



Autumn  
2021  
ISSUE 72

# 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
Second Tuesday of each month	WI	Memorial Hall	

Cover photo by John Wojdyla of his lovely 'Liquidamber Straciflua'

## Annual Advertising Rates

### Quarter Page

Colour £50.00      B&W £35.00

### Half Page

Colour £80.00      B&W £60.00

### Full Page

Colour £135.00      B&W £110.00

thechalgravenews@gmail.com  
07927 144090

**Deadline for next edition: 15 January 2022**

**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

Now that we are in the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, it is a good time to get out and enjoy the autumn colour in Chalgrave. This has been quite spectacular this year, due to the mild weather and rain.

After the last year of pandemic, people are starting to get back to a 'normal' life, albeit somewhat modified.

Face-to-face activities are resuming after a long period of virtual ones. The various groups in the parish were able to meet again (see reports in this issue), and we were able to go to church, the pub, live music and restaurants.

This year the Remembrance service was held in All Saints Church. It was a moving and well-attended service in the beautiful surroundings of the old church. Wreaths were also laid at the Memorial Hall the following day.

Special mention to Peter Warburton for organising the Community Litter Pick and to the members of Chalgrave Sports Club who completed Marathons for charity.

Next year we are looking forward to lots more communal events in Chalgrave.

So far this year is looking more promising for a 'normal' Christmas or any other festivities you have planned. Better safe than sorry, so get your vaccine, stay safe and keep up the good work.

We have heard that Debbie Levy is standing down as a parish councillor. Debbie has been an invaluable member for over 9 years. She will be greatly missed and the parish is indebted to her for all the work she has done. Thank you Debbie!

Season's greetings from the Chalgrave News team.



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

Over the last few weeks it has been brilliant to use the time when Parliament has not been sitting to fit in a lot more constituency visits. I much enjoyed my visit Catalyst Housing's new Printworks development of 61 affordable and shared ownership homes in Dunstable. I think they look really good and are well appointed and I'm delighted that so many of them have gone to local people.



Earlier this week it was a pleasure to spend time in Houghton Regis Medical Centre talking to doctors and staff about how they are handling a much greater demand from their patients than they have ever seen before. It was also good to be able to listen to the surgery's patient participation group and I thank them for the important work they do to raise the patient's views with the surgery. I am talking to Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to make sure the surgery can accommodate the new residents moving in to the north of the town

It was also good to visit one of our brilliant Houghton Regis primary schools who are not only highly ambitious for all the children but I also brilliantly integrating some Afghan children who have just arrived from the recent Kabul airlift. Their parents stood by our armed forces and we honour that commitment by the warmth of our welcome. I did remind the school that our current Secretary of State for Education arrived as a refugee child and sat at the back of the class speaking no English. I think Nadhim Zahawi is a great role model for what everyone can achieve in our country.

One of the questions the children asked me on my school visit was about more resources for the school and I explained the importance of helping more businesses to set up and grow in order to deliver that. I was particularly pleased to visit one of our really successful local businesses in Leighton Buzzard, Ridgeway Furniture. The pandemic was tough for them and they are struggling to get raw materials in a timely manner but the good news is that they have a full order book and are looking for more apprentices to start and they are paying their previous apprentices extremely well.

### **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)

# Chairman of the Parish Council

## From the Parish Council

**High Viz.** As the days are getting shorter, please make sure you are visible if out walking on the roads in the evening, particularly between Tebworth and Wingfield.

**Dog Mess.** Yet again there are walkers not picking up after their dog. It is particularly bad on the footpaths around the fields and down The Lane.



**Parking.** We are aware of the limited parking spaces in Tebworth but please avoid parking on the corners of Toddington/Wingfield Road and Wingfield Road/St Marys Close.

**Security.** We are fortunate in that we live in a low crime area but please make sure your outbuildings/sheds/vehicles are locked. We support the Bobby Scheme – set up by Beds. Police and Partnership Trust which aims to help the vulnerable and elderly. It is a home security service providing and fitting new devices such as new locks, door chains and door viewers free of charge. The service is available for people over the age of 65, the vulnerable or disabled. The Bobby Team will attend the home and identify any areas which may be vulnerable to crime. All the 'Bobby's' are qualified carpenters. They will come to the house and fit door chains and locks. If you know someone who would benefit, please contact 01234 842619 or [www.bedspolicepartnership.org](http://www.bedspolicepartnership.org)

**Speedwatch.** The Speedwatch team will be operating again from November with a new Speed Sign.

**Tebworth Great Pond.** We are grateful to Jan and John for all the work they have put into maintaining and clearing the Great Pond. More work is needed. Please contact any member of the Parish Council if you are able to help.

**Litter Pick.** We are also grateful to the litter picking team that went to work in October. They did a great job and hopefully they will repeat the event again next year. Thanks to Peter and Anne Warburton for organising. Our meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall, you are welcome to attend.

**Phil Parry**

# CHALGRAVE WI



We are thrilled to share our new Chalgrave WI Logo! We had lots of ideas and worked with Tracy Malster's son, Jack, to finalise the design.

We are delighted with the result which incorporates the suffragette colours of white for purity, purple for dignity and green for hope and features figures holding hands, hearts and prosecco bubbles! We have been attracting lots of new members and our membership now stands at 45 up from 33.

## Meeting Summary

Our **Garden Party** on Saturday 14 August was a big success Everyone brought along some food and there was a great spread. The sun shone and it was great to see so many of our members face to face. Laura Fisher brought along a selection of Tropic



skincare products which we had the opportunity to buy.

In September our talented member, Amanda Jay, led a jewellery making workshop. This was our first face to face WI meeting back in the village hall. It was great to see everyone, and we made a beautiful heart shaped pendant.



# CHALGRAVE WI

In October Ian Waller talked to us about researching your family tree and recommended a host of useful resources such as the Bedfordshire family history society and a website called curious fox. One member told us how a photo of her mother - who died when she was 5 - led to a village in Dorset where a former neighbour of her mother's told her about her many aunts and uncles. They tracked an uncle down to Canada and a month later he was knocking on her door. Thirty of us attended "Come What May" at the Grove theatre in Dunstable. The show featured singing and dancing to songs from musicals such as Moulin Rouge, the Greatest Showman and Burlesque.

Date	Event	Details
Tue-09-Nov-21	Art Class	Liz Sergeant will lead a workshop showing us how to create a Matisse style collage
Tue-14-Dec-21	Christmas Crafts	Table decoration
Fri-17-Dec-21	Christmas Party	Tilsworth Golf Club
Tue-11-Jan-22	Looking Good to Feel Good	Sarah Moore works with Cancer patients at the L&D hospital. She will talk to us about "Looking Good to feel Good"
Tue-08-Feb-22	Cinderella	Cinderella in history and literature up to modern day.
Tue-08-Mar-22	Luton Hat trade	Luton Hat trade talk plus the opportunity to try on some of his hats which will be for sale
Tue-12-Apr-22	Burlesque	Khandie Khisses has over 7 years of experience as both a Burlesque performer, photographer, actor and model. She will run a fun Burlesque session for us

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

# All Saints Church, Chalgrave

## Report to Tebworth Parish Council from All Saints Church, Chalgrave, 19 October 2021

Chalgrave Church rests within such a beautiful grounds and is such a place of peace, interest and refuge for visitors. We are so very grateful to the team of volunteers who tend the church grounds and extend our particular thanks to Brian and Curly who have poured in so many hours of work, over the years, maintaining the burial area as a place of sanctuary for those who visit. The church grounds have continued to be enjoyed by Youth Group over the Summer who have met for several picnic gatherings with activities, a time of prayer and reflection – led by Rebecca, our family missional worker. Visitors to the church have enjoyed the history of the church with its wall paintings - soaking up the prayerful atmosphere and sense of heritage.

Church life has returned closer to normal over the past months and we meet regularly for a 9.30am Sunday service. We now sing hymns (wearing face masks) and are delighted to have a visiting organist filling the church with music again. We have been very grateful for the donation last year of a Bluetooth sound bar which enabled us to listen to recorded music and hymns before we were able to sing. Although we would have loved to worship outside in the beautiful grounds this Summer the weather was not as kind as last year, and it was not possible.



We celebrated a wedding in August which had been postponed several times due to the pandemic and it was so wonderful to share the joy of the couple on their special day. Church members gathered as volunteer working party groups in the weeks ahead to make sure the church and its grounds were in full glory, looking their absolute best on the day.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> the church held a Coffee Morning as its first social and fundraising event this year. Although numbers were lower than expected (as many social events are discovering post lockdown) those who attended enjoyed a relaxing time, sharing conversation and cake over a cuppa. On the same day, Mary agreed to represent the church on the Historic Churches bike and hike day, visiting several different churches within the area, and raised much valued funds through sponsorship.

We celebrated Harvest Festival on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with the church once again decorated beautifully by a team of volunteers and cleaned by another team of volunteers. Food provisions were then distributed to the local foodbank with fresh produce sent to the Noah project.



# All Saints Church, Chalgrave

Although fundraising efforts have been much curtailed this year, the fundraising and social team are busy planning for more events..

The Church grounds and shrubs have become overgrown in places, with some graves at the back of church becoming overgrown with brambles. These have been kindly cleared by a local farmer, and a church working party, but we will need to review the situation regularly in future to keep things under control. If by chance you, or someone you know, may have time to assist us to maintain the church grounds we would be very pleased to have additional help.



Several of our regular church members have moved away and so our working team and congregation have reduced. Lockdown hit the church finances with the church being closed for so many months and no fundraising opportunities possible. Sadly, the church funds were in deficit last year, and will be again this year. If you have any ideas for fundraising or social events at church or in the community, or would consider becoming a regular financial giver to the church, we would very much appreciate your support.

The church has now signed off with the architect the installation of the treasured new toilet facility and the vestry cupboards but is in discussion to investigate a potentially decaying Chancel beam and restoration of falling plaster in the kitchen area. The organ has been serviced and we are being encouraged by the diocese to reduce our carbon footprint and become an Eco-church.



# All Saints Church, Chalgrave

Christmas services are also being planned with Carols by Candlelight on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm and a morning carol service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Details of the Crib service and Christmas Eve services will be issued later in the hope that this year, all the Christmas services will be able to take place as planned – unlike last year.

We issue a weekly update about services and events in the church by email and this is also uploaded to the church's facebook page and website and to the 'A Church Near You' site so please keep your eye on this for information about future events and services and if you would like any support or have ideas to share, please don't hesitate to get in touch. It will be so lovely to develop greater links between church and the local community.



**Report by Rev Linda Washington, Steve and Sandy**



# Chalgrave Memorial Hall update

Chalgrave Memorial Hall is a wonderful resource for our village. The building you see today is a replacement of the original structure which was built after the War.

The fact we now have such an impressive and modern hall is down to the resourcefulness of the Trustees in place when the National Lottery was first established. They saw an opportunity to apply for one of the first ever Lottery grants. Much midnight oil was burned, forms were filled in, drawings made and building costs worked out before the application was finally packaged off. An anxious wait followed but we were eventually given the great news that our claim had been successful and a £250,000 grant awarded.



Twenty years on and we have to constantly stay on top of maintenance whilst making improvements too. We now have WIFI and CCTV.

Post Lockdown bookings are happily on the up again and most Saturdays are booked on the run up to Xmas. We are proving popular not just with local people but some from further away, with a recent booking from a group based in Berkshire. Looks like our online presence is finally paying dividends.

## Maintenance and improvements

Outside the hall, the grassed area has been regularly cut throughout summer as have the hedges and both are looking good. The car park has an extra layer of gravel to keep the weeds at bay and our cleaner has added emptying the exterior litter bins to her weekly list of jobs which now keeps the area much tidier.

Inside the hall, we have a list of jobs to do this winter starting with a big clear out of the under stage and back stage storage areas.

Next, we'll be giving the main hall a new lick of paint...as soon as we can all agree on a colour!

If you want to book the hall, just give our lovely bookings secretary, Velda, a ring on 07831 482556. If you fancy joining us as a Trustee or want to lend a hand keeping our hall looking good for the village, do give me a ring on 01525 873039

**Roger Masters (Chair)**



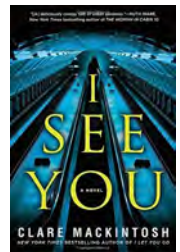
# CHALGRAVE WI Book Club

It's lovely that we can all meet together now, have to face! We are currently meeting at The Plough in Wingfield, instead of people's homes, as there is more space to spread out and better ventilation there. This seems to be working quite well and The Plough has a big, round table that we all fit around. Books we have read recently are;

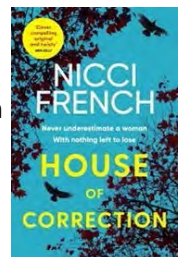
**A Tap On The Window by Linwood Barclay** - When Cal Weaver stops at a red light on a rainy night while driving home, he ignores the bedraggled-looking teenage girl trying to hitch a ride - even when she starts tapping on his window. But when he realises she's one of his son's classmates, he knows he can't really leave her, alone, on the street. But nothing prepares him for the consequences of trying to help her out. The next morning he's gone from Good Samaritan to Murder Suspect, and with one girl dead and another missing, he's suddenly at the centre of a deadly puzzle that reaches right to the heart of the town - from its bullying police force to its strangely furtive mayor - and finally to one family's shocking secret.



**I See You by Clare Mackintosh** - When Zoe Walker sees her photo in the classifieds section of a London newspaper, she is determined to find out why it's there. There's no explanation: just a grainy image, a website address and a phone number. She takes it home to her family, who are convinced it's just someone who looks like Zoe. But the next day the advert shows a photo of a different woman, and another the day after that. Is it a mistake, or coincidence? Or is someone keeping track of every move they make?



**House Of Correction by Nicci French**—A novel that blissfully plays with two genres: on the one hand an against-the-odds legal thriller à la John Grisham... and on the other a Miss Marple who dunnit set in a Devon village, where the amateur sleuth is herself the prime suspect and has to conduct her investigation from jail.



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](mailto:sue.watling@hotmail.com))

# KEEPING CHALGRAVE TIDY

## Chalgrave Parish Community Litter Pick

On a bright clear October morning, 9 of us gathered for a community litter pick.

We covered Hockliffe Road, from the A5 into Tebworth, both sides of Chalgrave Road and a short section of the Dunstable Road from the junction with Chalgrave Road to the Toddington boundary, filling 18 sacks in 2 hours.

During the litter pick, some fly tipped items were also discovered, deep into the undergrowth.

We are stunned that we collected so much, given that there didn't seem to be such a visible litter problem in our parish at present. Profound thanks to Darren and Debbie, Simon and Michelle, Sue, Sue, Lesley and Anne. You know who you are!

We will monitor the litter situation over the coming weeks and will schedule another date as the need arises. If you would like to join the litter picking team please contact me on 07941 624419 or at [pwarburton45@gmail.com](mailto:pwarburton45@gmail.com). Ideally, we will gather enough support so that we can raise a team on a regular basis.



***Let's keep Chalgrave tidy!***

Peter Warburton



We had our first Park Run at Houghton Hall at the beginning of September. It was a very successful first event with about twenty doing the course followed by a yoga session led by Tasha. Nick also led a class on how to run efficiently and effectively. We hope to have a Park Run every month.

Two of our members, Ed Morton and Christina Lawrence, completed the London Marathon. Congrats to both of them. Christina's time was 3.43 and Ed's time was 3.53. Two other members, Paul Levy and Simon Gatward completed the Marathon by walking the distance along the canals of Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard – 9 hours and 44 mins. Well done Paul and Simon! All of them raising money for charity - Paul, Ed and Simon for the RNIB.

At last, we were able to have our Race Night. It was a huge success, we had a full house - eight races (one with pigs), tops and tails, raffle and a superb fish and chip supper. The committee are grateful to John Parker for being the Compare, Simon for his technical expertise, the Wells family for running the Tote and all other non- committee members for their help. We are planning a similar event for 2022.

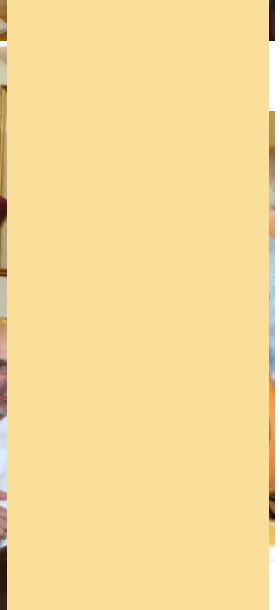
We are financially supporting an Emotionally Wellbeing programme at Parkfields Middle School. This is an initiative for a small group of children helping them build and maintain diverse friendships through golf at the Tilsworth Golf Club. This is a superb project and aligns with the Clubs purpose of using sport as a positive force for wellbeing – as well as making sport inclusive.

Future events may include Park Runs, a Golf Day, walking football, etc. – and, as we have been offered the use of a cricket pitch we might have a game next summer.

We will also be having a Quiz Night on 19 March.

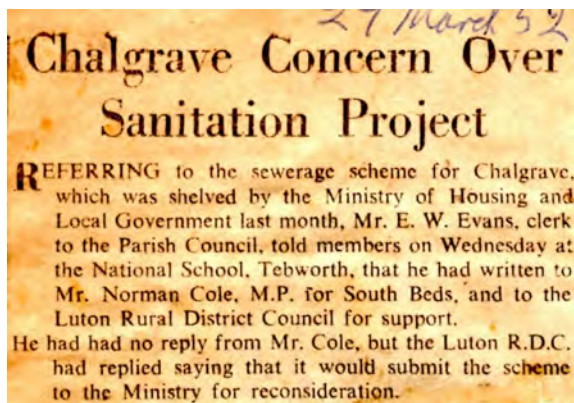


# Chalgrave Sports Club—Race Night



## THE FIGHT TO GET CHALGRAVE ONTO MAINS SEWERAGE IN 1952

More from the scrapbook of  
Tina Harris's grandfather  
John Molyneaux

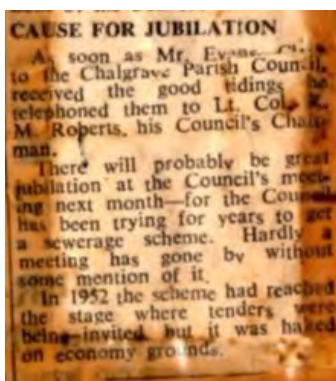


### *Cuttings from the Luton News 1952*

The proposed £11,000 scheme for Chalgrave sanctioned by the Luton RDC last year has now been dropped by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This was announced by the clerk Mr W. E.

Evans of the Chalgrave Parish council in Tuesday. The following resolution was passed. "In view of the extremely unsanitary conditions existing in the Parish of Chalgrave the Parish Council deplores the action of the minister n postponing the sewage scheme for the parish and asks that representations be made to the minister to consider his decision" *Then in The Luton News 1959*

You might like to listen to Ernie Stringer who drove the lorry Emptying the Cesspits at the time Go to [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org) Then:- Events, Recordings from past events, Then:-Radio Broadcasts



In 1996, presenters John Pilgrim and Eddie Almond interviewed some villagers in and around the Queen's Head for BBC Three Counties Radio. Three Counties Radio at the Queens Head 1996. Interview 13. It took the interviewer some time to get it out of him, but the classic line was "We was only collecting their stink"  
Thanks again to Tina and if anyone would like to see the original cutting, I can send it to them

Ken Green 01525874107 [kentebworth@gmail.com](mailto:kentebworth@gmail.com)



# Aunt Agnes

Hello again dear readers.

Once more I find myself having to apologise to a reader who sent me a letter asking for advice on a problem she or he has. (I have been asked by the letter writer not to devolve anything about them including what sex she is).

Her problem is a slightly unusual one in that after learning that she and her husband had won £75000 on the lottery has found herself in a dilemma which she needs to quickly resolve before her husband returns home after working overseas for several months.



Apparently when she phoned her husband to tell him about the win he was delighted and said let's treat ourselves to something we have always wanted. A new porch. You go and buy one and have it ready for when I come home.

His wife was delighted with this suggestion as she had always wanted a new porch on their house, but they could never afford it, so finding a local builder set about having the porch built.

Last week her husband phoned to let her know he would be home in a couple of weeks and could not wait to see the new porch.

It was when he started asking her questions like, is it petrol or electric, how many miles does it do to the gallon etc. that she suddenly realized that her husband had meant her to buy a new Porsche car, not a small house extension.

In the circumstances the only advice that I could give her was to buy an old second hand Porsche with whatever money she had left and then spend the next couple of weeks washing and polishing it until it looked like new, add a personalised number plate and use the contact number I gave her for the gentleman who will wind the milometer back so that the car can pass as new.

I regret to learn from a subsequent letter that her husband did not like the car so tried to sell it and both of them ended up in court for 'clocking' the car, but I am sure you will find that the 6 months both of you are now serving in prison will pass quickly, and remember, you will have the excitement of seeing your new porch once you both get out.

So once again goodbye dear readers and enjoy your Christmas festivities and don't forget to write to me whenever you are in need of help or advice.

Auntie Agnes

For many years Chalgrave W.I have donated gift bags filled with little luxuries for the women asylum seekers at Yarl’s Wood Detention Centre. Yarl’s Wood is now a centre for men who are being sent ‘home’. According to the Befrienders of Yarl’s Wood the women asylum seekers have been “dispersed” – staying in hostels or with friends & family or have been sent ‘home’. We have now found another charity which needs our help. The charity has a charity shop in Luton but everything is free. They help refugees, the homeless and the needy of any creed or religion or non. We’ve been collecting clothes & shoes for men, women, children and babies. We also need to collect nappies, sanitary towels, new socks, toiletries including toothbrushes & toothpaste and children’s toys.

The people running the shop are wonderful; they try to learn a few words in the language of those who come in so that they can at least welcome them and give help wherever they can. When we last visited they were helping a British woman with terminal cancer fill in a twelve page form for her to apply for benefit help.



They welcomed a mother and two daughters in Spanish – they were from Equador.

John and Janet donated lots of teddy bears. They had been stored under the stage in the Village Hall so were a bit musty. Evaline Bull washed them all! (see picture). It is so lovely to watch the children cuddling them, hopefully giving them a little comfort.

Chalgrave W.I. are proud to help these people who are so non-judgemental and giving and the people who come to them who have so little. If you have anything to give please contact **Frances Masters or Maureen Gilmour on 07818 043311**

**CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL**

**POP UP  
TEA ROOM**

**WEDS 1<sup>ST</sup> DEC 11-1.30**

**COME AND ENJOY  
SOME LOVELY HOME  
BAKES 😊**

Chalgrave Church and Chalgrave Memorial Hall  
working together for the community

# Bingate !

The end of October saw a mixture of growing anxiety and expectation in our community. Would they empty the green bins... or not?

There was confusion about when, or if, it would happen and much discussion in the Tebworth and Wingfield facebook group. The tension finally got to Tebworth resident Phil Thorogood who apparently had a minor nervous breakdown and took to poetry to express his frustration:

*You put your green bin in, your green bin out,  
In, out, in ,out, you shake it all about,  
You do the hokey cokey and you turn around  
That's what it's all about.*

*Whooooooooo food bins don't get collected,  
Whooooooooo food bins don't get collected,  
Whooooo food bins don't get collected and that's what it's all about.....*

Thursday came and went and then another Thursday came and went. Finally, on Friday, a photograph appeared in the group taken from an upstairs window. It was the green bin collection truck spotted right next to the village hall. Yay!

Phil picked up his pen again:

*My green bin has now been emptied, isn't that great news,*

*The bin man he did struggle,  
To pull it to his truck,  
He pushed his little lever,  
And out came all the muck,*

*My neighbours are all so happy,  
They can now go cut their grass,  
They started up the mower  
And slipped right on their .....flower bed!*

Thanks Phil 😊  
**Frances Masters**



# Marathon



Ed Morton ran the London Marathon and Simon Gatwood and Paul Levy walked a Marathon around the canals of Milton Keynes. All were raising money for The Royal Institute for the Blind.

## Joke Corner

*I just fired myself from cleaning my house.  
I don't like my attitude and I got caught drinking on the job!*

*All fungi are edible  
Some are only edible once*

*I'm giving up drinking for a month.  
Sorry that came out wrong.  
I'm giving up. Drinking for a month.*

*Someone threw a bottle of Omega 3 at me.  
Luckily my only injuries were super fish oil*

**Did you know?** *Replacing your crisps with grapefruit as a snack can lose you 90% of what little joy you have left in your life!*

*My granddad always says 'as one door closes another one opens.' Lovely man, terrible cabinet maker!*



# PUNCH

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*Pop in anytime, a warm welcome awaits.*

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## Will your estate benefit your children and grand-children? Will it be eroded by tax and Care Fees?

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- We have many excellent testimonials.
- It is always better to go to a specialist firm.

### 1. We have generous Inheritance tax allowances.

We should make sure we use them.

Many existing Wills do not qualify for the Residence Nil Rate Band allowance which is £175,000 per person this year.

**Your Will should be reviewed.**

### 2. Care Fees can have a major impact.

The estate of the first spouse to die can be protected from the Care Fees of the surviving spouse but this has to be done through the Wills of both spouses. It cannot be done after one spouse is deceased. This also protects the estate of the first to die in the event that the survivor remarries.

### 3. Remarriage after bereavement:

Marriage annuls a Will. People often forget this and die without a new Will which would have ensured an inheritance for the children of the first marriage. A trust in your Will can ensure this protection.

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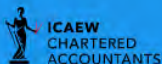
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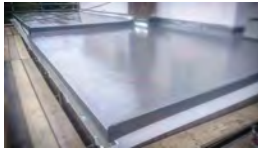
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# UPDATE ON CHOPS

National lockdown having precluded us visiting Chops for far too long, Dave and I eventually arrived at Brook Farm Animal Sanctuary bearing a large sack of pig nuts for a reunion with our porcine family member, whose all too frequent antics terrorising our village many will recall. We found him living in a large barn with 3 lady pigs, as he had been doing for over a year - although still bottom of the pecking order, he is at least accepted as part of the herd and seems content enough. He was enjoying a siesta when we arrived, and despite encouragement on our part he was unwilling to get up and say hello to us, so we had to settle for catching up with him from afar. He clearly gets less exercise and more food than when he lived with us as he has put on a considerable amount of weight - I would estimate he weighs a third as much again as he used to during his Wingfield days, and as can be seen from the photo he is looking particularly large.

Strangely and rather touchingly, Chops has formed an unlikely cross species friendship with the dog next door. Clive who runs the sanctuary told us that their next door neighbour was not best pleased as their dog had taken a liking to Chops and had damaged their fence in his eagerness to get close to him! Whenever Chops went out in the yard, he would lie down on one side of the fence and the dog would lie down next to him on the other side, getting into a considerable mess, as no matter how muddy the weather he was determined to be next to Chops, and the neighbour clearly failed to appreciate this unusual animal friendship that had been forged between the two of them!

It was reassuring to see Chops enjoying the company of other pigs and his canine companion, and we look forward to catching up with him again before Christmas. I will continue to keep readers updated with his news from time to time. **Julia Marsh**





### ***Devon Cider Chicken from Woolacombe Bay***

'tis the season for wind, rain, sleet and snow so what's better to warm the heart than a good old fashioned North Devon recipe, Cider Chicken.

Many of the ingredients can be sourced from farm shops. Apples and cider, of course, as well as Devon clotted cream and that fresh chicken.

#### **Ingredients: This recipe serves 4:**

- 4 chicken pieces, corn-fed chicken recommended
- 1 medium white onion
- 2 eating apples
- 1/2 pint/275ml Devon cider
- 1/4 pint/150ml stock
- 1/4 pint/150ml Devon clotted cream
- 3oz/75g butter
- 2oz/50g flour
- salt and pepper



Use half of the flour to dust the chicken pieces, season well, then fry in a pan with a good knob of butter, until browned. Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon and place in a casserole dish.

Peel, core and chop one of the apples and slice the onion. Fry these ingredients over a low heat until soft. Stir in the remaining flour and cook for 1 minute, gradually adding both the cider and stock. Bring the mixture to boil and then carefully pour over the chicken pieces.

Cover the casserole and cook in a preheated oven at 180 degrees C / gas mark 4 for about 45 minutes.

Remove the chicken from the casserole using a slotted spoon, keep warm.

Pour the liquid from the casserole into a saucepan. Reduce the liquid by boiling for 5 to 10 minutes. Add the cream to the sauce but do not allow to boil again. Slice the second apple and fry in a second pan, using the remaining butter. Arrange these apple slices on top of the chicken and pour the sauce over the dish, to serve.

# JOHN BROCKBANK by Colin McCausland

This is a bit of an unusual story – as you will find out if you read on – I was unsure if I should write it from the point of view of two families coming together after 76 years, or how WW2 is perhaps not just the ancient history many of us think it is or perhaps how the power of the Internet can be used for good. After some thought I decided it should be written, and headlined, John Brockbank – he is the real-life hero of this story and even after all these years we should not forget him or all the other hundreds of thousands of men and women like him. I don't have every date and detail of John's life – though his family have many of them – publishing schedules mean I don't have much if any time to cross-check every date in this article. But I don't think that detracts from this story.

John was born in Barrow-In-Furness, Cumbria in 1921 - so would have been one hundred this year. He was a Grammar School boy so with the advent of war and the need for educated people to fly complex aeroplanes he joined the RAF and by 1941 he was being taught how to fly in California under an agreement between Britain and America to train our pilots in the clear, sunny and safe American skies. He came back to the UK and by about 1942 was flying various aircraft including Wellingtons, Mosquitos and even the odd Hurricane and by 1943 he had joined 25 Squadron.

On a parallel course my Father was born in 1923 and joined the RAF in 1941 and trained to be a Navigator. In 1943 he joined 25 Squadron and teamed up with a pilot to fly the 2-seater Mosquito and that pilot was John Brockbank.

Together they flew "Ranger" patrols over Northern France, Holland and Belgium. This was a nice name given to the missions which was to shoot up and bomb anything mechanical that moved especially trains, lorries and cars in these occupied countries. I remember my Father saying he never had such a feeling of speed as flying at 350 mph just 50 feet above the North Sea then shooting thousands of feet up into the air to avoid the anti-aircraft guns on the enemy coast.

They were quite successful and had few incidents though once the undercarriage doors flew off and took half the aircraft tail with them making the plane very hard to control. Under these circumstances the standard procedure was for the navigator (my Father) to bail out. The reason for this being if the aircraft crashed on landing then only the pilot – and not the two of them - would be killed. Practical and logical stuff but something which modern society might balk at!



# JOHN BROCKBANK by Colin McCausland

Many years later, on a family holiday to Yorkshire he showed us the house he walked to after landing by parachute. They had given him a cup of tea in best WW2 tradition!

Sometime in 1943 they converted to flying night fighter versions of the Mosquito and so now my Father was a Navigator/Radar Operator as there was a very early Radar set actually in the aircraft. The process was that a ground-based Radar station would alert the night fighters to approximately where the enemy aircraft was and they would then fly to that position and attempt to locate them in the dark using their own on-board Radar and then shoot them down. In February 1944 this all came together successfully and they shot down a German Junkers 188. Incidentally it crashed into the ground about 5 miles from where my sister now lives. One of the odd situations of this is that my Father always thought all 5 in the enemy plane were killed – something which weighed on his conscience for the rest of his life. But the Brockbank family had always heard that John had given them time to bail out between initially firing at them and then finally downing their aircraft with cannon fire so they all survived. The surviving records seem to indicate that in fact 1 of the German aviators died but 4 survived and were taken prisoner. I have no idea why my Father thought they had all been killed.

In mid 1944 my Father was transferred out of 25 Squadron to a unit operating Radar equipped Wellington aircraft for use in the war against Japan. I have little information about what this was about but possibly an early version of AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control System). What we do know is that he and John never met again and by the end of the war in August 1945 my Father was stationed in India.

Meanwhile John transferred to 151 Squadron and in March 1945 his aircraft took off from Bradwell Bay in Essex, lost power and crashed into the mud of the Blackwater River. There he and his navigator, Fl Lt Lane, trapped in the aircraft, were drowned by the incoming tide. The rescuers could hear their cries for help but could not get to them. It was just 2 months before the end of the war in Europe.

If you look up “John Brockbank RAF” on Google you will find more detail of that desperately sad event. My Father rarely spoke about the War but when he did you could tell that he had huge respect for Brock (as he called him) and it was almost a revered name in our house. My Father died in 1982 at the too-early age of 59. In about 2016 I was looking into my Father’s RAF history and found out that Brock was buried in Barrow-In-Furness cemetery. I had just got a new motorcycle and was looking for a reason for long trips so one Sunday off I went. I found his grave. I thought I would find it, take a few pictures, then head off for home. But it didn’t

# JOHN BROCKBANK by Colin McCausland

quite go that way as when I suddenly found myself face-to-face with the grave of the man who kept my Father safe in such a dangerous environment it was far more of an emotional experience than I had foreseen. I suddenly wished I had bought some flowers or some other way to indicate he was not forgotten but I had none and finally had to turn round and head for home.

As many of you know I have recently had Chemotherapy and one of the side effects of this is to knock your sleeping patterns for six so quite a few long wide-awake nights of surfing the Internet. I looked up John Brockbank and found a web site called "The Story Behind The Stones" which told the story of some of the gravestones in Barrow cemetery and there was a short article – with pictures – about John Brockbank. Now I have my father's wartime photo album so I had some more pictures of John. So I emailed the web site administrator and asked him if he was interested. He most definitely was so I scanned in some pictures and emailed them off. Then he informed me he was in touch with someone from the Brockbank family and did I mind if he passed my details onto them. I said I would welcome that to cut a long story short on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October my brother, sister and I (and partners) went to a house near Newbury and there we had a wonderful afternoon with relatives of the Brockbank family. It was a most rewarding time, there were some events which both families knew about and others which were new to one family or the other. One thing that struck me as my family have a newspaper clipping from 1944 detailing the shooting down of the Junkers 188 by Brock and my Father. The Brockbank's had the exact same clipping. So both families had independently cut that clipping out in February 1944 and then kept it down the generations until 2021 when we met in the same house and the two clippings came together – extraordinary. The Brockbank's have John's flying log book and we were also able to tie up entries in that with photographs in my Father's album. We intend to all meet up again and soon. John's half sister Brenda was there and she remembered him clearly – even after 76 years. She also remembered the arrival of the telegram informing the family of his death and of his coffin in their front room. Maybe we should all think about that for a minute. WW2 isn't ancient history for her.

So possibly you can see how I wasn't quite sure how to approach this story, two families coming together after 76 years, WW2 is not just ancient history, the power of the Internet. But I think I made the right choice. John Brockbank was an ordinary man asked to do extraordinary things in war time. He rose to the occasion and paid the ultimate price. By the time you read this Remembrance Sunday may have been and gone but I think we should all consider thinking about him for a minute.

# DUCKGATE

It was a bit of a mystery at first. Slowly but surely reports started coming in of dozens and dozens of small but perfectly formed Halloween ducks popping up all over the parish.

Rumours spread that, if found, they would bring good luck. Suddenly everybody wanted a 'lucky ducky' and the race was on.

Some searched in an honest way in daylight.

Some searched covertly under cover of dark.

Some posted pictures of their scoops.

Others committed the ultimate crime and faked pictures of their 'finds.'

So, just who was the phantom duck spreader depositing so many quackies round the village?



Finally, an admission came from Tebworth resident Hazel. She, along with her 11 year old trickster daughter Demi, had planted 150 of the little guys all over Tebworth, Wingfield and Toddington.

Well done both. You gave us all quite a laugh on a rainy Halloween👍

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

When we first moved to Chalgrave a long time ago, was fairly bare and not many birds visited it. Then we started planting trees and shrubs and for a few years nothing much changed. Then as the plants grew larger and more mature, we started noticing many more birds visiting and we were seeing a wider range of species. The larger trees and shrubs offered a better food source and more shelter.



Now is a good time to plant trees and shrubs in your garden, their roots will have plenty of time to get established before the leaves start growing again. Most native trees are too big for the average garden, but most wildlife isn't fussy about where its food and shelter come from, and non-native trees are better than no trees at all. Many small ornamental trees have more than one Attractive feature (blossom/fruit/autumn colour) so they look good throughout the year. Species that offer these three attributes are Prunus (Cherry), Malus (Crabapple) and Sorbus (Rowan). There are many cultivars of these of different height and vigour, so you should be able to find one to suit your garden. If you can find bare-rooted trees, these are often cheaper and establish better than pot-grown ones.

One small tree I can strongly recommend is Amelanchier Lamarckii. It's young foliage is bronze, followed by racemes of white flowers, purple/black fruit and then good red/orange autumn colour.



Now is also a good time to clean out nest boxes or put up new ones ready for next spring. Some birds will use nest boxes in the winter to roost in at night to keep out

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

of the worst of the weather. If you feed the birds they will be dependent on your offerings in the colder months so keep it up until spring at least.

Some recent research has suggested that feeding the birds isn't all win-win as we used to think. Some birds, especially tits, have adapted well to using feeders and it may be that they do so at the expense of other birds. The theory goes that if more blue-tits for example survive there will be more of them around to compete with other birds for wild food and nesting sites. More research is needed, so don't stop feeding them now. Try to provide a variety of food for different species and put some on the ground for those birds that can't use feeders. With the leaves off the trees it's much easier to spot all the feathered visitors to your garden.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your garden and it's wildlife.

**John Wojdyla and Janet Day**



# The Chalgrave Website

## Chalgrave Parish

Community parish website for Tebworth, Wingfield, and Chalgrave

- Home <
- Parish Council
- Local Information
- Local History
- Events
- Chalgrave Memorial Hall
- Organisations
- Contact Us



### Chalgrave Parish Council

Author: Simon Galward | 14 February 2015 | 1 Comment



This community website has been created to provide the residents of Chalgrave Parish with valuable information on the work being carried out by their local Parish Council. It also provides our parishioners with a list of the public services and amenities available... [\(READ MORE\)](#)

[Tweet](#)

[www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org)

Search here...

CHALGRAVE WEATHER

12° overcast clouds  
74% humidity  
wind: 3m/s SSW  
H 13 - L 10

13°	13°	12°	12°	10°
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

false

Weather from OpenWeatherMap

*It occurred to me that a lot of people probably are not aware of the Chalgrave Website and if they are, maybe aren't aware, of some items which might be of interest.*

Peter Warburton updates the Website for the Parish Council and from the home page you can subscribe to the blog by email.

You can contact Lesley Smith our Parish Clerk or the Web administrators. Naturally all Parish Council details and minutes are posted which I'm sure make fascinating reading for some but there are other sections that you might find interesting.

**CHALGRAVE SURVEY** This is a survey on the **history of Chalgrave from AD926**. It was produced in 1986 by Stephen R Coleman, Archivist at CBC. From Home go to Local History then to Chalgrave Survey. Top of Form

**LOCAL HISTORY.** Here you can also find other historical info about the Parish with **photographs of people and places**

**EVENTS.** If you go to **Events**, you can find **Photographs** from past events and **recordings** from past events. [The Events calendar and upcoming events pages are not kept up to date]

**RECORDINGS.** You may be interested in "**Recordings from past events**" where you can find :-



# The Chalgrave Website

**Joe's Session**" Folk Night, at the Queen's Head, Tebworth [unfortunately Covid has prevented this for now]

**Old Time Music Hall.** There are three recordings of these events at the Memorial Hall

**Village "concerts"** were held every year at the old Memorial Hall from 1972 to around 1999 There is only one here and of very poor quality but if anyone has any old tapes, I can add them

**BBC Three Counties Radio** In 1996, presenters John Pilgrim and Eddie Almond interviewed a number of villagers in and around the Queen's Head

**Anglia TV news** recording of Lyn Green following her emergency resolution presentation at the Royal Albert Hall to the **W.I. AGM in 1986.**

**Any questions to Ken Green 01525874107 [kentebwort@gmail.com](mailto:kentebwort@gmail.com)**

## Remember this?

Tebworth School play in 1976  
with Amanda Griffin at the  
front looking very fierce and  
Carly and Colin Peverell,  
Claire Horsler,  
Joseph Bennett,  
Kenneth Horne,  
Penny Green,  
Verity Higgs and  
Bridgett Wing behind.



# Chalgrave Memorial Hall

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9am – 6pm	£9.00 per hour	£18.00 per hour	£21.00 per hour
6pm – 11pm*	£10.50 per hour	£21.00 per hour	£28.50 per hour
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
6pm – 12 midnight*	£130	£260	£295
<b>SATURDAY</b>			
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
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
10am – 10pm*	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£29.00 per hour
<b>'WEEKEND RATE'</b>			
(Friday 6pm to Sunday 12 noon) NB Hall must be vacated at 11pm Friday and 12 midnight Saturday	£305	£610	£720

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

**Enquiries—Bookings 07831 482556 Information—Roger Masters 01525 873039**

**FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE TELEPHONE: 07831 482556**

## USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Parish Council</b>			<a href="http://www.chalgrave.org">www.chalgrave.org</a>
Clerk	Lesley Smith	874716	<a href="mailto:chalgravepc@btinternet.com">chalgravepc@btinternet.com</a>
Chairman	Phil Parry	07831 605600	<a href="mailto:phil@philparryassociates.co.uk">phil@philparryassociates.co.uk</a>
Councillors	Ken Green	874107	<a href="mailto:kentebworth@gmail.com">kentebworth@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Council</b>	Central Beds	03003 008000	<a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Ward Cllr	Mark Versallion	03003 008555	<a href="mailto:Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>MP</b>	Andrew Selous	01582 662821	<a href="mailto:selousa@parliament.uk">selousa@parliament.uk</a>
<b>Memorial Hall</b>	Bookings	07831 482556	
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	Roger Masters	873039	<a href="mailto:roger.masters@btinternet.com">roger.masters@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Speedwatch</b>	Mike Wells	877098	<a href="mailto:mikewells@clara.co.uk">mikewells@clara.co.uk</a>
<b>Rector</b>	Rev Linda Washington	714442	
Warden	M. Chalmers	01582 605561	
Warden	S. Russell	07796 66174	
<b>West Charity</b>	Clerk Lesley Smith	874716	
<b>Schools</b>			
Lower	St Georges	872360	<a href="mailto:office@toddstg.co.uk">office@toddstg.co.uk</a>
Middle	Parkfields	872555	<a href="mailto:schooladmin@parkfield.cbeds.co.uk">schooladmin@parkfield.cbeds.co.uk</a>
Upper	Harlington	755100	<a href="mailto:enquiries@harlington.org">enquiries@harlington.org</a>
<b>Doctor</b>	Medical Centre	872222	<a href="http://www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk/">www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk/</a>
<b>Library</b>	Toddington	03003 008069	
<b>Police</b>		101	
<b>Helping Hands</b>		07882 988270	
<b>Public Houses</b>			
The Plough	Sallie & Paul	873077	
<b>Clubs</b>			
Rotary Club	Chris Osborn	873920	
Sports Club	Phil Parry	07831 605600	<a href="http://www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk">www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk</a>
Tennis Club	Roger Fenwick	07814 598309	
Chalgrave WI	Debbie Parry	07770 543797	<a href="mailto:Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com">Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com</a>
Brownies/Guides	Dee Curtis	872649	
Rainbow	Dee Curtis	872649	
Cubs Scouts	Karen Calder	873065	

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