

2024
ISSUE 82

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 to Phil Thorogood for the cover photo.

Annual Sponsorship Rates

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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

After a very wet winter we have had the wettest spring for a long time. And the slugs! Beer traps, nematodes and copper bands all used to no avail.

Did you manage to see the aurora borealis (Northern Lights) on 10 May? If the answer is no, visit page 34 to see what you missed!

This time we have included lots of photos of the Christmas party held in Toddington last December. Unfortunately we didn't manage to add them to the last edition. Some cracking photos supplied by Roger Parker. Many thanks to him and to others who sent photos for this edition.

You may have seen some photos on social media of the new solar farm being constructed between Toddington Road and Chalgrave Road. Harvey, from Greenwood Drones will be taking photos as the work progresses. If you would like to see more of his photos please send us an email and we will send you a link.

The Pop Up Tea room is still proving very popular especially with Jan and John's plant stall held last month. More to follow—see page 52 for the dates.

Be vigilant for the Asian Hornet (Page 44) and report any sightings.

The Chalgrave News Team



Chairman of the Parish Council

2024 Parish Assembly Report

The Parish Council consists of myself as the Chair, I am the Council representative on the West Trust; lead the Speed Watch Team and I am on the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils; Ken Green who is the Vice Chair and heads up the Footpaths Committee, Jane Spiers who works with Ken keeping our paths open, Peter Warburton leads the Planning Committee, looks after our website and organises the Litter Picking activities; Kevin Ludgate who brings his extensive local knowledge to our meetings, Harvey Greenwood who is responsible for Police Liaison, Vicky Hydes who is on the Speed Watch team and planning committee and our Clerk Lesley Smith.



To set the scene, the Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government, and we work on a voluntary basis. However, we have a voice and sometimes a loud voice. With the help of Andrew Selous our MP and Mark Versallion our CBC Councillor we can get things done for our community. As well as our monthly meetings and individual responsibilities we attend local and area meetings where decisions can be made that affect our Parish. We lobby MP's and local councillors, we defend the rural nature of our community, we encourage and support local activities, we look for ways of improving facilities and the infrastructure, we strive to keep our community spirit and, as your representatives, we listen to you.

Our Precept this year is 9,100. About a fifth of the precept goes straight back into our community in the form of grants and awards – we are limited to the amount we are allowed to allocate for grants. We keep a third for contingencies and the rest is used in the running of the Council activities. The accounts can be viewed on our website or via the Clerk.

As well as the usual concerns over the past year, other Issues that have concerned us include flooding, lorries travelling through our villages, the Tebworth Solar farm and the constant fly tipping.

We are lobbying CBC to keep gulley's cleared in Tebworth and Wingfield as well as working on the flooding at the end of Wingfield Road across Toddington Road and down The Lane.

As for lorries travelling through our villages, I have been to the Solar Farm on a

Chairman of the Parish Council

couple of occasions to remind them that the route to and from the site is A5 and the B5120. With other lorries travelling through the village, I have spoken to the companies concerned and that usually does the trick. There are other trucks that have no alternative as they are delivering to the house building sites in Toddington. It doesn't help that the route through Tebworth is a part of a test route for lorry drivers.

The Tebworth Solar Farm has caused a lot of disruption to our community. The traffic lights slowly moving up Hockliffe Road and into Tebworth as they link the site to the solar farm in Tilsworth - and the complete mess that was once Chalgrave Road. We have notified CBC Highways and are in conversation with the contractors to restore the road and to minimise the disruption. As part of the Solar Farm project there will be money available for community projects as part of their 'Community Benefit'. We hope that some of the Community Benefit fund will go towards the new playground project at the Tebworth village hall. We hope in time other projects will be funded.

Work on the other solar farm at Chalgrave Manor will start soon and again there will be a Community Benefit fund for projects in Chalgrave, Chalton and Toddington.

We report fly tipping as soon as we are aware. CBC are usually pretty quick at clearing the rubbish particularly if it has been dumped on the highway.

The Speed Watch Team are out once a month in Tebworth and Wingfield to remind drivers of the speed limit. We have now been given permission to operate on Hockliffe Road monitoring the speed of traffic entering Tebworth

The development at Ivy Farm is still not resolved. The building is not what was in the original agreed planning application. The building should have larch or oak cladding on it which would soften the look of the building.

We are looking into rewilding some of the verges in the Parish.

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area. However, there are break-ins and burglaries so please make sure that doors and windows are locked and outbuildings are secure. It is important to report anything that you think is suspicious and report any crimes.

We need nominations for the Millennium Youth and the Community Awards. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement or community service.

Chairman of the Parish Council

The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under and is a 'well done' for academic or sporting achievement, contribution to the community, overcoming difficulties, or other significant achievement. The Community Award is for over eighteens and is a 'thank you' for service to the community. If you have a nomination please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the councillors.

A brief word about West Educational Trust - the Trust gives grants towards the cost of any educational activity for young people 24 years and under – this could be music lessons, dance, sporting activity, educational school trips, cubs, brownies, scouts, grants to students in full time higher education, anything educational. Grants are given twice a year – applications need to be handed into the Clerk at the end of June and end of December. Full details and application form are on the Chalgrave Parish Council website under Organisations.

We live in a small community. Contact details of all the parish councillors are in the Chalgrave News and on our website. If you have a concern please contact us rather than sticking something on Facebook – particularly anonymously!

You are invited to any of our meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7:30. Minutes of our meetings are posted on the Chalgrave Parish Council website and on the notice boards.

Phil Parry
Chair



Photo supplied by Harvey Greenwood
Taken May 2024

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

As well as maintaining the Hall, the Memorial Hall Committee aims to improve its facilities.

We have recently had new external lighting installed around the hall to improve safety and security for users of the hall.

Many thanks to the Parish Council for their contribution to the costs.

Two of the old wooden benches have been dismantled as they had become unsafe.



We have a new website under development and will let you know when it is fully operational.

There have been some reports of anti-social behaviour at the hall recently, probably by people from outside the parish. One of the new heavy benches is repeatedly placed in the side porch in front of the fire-escape doors. If you see or are aware of any issues at the hall, please can you report them to any of the Memorial Hall Committee or the police as appropriate.

By the time you read this, summer may have arrived in Chalgrave. Hopefully it will be fine for this year's **Chalgrave Games** which will be held on **Saturday 13th July**. Save the date!

This year's theme is 'Traditional' with all your favourite games and events.

If you would like to help out on the day, please get in touch.

Thank you for supporting the Memorial Hall.

John Wojdyla and William Randell
(Co-chairs)



Chairs AGM report 2024

The past year has had its 'Ups and Downs'. The 'down' was the cancellation of our fantastic Quiz Night back in October because of electrical problems at the Memorial Hall. However, we have had many 'ups' which include the rearranged Quiz Night which was a fantastic success. We had many positive comments after the event and some enquiries about joining the Club.

Another 'up' was so many of our members completing the Mile a Day (MAD) Challenge last year. We had a presentation and celebration of this achievement at the Fancott, followed by our Christmas Dinner which turned into another 'down' although we did eventually see the funny side - and we got our money back.

Our Yoga classes have been very successful the number of members and non-members joining has been increasing. Unfortunately, the classes are interrupted by other Hall bookings and the month-long closure of the Hall in October - the disruption caused us to lose some participants. We will continue with the classes on Saturday and on Monday evenings until the summer. After the summer we will continue with just the Monday evening session.

We support and promote our local Parkrun at Houghton Hall. We attend once a month and have a number of members who do the 5K and some have surpassed their personal best – including our Clerk. We are looking to lead 'Couch to 5K' training.

We organise successful golf days – the Christmas Golf Day was at Caddington Golf Club with Paul Younger being the winner. We had a more recent Golf Day at Chalgrave Manor Golf Club. We are in the process of organising the Christmas '24 Golf Day.

We are always looking to expand our activities and we had a great Go-kart session in April which we hope to repeat - thank you Millie Parker. We are considering Ten Pin Bowling for later in the year as well as indoor golf.

Individual Club members have achieved great success – Christina Lawrence and Mike Jackson completed the 62mile Race to the Stones finishing in 14 hours. Libby Gatward completed 46 mile cycling sportive in the Peak District – and Phil Parry completed 12 laps of the Go Kart circuit!

We continue to support sporting activities and charities in our area. We made a donation to St Georges Lower School which went towards the cost of Bikeability – cycling proficiency for Year 4 children. The Club helped organise Quiz Nights at The Plough Inn. These Quizzes raised money for charity we donated £210 to the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Houghton Regis.

I am extremely grateful for the work that the Committee members - particularly our Head of IT Simon Gatward - puts into the Club to make all this happen, but real thanks go to all those non committee members that are always willing to help – Vicky, Flo and Gabe Hydes, Su Parker, Mandy Gatward, Fiona Parker, Lesley Smith, and I apologise for any names I have left out. I look forward to another great year.

Phil Parry

Chalgrave Sports Club



Celebrating Chalgrave

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

How to lift post natal depression (or any depression for that matter)

The recent maternal mental health awareness week reminded me how, over thirty years ago, I found myself in the grips of an episode of post natal depression that neither I, nor the medical professionals, seemed to understand or know how to treat. The experience, for me, was the start of a long personal journey to try and understand the cause of depression and an even longer professional journey to find better ways of resolving it.

Worryingly, newspapers are still full of headlines about inadequate support in this area. Sadly, the numbers of people suffering with mental health issues are going up, not down. The medical model of treatment for depression with antidepressants is quite visibly not working. Pills don't seem to be the long term answer. Identifying the source of the depression is often more helpful and more hopeful.

Post natal depression can start from two weeks to several months after delivery. It often develops slowly, sometimes making it difficult for doctors to **diagnose** and hard for the mother herself to recognise. There are various theories about what causes the problem. Biological, psychological and social factors can all play a role. However, viewed through the lens of innate human needs, it is easy to understand how PND can occur for the very same reasons that all depression occurs; unmet emotional needs.

The greater the number of needs not met, the greater the emotional distress. It's as simple as that. Emotional discomfort is the brain's way of letting you know you probably need to make some life changes. If you suspect that you, or someone you know, may be suffering from post natal depression (or any kind of depression) check out which emotional needs are not being met from the following list:

Safety and security: As a mother you are the one who has to keep your baby safe yet it's easy to lose confidence. Any emotional distress can lead to a feeling of being unsafe.

Attention: Depression interrupts the ability to give and receive attention. When you are down you can 'spend too much time looking in the mirror rather than out of the window'. You can become over-focused on yourself and how you are feeling

Fun, family friends: For a new mum at home, it can feel like life is all work and no play. This is even more difficult for those mums who have previously been working and can lead to a real sense of isolation.

How to lift post natal depression (or any depression for that matter)

continued from pages 10

Emotional connection to others: Emotional and physical isolation really has a big effect on our well-being. Feeling confined at home all day with only a baby for company can, in itself, be a key source of depression.

Status and feeling valued: We all love a pat on the back for a job well done. But, let's face it, being a good mum is not really valued by our society. For this reason, mothers can feel invisible. A sense of loss of status can be a significant factor in depression.

Privacy: There is very little 'me-time' with a new baby around. Sleep is also generally in short supply too which can have a significant effect on our ability to cope. Everything just feels a lot easier if you can get enough quality sleep.

Achievement: Many of us regard ourselves as perfectionists. But anyone who has had the job of looking after babies and toddlers will understand the incompatibility of perfectionism and childcare. Donald Winnicott's notion of the 'good-enough' mother is not only more achievable but definitely preferable.

Control: Autonomy flies out of the window where childcare is concerned. It is impossible to completely control babies who can seem unpredictable at best, chaotic at worst. Lack of control often raises anxiety.

Engagement: An early reaction to low mood is a tendency to stop going out and doing the things you used to do. The lack of social support just compounds the problem.

Take action

Do whatever you need to do to bring more balance into your life to get your needs met. Many people say they will start doing things when they feel better but it's actually the doing that *makes* you feel better and even one small change can make a big difference. Try these simple steps for starters:

Practise a relaxed breathing technique for five or ten minutes twice a day to calm anxiety and promote better quality sleep. A relaxed mum often equals a relaxed baby.

Continued on page 12

How to lift post natal depression (or any depression for that matter)

continued from pages 10 and 11

Get enough full spectrum light to raise your mood by getting outdoors every day for at least twenty minutes. This will good for baby too. Daylight regulates the body clock for you both. You'll feel better and sleep better.

Seek out as much support as you can from friends, family and professionals.

If you're struggling, reach out to others. You'll be surprised how much people want to help.

Finally, cut yourself some slack and let go of the idea that you have to be perfect.

Babies also have needs. Having a perfect mother and spotless home are certainly not amongst them! **Frances Masters**

Wingfield Car Show 2024

Sunday 14th July will be the 11th year that we have held the Wingfield Classic and Prestige Vehicle gathering for everyone to come together in aid of raising funds for Keech Hospice Care.

Keech Hospice Care is a charity that provides adults in Luton and Bedfordshire and children from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes with free specialist care for those who have life limiting and terminal illness. Fundraising donations are vital to support Keech Hospice.

Toddington Scouts provide a BBQ, there is a Pimms & Beer tent, Barista coffee trailer and ice cream van, together with a number of local people who attend with various side stalls. Our local farmers, Mr Roger Fenwick and Mr Dan Osbourne rally together at one of the busiest times of year to help ensure that the field is cut, baled and ready, Roger also opens up part of his land for public parking on the day, true community spirit and very much appreciated.

Volunteers from far and wide gather together to support the event and it really does offer a fabulous day out.

In 2023 Keech received a donation of £1,054.08, here's hoping that we smash it again this year. Hope to see you there. **Lisa Scanes**





New Partnership between
Bedfordshire Classic Car
Meet &
Wingfield Car Show

Wingfield Car Show 2024

Sunday 14th July 2024
SHOW STARTS AT 12.00 NOON

All show vehicles on site by 11AM

Near
Toddington
(LU7 9QH)



Cars,
Motorbikes &
Commercials
Welcome

Admission £5 per show vehicle
Pre-booking Advised
(Driver Included, other passengers £1 each, Under 16 free)

Public Admission £2 person, Under 16 free.
Separate Public Parking Area.

Come along and support our event to raise as much money as possible for Keech Hospice Care.

- Food & Drink - Beer & Pimm's Tent - Side Stalls -
- Ice Cream Van - Trophy's Awarded On Day for Winning Classes -

Side Pitches available for sellers (No food or Drink) @ £15 Pre book and Pay via Lisa-07958363942

Pre-Booking of Cars, Bikes & other Vehicles
Recommended Via:

Lisa - 07958363942 or Luke - 07787126230

Arrive & Park on the Day If Space Allows

Find Us on Facebook

'Wingfield Car Show' or 'Bedfordshire Classic Car Meet'



Meeting Update

In **March** – another talented member, Sue Bollins, gave us a Belly Dancing lesson. In **April** we had a talk from qualified counsellor, Delphi Ellis. **Answers in the dark** covered grief, sleep and how dreams can help you heal. Delphi included tips for sleep and how to decode your dreams.

In **May** we had our speedy AGM (15 Minutes) and then a talk from Kate Dimmock who runs the Harlington Hogspital which rehabilitates sick, Injured and orphaned **hedgehogs**. If you find an injured hedgehog please contact Kate - 138 Goswell End Rd, Harlington, Dunstable LU5 6NT, mobile 07572 545179



Clubs

Our **Book Group** – led by Sue Watling, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. Bern Inzani runs our **Supper club** which meets on the third Friday of the month at different restaurants.

Tracy Malster leads our **Craft club** which runs on the third Monday of the month at Chalgrave Memorial Hall from 7 to 9pm.



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-11-Jun-24	<i>Walk – venue TBC</i>
Tue-09-Jul-24	<i>Tales from the Auction Room</i>
Tue-10-Sep-24	<i>Indoor Kurling</i>
Tue-08-Oct-24	<i>Eyes on the spies</i>
Tue-12-Nov-24	<i>One of Our Own - the wartime story of Victor Ekins</i>
Tue-10-Dec-24	<i>Christmas Crafts</i>
Tue-14-Jan-25	<i>Volunteer River Warden, Safeguarding our rivers</i>
Tue-11-Feb-25	<i>The Patterned Road to Freedom. The story of how codes and quilts helped slaves to flee to Canada using the Underground Railroad</i>
Tue-11-Mar-25	<i>The World War II History of Bletchley Park</i>

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.

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

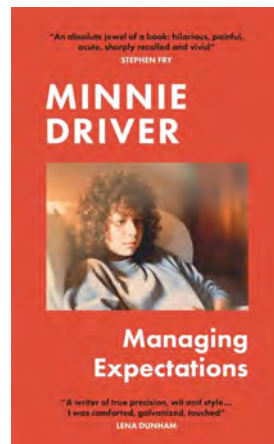
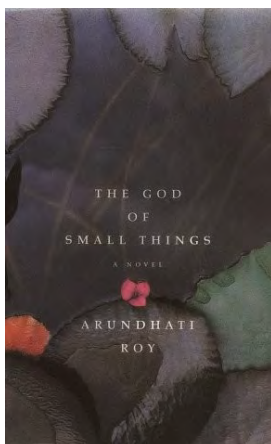
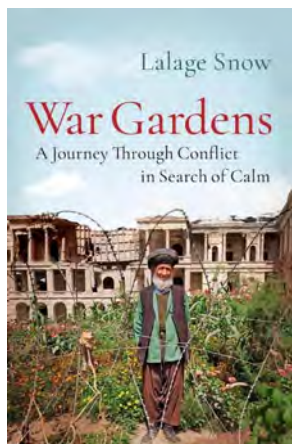


CHALGRAVE WI Book Club

The WI book group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. There are currently 13 of us and we meet in group member's houses, or a local pub. We take it in turns to choose the books we read, covering all genres and tastes. Not everyone always finishes the book by the meeting date but the rule is to be prepared for spoilers, if you've not got to the end in time!

In March we read – **War Gardens, A Journey Through Conflict in Search of Calm** by Laylage Snow.

Working in the world's most dangerous war zones, freelance war correspondent and photographer Lally Snow has often chanced across a very moving sight, a testimony to the triumph of the human spirit in adversity, a celebration of hope and beauty: a war garden. In Kabul, the royal gardens are tended by a centenarian gardener, though the king is long gone; in Camp Bastion, bored soldiers improvise tiny gardens to give themselves a moment's peace; on both sides of the dividing line in Jerusalem families tend groves of olives and raise beautiful plants from the unforgiving, disputed landscape; in Ukraine, families tend their gardens in the middle of a surreal, frozen war. War Gardens is a surprising, tragic and beautiful journey through the darkest places of the modern world, revealing the ways people make time and space for themselves and for nature even in the middle of destruction. Illustrated with Lally Snow's own award-winning photography. This was quite a long read, maybe a book to read a country at a time. Think she was very brave travelling to some of the places on her own as a woman.





CHALGRAVE WI Book Club

In April we read. – The God of Small Things by Arunhati Roy

This is the story of Rahel and Estha, twins growing up among the banana vats and peppercorns of their blind grandmother's factory, and amid scenes of political turbulence in Kerala. Armed only with the innocence of youth, they fashion a childhood in the shade of the wreck that is their family: their lonely, lovely mother, their beloved Uncle Chacko (pickle baron, radical Marxist, bottom-pincher) and their sworn enemy, Baby Kochamma (ex-nun, incumbent grand-aunt). Arundhati Roy's Booker

Prize-winning novel was the literary sensation of the 1990s. We are made to wait about exactly what happened even though we have a gist of it as we're reading more. The God of Little Things is about being OK, talking about what is acceptable, the "little things" in life, while the bigger things are not talked about and stay a big taboo, and how this affects families, and especially unsuspecting children being made to feel guilty for the taboos which rule their society.

In May we read – Managing Expectations by Minnie Driver

This book is a collection of hilarious and heartfelt essays, in which Minnie Driver uses her formidable storytelling skills to examine and understand her less-than-ordinary life. Minnie shares poignant, candid and honest stories of her unconventional childhood, the shock of fame, motherhood, love, success, failure, the power of sisterly love, and the loss of her beloved mother. In her own words, it's about how things not working out actually worked out in the end, and how reaching for the dream is easily more interesting, expansive, sad and funny than the dream itself coming true. An interesting, enjoyable read and we are now planning a film night to watch Circle Of Friends, in which she starred.

If you are interested in joining the WI book group please contact Sue (sue.watling@hotmail.com) You do need to be a member of Chalgrave WI to join this group.

Wild Chalgrave

Hedges and Verges

If you're strolling along the lanes and footpaths of Chalgrave take a moment to have a closer look at some of the wild plants along the way.

One of the most common but least noticed is bird's foot trefoil which gets its name from the shape of the seed pods that look like bird's feet. Less common old names are granny's toenails or bacon and eggs as the flowers are egg-yolk yellow often flushed with orange. It attracts many pollinators and the leaves are an important food source for the caterpillars of common blue butterflies.

Another easily overlooked plant is garlic mustard sometimes called Jack-by-the-hedge which is very common in Chalgrave. As its name suggests its pale green leaves taste of garlic and mustard and it has been used for centuries as a flavouring in sauces and in salads. Its young leaves contain small amounts of cyanide but this is removed by cooking or finely chopping. It is a food source for the caterpillars of the orange-tipped butterfly. It was introduced to America by the New World settlers for medicinal and culinary purposes but has now become an invasive species there.



St Johns Wort



Garlic Mustard



Greek physician / Pedanius Dioscorides

A less common plant with a lot of history is St John's wort. It produces its bright yellow flowers in midsummer around the time of St John's day. Its stems contain a red sap thought to resemble blood and it was used in pagan rituals, burnt on bonfires or hung on the doors of houses or animal stalls to ward off evil spirits. This was later absorbed into the Christian tradition with the red sap representing the blood of St John the martyr. Its medicinal use dates back at least to the 1st Century AD when the Greek physician Pedanius Dioscorides included it in an encyclopaedia of herbal medicine. It has been widely used as an antidepressant and as an antiseptic and analgesic. It is toxic to many grazing animals and is another plant that has become an invasive species in America. Biological controls using several species of beetle are being used.

Wild Chalgrave

Meadowsweet is a plant that prefers damp soil and is often found near ponds. Its flowers have a strong sweet smell and it was traditionally used for flavouring and sweetening mead. Its name is thought to derive from 'meadsweet' rather than refer to meadows. It was used generally as a sweetener in many fruits, jams and desserts and to flavour beers wines and vinegars. Its leaves are also sweet-smelling and it was used in the middle ages as a strewing herb where the dry leaves were strewn on floors to scent a room. Elizabeth I was said to prefer meadowsweet above all others to scent her bedchamber. It has a long history of use as a herbal medicine for many ailments. Salicylic acid was first obtained from meadowsweet which was then used to produce acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).



Lords and Ladies



Meadowsweet

A plant you can't miss in the hedgerows is 'lords and ladies'. It has a host of common names: cuckoo pint, bishop's pintle (an old word for penis), wake-robin, jack-in-the-pulpit to list but a few. It has male and female flowers hidden deep within the 'hood' of the plant and pollinating insects get trapped while they get dusted with pollen, then released to pollinate other plants. The pollinated female flowers produce a spike of red berries which are toxic to mammals but much loved by birds which then spread the seeds. It has a large starchy tuberous root which was traditionally used to make laundry starch for stiffening linens.

I don't recommend that you try any of our local native flora unless you're 100% sure you've identified them correctly. There are apps to help you with this but I wouldn't risk my life on one. For instance the wild carrot looks very similar to hemlock. Apart from anything else you don't know what might have had a wee on them! **J. Day**

Would YOU like to help make a lasting difference to future generations of children growing up in Chalgrave and Hockliffe parish?

Educational grants are available to every local child and young person through West's Educational Charity.

The charity originates from the £400 will legacy of Francis West, in 1690. Nowadays, the charity provides biannual grants for the educational activities of young people under 24 years of age living in the parishes. If you would like to find out about how you could support the continuation of this wonderful local charity by donating or even leaving a gift in your own will, please visit the Chalgrave Parish Council website or contact Lesley Smith on **01525 874716** to find out more.



Things our mothers taught us

The skills imparted in our childhood stay with us. These are some of the nuggets of wisdom many mothers have passed on to their unsuspecting offspring ;

Logic: *'Because I said so, that's why'!*

Advanced logic: *'If you fall off the swing and break your leg, don't come running to me' !*

Religion: *'You'd better pray that stain comes out of the carpet'!*

Foresight: *'Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you have a road accident'!*

Irony: *'Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about'!*

Contortion: *'Just look at that dirt on the back of your neck' !*

Stamina: *'You'll sit there until you've eaten all the broccoli'!*



Anyone for Tennis?



Due to its location, tucked away behind the conifers at the back of Toddington Recreation Ground (Luton Road), it is likely that many of you do not realise you have a thriving tennis club on your doorstep. Toddington Tennis Club have three all-weather carpet courts complete with new LED floodlighting and also a tarmac hard court. The courtside Club House provides toilet, shower and kitchen facilities and a good viewing and social area.

We are a very welcoming, friendly club and although we successfully compete in local leagues, the club revolves around social play by virtue of its club sessions held three times a week all year round (Sunday mornings 10am onwards, Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7pm-10pm). So whether you are a seasoned pro, a complete beginner or have not picked up a racquet since school, we can offer you enjoyable tennis. Our club coach offers individual or group coaching for all ages, subject to demand, and regular coaching sessions for juniors are currently taking place between 4pm and 6pm on Wednesdays. In addition, supervised social play sessions will be organised for juniors (over 9 years) on Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm when the season gets under way.

We invite you to come along at any of the above times to give us a try. Racquets can be provided. If after a few sessions you would like to join the club, a range of memberships are available including new member discount, family membership and week day membership. Membership for children under 9 years is free.

For further information visit our website:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ToddingtonTennisClub>

alternatively feel free to give me a call on 07814 598309 or email me

rogerfenwick@btinternet.com

Roger Fenwick

Chairman

Toddington Tennis Club



All Saints Church

Hooray! The scaffolding is down and after months and months of work being done by Mick Bunning of Totternhoe Stone, the work is finally completed. The rotten beams have been restored in the chancel and the nave, and the chancel ceiling has been redecorated. It all looks clean and fresh. The architect reports that it should be good for another 100 years.

The Alpha course was well attended, and the group continue to meet fortnightly.

Our Pop Up Tea Room in May was very busy. John and Janet provided a plant sale. We had great attendance, and the hall was buzzing despite the bad weather outside.

Our next Pop Ups will be on June 26th and July 24th. We will also be manning the kitchen at the Village Games on July 13th. We will be providing delicious cakes and bakes, tea, coffee and squash. We hope to see you there.

Now that we can have larger numbers of people back in church, we will be planning other fundraising and social activities. We will keep you posted of these events. Please see the church website and Facebook page as well as notices on the noticeboards.

Many thanks to Roger Fenwick and Sally Gutteridge for helping to maintain the cemetery after Brian's recent illness. It really has shown us at the church how much work Brian has done for Chalgrave all these years. We are pleased that Brian is recovering well and allowed to drive again. It's good to see him back in the church grounds.

There's always lots of gardening jobs to do in the churchyard so if you enjoy gardening, please come and join our gardening group.

We were all saddened by the recent passing of Derek Stone. Derek and Vicky have been members of the church family at All Saints, Chalgrave for many years. We will miss him and remember him fondly. Rest in peace Derek.

Sandy Ryan

Contact details: Rev Linda Washington 07715 603557 Revdchalgrave@gmail.com



Greenwood Drones

This photo captures the rural beauty of the Chalgrave Parish from just under 400 feet on a lovely Monday morning.

The image was taken by Harvey Greenwood from Greenwood Drones, a business that operates from Tebworth.

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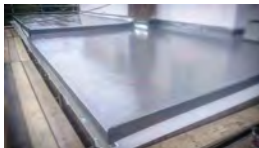
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 Tropic with Laura Fisher



Aurora Borealis over Chalgrave

It was late Saturday 10th May, a night like any other, watching a bit of Gogglebox, when the reports started coming in to the Chalgrave News face book page. The northern lights were at that moment visible over the whole country. More to the point, they were visible over our area! A dash outside and... nothing!

A quick Google revealed that, even if not visible to the naked eye, they might be viewable through my phone's camera. Another quick Google suggested turning the camera to night mode. It worked. There they were, right over the house. But my pictures were nothing compared to what others were getting and the face book page lit up. Everyone it seemed was outside getting a free light show and ticking 'see the northern lights' off their bucket list!

Alan Higgs,
Toddington



Phil Thorogood,
over the village hall



Aurora Borealis over Chalgrave

The science bit

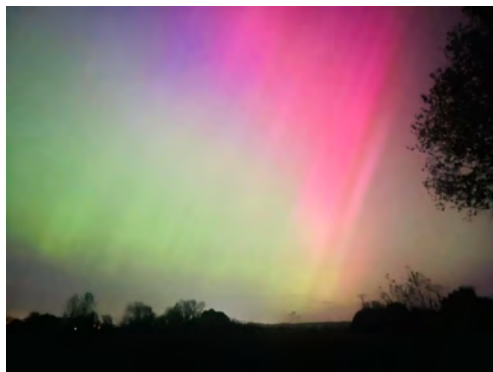
The northern lights or Aurora Borealis, as they are often known, are one of nature's most spectacular phenomena. It's now understood auroras are the visible signs of electrical currents flowing up and down the earth's magnetic field. They look like moving curtains of light because the particles of plasma are responding to the normally invisible field that surrounds us.

The colours of the lights depend on whether electrons collide with oxygen or nitrogen. Oxygen produces a greenish-yellow or red light, while nitrogen generally gives off blue light; the blending of these produces purple, pink, and white.

Here are a few of the pictures kindly shared on the night.



Phil Thorogood,
over the village hall



Clare Mellon,
near Chalgrave Church



Jack Headley,
Battlesden

Senior citizens afternoon tea 2023



Celebrating Chalgrave

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

Thanks to Roger Parker for all these fab photos



Senior citizens afternoon tea 2023 continued



Senior citizens afternoon tea 2023 continued



How does your garden grow?

How does your Garden grow?

This year's big project was to build a polytunnel



Finally got round to it after years of planning, it should give me a longer growing season for my veg and herbs, also growing in the ground rather than pots should mean less watering and work (in theory). I thought how hard could it be? Well, let's just say the whole of Chalgrave probably heard the cursing!

How does your garden grow?



Eventually we got it constructed although it still needs doors. We now have 3 types of Tomato, Cucumbers, Sweet Peppers and Chillis growing. Our kind neighbours donated large quantities of horse manure to improve the soil. I'll report back later this year on the results.

The other thing that's taken up a lot of time lately is dealing with pesky molluscs. It must be a combination of a mild winter and heavy rainfall but there seem to be hordes of them this year. I don't like using slug pellets, even 'organic' ones but I confess to resorting to them for my newly planted beans and courgettes. I've had some success with beer traps although dealing with the remains is a bit disgusting. They seem to prefer bitter. I've heard good reports of using garlic, boiled up and strained, then used to spray the foliage. The downside is you need to re-apply it every time it rains so I'm not trying that one any time soon.

Normally I do the 'Chelsea Chop' at the end of May to keep the height of my perennials in check to avoid staking later in the year; didn't have to do it this year, the molluscs did it for me!

Despite its tribulations, enjoy your gardening, whatever the weather.

John Wojdyla

The Wood Yard at Tebworth

These fabulous old photos of the wood yard turned up on social media recently. Do you know any of the men pictured here or have any stories you can share about how the old yard worked? Please contact us at [**thechalgravenews@gmail.com**](mailto:thechalgravenews@gmail.com)





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ASIAN HORNET ALERT

Have you seen one of these?



Asian hornet has orange fourth segment



European Hornet has mostly yellow abdomen

Asian hornets are voracious predators of other insects especially bumblebees and honeybees.

They were first spotted in France in 2004 and since then have spread throughout Europe.

There have been many sightings since 2016, including an unconfirmed report in Toddington a few weeks ago.

Now it appears they may have survived last winter here.

If they manage to settle here and overwinter it will be devastating for our native insect population.

If you spot one report it at www.nonnativespecies.org or search Asian Hornet Watch for apps to identify and report.

A tribute to Derek Stone

A Tribute to Derek Robert Stone taken from the address by Rev Linda Washington at his funeral service on 10th June at Chalgrave Church

'Derek was born in Heath and Reach, an only child. He went to Beaudesert School and then began work at Rolls and Partners in Leighton Buzzard.

He was very intelligent and studied hard to achieve. He was meticulous in his work and recently received a certificate from The Chartered Association of Building Engineers recognising his 50 years of continuous membership.

He was a gentle, sensitive man; a true gentleman. He loved Vicky, his dear wife deeply and she loved him deeply in return.



Always keen to be of service; in later years, he provided a friendly calm voice on a care line, dealing with people's queries.

Derek was a quiet person, with a lovely sense of humour and people will remember his laugh and his smile.'

A message from Vicky

'I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support at this time. I have been truly overwhelmed by your love, kindness and hugs. It has all meant so much to me.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.'



Bits and Bobs!



Proud winning team from the quiz night (pages 8&9)

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or

**Check out the
Chalgrave News
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Jokers Corner



From an anonymous reader who didn't actually see the lights but wanted to join in with the fun!

I asked my next door neighbour to take my bin out as I wouldn't be home...
He definitely went above and beyond.



The road to Toddington!



Tebworth solar farm: our new neighbour

Tebworth solar farm consists of two sites, outlined in red on the map, totalling 62 hectares or about 150 acres. One is inside Chalgrave parish boundary and one is just outside, on the other side of the A5. Over the past few months, construction activity on solar farm on the Chalgrave site, opposite College Farm, between Toddington Road and Chalgrave Road, has intensified and, by the end of the summer, we should expect most of the work to be completed.

Councillor Harvey Greenwood has kindly provided the adjacent image of the Chalgrave site, taken in mid-May. Arrays of solar panels, rising from 80cm at their lowest to 3 metres at their highest, will replace the familiar green fields. A new crop of solar energy will replace the arable crops that have grown here for centuries. Technically, the solar farm is a temporary structure and after a typical 35- to 40-year lease expires, the land could revert to agricultural use, but who knows what our land use priorities will be then?

Once the construction phase is completed, the stated aim is to remove construction equipment from the site and restore the road system to its original state within a month. A scheme of landscape and ecological improvements is promised, “ensuring the project provides a biodiversity gain.” This consists of the seeding and planting of the site and its boundaries and the implementation of a custom planting plan aligned with the planting seasons.

The project includes a battery storage element which will be integrated with the National Grid electricity network, close to the upgraded Sundon substation near Chalton, so that it can store electricity from the wider grid network as well as the Tebworth solar farm, minimising the amount of energy that is lost. While local residents should not expect to enjoy cheaper electricity as a result of the solar farm, the local grid network will be fuelled more sustainably, from renewable sources and with a corresponding reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It will contribute towards the UK’s energy self-sufficiency.

Unlike a new housing development, which places financial obligations on the developers to upgrade the local infrastructure, a solar farm development is required only to make necessary improvements to the public highway, according to the provisions of section 278 of the Highways Act 1980. However, Scott Gilbert, the Managing Director of Verdant Energy, the joint venture that owns the project, has confirmed that they are open to a dialogue with the Parish Council and local residents about delivering “a real local community benefit.”

The goal of the community benefits is to achieve a positive local impact, focusing on “initiatives relating to energy, sustainability, wildlife protection and community spaces.”

Tebworth solar farm is one of about 1,200 solar farms in the UK, generating about 14GW (gigawatts) of capacity. (If you are interested in the national context for solar power – or indeed the global context, you will find this information at

<https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-solar-power-tracker/>)

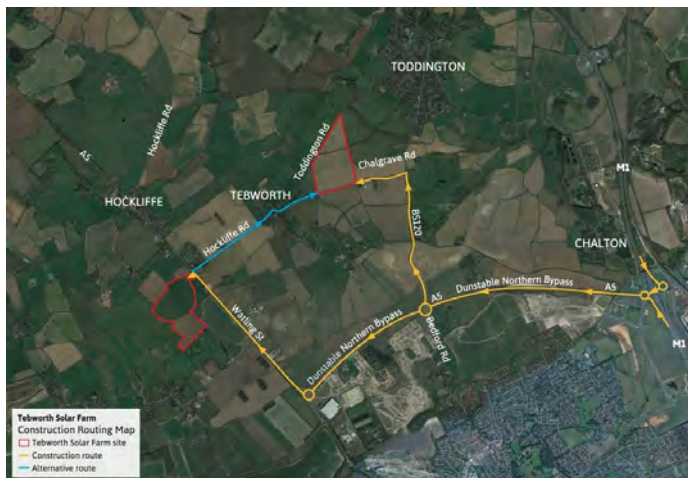
Tebworth solar farm: our new neighbour

The largest UK solar farm powers 91,000 homes and generates 350MW (megawatts). The Tebworth farm will power around 7,800 homes and, by implication, generate about 30MW. The government's target is to reach 70GW of capacity by 2035. For comparison, there is about 11GW of wind turbine generation capacity and a target of 50GW by 2030. In the year to April 2024, renewables supplied roughly 40 per cent of UK electricity, dominated by wind (30 per cent) and only 5 per cent from solar.

While the project, believed to cost in the region of £25m, will create a little local employment, in most other respects this is an international endeavour that just happens to land in our back yard. Ib vogt, a solar energy company in Berlin, Germany, is the construction company, with a 20-year track record of global expertise and is also a shareholder in the project. The solar panels will almost certainly be manufactured in China, which has a global market share of 80%. DIF Capital Partners, the infrastructure investment company that acquired the Tebworth farm as part of a portfolio of assets it purchased from Enso Energy, is headquartered in the Netherlands. Last September, CVC Capital Partners, a Luxembourg-based private equity and advisory firm, acquired a majority stake in DIF Capital Partners.

One might well ask, where are the UK infrastructure funds that one might suppose would be the natural investors in a UK solar project? If the Tebworth solar farm is a commercial success – and similar projects are delivering a 10 to 20 per cent return on capital – those profits will accrue to foreign investors. It is paradoxical that the transition to renewable energy in the UK that enjoys rare bipartisan political support should require foreign risk capital to get off the ground. We look forward to the successful completion of the project and, with it, an end to the periodic disruption to traffic flow along the Dunstable Road. We wish our new neighbour well.

For company updates, please visit <https://www.tebworthsolarfarm.com/>



NB This article refers only to the Tebworth solar farm. The Chalgrave Manor solar farm (which straddles Chalgrave, Chalton and Toddington parishes) is entirely separate.

Did you know that Britain's favourite mammal and only spiny one, the hedgehog, is now on the Red List. This means it's vulnerable to extinction, and we humans are mainly to blame. My name is Kate, and I run a 'hogspital', a hospital for hedgehogs, in Harlington. I take in the sick, injured or abandoned and rehabilitate them and return them to the wild.



Many people tell me they don't see hedgehogs anymore, unless as a sad prickly pancake on the road, so what can we do to encourage hedgehogs into our gardens & support this gentle little creature?

Firstly, hedgehogs need to be able to access gardens. They can roam around 3 miles a night in their quest for insects to eat, so the current trend for completely enclosed gardens doesn't help. Hedgehogs need hedgehog highways, gaps linking gardens so they can roam and forage. All this means is a CD size gap cut in the fence or gravel board. If you've got concrete gravel boards, put a brick to be used as a step.

Secondly, they need areas where they can find food. Build a log pile, let an area go wild – it doesn't have to be the whole garden, you'd be surprised at the difference even a small wild area will make.

Thirdly, gardens should be safe for them. It's not a major undertaking, just a few easy things. If you've got a pond, make sure one side is gently sloped so they can climb out. Hedgehogs are good swimmers but can't climb out a steep sided pond. If you have tennis, garden or football nets, lift them up when not in use so hedgehogs don't get tangled up. If you have a dog, keep an eye on it in the garden at night, for the sake of the dog as well. Hedgehogs caught by a dog need to go to a vet or rescue even if they appear uninjured. Dogs too would benefit from a vet trip to make sure some of the 5-7000 prickles a hedgehog has haven't broken off in it's mouth! If you must use a strimmer, check before you use it. A hedgehog will not run from a noise, its only defence is to curl up, which sadly is no defence against a strimmer, and please don't use poisons.

Support feeding is a wonderful way to encourage hedgehogs, meaty cat food or dry in a shallow dish (no mealworms, calciworms etc) is enough and a source of water is incredibly important.

Hedgehogs on the RED LIST an article from Kate Dimmock

Running a rescue is a double-edged sword. It's a privilege to get so close to and to learn about these amazing, harmless creatures, and I get to meet some wonderful people, but it's also heart breaking to see the injuries caused by garden tools, dogs and poisons, especially when most could be easily avoided!

Generally, if you see a hedgehog out in the day, it needs help. The exception to this is if it looks busy. Hedgehogs do not sunbathe, so one laying out in the day needs help. Nor do they get drunk, so one wobbling or swaying needs help. Hoglets (babies) out on their own will need help. Mum will not be watching from a distance & they will not survive on their own.



If you need to rescue a hedgehog, pick it up using gloves (or anything to protect your hands) and put it in a high sided box with something to hide under (like an old towel). A hot water bottle, which can just be a bottle of warm water in an old sock, and a shallow dish of water, then call a rescue.

Don't wait, don't think someone else will do something. Act now!



Vets will not charge to euthanise a seriously injured wild animal.



My rescue is self funded, and is very grateful for any donations. I'm also more than happy to do talks for groups if wanted. I usually bring lots of leaflets!

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Aunt Agnes

Hello once again to all my dear readers and friends.

I hope you are enjoying the fantastic weather I am experiencing in my luxury beach front home in the Caribbean, and not the usual wet and cold weather of good old England.

Needless to say, I once again have to offer my apologies to several readers of my column in the Chalgrave News, for mistakes in advice given, through no fault of my own, while trying to help you with your problems.

I have said this on many occasions over the years, please make sure you read through your letters and emails before sending them to me, to avoid errors caused by predictive text.

Firstly, an apology to Mrs X. You told me that your depressed husband was spending a couple of months working in Portugal and that you asked for suggestions for what he should bring home as a gift for you. When you told him I suggested Portuguese Tarts he totally misunderstood your request, and now you tell me you have a house full of Portuguese ladies who are causing you problems, although I understand your husbands depression has been cured and has never been so happy.

I regret that I am unable to give you the money for their air fares back to Portugal and can only refer you to the Chalgrave News Committee who I am sure will help you raise the funds needed.

Now on to a letter from Mr Y. I am fully aware that there is going to be an election in the UK and that you asked me for advice on what you should do. Unfortunately, your email stated 'which is the best story you should be looking at' and I suggested War and Peace might suit your needs. You now tell me that you enjoyed the book so much you missed polling day as you were still trying to get to the end of the book.

There is no point trying to blame me for wrong advice as your email quite clearly stated 'story' and not as you say you meant 'tory'.

Finally to Mrs XX. Regarding my reply to your husbands problems, I can assure you your letter did have a spelling mistake in the word 'election' and I am sorry this led to the arrest of your husband for gross exposure while canvassing door to door.

Well, that's all for now dear readers so until next time. **Auntie Agnes**



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	Parish Resident Individual and Parish Voluntary Community Groups 50% discount	Non Parish Resident or Parish Commercial	Non Parish Organisation or Commercial
Monday to Thursday			
9am to 6pm	£10 per hour	£20.00 per hour	£22.00 per hour
6pm to midnight*	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£32.00 per hour
Friday			
9am to 6pm	£10 per hour	£20.00 per hour	£22.00 per hour
6pm to midnight*	£145.00	£290.00	£330
Saturday			
9am to 6pm	£13.00 per hour	£26.00 per hour	£30.00 per hour
6pm to midnight*	£160.00	£320	£470
Sunday			
10am to 10pm*	£13.00 per hour	£26.00 per hour	£32.00 per hour
Weekend Rate			
Friday 6pm to Sunday 12 noon	£335.00	£670.00	£790.00

***NB Hall to be locked up and vacated by midnight Friday and Saturday night**

***NB Hall to be locked up and vacated by this time unless by special arrangement.**

Bank Holidays/New Years Eve - Rates on application.

Committee Room available for hire separately when hall is not hired - Rates on application.

Bookings outside above hours subject to individual rates on application.

Non - refundable deposit of 50% of the booking fee payable to confirm booking.

Bookings
07803 378548
Chalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Council			www.chalgrave.org
<i>Clerk</i>	Lesley Smith	874716	clerk@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
<i>Chairman</i>	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil.parry@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
<i>Councillors</i>	Ken Green	874107	Ken.green@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Peter Warburton	874036	peter.warburton@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Kevin Ludgate	07768 606968	kevin.ludgate@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Harvey Greenwood	07932 326274	Harvey.greenwood@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Council	Central Beds	03003 008000	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
<i>Ward Cllr</i>	Mark Versallion	03003 008555	Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
MP	Andrew Selous	01582 662821	selousa@parliament.uk
Memorial Hall	Bookings/ Jane Spiers	07803 378548	chalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com
Senior Citizens	Roger Fenwick	873768	
Speedwatch	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil.parry@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Rector	Rev Linda Washington	714442	
<i>Warden</i>	S. Russell	07796 66174	
West Charity	Clerk Lesley Smith	874716	
Schools			
<i>Lower</i>	St Georges	872360	office@toddstg.co.uk
<i>Middle</i>	Parkfields	872555	schooladmin@parkfield.cbeds.co.uk
<i>Upper</i>	Harlington	755100	enquiries@harlington.org
Doctor	Medical Centre	872222	www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk/
Library	Toddington	03003 008069	
Police		101	
Helping Hands		07882 988270	
Public Houses			
<i>The Plough</i>			
Clubs			
<i>Rotary Club</i>	Chris Osborn	873920	
<i>Sports Club</i>	Phil Parry	07831 605600	www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk
<i>Tennis Club</i>	Roger Fenwick	07814 598309	
<i>Chalgrave WI</i>	Debbie Parry	07770 543797	Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com
<i>Brownies/Guides</i>	Dee Curtis	872649	
<i>Rainbow</i>	Dee Curtis	872649	
<i>Cubs /Scouts</i>	Karen Calder	873065	

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