

AUTUMN
2022
ISSUE 76

CHALGRAVE NEWS

Celebrating Chalgrave

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day/Date	Event	Location	Time
Third Tuesday of each month	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Second Tuesday of each month	WI	Memorial Hall	8.00 pm
Fourth Wednesday each month	Pop-Up tea room	Memorial Hall	11-1

Thank you for the cover photo to Peter Warburton.
Autumn sunrise from Wingfield.

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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

Autumn has been very mild so far and we are delaying turning on the heaters for as long as possible. Prices of electricity, oil and gas have increased so much that it is very worrying for many of us. Hopefully we have some stability in the government now with the third Prime Minister in office this term.

Following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 15 September many of us watched the State funeral and procession to Windsor. On page 18 Jane Spiers tells us about her journey to London and Westminster Hall to see her lying in State.

We were very pleased to receive a lovely thank you letter from Malcolm Baldwin's daughter. It is two years since his death and she had come across the Chalgrave News on the website.

If you decide to follow Debbie Kidd's brilliant ideas for de-cluttering your wardrobe we would love to hear how you got on. Please write us a quick paragraph. See page 44.

Congratulations to Jane Spiers who has won the Chalgrave News £50.00 prize for the best dressed Jubilee house. Well done Jane!

Finally please send us some photos of your Christmas and we will publish as many as we can in the next edition, due to come to you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas from all of us in the Editorial Team.



View from The House

SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE MP GOES BEHIND THE SCENES AT AMAZON

The team at Amazon in Dunstable welcomed a special guest this week when Andrew Selous MP visited the fulfilment centre for a behind-the-scenes tour.

Andrew Selous MP was given a guided tour of the fulfilment centre, which he officially opened in 2015, where he met some of the team working at Amazon to deliver for customers across the UK and Europe.



As part of Andrew's tour, he was shown the solar panels on the roof of Amazon's Dunstable site, which are used to power the building. The 5,000+ solar panels at the Dunstable fulfilment centre will help Amazon drive towards its goal to be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2025 as part of The Climate Pledge.

During his visit, Andrew followed the journey of a parcel to see first-hand what happens when a customer clicks 'buy' on the Amazon website. Andrew took part in several activities during the parcel's journey, including picking and packing products before it was shipped for delivery to a customer.

The fulfilment centre tour, led by General Manager Omer Kartal, also provided Andrew Selous MP with an insight into the many career development programmes and opportunities for employees at Amazon, including the Amazon Apprenticeship programme and Amazon Career Choice. Andrew Selous MP also he learned about the many community organisations supported by the fulfilment centre locally. Charitable organisations that have received donations from the fulfilment centre over the last 12 months include Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Keech Hospice and Stepping Stones.

Speaking after his tour at Amazon, Andrew Selous MP said: "It was fantastic to see these 5,384 solar panels on the roof of Amazon in Dunstable. The installation provides all the power for the fulfilment centre employing 1800 people and in addition provides power back to the grid. The 1.45 MWh of electricity produced is a tremendous contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and I hope that many more businesses and householders who are able to, will follow their example."

Amazon Dunstable General Manager, Omer Kartal, added: "We're always pleased to welcome guests to our fulfilment centre and the team and I really enjoyed hosting

View from The House

Andrew Selous MP for this visit. I hope Andrew learned something new during the behind-the-scenes tour and we look forward to welcoming him back for another visit in the future.”

Amazon provides competitive pay, comprehensive benefits and a modern, safe and engaging work environment for its employees. The roles pay a minimum of £11.45 per hour, and Amazon employees can also take advantage of Amazon’s pioneering Career Choice programme, which pre-pays 95% of tuition for courses in high-demand fields, up to £8,000 over four years, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon.



Anyone can find out more about what it’s like to work at an Amazon fulfilment centre by signing up for a virtual tour at uk.amazonfctours.com

Chairman of the Parish Council

New Councillor. We welcome a new member to the Parish Council - Cllr. Harvey Greenwood. Harvey will bring a new perspective to the work of the Council.



Parking. At the request from residents, we had yellow lines put down on the corner of Wingfield Road and Toddington Road. This was to prevent parking on the corner as it is a danger for cars turning into and turning out of Wingfield Road. Please respect the yellow lines, they are there for a reason.

Lords Hill Roundabout. At last, the road markings have been corrected! It's taken five years of campaigning.

Toddington Road. Another long-awaited result was the repair of the water leak in the road opposite the Chapel.

Hockliffe Road. The footpath by the side of the road has been cleared of grass so it is now easier for walkers.

Litter Pick. Cllr. Peter Warburton has organised litter picks in our Parish. I have also spoken to McDonalds in Hockliffe and they have agreed to let members of staff to join our litter pick – dependant on the time of day.

Speed Watch. The team are active going out once a month in Tebworth and Wingfield. The purpose of Speed Watch is raise speed awareness, to remind drivers of the 30mph limit in the two villages and between the villages on the Tebworth Road.

The Lane also has a 30 mph limit but we consider that too fast for this road. Many people use The Lane for walking and walking dogs - and it is virtually a single-track road. Please adjust your speed accordingly.

Phil Parry
Chair





CHALGRAVE WI Book Club

The WI book group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. We are currently meeting at The Plough in Wingfield, or at group members' homes. Currently we have around 14 members

In August we read *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak - Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, meet at a taverna on the island they both call home. In the centre of the tavern is a fig tree. The fig tree witnesses their hushed, happy meetings; their silent, surreptitious departures. The fig tree is there, too, when war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to ashes and rubble, when the teenagers vanish. Decades later, Kostas returns - a botanist, looking for native species - looking, really, for Defne. The two lovers return to the taverna to take a clipping from the fig tree and smuggle it into their suitcase, bound for London. Years later, the fig tree in the garden is their daughter Ada's only knowledge of a home she has never visited, as she seeks to untangle years of secrets and silence, and find her place in the world. *The Island of Missing Trees* is a rich, magical tale of belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature, and, finally, renewal. This is a great book, very thought provoking

In September we read *Still Life* by Sarah Winman - From the author of *When God Was a Rabbit* comes the enchanting tale of an unlikely friendship between a British soldier and an alleged spy in a wartime Tuscany ripe with colour and the ghosts of the past. We all loved this book and would greatly recommend it, it's fabulous!

In October we read *The Dictionary of Lost words* by Pip Williams - Motherless and irrepressibly curious, Esme spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, a garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of lexicographers are gathering words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day, she sees a slip containing the word 'bondmaid' flutter to the floor unclaimed. Over time, Esme realises that some words are considered more important than others, and that words and meanings relating to women's experiences often go unrecorded. She begins to collect words for another dictionary: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*. A thought provoking historical novel, based on true events. Slow to start but keep going as it becomes a lovely read.

If you are interested in joining the WI book group please contact Sue (sue.watling@hotmail.com)

Chalgrave Memorial Hall update

Bookings are going well at the hall. If you are local, there is a subsidised 50% discount for you which represents extraordinary value for money for the use of a great facility with a stage, fully kitted out kitchen, meeting room with hatch (many hirers use this as a bar area) and don't forget the large car park, green space and play area too.



Updates on the playground

As you know our much loved play equipment is coming to the end of its life and we are trying to raise the £64,000 it will cost to replace it along with the surrounding fencing and play surface.

We are through to the next round of our application with the National Lottery. They are very keen for the design of the play area to be guided by the wants and needs of the community. We have already had some excellent ideas and feedback. If you have any ideas do get in contact. We are listening.

Pop Up tea room

We continue to raise funds at the pop up tea room by selling generously donated items. The pop up is going from strength to strength with fifty people attending last time. Thanks to everyone who has made such generous donations and also to the very talented bakers of Chalgrave Church for providing the cakes, scones and quiches.

It's been lovely working in partnership with the church to provide a regular event in the village for friends and neighbours to come together in this way. **The December tea room will have a very Christmassy feel to it so do come along any time between 11am and 1pm. We'll make you very welcome.**

Ernie Stringer's great-great granddaughter

Clare Stringer came along to join her mum and grandma at the October pop up. She's the great-great granddaughter of long-time resident Ernie who many of us will have very fond memories of. Clare had just won a gold medal at the England tumbling championships and brought it along to show us. She's obviously got a real talent and we will follow her progress with interest. It



Chalgrave Memorial Hall update

looks like she's heading for international success. Well done Clare!

Clare's Grandma, Rose, also has a real talent and made us some beautiful embroidered hangings of poppies in time for the hall's memorial service.

Thanks Rose. They look lovely.

Join us

We have a good number of members of the village hall committee. There's Velda, who does a great job taking the bookings for us and Sharon who has the unenviable task of being our treasurer and does a great job too.

We are also lucky enough to have Will, John, Jan, Michelle, Jane and Frances who all give their time freely and generously to help keep the hall in good order for the people of the parish of Chalgrave and surrounding area.

If you would like to join us, do get in touch. We have regular meetings which, despite all the usual challenges, are pretty good fun and very sociable.



Roger Masters (Chair)



Chalgrave Sports Club

Our Race Night was a great success. – 8 races, raffle, excellent fish and chips and much more. A great Club team effort with the help of Mandy, Su, Lesley, Millie, Flo and Gabe. Thanks also to the Wells family for running the Tote. We gained new members and towards the end of the evening the Club presented Nev Andrews and Mike Wells with Honorary Life Memberships for recognition of all the work they have put into the Club not only as Committee members but also as players.



Also, during the evening our MC John Parker auctioned off a flight for three in his aircraft over our Parish. In the face of stiff competition and not wanting to disappoint two eager bidders, John accepted two bids so up to six people will enjoy two flights. We'd like to thank Lee Finch and Chris Osborn for generously supporting the club in our auction, and hope they enjoy their flights. A donation from monies raised on the night will be made to local schools for sporting activities and equipment.



Other Club events include the 5K Park Run at Houghton Hall and our Saturday morning Yoga. We plan to continue the 5K event on the first Saturday of the month. The Yoga with Rachel starts again on November 19th in the Memorial Hall at

Chalgrave Sports Club



11.00am. You are very welcome to join us, contact a Committee member or email – chalgravesportsclub@gmail.com Danielle will be leading a walk again for about an hour before the yoga class - details will be on our Facebook page.

We will be organising a Golf Day between Christmas and New Year
Congrats to members –

- ◆ Ian Cox for completing the Bournemouth Marathon. He was being chased by a rhino for part of the way!
- ◆ Ed Morton for completing his second London Marathon.
- ◆ Christina Lawrence for taking part in the XNRG Tring Ultra 50K at the end of September. This was her first Ultra event.
- ◆ Mike Jackson for running the Ultra Trail Mont Blanc CCC in August. The race is 100KM with over 6,100M of climbing starting in Italy and ending in France!! He raised £1300 for the Downs Syndrome Association

Another member, Ian Smith, will be raising money for Pancreatic Cancer UK. He will be walking 30K during the month of November -

Ian Smith

Details of how you can support his efforts will be on our Facebook Page.

I understand that Lesley Smith will be accompanying him for part, if not all, of the way.

Phil Parry





In **August** nine of us attended a Pub Night at the Plough in Wingfield and fourteen of us enjoyed a **Burlesque show** at the Corn Exchange in Bedford. There was a great variety of acts and it was a really fun evening.

At our **September** meeting we broke with tradition and sang Jerusalem and had a minute's silence in respect of the late Queen. We had a **Murder and Mayhem** talk by author Jane Isaac. It was fascinating to hear about how she started her writing career and how she got her ideas for her crime novels and psychological thrillers. She is married to a detective which has given her access to specialist advice.

In **October** we heard from the charity - **Make A Difference Schools Mombasa**. We heard about the series of fortunate events and meetings that led Ian Stimson realising his vision of helping the families of Utange and Bamburi in Kenya by building schools and providing basic education and life skills. Their first school was opened in 2016. Last year the 'The Rainbow Unit' opened offering young children with disabilities basic education, life skills and the chance to be trained in one of 6 trades. They continue to raise funds for resourcing the schools.



CHALGRAVE WI



And we attended a **Drag Queen Show** at the Grove theatre in Dunstable. We also had a guided **Ghost Walk** tour of Dunstable led by Kay Kempster of Dunstable Town Guides.

In **November** former Police Officer, Paul Barwick, told us about **The Spy**

Who Solved His Own Murder! The story of 2006 assassination of ex-Soviet spy Alexander Litvinenko with a rare radioactive poison, Polonium 210. This was utterly fascinating and even more scary given Putin's current invasion of Ukraine.

Future Meetings

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm in Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Wingfield Road, Tebworth, LU7 9QQ. We typically have a number of additional outings and events throughout the year.

Date	Event
Tue-13-Dec-22	Christmas Crafts – Wreath Making
Tue-10-Jan-23	Women's self defence
Tue-07-Feb-23	How to Enjoy your House plants
Tue-14-Mar-23	The neuroscience around anxiety
Tue-09-May-23	Indoor Kurling

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 contact me if you would like to know more – or just pop along to one of our meetings.

Contact: Debbie Parry Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com Tel 07770 543797

All Saints Church Chalgrave

Autumn is now here and the temperatures are getting cooler. The horse chestnut trees are dropping their leaves and conkers scatter the ground.

We have seen a lot of changes in a very short time recently, including a new Prime Minister, the death of Her Majesty the Queen, and the accession of King Charles III to the throne. We opened the church so that members of the public could sign the book of condolences and for prayer. The funeral processions for Her Majesty and services were extremely well choreographed and very moving.



On Sunday, September 18th at 6pm Toddington and Chalgrave churches came together to mark the occasion of the licensing of Rev. Linda Washington as Rector of the Benefice. Archdeacon Dave led the service and shared the joy of the occasion. Following that service there was a service of commemoration to the Queen.

We decorated the church on Sept 23rd for harvest using items that we later donated to the food bank. We had an enjoyable joint Harvest supper on Saturday and Sunday celebrated Harvest Festival during our morning service.

Following Rev. Nigel's retirement, he and Linda took a month off for some well-earned rest and relaxation. Services will continue each Sunday at 9:30am. Linda will return for Sunday worship in November.

All Saints Church Chalgrave



The Pop Up Tea Room has resumed after a break in August and was well attended again. It was lovely to see new and familiar faces. Thanks to everyone who helped & who came along.

Next Pop Ups are:

October 19th ,

November 23rd and

December 14th (Xmas special with Carols)

All are from 11am-1pm.

We've replaced the Victorian lanterns in the car park & they are now working again. Thank you to Stewart Mellon for carrying out this work.

Currently, we have had timber treatment on a beam in the chancel. The damage caused by the bug infestation will need further repair & we are seeking advice from a structural timber engineer. There is also plaster repair that will be done.

The gardening group meet the first Friday of the month at 10am.

The cleaning crew meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2pm. If you would like to



All Saints Church Chalgrave



join us, you would be very welcome.

Dates for your Diary:

- ◆ December 11th - 6pm Carols by Candlelight
- ◆ December 24th - 3pm Crib Service TBC 11:15pm Midnight Mass
- ◆ December 25th – 11am Benefice Christmas Service Holy Communion at St. George's Toddington

The fundraising committee have already been busy planning next years events. There will be a Harpsichord concert with wine & cheese evening on May 13th . On Saturday, July 8th Toddington Town Band will play during our Afternoon Tea. Saturday, November 11th we're hoping to have a Craft Fair at the Memorial Hall (TBC). As you can see there is much to look forward to. We warmly welcome you to join us for our services and all our activities.

Sandy Ryan

Aunt Agnes

Well, Hello Again Dear Readers.

As it's only a few weeks away from Christmas I thought I would share an email I recently received from a Chalgrave resident.

In her email she told me that whilst she enjoys Christmas, and in particular cooking Christmas Day lunch, this year was going to be different as her husband had decided to invite over for Christmas lunch, every ant he could get hold of, in order to make it a memorable day.



His wife had told him that as a special treat he could invite as many guests as he wanted but he came up with this idea, and she was becoming very concerned as she just did not know how she was going to cope on the day with so many ants. She told me she had made her mind up that in order not to spoil her Christmas she was going to get rid of as many ants as she could but did not know how to go about this without upsetting her husband and so turned to the only person she knew would be able to help her.

Unfortunately, that person was on holiday, so she emailed me. I have had some bizarre readers problems over the years but never encountered this before.

I know ants can be a tremendous problem once in the house, as I sometimes find in my own luxury home here in the Caribbean, so I suggested that she got in touch with a pest control company that I know of and ask them if they could come out on Christmas Day to get rid of these nuisance ants. In the meantime, I suggested putting ant traps around her house as well as sprinkling ant powder everywhere she thought these ants might appear, such as on the table and chairs etc.

The worried Chalgrave resident came back to me after reading my answer to her problem to tell me her husband would take great offence if on Christmas Day a pest control company turned up to evict his many aunts out of the house!

I have said this many times before please, please dear readers, do not rely on spell check when writing to me. Always reread what you have written to avoid these spelling errors which cause me so much trouble.

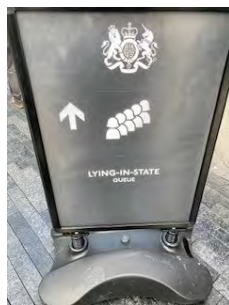
Merry Christmas to you all from your favourite agony ant and see you again in the New Year.

Anty Agnes

Trip to Westminster Hall to see Our Queen

Most of us know of no other Monarch other than the late Queen, and now her Son, Charles. She reigned with dignity and presence throughout her very long and largely peaceful tenure.

When Liz Truss travelled to Balmoral to see Her Majesty who could have expected that that meeting would be her last official engagement? She looked healthy and fit, albeit frail, at 96 she was extraordinary, and loved by all. Imagine our shock at hearing the news that she had passed, so quickly that even her close family had been unable to be at her side in time. How devastating for them to have made the long journey ultimately in vain.



The first Monarch to die in Scotland since James V in 1542, she began her journey to her final resting place first in Edinburgh, then by plane to London, to Buckingham Palace and thence to Westminster Hall for her lying in state. Given that this was to be a 4 day event, I felt it my duty to honour her majesty by acknowledging her one final time. I decided to join the burgeoning queue.

On Friday 16th September I was dropped off at Flitwick and made my way to Southwark. Now to find the back of the queue!. I was told Southwark Park, and made my way there. On reaching Southwark Park, along with many her bemused queuers, we were then told to make our way to Tower Bridge. On getting there, at about 8am, we were told the back of the queue was in Southwark Park! Never mind, the good old British Bobby 'turned the other cheek', as we were allowed to join the queue without having to double back again. How Kind.

It was all very new for everyone, and I soon met up with other likeminded people. I met a nurse, like myself (Karen) who had worked with my partner's mother in Crewe, and she remembered her name. I met another lady (Rosemary) from Cornwall for whom this was her first time in London, and all very new for her. Another lady was from Yorkshire (Flis) and the four of us stayed together for the duration.

Trip to Westminster Hall to see Our Queen



The queue zigzagged a bit, but was generally an orderly line along the south bank, passing shops and premises that were available for the loo or for food and water etc. Bottled water was given free by the Fire Brigade and other businesses offered free tea and coffee. The Dunkirk Spirit indeed!

However we had 6 miles by now to get to our destination, so we watched buskers and chatted to people on the way. The queue moved at walking pace generally, sometimes stopping, but never for too long.

Our partners were keeping an eye on our progress by 'Find my Iphone', and news was being relayed to us constantly. I had taken my mobile phone charger battery with me, just in case. Some folk had queued all the previous night and we knew that people were STILL joining the queue.

We heard that David Beckham was not too far ahead of us, and we saw a brief interview with him. Very humbling to know that he was waiting patiently as we were in that line.

Throughout the day and during all the time we were waiting in line, the Police, the Red Cross, medics and other volunteers were very cheerful, helpful and compassionate and we witnessed the very best of human nature on this day.



Trip to Westminster Hall to see Our Queen

As we drew nearer to Westminster Hall, we crossed the Thames and then the dreaded zigzagging in the Park adjacent to Parliament. Eventually, with trepidation, we began to get to the front of the queue, and once in, we were subject to a airport type security search but were allowed to take with us our handbags, but had to turn off our phones. Of course, no one came with any intent other than to file past and pay their very last respects.

We entered the hushed Hall at about 7pm. The silence was sobering, and the pomp amazing. The Queen, guarded by 4 members of the Royal Household or Household Division, resplendent in finery reserved just for this occasion. We were instructed to follow the right hand line, and the slowly moving line now took us towards and closer to Her Majesty. One final time. One final chance to bow to Her and say a little prayer of thanks, One last chance. And then we were ushered on, unable to linger too long. The time had passed so quickly for just a few seconds of pure gold, never to be repeated and always to be treasured the time within the Hall from start to finish had been about 20 minutes.

On saying goodbye to my new friends, we became aware of flashing blue lights and the commotion of cars charging into a yard. It was soon obvious that it was King Charles and his Consort, together with, in another two cars, his siblings. They were to stand guard for their vigil that evening.



Following that surprise, we said our goodbyes and made our ways home.

A day in the sunshine for us and in a few days of darkness for the Nation. Our last chance to say 'Thank You Ma'am'.

Jane Spiers Nov 2022

A Strange Story ...

After succumbing to a fever of some sort in 1705, Irish woman Margorie McCall was hastily buried to prevent the spread of whatever had done her in. Margorie was buried with a valuable ring, which her husband had been unable to remove due to swelling. This made her an even better target for body snatchers, who could cash in on both the corpse and the ring.

The evening after Margorie was buried, before the soil had even settled, the grave-robbers showed up and started digging. Unable to pry the ring off the finger, they decided to cut the finger off. As soon as blood was drawn, Margorie awoke from her coma, sat straight up and screamed.

The fate of the grave-robbers remains unknown. One story says the men dropped dead on the spot, while another claims they fled and never returned to their chosen profession.

Margorie climbed out of the hole and made her way back to her home.

Her husband John, a doctor, was at home with the children when he heard a knock at the door. He told the children, "If your mother were still alive, I'd swear that was her knock." When he opened the door to find his wife standing there, dressed in her burial clothes, blood dripping from her finger but very much alive, he dropped dead to the floor. He was buried in the plot Margorie had vacated.

Margorie went on to re-marry and have several children. When she did finally die, she was returned to Shankill Cemetery in Lurgan, Ireland, where her gravestone still stands.

It bears the inscription
"Lived Once, Buried Twice."

Credit: Irish TV



Welcome to The Plough Inn

Restaurant Review

If you've been following the Plough on Face book you'll have noticed recent pictures of some fabulous looking food from their new winter menu.

So a few of us went along one chilly winter night in October and were warmly greeted by manager Amy Jane Flitton. Our orders were taken and the food arrived quickly.



We all sampled the scallops on black pudding with pea puree and, for mains, had the fish pie, chicken supreme and pie of the week with mash. Everything was piping hot and had a lovely home cooked feel about it.

Word seems to be spreading. Even midweek there were plenty of tables booked and lots of people dining. It was good to see the pub so busy.

We didn't encounter the resident pub ghost, George, on this occasion but understand there's often an aroma of pipe tobacco coming from his favourite corner by the open fire. Go along and try for yourself. The prices are very affordable even in these tricky times.



I'm sure George would approve! **Frances Masters**



WARNING FATBERG ALERT

An enormous fatberg was found recently lurking in the sewers beneath the lanes of Chalgrave. This one was quickly exterminated thanks to Anglian Water's team of skilled fatberg-busters. These creatures feed on oil and cooking fat and if left untreated can grow huge, wrapping themselves in wet-wipes and more fat. The consequences of uncontrolled fatbergs can be devastating. So be careful about what goes down your drains.

Remember - Don't feed a fatberg!



Stunning
Autumnal
photograph by
John Wojdyla.

Lovely time of year
to get outside,
enjoy the colours
and beauty that
nature has to
offer.

ESCAPE AESTHETICS

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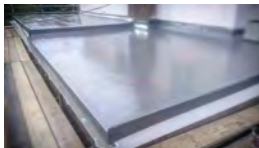
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Footpath notes

A big thank you has to go out to the local land owners who are installing these gates instead of stiles.

It makes life so much easier for walkers and especially those with dogs

A special thanks goes to Rights of Way officer, **Lindsay Measures** for helping it happen.



Look after the pennies

Saving money or 'scrimping' has become a bit of a national obsession lately for obvious reasons.

We're all feeling the pinch of the rising cost of food, fuel and electric right now and there's been a big increase in online groups and articles where money-saving tips can help save the pennies that can add up to pounds long term.

Most of us don't want to line the pockets of the big energy companies in particular plus using less energy is simply the green thing to do, right? So here are a few tips you might want to try to keep the bills manageable this winter.

If you have your own favourite scrimping tips you want to share with the rest of us, get in contact with the Chalgrave News and we'll make sure we print them so everyone can benefit.

Got your heating on yet?

Nope, many of us still haven't flicked on the central heating switch. That's not such a surprise when you realise that, to heat a 3 bed house for one day is likely to set you back over £25!

Just heating the room you are in might be a good way to go until it gets too cold with many plug-in radiators costing just pennies an hour to run.

Heat the person not the room

Actually, why heat a whole room when you can snuggle up on the sofa under a cosy electric blanket? At just 3p an hour they work out as one of the best ways to stay warm in the long winter evening.

Or, you could cut the cost further by investing in your own 'warmrobe.' Oodies, otherwise known as wearable blankets, look like oversized hoodies and you can get them for as little as £10. They even come with a big old pouch at the front where you can pop your hot water bottle for extra cosiness.

Can't afford to run the tumble drier?

With current electricity prices of 34 pence per kWh, running a tumble dryer for one hour will cost an incredible £2.30 so many of us are choosing to line dry when we can and are digging out the good old fashioned clothes horse. You can buy heated ones too.

Using these can sometimes lead to a bit of a condensation problem. One thing we don't want is a damp house so opening a window from time to time should help with this or leaving a dish of salt on the window sill works really well too.

Look after the pennies

To roast or not to roast

Using your oven to cook a Sunday roast will cost around £2 which explains the big switch to air fryers and slow cookers. Actually the cheapest appliance to cook with turns out to be the humble microwave as it cooks food so quickly. You can 'bing' a mug of broccoli in as little as 2 minutes!

And who knew you can do a full English breakfast in a slow cooker for pennies? Simply load it up at bedtime, put on low and wake up 8 hours later to the smell of bacon!

Here's the recipe. Happy scrimping!

Frances Masters

Slow Cooker Breakfast

Feeds 2-3

Ingredients

6 Sausages

6 Rashers of Bacon

400g Tinned Chopped Tomatoes

400g Baked Beans

100g Button Mushrooms, sliced

4 Eggs, beaten

30g Butter



Method

Place the tomatoes, beans, mushrooms and eggs into separate mugs

Add 15g butter to the eggs and the same to the mushrooms

Place the mugs into the centre of the slow cooker

Stand the sausages around the edges of the slow cooker touching the sides

Roll up the bacon and place around the edges too

Turn the slow cooker onto a low heat and set the timer for 9 hours

Wake up and enjoy a tasty breakfast!

Fire Extinguishers and their fascinating history

We all have some strange habits. One of mine is collecting old fire extinguishers. I now have 250+ from all over the world, but mostly UK. The oldest is probably 1750's, although there is no date on it. It came to me via a friend of a friend who used it like a walking stick through London and onto the underground. Its value is £250.

The oldest identifiable is 1926, and is a lovely light water extinguisher that actually looks quite modern.

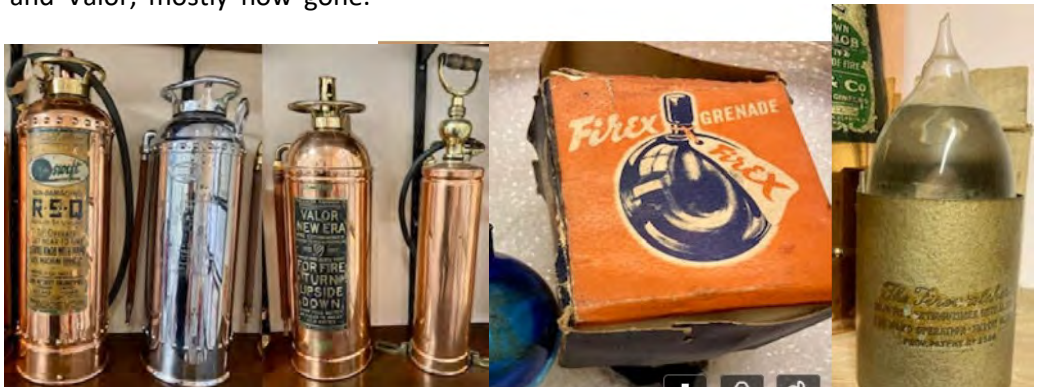
Some are chrome plated. Some are mild steel, or brass, others solid copper. The copper & brass ones are sent to a metal polisher who cleans them up and then lacquers each one. Price depends on size, but each costs about £40 to clean up and lacquer. Its worth it as I don't need to get the Brasso out every week!

Some are glass grenades that are thrown at a fire. Others are tubes that are meant to be sprinkled on the fire. Some are based on the gun principle, where there is a trigger that ignites a squibb, forcing the contents out.

One is a bucket containing some serious ozone depleting liquid, where you are meant to scoop out a cupful and dash it on the fire. Its empty now, but these were used on the Railways mainly.

Some of my extinguishers are automatic, where, if exposed to heat will 'explode' its contents over the fire. We have many, many different colours, including green, cream, red, black, white, silver, blue. The old extinguishers were built to last and will never be made again. Can you work out which one does what below, and how they work?

Great names include Merryweather, Read & Campbell, Foamite, Pyrene, NuSwift and Valor, mostly now gone.



Fire Extinguishers and their fascinating history



For this reason I cherish them and keep them for posterity and for another generation to look at and learn from.

I've been given many, and bought from Ebay when available. I've travelled to Glasgow, North Wales and to Norfolk to collect. It's a labour of love for me and I'm happy to share just some of what I have with you. There are only a handful of serious collectors in the UK, and you have one in your village!



If you need to have your fire extinguishers serviced or refilled, contact me. If you have an old extinguisher or just want to know about it, let me know and I can take a look. Fire extinguishers can be extremely dangerous, so get them checked out. We are licensed waste carriers, and we recycle hundreds every week. **Richard Mackey**

richard@completefireprotection.com

RIP Chops Julia Marsh

I am sad to report that one of our more infamous Wingfield ex residents passed away on 5th November. Many will remember Chops and his antics, some more fondly than others no doubt! The Sanctuary where he has been living for the past 5 years contacted me to tell me that he was unwell and that they feared the worst, so I went up to visit him and say my goodbyes. The following morning he passed away peacefully under sedation.



It would be fair to say that Chops was a larger than life character and there was certainly never a dull moment when he was around. He brought a great deal of laughter and entertainment into our lives at Manor Farm, coupled with headaches in equal measure! He also provided Jacob with a novel excuse for not handing in his homework, claiming that 'the pig had eaten it'.....

I cannot deny that life at home was calmer and easier after he moved to the Sanctuary, but it wasn't as much fun and he was sorely missed. Looking out of the window to see him contentedly grazing in the garden with his tail swishing was a sight that warmed my heart and that I still miss to this day; it didn't seem right when he was no longer there.



We visited him every few months throughout his time at the Sanctuary: he had his difficult moments there, but eventually calmed down and was able to enjoy the companionship of other pigs.

Whilst we collectively tore our hair out over Chops at times, I do hope that at least some people in our village will remember him with a smile and a degree of fondness.

RIP my porcine prince, you brightened up my life and I loved you dearly.



Savoury Muffins—Devon style

A wonderful quick buffet snack. This is a traditional Devon quick bit.

Easy to make and very tasty. We love them in Devon.



INGREDIENTS

- 250g sour cream
- 1/2 cup chopped bacon
- 1 cup grated tasty cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons Maggi onion soup mix
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
- Are perfect for freezing

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 180 C (350 F). Grease the cups of 1 -2 mini muffin trays (recipe makes 20). Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Spoon into the mini muffin cups and bake for 20 minutes until puffed and golden.



These can be served cold but are best when warm.

WILD CHALGRAVE

The Big Bake...

This winter will be a hard one – not just for us but for many plants and animals too. This summer's extreme heat was unprecedented but the weeks and weeks of drought that came with it will probably have long term effects on our wildlife. Chalgrave is in one of the driest regions in the country.

July 2022 was the driest on record for East Anglia, South-east and Southern England, and the Spring and early Summer were also dry. Plants stopped growing then shrivelled and turned brown. In trees, sugars concentrated in the dehydrated leaves producing anthocyanins (red coloured pigments) and leaves dropped to conserve water. In some cases it appeared that autumn had arrived early. The full effects of last summer may not be seen for some time. As trees come into leaf next spring the result of long-term drought at the roots may become apparent. Less abundant leafy growth meant less food for herbivores, including many insect larvae such as caterpillars. These are an important food source for birds especially when they are feeding chicks.

Many creatures struggled to find food this summer. As the soil baked hard small invertebrates burrowed down to deeper levels and worms coiled themselves into tight balls to conserve moisture. Slugs and snails stayed hidden and most of their eggs are unlikely to have survived. Many creatures were affected by this scarcity including birds, amphibians and small mammals such as hedgehogs and badgers. Seeds, nuts and berries were fewer, smaller and ripened earlier. Many of these were eaten by hungry animals leaving less to see them through the winter. As well as food shortages many animals are not adapted to cope with very high temperatures.



WILD CHALGRAVE

Birds have a higher core body temperature than many other animals and they don't sweat, so they were sometimes seen panting to cool down.

Bumblebees with their woolly coat and wingbeats of around 200 per second overheat and can't fly or forage. Although they keep some stores of sugar in their nests these will only last a few days.



Amphibians struggled to find cool, damp places as natural ponds shrank or dried up. Warmer, shallower water in rivers, streams and ponds encourages algal blooms which lower oxygen levels and threaten aquatic life.

Many winged insects prefer warm dry weather for flying but they still need water for drinking and may not be able to reproduce as their eggs will bake and there may not be enough vegetation for their larvae.

After previous droughts butterfly numbers have often fallen the following summer.

On a more cheerful note the spectacular day-flying hummingbird hawk-moth which migrates from Southern Europe and North



Africa was spotted on several occasions in Chalgrave. Its wings beat so fast you only see a blur and they are often mistaken for real hummingbirds.

It's thought warm winds from the south in early summer brought more of them than usual to the UK.

Janet Day

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

With the hours of daylight diminishing, it's time to put the garden to bed for the winter.

Bring any tender plants under cover or mulch heavily to protect them over winter.

Do not be in too much of a hurry to tidy up spent stems and flowers in the garden, they are important shelter during the coldest months, for all the creatures that share our garden.

If you have any plants growing in pots outside, raise them off the ground (bricks, old tiles or terracotta feet work well), to stop them getting waterlogged.

Other jobs for this time of year include :-

- * Cutting back fast growing shrubs such as roses and Buddleia, this reduces their mass to stop them rocking in the winter winds.
- * You can sow some seed of hardy annuals, either in the ground or in small pots or plugs. They should come up earlier and be ready for growth once the warmer weather returns.
- * Take hardwood cuttings of most shrubs or root cuttings of perennials.

It's worth raking up all the fallen leaves and place them in a plastic bag (bin liners are good for this), water them well and punch the bag full of holes with a garden fork. Place them somewhere shaded and by this time next year you should have some lovely leafmould to use in the garden. This, like home-made compost has the advantage of providing the soil with an abundance of microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) which really give your plants a boost.

You could try making your own compost bin, I use wooden pallets. Just attach 3 wooden pallets together using L-shaped brackets or even wire. Place it on flat ground to give the worms access. You can make it more robust by driving wooden stakes into the ground around it. Fill the bin with garden waste, old cardboard and vegetable food scraps from the kitchen. Cover with old



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

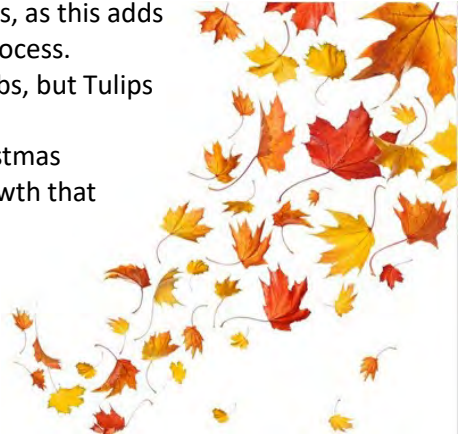
cardboard to keep it warm and attach a fourth pallet on the front tied in with wire ties. It is worth turning the heap after 3 months, as this adds air to the mixture and speeds up the rotting process.

It's too late to plant most Spring-flowering bulbs, but Tulips can be planted until the end of December.

The hours of daylight will get longer after Christmas and soon you will start to see signs of new growth that heralds the coming of Spring.

Enjoy your gardening, whatever the weather.

John Wojdyla



Memorial Hall Service

The original Chalgrave hall was erected in 1948 as a fitting memorial to the fallen of this parish in the two World Wars.

On Sunday 13th November we gathered again for a service in the hall led by Reverend Linda Washington.

Afterwards, outside and beneath a low winter sun, we laid wreaths and fell silent to remember them...



Decluttering let's get started!

Hello wannabe declutterers!

I find the best place to start is in the bedroom. Start with your clothes.

These are the easiest bits to throw away, donate or recycle; most charity shops are able to shred clothing that have seen better days, so nothing goes to waste, you get more space in your wardrobes and drawers, and it's good for the environment too - win win!



Get every piece of clothing you own - everything! Coats, shoes, gloves hats and scarves and, if you're focused (if appropriate) handbags too! Pop it all on your bed - if you're like me, you'll have a mountain to go through!

Now you have everything in front of you, the method is this: Look at each piece one by one, yes every piece! Ask yourself this - Do you love it? When was the last time you wore it? Do you feel great when wearing it? How many pairs of socks do you really need? If you have a couple of similar items, would you choose the other one first? Is the reason you are not wearing it because it's a bit too big/small, has a button missing, the arms are a bit short? or the item just doesn't fit right? There is a reason that you have passed over this item time and again and, if you were honest with yourself, you always will. It's time to let it go; it's served its purpose!

As you go through each item of clothing, really look at each piece. In no time you will get to instinctively know which items aren't right for you. This will make more space for new items, or let the others hang more easily. You may have paid a lot of money and maybe never worn the item - perhaps you could get a pile together and

Decluttering let's get started!

spend an afternoon photographing and listing/selling some items - but don't be surprised if you don't get as much as you think. This is something that you must think about objectively; the amount of time you spend photographing and listing and then sending out in the post might out-weigh the value.....This is definitely a "Time and Effort V Monetary Gain" question you will need to ask yourself; will it be worth it, or could you just take everything to a charity shop that is close to your heart and claim the space back instantly?

Once you have gone through your clothes and shoes, take them out of the house right away, whether it's to the charity shop, Tidy Tip, or to the car if it's a Sunday. Do not leave piles or bags in the house - there might be the temptation to go through them again if you do.

You can now see how much room you have created! Some people get rid of over half of their clothes and shoes!

Once you have started to declutter your clothes you will feel fantastic! You will enjoy all the new found space in your home, every item you own will fit, will look great on you and you will know what items you need to replace; you might even get a new look going - Pinterest is fab for idea's!



Happy Decluttering

Debbie Kidd



Chalgrave Memorial Hall

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6pm – 11pm*	£10.50 per hour	£21.00 per hour	£28.50 per hour
FRIDAY			
6pm – 12 midnight*	£130	£260	£295
SATURDAY			
9am – 6pm	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£26.50 per hour
6pm – 12 midnight*	£145	£290	£370
12.30pm – 12 midnight*	£185	£370	£425
SUNDAY			
10am – 10pm*	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£29.00 per hour
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(Friday 6pm to Sun- day 12 noon) NB Hall must be vacated at 11pm Friday and 12 mid- night Saturday	£305	£610	£720

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USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Council			www.chalgrave.org
Clerk	Lesley Smith	874716	chalgravepc@btinternet.com
Chairman	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil@philparryassociates.co.uk
Councillors	Ken Green	874107	kentebworth@gmail.com
	Peter Warburton	874036	pwarburton45@gmail.com
	Kevin Ludgate	07768 606968	kevin.ludgate@Oliverlandpower.co.uk
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Ward Cllr	Mark Versallion	03003 008555	Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
MP	Andrew Selous	01582 662821	selousa@parliament.uk
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