut-off date is the 30th June. Receipts are required to support all applications except for the full-time student grant.

All applications on behalf of young people under 18 must be made by a parent/carer. For those aged between 18 and 24 the application must be made by that young person him/herself.

For further details and application form go to the Chalgrave Parish website – chalgrave.org.uk/local-organisations/wests-educational-charity



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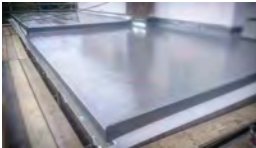
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Wingfield classic car and commercial show

The Wingfield Classic Car and Commercial Show took place on Sunday 18th July, 2021 at Wingfield Village Show Field, Toddington, Bedfordshire. It was a beautiful warm day and there were some stunning vehicles on show.



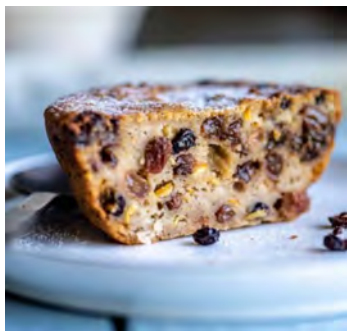
Nelson's Cake from Plymouth

Popular in Georgian times, this bread pudding is dedicated to the famous naval commander, it saw a revival during the war as a way of using up stale bread. I had this in a restaurant on Plymouth Hoe a couple of weeks ago, it was amazing.



Ingredients:

- 225g stale bread, crusts removed
- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp brandy
- 50g melted butter
- 50g soft brown sugar
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 egg, beaten
- 175g mixed dried fruit
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- Grated rind of half an orange
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- Caster sugar, for serving



Method: Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas mark 4

Break the bread into pieces, then soak it in the milk and brandy for 30 minutes.

Add the butter, sugar, spice and egg, then beat with a fork until smooth.

Add the fruit and grated peel and turn into a buttered ovenproof dish.

Grate some nutmeg on top and bake for 75–90 minutes until golden brown.

Serve sprinkled with caster sugar AND DEVON CLOTTED CREAM

SWIMMING OUTDOORS—*my new hobby*

I have always loved the water and swimming from an early age. I went to a girls grammar school in Stevenage and we had a pool and 2 swimming lessons timetabled a week. This is where my love of swimming started.

Over the years I enjoyed swimming at the local baths and encouraging my own children to learn to swim. When my children were very young I became a lifeguard and swim teacher to learn new skills and earn a bit of pocket money too.

When the children went to school, I went back to teaching Design Technology in school, my career took priority and swimming took a back seat.

Then during lockdown I began to follow a few groups on facebook, people who were swimming outdoors in beautiful locations and the need and drive to get back into the water became important to me.

When the pools reopened I saw a course advertised for a Cold Water swimming induction at Woburn Lido. I decided to give it a go.

The course was run by Emma McDonald of Swim dynamics, she taught us how our bodies would react in cold water, how to get in and acclimatise and the correct clothing to wear in and then on getting out, to put on warm clothes and have a warm drink.

The course was brilliant, I loved it, I have also made new friends who love to swim outside as much as I do, we have continued swimming outdoors at least once a week in various locations, see photos. During the winter months we were swimming in 10 degree water but surprisingly during the summer, lakes and rivers can warm up to 20 degrees + positively bath like! I've now also attended a course to improve my front crawl, with an aim to complete a charity swim next year.

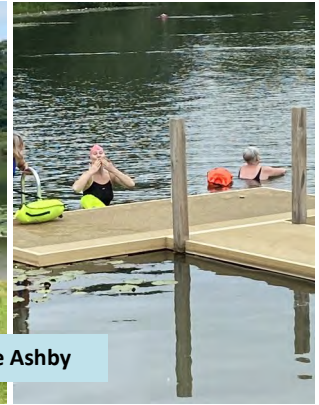


Luton Hoo

SWIMMING OUTDOORS—my new hobby



The Falcon Castle Ashby



If you are interested in trying this for yourself, it is important to get the correct training and remember to be safe at all times. Some paid locations have a lifeguard, others are wild and unmanned I would always swim with a tow float, which is a buoyancy aid you secure around your waist. It can give you respite if you become tired or get cramp, but is also highly visible to boats and other water users.

You can find information about cold water swimming, open water swimming and wild swimming online. Below are some useful organisations to contact.

Happy Swimming,

Tracy Malster

www.Swimdynamics.co.UK (Emma MacDonald)
Nowca.org
Loveopenwater.co.uk
Woburnlido.weebly.com
Eversholtswimming.simplybook.It
The Falcon Castle Ashby (mindbodyonline.com)
Luton Hoo open water swimming (lutonhoo.co.uk)
Willen Lake (www.willenlake.org.uk)



The Blue Lagoon with the Bluetits



Highlights from the Highlands

Fearful that a visa, or even a passport, might be necessary to enter Scotland in the not-too-distant future, we decided to take a proper look for our holiday this year, recently completing a 16-day, 2160-mile road trip. On the way up we were blessed with the mini-heat wave and clear skies of mid-late July, enabling stunning views of the Scottish peaks and voluminous lochs. The days were long: the midsummer sunset is about an hour later in the Highlands than in Bedfordshire. We were warned about the midges, but the drought conditions put paid to them; the clegs (female horseflies) were the only flying pest. North of the geological fault line, running from the Island of Mull to Inverness, there opens out what can only be described as another kingdom. In England there are 434 people per square kilometre; in the Highlands, 10. Lairg is a regional hub with a population of 891!



When planning the trip, we were comforted to see that there were A-roads connecting nearly all the places we intended to visit. However, in the Highlands, when the map tells you there is an A-road, what it really means is that there is a road. For long stretches, the main roads are single track with passing places. The locals often zip along these roads at 40-50mph, meaning that visitors are advised to adopt a conciliatory approach to face-downs. Another thing: the top of Scotland is further away than it appears. Most maps use the Mercator projection, shrinking the area of Scotland relative to England and Wales: it's a Sassenach plot. The distance from Gretna Green to Dunnet Head on the north coast is 356 miles; the distance from Gretna Green to Portsmouth is 356 miles.

We took a quirky route, preferring coastal locations to inland attractions, and limited by the accommodation we could secure at relatively short notice. We missed out many of the most visited places in our eagerness to immerse ourselves in the tranquil and majestic uplands. However, among our highlights were Dunvegan castle on the Isle of Skye, where we also saw the seals; the fabulous Inverewe Gardens on the west coast near Gairloch; the Shin Falls near Lairg, where we watched salmon jumping upstream; Durness beach on the north coast (in bright sunshine); the Flow Country's peatlands, Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of the mainland; a day trip to the Orkneys; the ruins of Elgin cathedral as a portal to Scottish history, and the 2-car Nigg (roll-on, roll-back!) ferry that took us across the Cromarty Firth to Fortrose on the Black Isle.

The amazing and extraordinary Scottish Highlands: if you've never been, then you should! **Peter Warburton**



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Calling Wingfield!

Sadly Noeleen Pottage has moved away from Wingfield and we would like to thank her for all her help with the magazine.

We wish her and her family well in their new home.

This also means that we don't have a representative from Wingfield on the News team so if anyone would like to join us please get in touch. We really need a Wingfield reporter to keep us abreast of all the news and goings on!

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Scientists tell us that we are already experiencing the effects of global warming, even in the UK. Unusual and extreme weather events seem to occur more frequently, becoming the new normal.



We always considered Chalgrave to be in one of the drier counties, but not this year. The rain has made everything grow larger, requiring more support for the flopping lush foliage. The late cold spell ruined Magnolia blossom, Plum-tree blossom (although Apples and Pears were unaffected) and my Wisteria is only just flowering now, 3 months late.

So it is important to choose the right plant for the right place, to give them the best chance to do well. Look at your garden and try observe the dry and wet areas are, how much sun they get and for how long. You can add grit to the soil to improve drainage or mulch to retain moisture.

Last year I grew dwarf French beans, but found stooping down to pick them was hard work. This year I grew climbing French beans, much better for my back and a larger harvest.

My “Tithonia” seeds germinated well and have grown so strongly, they have almost taken over the garden. They are real brutes, growing to 5 feet tall, but do add a tropical feel to the garden.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

If plants die due to extreme weather conditions see it as a new planting opportunity. Not all my projects have worked this year. I sowed “Verbena Hastata” seeds, only 2 germinated and one of them got eaten by slugs. I sowed “Agretti “seeds, they came up well, but will only provide enough material for one meal.

Another project this year was to leave a large part of the grass in my garden unmown and try and create a wild flower meadow. This has worked well and has attracted a lot more wildlife and I don't have to mow the grass as much! What you call a win win situation.

Anyway, enjoy your gardening, whatever the weather.

John Wojdyla



5 go mad at Latitude

On Thursday 22nd July we set off to Latitude Festival at Henham Park, Suffolk in our "Let's Go" campervan hired from a local Toddington company. It's a 4 day Music and Arts event and was being used as a government trial for Covid research as it was the first event to take place after the lifting of Covid restrictions in England on 19th July. In our selfless way we were happy to help!

Five of us originally planned to go during the dark days of Lockdown; Debbie, Will, Sue, Andy and myself but our enthusiasm persuaded Colin and Racheal to join us in their caravan so seven of us actually attended.

We arrived in glorious sunshine and set up camp side by side, waiting for the gates to open so we could explore the huge site. There were several arenas and stages, the Obelisk, the Sunrise, the Trailer Park, the Comedy, the Waterfront, the Alcove, the Listening Post, the Outpost, the Ballroom, the Theatre and the Faraway Forest and Lavish Lounge nestling in the woods. Top class music and comedy acts included Bastille, Rudimental, Wolf Alice, the Chemical Brothers, Supergrass, Kaiser Chiefs, Damon Albarn, Mabel, Bombay Bicycle Club and Rick Astley, Jo Brand, Mark Watson, Katherine Ryan and Simon Amstel plus many more lesser known acts. So much to choose from!

Sometimes we chose to go to the same events, other times we broke into smaller groups or did our own thing. Some of us had bought a "posh loo and shower pass" and needed to queue to avail themselves of the facilities. The general loos were well kept and we had our own campervan bathroom so I didn't invest in one but did borrow the pass for a sneaky look. Very nice! GHD hair straighteners and other luxuries supplied for a bad hair day but not worth an extra £50 in my opinion. There was always lake swimming and Stand Up Paddle boarding until 8pm too if we fancied a dip.

All age groups from babies to adults were there to enjoy the entertainment, and it won the Best Family Festival Award in 2018. There was a separate family area with a funfair and activities for families and an Inbetweeners area for 12 to 17yr olds which looked a lot of fun but we were too old to sample it! Instead we had the Street Feast, with a massive collection of every sort of street food you could imagine, the Ballroom specialising in dance, Disco Yoga by the lake, cooking and food demonstrations at the Theatre of Food, the Mind, Body and Zen area for spa experiences, self help and mental health awareness. A Helter Skelter brought us back to our childhoods. A random cryptic crossword puzzle solving group lurking in the woods! Bars and lounges were dotted around serving wine, beer and spirits, coffee and cocktail vans popped up in unexpected places and there was a Co-op shop for everyday necessities such as emergency chocolate! All set in beautiful countryside surrounded by the ubiquitous bright pink sheep grazing under the Latitude sign.

5 go mad at Latitude

It was an amazing experience with my fab friends and it felt as if life was finally getting back on track, most restrictions had been lifted on the Monday and the atmosphere was one of happiness, freedom and joy. We were surrounded by friendly people, having fun together again, enjoying live music, stand up comedy, dancing, eating great food and making great memories together. What more could you ask for?

Bernadette Inzani



Chalgrave Noticeboard



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AUNT AGNES

Hello once again to all my lovely fans, I am writing to you from my luxury beach front bungalow in the sun kissed Caribbean.

Oh, how I do miss the times when I lived in Chalgrave, which is why I agreed to be the agony aunt for the Chalgrave News. It was only later that I found out this was an unpaid role!

Unfortunately, something always seems to go wrong with my replies to reader's letters and this issues story is no different.

I received a letter from a Chalgrave resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, so let's call her Jane. Oh hell, that is her real name so let's call her Joan.

Joan wrote to me about her 99-year-old grandfather, who is now struggling to look after himself and often feels lonely and wondered if a new career would improve his life.

I did find it strange that a gentleman of that age would be looking for a new career, but I am not here to query but to solve people's problems.

I thought long and hard about this request and decided that a career which involved a lot of sitting down would be the most suitable, so I suggested that he apply for a job as a bus driver.

I understand that despite having to be helped into his drivers' seat and the occasional accident both in the cab and on the road, he has settled in well.

His poor vision does sometimes prove to be a problem, as does his frequent loo stops along his route but otherwise, he is loving meeting so many people each day, for some reason they are mostly police officers.

It was with great regret that you have just informed me that not only has he now lost his job but after racking up over 100 traffic violation points, he is serving a short prison sentence and is once again feeling lonely, but please look on the bright side, at least he is being looked after.

I really don't know how you can put any blame on me for this situation, as if you had taken more care with your handwriting in your original letter, I would have realised that you were asking me if a new carer would improve grandfathers' life, not a new career!

Well until next time dear readers, stay safe and enjoy the summer.



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9am – 6pm	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£26.50 per hour
6pm – 12 midnight*	£145	£290	£370
12.30pm – 12 midnight*	£185	£370	£425
SUNDAY			
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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	Debbie Parry	07770 543797	Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com
Brownies/Guides	Dee Curtis	872649	
Rainbow	Dee Curtis	872649	
Cubs Scouts	Karen Calder	873065	

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