

2024
ISSUE 84

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
4th Weds. of each month	Pop-Up tea room	Memorial Hall	11-1

Thank you Jane Spiers for the cover photo.

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Deadline for next edition: 15 February 2025

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

Hello everyone, the winter season and Christmas is well on its way. There are a lot of festive local events to attend and groups to enjoy.

We were pleased to receive an update from our new MP Alex Mayer informing us of her work in our area. We have added her contact details and she encourages you to ask if you would like to discuss any matters with her. See page 6.

We were sad to read that our rector Rev. Linda Washington is retiring next year. She will be missed by so many who attended the church and those in the parish whom she knew and helped.

For Church services at Christmas see page 18.

A lot of talk about solar farms these days. Let us have your views.

The Chalgrave News team held a hugely successful Wreath Making event at the end of November with a view to raising funds for the printing of this magazine. We are very grateful to Lisa Scanes for organising the event and for her tutoring on the day. She put in a tremendous amount of effort and the resulting funds raised were truly impressive. See Lisa's report and photos on page 37. We intend to repeat this event again next year, (hall is booked for Sunday 7 December '25) so look out for notices and remember to book early. Tickets sold out within the month.

We all wish you a safe and happy Christmas.



Merry Christmas
From the Chalgrave News Team

Chairman of the Parish Council

We have a new Defibrillator and Bleed Kit Cabinet. The cabinet is sited on the wall of the Memorial Hall. In an emergency dial 999. They will ask for the location of the defib/ bleed kit which is *Chalgrave Memorial Hall*. They will now give you the code to open and access the equipment.



The Bleed Kit is a specialised trauma kit designed to provide the products needed to stop life-threatening bleeding until paramedics arrive, potentially saving lives. The kit contains –

- Trauma Dressing – These are used to control moderate bleeding by applying pressure. For lacerations, abrasions, burns, penetrative wounds & fractures.
- Haemostatic Gauze Dressing – Works to stop life-threatening bleeding after just 60 seconds of compression with the aid of coagulation granules.
- Chest Seal – A specially designed dressing for emergency management of penetrating chest wounds
- Tourniquet – Designed to stop catastrophic bleeding to limbs.
- Nitrile Gloves – For personal protection. Scissors and instructions.

The Defibrillator will give a jolt of energy to the heart of person experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It will help restore the heart's rhythm and get it beating normally again. This simple piece of equipment is easy to use - when you switch the defibrillator on, it will provide clear instructions and talk you through what you need to do.



We are grateful to Barbara Jackson for monitoring the condition of the cabinet and the contents. We will be organising a 'How to use the Defib and Bleed Kit' class in the new year.

Chairman of the Parish Council

There are concerns about the speed of traffic in our villages particularly coming Wingfield from the B5120, coming into Tebworth from Toddington or Hockliffe and down The Lane. Please observe the speed limit as it will encourage others to comply. The limit on The Lane is 30 but because the road is effectively a single carriageway the limit should be below 20.

The Parish Council has contacted National Highways again to express our concern about the number of accidents on the Lords Hill roundabout. They are now looking again at the design of the roundabout.

We have organised a meeting with an ecologist from Beds Rural Community Charity to survey the Tebworth Pond.

We have received an update on the Chalgrave Manor Solar Farm. There are pre-commencement conditions which have not been discharged yet.

The planning permission requires development to commence on or before 19 May 2025.

We also have a **bus survey** on **The Chalgrave Parish Council Facebook page**. We would like your views about a regular bus service through our villages.

Phil Parry, Chair.



ALEX MAYER - MP FOR DUNSTABLE AND LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Protecting our NHS

Our NHS has treated patients for 76 years. But we need to build a health service fit for the future. The new Government has begun the biggest ever conversation about the future of the NHS. Do make sure your voice is heard by sharing your experiences and ideas at: www.change.nhs.uk



Please, if you're eligible, also help our NHS by getting your free flu and Covid vaccinations this Winter. I've been visiting local pharmacies at the frontline of jabbing residents.

Transport

I was pleased to be appointed to Parliament's Transport Select Committee as getting people from A to B really is an important matter. I have been pushing for an early inquiry into buses outside of urban areas. These cross-party committees are where a lot of the detailed work of Parliament is done.

Weather

The weather really has been terrible since I became your MP. I assure you the two aren't linked! September especially saw the highest level of rainfall in Bedfordshire since records began. I have been in close touch with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, the Council and Flood Re about flooding and have held meetings with the Flooding Minister. Sadly, with climate change, extreme weather is on the rise and we need to think carefully about resilience measures including natural solutions like more tree planting to better protect communities.

Shoplifting

Police and Crime Commissioner John Tizard and I went out on a shift with the Police to find out more about the fight back against shoplifting. Locally, the crime rose by 14% last year. I was pleased to vote for additional funding to tackle shoplifting in the Budget and will soon vote to introduce a new standalone offence of assaulting retail workers and reverse a 2014 law to ensure all shoplifting cases under £200 are investigated.

If you have any issues that I can be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to get in touch on contact@alexmayer.co.uk or **01525 301390**.

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

There's not a lot to report from the Hall at the moment.

We're continuing with our program of maintenance and minor repairs but unfortunately so far we have been unable to secure the major funds needed to replace the playground.

The pop-up tearoom continues to go from strength to strength and is well attended.

We are already planning next year's Chalgrave Games. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the games or would like to get involved please get in touch.



.A big thank you to everyone who's helped with running the Memorial Hall in the last year and a Merry Christmas to all in Chalgrave.

John Wojdyla and William Randell (Co-chairs)

Restaurant Review

Never ones to miss out on an opportunity for lunch, some members of the Chalgrave News editorial team called in to **The Chequers at Westoning** on our way back from an outing to get supplies for our Christmas wreath making event.

The pub and restaurant have recently been redecorated and all was looking very smart when we arrived. The service was prompt and our waitress attentive, even bringing us an additional heater as we felt the room was a little cold on that day.

Most of us chose from the Prix Fixe menu at £19.50 for two courses and £26.00 for three. This is available Monday to Saturday. The soup starter and pork belly roast main went down particularly well.

There is a 10% service charge but this is discretionary and, all in all, we felt it was really good quality food in nice surroundings.

It's worth

mentioning also, that they are dog friendly and even provide a doggy Sunday roast menu!



In September, an elite squad of bowlers descended upon GoBowling in Dunstable, laser-focused and ready to rack up strike after strike. Just five minutes later, the slightly less coordinated but far more enthusiastic CSC crew arrived, making a beeline for the bar to kick off their pre-bowling 'warmup'. With disco beats pulsing through the venue our group velcroed up their chic bowling shoes and took to the lanes, prepared for a lively night of competition.



We were 13 strong, spread across three lanes. Some creative liberties were taken when inputting names into the scoring system, resulting in teams of Millie, Libs, Simone (Gatward), Su, and Mandy in the first group; Jacko, Johnno (JP), Jonny, and Cammy in the second; and Nevster, Shaaraan, Phylis (Parry), and (Lesley) Smiffy in the third. Techniques varied wildly: Nevster and Jacko launched high-speed cannon balls down the lanes, Su took what felt like 50 steps for each run-up, Phylis thought he was playing crown green bowls, and Jonny almost looked like he knew what he was doing - blacklisting him from future events for being too good.

In the first group, Simone and Millie tied the opening game, with Simone winning the second and Millie taking the third. Over in the second group, Johnno—somewhat to everyone's surprise—snagged the first game, while Jonny claimed the next two, posting the evening's highest score with a solid 147. In the third group, Shaaraan nabbed the first win, while Nevster powered through to win the next two games. Regardless of the scores, the night was full of fun and laughter, right up until bowling fatigue set in and brought our evening to a close.

Our dedicated Couch to 5K group celebrated a fantastic milestone by completing the 5K Parkrun at Houghton Hall on Saturday, 23rd November 2024. Just nine weeks ago, they were struggling to run continuously for a minute – now they've conquered

Chalgrave Sports Club

5K! It's an incredible achievement, and they should all feel immensely proud. Heartfelt congratulations to Millie Parker, Su Parker, Mandy Gatward, and Vicky Hydes, who are pictured with their medals, proudly standing alongside their supportive running partners. Also to Will Randell, who completed his 5K Parkrun in Sizewell last week, and to Debbie Levy, who plans to take on her 5K Parkrun challenge in December when she returns from her travels.



We are deeply grateful to Mike Jackson for his dedicated mentorship and training, as well as to Amanda and Christina for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the training sessions.

Upcoming events include

Golf Day between Christmas and New year

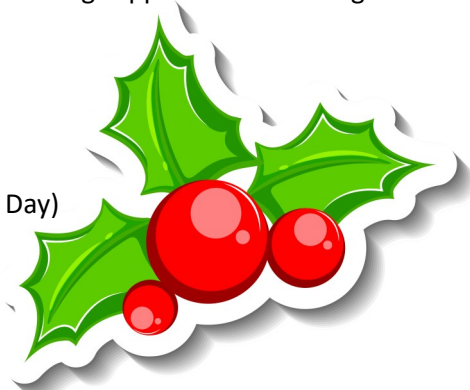
Our **Annual Dinner** 24th Jan.

We will be presenting MAD24 medals (Mile a Day)

Mad 25

GoKarting 28th Feb

Quiz Night 26th April



If you want to join in any of these events, contact any member.

Simon Gatward, Phil Parry.



Meeting Update

In **September** we had another go at Indoor Kurling. Great fun and it brought out the competitive spirit in some of our members. The winning team is shown right.



In **October** we had a WI table at the Toddington Scout Ball. Great fun and good to dress up, have a giggle and a dance.



Former police officer, Paul Barwick, was back by popular demand later in **October**. London is the spy capital of the world and each of his stories has a connection to the capital city. This time he told us about **The Body in The Bag Affair**. The mysterious death of MI6 spy and codebreaker Gareth Williams. In August 2010 Gareth failed to return to work at

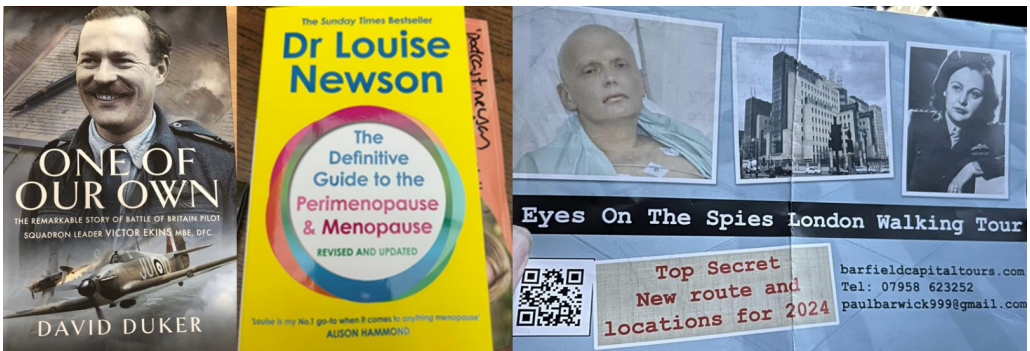
MI6 headquarters in Vauxhall after a period of annual leave. When concerned family had Police attend his Pimlico flat they found Gareth dead. He was unclothed, placed into a large sports bag, padlocked from the outside and placed in his bath. There were no signs of a struggle and the flat, an MI6 safe house, was locked from the outside. We may never know what actually happened and who was behind his death but it seems likely that there was a massive cover up! Paul is one of our favourite speakers and we plan to attend his Eyes on the Spies London walking tour in the spring.

At our **November** meeting David Duker brought to life the remarkable story of Battle of Britain pilot Squadron Leader Victor Ekins based on the diaries he kept at the time. David has conducted extensive research into Victor's life and other WW2 stories. He has written a book and founded The Tally Ho Project which shares real



life lessons from The Battle of Britain far and wide via Primary and Secondary school talks.

Also in November we attended a talk at the Grove Theatre from Dr Louise Newson on **Hormones and Menopause: The Great Debate**. It was a surprisingly entertaining (as well as interesting) show. Dr Newson was a great speaker, and she was accompanied by a female comedian who was very funny. Many of us bought the book.



Clubs

Our **Book Group** – led by Sue Watling, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. See Sue's report later in the magazine

Bern Inzani runs our **Supper club** which meets on the third Friday of the month at different restaurants. The below picture was taken at the Wavendon Arms in September.



Tracy Malster leads our **Craft club** which runs on the third Monday of the month at Chalgrave Memorial Hall from 7 to 9pm. Left is one of our hand made Christmas cards.

Please see over page for information on future meetings and how to get in touch.

CHALGRAVE WI



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-10-Dec-24	Christmas Social – games, food, tipples and music
Tue-14-Jan-25	Volunteer River Warden, Safeguarding our rivers
Tue-11-Feb-25	The Patterned Road to Freedom. The story of how codes and quilts
Tue-11-Mar-25	The World War II History of Bletchley Park

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

Who is never hungry at Christmas?

The turkey — he's always stuffed.



What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?

You get tinsel-itis.





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, often The Oddfellows in Toddington. 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 September we read *The Blackbird* by Tim Weaver

CCTV footage captures Cate and Aiden Gascoigne driving home seconds before their car plunges into a ravine and explodes. When fire crews arrive, the vehicle is empty. Cate and Aiden have vanished. Missing persons investigator David Raker has solved too many impossible cases. He knows that behind every disappearance lies a dark tale waiting to be uncovered. What he doesn't know is how dark this one is - or how close it will get to him. This is a great crime thriller, with lots of twists and turns and is hard to out down.

In October we read *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods

On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found. For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives. But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems. This was a heartwarming read and a lovely story.

In November we read *The Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley

In a beautiful old apartment block, deep in the backstreets of Paris, secrets are stirring behind every resident's door.

The lonely wife, the party animal, the curtain twitcher, the secret lover, the unwanted guest, the watchful caretaker. One resident is missing and the killer holds the key to the mystery. Another twisty thriller that was hard to put down. You want to get to the end to unravel the mystery of what really happened.

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.

Police and Crime Commissioner — report

On 3 October 2024 I once again had the pleasure of attending the Police and Crime Commissioner's meeting for the launch of his Police and Crime plan.

Following PCC John Tizard's election into the role of Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2024, taking over the role from Festus Akinbusoye, John was keen to share his new approach to policing in Bedfordshire.



The main takeaway from this meeting was his intention to be a 'community-centred force', working closely with communities and councils to shape the police force around issues facing them. His idea of increased social responsibility leading to lower crime rates was something he was very keen to push upon. He explained further that the better the community is supported through housing, infrastructure, education etc., the greater the impact on petty crime rates. This means the police force can focus on 'serious crime' such as trafficking and county lines, an issue which we are seeing a lot as a county. 25% of offenders will re-offend 'quickly' after leaving prison so having that community and social justice means we can better support people. There was much emphasis on the prison and courts situation we are facing as a country right now with a backlog of 800 cases just at Luton Town Court. A key emphasis of stopping potential crime was a big talking point with a key analogy of a river being used. 'It is all well and good rescuing the people from the river who are being pulled down-stream; however it is even better to stop them from falling in'. The analogy, of course, refers to the river as crime and the people being swept up in it and how it would be better to stop them before their involvement by improving social support.

We were also joined by deputy PCC, Umme Ali. A much younger member of the team, her visions for the police force were evident with her emphasis on supporting young people who could become involved in crime and engaging with all communities ranging from urban and rural councils to religious and ethnic groups. Her key role within the force is dealing with crime towards women and children, something which saw a staggering 11,000 cases of in 2023. This is a totally unacceptable number, which they acknowledged; however their aim is to cut these forms of crime by 50% over the next 10 years. It was wonderful to see such a young and strong woman actively involved in high office within the Bedfordshire police force, something I have not witnessed much before this.

Police and Crime Commissioner — report

Focusing on rural communities, they emphasised their desire to be more involved with rural parishes and farming communities to better support them and provide resources fairly to those areas affected. In attendance was the chair for the National Farming Union who grilled the PCC on their support for rural farming communities and ensured he pledged his full support for engaging with them. PCC John Tizard then informed us that he plans to form an advisory board of rural councils and parishes, something that Chalgrave Parish Council has already requested to be a part of. These are brilliant steps which, if enacted, will better support us as a parish against the crimes we are currently facing on a near weekly basis.

There were many positives to take away from the evening's event with Rachel Hopkins MP congratulating the PCC on his new plan and various local community representatives praising the plan, stating it is one of the best they have seen in a long time.

We as a parish council plan to work closely with the new PCC and the Bedfordshire Police force to ensure we are supporting the community and keeping the force well-informed with the issues we are facing.

I, myself, am in near daily contact with the police regarding matters of the parish and community and if you wish to share any issues or concerns that you feel are a pressing concern, then please contact me via my email:

harvey.greenwood@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk

Harvey Greenwood

Police liaison officer - Chalgrave Parish Council

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Christmas Thoughts by Revd Linda

Christmas TV adverts have begun with catchy music, sparkling lights and festive scenes drawing us forward to the Christmas Season, to celebrate together. Some of the adverts have a deeper theme, reminding us of folks who are lonely, or of joyful times with neighbours, family and friends (with the help of the food fairy!) or about BFG sharing food and gifts, or the little girl who wishes away her present to go to her friend so he is blessed too. Christmas is a special time of year but there is a joy in giving, and in receiving. I wonder what will make your Christmas special this year?



At Christmas, Christians remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus: the Son of God, the Light of the World, our Saviour, who was born in a humble stable, laid in an animal's feeding trough, wrapped in strips of cloth, and visited by lowly shepherds and rich wise men, guided to him by a big shining star and by angels announcing his birth. The visitors came and humbly knelt before him, knowing that in the moment, something incredible was happening, something heralded many years before by the prophets in the Old Testament. Today, in this Christmas Season, we too, can give thanks for Jesus' birth. For Jesus is the reason for the season! Without the birth of Christ, Christmas would have no meaning.



Jesus, the Light of the World is reflected in the twinkling lights shining forth on our Christmas trees, on our Christingles, in candle-light and in the lights which decorate our homes. Jesus' light is bright; It overcomes the darkness. He understands us and accepts us, with love. He feels our pain and shares our joy. Let us all this Christmas take a few moments to say welcome, to

Christmas Thoughts by Revd Linda

Jesus. He longs to be with us in all the festivities and to be invited into our lives, to be our saviour... and in so doing, may we all feel an inexplicable, joy, love and peace this Christmas. Happy Christmas Everyone!

All Saints Church, Chalgrave

Life continues to be busy at Chalgrave Church. November was a month of Remembrance with an 'In Loving Memory Service' for loved ones who have died, and Remembrance Sunday where we give thanks for all who served at War. This impressive Remembrance Poppy display in church was created by Lynn, and members of the Community. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The Christmas Craft Fayre in the Hall was well attended and offered a lovely range of goodies for sale, alongside wonderful refreshments. Pop Up Tea Rooms continue to be a popular place to gather each month. Thank you to Alison, Sandy, Sue, Jane and the team who offer such wonderful refreshments. Our weekly Sunday Communion service is at 9.30am.

It is with sadness, that I have decided to retire as Rector of Toddington and Chalgrave in March 2025. It has been a hard decision to make, and I thank you all for the wonderful memories I will take with me of special times shared. I have been so happy and blessed to serve within the parishes; attending community events, leading services and school assemblies, spending time in the schools, and with the various church social groups, getting to know you over these past 7+ years. It has been a privilege to walk alongside you through the ups and the downs of life, to share joys, encouragements and sorrows. Thank you for your welcome and support. I will always treasure my time with you and will remember you with great fondness. Thank you to all who have offered so much to make my ministry possible, including those who maintain the churches and welcome the people. I will miss you all and will continue to pray for you. May God bless you richly.



With love Linda

Rev Linda Washington, Rector 07715603557,
revdchalgrave@gmail.com

Christmas Services and Events

Chalgrave Church

Pop Up Tea Room, Chalgrave Memorial Hall with Christmas carols and songs	Wednesday 18th December 11-1pm
Carols by Candlelight, with the Quintet Choir	Saturday 21st December 6pm
Christmas Eve, Crib Service	24th December 2.30pm
Christmas Eve , Midnight Mass	24th December 11.15am
Benefice Holy Communion Service at Toddington	Christmas Day 10am
Sunday Service	Sunday 29 th December 11am

Toddington Church

Christmas Tree Festival	Saturday 7th 11-5pm Sunday 8th 1-5pm- ending with carols among the trees.
Brownies' Carol service	Monday 9th December 5.30pm
Scouts Carol Service	Friday 13th December 7pm
Concert of Christmas Music	Saturday 14th December 2.30pm
Christingle Family Service	Sunday 15th 11am

Parkfields' School Christmas Services 9.15am and 2pm	Wednesday 18th December 9.15 and 2pm
Toddington St George School, Christmas Service	Friday 20th December 9.45am
Toddington Town Band Christmas Concert,	Sunday 22nd December 3pm
Crib service	Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve 4.30
Midnight Mass	Tuesday 24 th December Christmas Eve 10pm

Recipe-Jane's Australian Sausage Rolls

Filling

1/2 tbsp olive oil
2 cloves garlic, *minced*
1 brown onion, *small, finely chopped*
1 celery stalk, *finely chopped*
150g bacon but I use a whole 300g pack, *finely minced (streaky and fatty, not the lean stuff!)*
2 tsp fennel seeds, *toasted (optional)*
500g pork mince (*ground pork*) (*not lean*)
40g panko breadcrumbs
1 egg
1/2 tsp salt & black pepper

Baking & Serving

2 x large Packs of ready rolled puff pastry each sheet
cut in half length ways
1 Egg, *lightly whisked*

Instructions

Heat oil in a non-stick fry pan over medium high heat. Sauté garlic, onion & celery for 2 minutes, then add bacon.

Cook for a further 2 minutes (don't make bacon golden) then transfer to bowl and allow to cool for 10 minutes.

Add remaining Filling ingredients into the bowl. Use your hands to mix well.

Lay out a rectangle of pastry, long edge closest to you. Brush egg along one long edge.

Get a quarter of the filling and shape into a long log shape down the middle of the pastry.

Ensure the meat is tight and compact, without gaps.

Brush edge of pastry with egg. Then roll up, finishing with the seam side down.

Roll up, sealing on the edge with egg wash on it.

If you have time/patience, refrigerate for 1 hour (makes it easier/neater to cut)

To Cook

Preheat oven to 350F/180C.

Cut each log into four equal lengths, or just two if you want full size sausage rolls. Brush with egg.

Place on 2 baking trays lined with baking paper (or sprayed with oil). Bake for 30 - 35 minutes in total, swapping tray shelves at 20 minutes, or until the pastry is deep golden brown. (Note: The filling will still look pink because of the bacon, but it's easy to tell from texture that it's cooked)

Cool slightly on trays. Serve hot or warm with tomato sauce or your choice of relish.

Jane Spiers





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Needles

I
wrote
a poem
in the shape
of a Christmas
tree but then forgot
to water it and only a few
days
later
there
words
were
over
all
the
carpet

Brian Bilston

Christopher
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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.



Chalgrave Emergency Response Team

Barbara Jackson
07960 445492

Debbie Levy
07931 408697

Phil Parry
07831 605600

Paul Whitton
07808 174843



Spotted in a field opposite The Old Woodyard, this Great White Egret didn't stay for long so Bethany Mooring had to rush to capture this photo. These birds are huge compared to the Little Egrets we see in this field most years and not so common.

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ESCAPE AESTHETICS

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Get in touch:-

www.escape-aesthetics.com

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A Wintery Trip Down Memory Lane

The Chalgrave News has a busy Face Book page with over 500 followers. We post local updates there plus details of upcoming events, free stuff and local history too. You can follow us and get updates by following this link

https://www.facebook.com/ChalgraveNews/?locale=en_GB

After posting an old photo, we were contacted by Jean who lived in the village many years ago and was kind enough to send some of her childhood memories of very different times in Chalgrave. Here's what she wrote. Thank you so much Jean.

If you also have memories you would like to share, please do send them through to our editorial team

My maiden name was Jean Goodyear. I often wonder if anyone I remember still lives in Tebworth.

The Rose family ran a business from their huge bungalow and farm situated in Wingfield just beyond the village hall. Rose Farm Dairy distributed milk over quite a large area. They didn't produce the milk, the only animals I recall them having were pigs. They were stalwarts of the Methodist Chapel and at Christmas they hoisted a



piano on the back of a lorry and the only daughter of the family, Enid Rose, would play Christmas Carols as they drove her round the village. It was so exciting to see the decorated and lit vehicle and lots of folk following on, singing the Carols and carrying lanterns. Every year we would have a Christmas Bazaar which included a Nativity. The Revd Fred Watson and his wife, Jean, had been posted in India some years before coming to the parishes of Hockliffe and Chalgrave and were always able to supply a beautiful blue sari for whichever girl was playing the part of Mary. Mrs Watson was adept at twisting and fitting the cloth to look so elegant.

Our Church Christmas services were held at St Mary's in the village alongside the school. As we lived at the school house it was a hop and skip across the grass into Church. Our

A Wintery Trip Down Memory Lane

congregation was very small compared to that of the Methodist Chapel but there were a few children - Paula and Penny Kemp from the Old Vicarage and I made up a little choir and wore blue cloaks and 4-cornered caps. The Vicar and the Church Warden, Leonard Kingham, had beautiful white vestments edged with the wonderful lace that Mrs Kingham made herself.

I can't mention Mrs Kingham without remembering the tiny sweet shop that she ran in the front room of their cottage in Wingfield, one of a row backing on to the Costin's farm. You used to go and knock the door to find their dining table laid out with Mars bars and all manner of sweets and chocolates. It was an unusual arrangement but at the time the only shop in Wingfield and we loved the experience. I've never forgotten Mrs Kingham's skill at lace making.

Occasionally the winters were cold enough to freeze the pond over and half the village would be on the ice. We used to take our toboggan to the field beyond the slope (a green track immediately beyond The Grange and in the next field was quite a steep hill. Together with Jane and Susan Heady we used to go up Chalgrave Hill after dark and sledge down the hill in the moonlight. Magical!

Another annual event was the village bonfire party. The Rose family (Colin, Trevor, Howard and Gordon) would build a bonfire at that triangle of grass where the two access roads join to become The Lane. All the children in the village had spent weeks collecting penny bangers, squibs, Roman candles and the like which they'd bought from Maurice Webb who ran his electrical business from the last cottage in the row down The Lane.

Maurice was a very tall gentleman who drove an old Austin 7, he and his sister were unbelievably patient with the daily visits we children made to their back door, spending ages deciding on the merits of the different fireworks they would bring to the door to show us.

When you're only spending 2 or 3 pennies it's a big decision between bangers and thunder flashes. We each collected a stash of fireworks that we gloated over and compared on a daily basis.

We'd certainly never heard of 'Health & Safety'!

Jean Goodyear

***See page 33 with another note from Barabara Kingham**

Wild Chalgrave

MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS

The term mushroom used to refer to just the edible species such as field mushrooms and horse mushrooms, all the rest being toadstools but the distinction is no longer clear. After a pretty wet year it's a good time to go mushroom spotting in the fields and woods. The familiar mushrooms that we see popping out of the ground are just the spore-producing fruiting parts of much larger organisms that spread under the ground in thread-like networks called mycelia.



Fairy ring

Fairy rings are a good example to demonstrate this – the mushrooms appear in a ring but the mycelia spread underground across the whole area. The largest living organism in the world is a mushroom producing fungus found in a National Forest in Oregon. It's estimated to cover 9.6 square kilometres and weigh 35,000 tons and is known locally as the humungous fungus.

At the other end of the scale are the microscopic fungi such as yeasts which can cause infections but are also used in making beer and bread.

Fungi have been used to produce a wide range of medicines. Penicillin used for antibiotics is widely known but fungi have also been used to produce anti-cancer drugs and anti-rejection drugs used in organ transplants. Over 2 million different species of fungi have been identified and more are discovered every year.

Not many mushrooms are deadly poisonous but many will make you quite ill and many more while 'edible' have an unpleasant texture or taste. Some while edible in theory are only safe if cooked or prepared in a particular way. The common ink cap is safe to eat but poisonous if consumed with alcohol. The advice is not to eat anything you haven't bought in a shop. Many mushrooms change colour and shape as they age making identification harder. In France where there is a long tradition of picking edible mushrooms but fewer people now have the knowledge to identify



Fly agaric (Amanita Muscaria)

Wild Chalgrave

them safely and recent years have seen an increase in poisonings.

Mushrooms come in a wide range of sizes shapes and colours and are worth a second look even if you can't identify them. Some are bright egg-yolk yellow such as the honey fungus that is parasitic on many tree species although the colour becomes brownish on older specimens. The amethyst deceiver is an unusual violet-purple colour and is quite common in deciduous woodland. Some mushrooms ooze a milky 'sap' when broken which can be brightly coloured, while others have a distinctive smell. The false death cap smells exactly like raw potatoes.

Amethyst deceiver
(*Laccaria amethystea*)

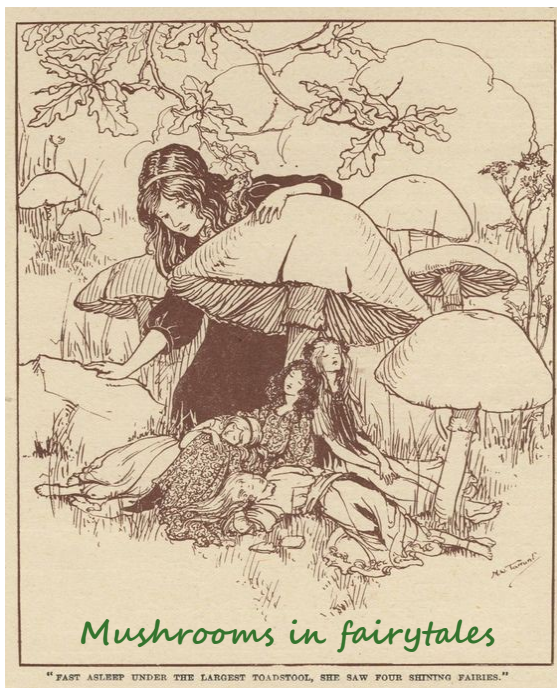


One of the most easily recognised mushrooms is the fly agaric. Although poisonous it is rarely fatal and has a long history of use in many cultures as a hallucinogen. One of the reported effects is a distortion in the size and distance of observed objects and it's thought this may be the origin of Alice in Wonderland's very big and very small 'eat me' adventures.

Siberian shamans reportedly ate the mushrooms and their followers then drank their urine thereby gaining some hallucinogenic effects. (Don't try this at home!) Mushrooms and toadstools have long had a place in folklore and fairytales, probably because many of them can be poisonous or have mind-altering effects and because they can suddenly appear overnight. There is even a fungus that can produce zombies but only in ants in some tropical rainforests.

If you can arrange a woodland walk with an expert you'll be amazed at the diversity of fascinating fungi.

Janet Day



Mushrooms in fairytales

"FAST ASLEEP UNDER THE LARGEST TOADSTOOL, SHE SAW FOUR SHINING FAIRIES."

Ready Teddy Go!

The Teddy Bear Orphanage proved very popular at this year's Chalgrave Games and helped us raise nearly £200 towards our printing costs which really helped as we do not receive any regular grants. After our Games success, we had a bit of a light bulb moment and thought we would take the orphanage online via a new face book page called

'Tebworth Teddy Bear Orphanage'

It's been a real hit! Our first adoptee bear went very quickly to a lovely lady in Dunstable, followed by another then another in very short order. Our latest bear is Rudolph (pictured) and is available now.

He is 16" tall and is all dressed for Xmas with a sparkly pom-pom hat, hand knitted reindeer jumper and jingle bells.

Other bears are also now available so do check out our face book page.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who has been donating, adopting and knitting bears.

Thank you for supporting the Chalgrave News.

Frances Masters



We are always excited and happy to share your photographs, so if you have any pictures and/or stories to share about our wonderful parish, please send to

thechalgravenews@gmail.com



Christmas Crackers!

What do snowmen wear on their heads?

Ice caps!

What happened when the snowman broke up
with the snow girl?

She gave him the cold shoulder!

How does a snowman lose weight?

He waits for the weather to get warmer!

Why was the snowman looking through carrots?

He was picking his nose!

What do you call a snowman with a bad temper?

A melt down!

What do you call a snowman who can't sing?

A choir boy!



Another Trip Down Memory Lane

Barbara Kingham – Memories of Wingfield Shops

The sweet shop at Wingfield was kept by Leonard and Ethel Kingham, my late husband's parents. Besides sweets they sold cigarettes & tobacco (kept on the stairs). In the adjoining barn, kept in a wire faced cabinet, bacon, cheese etc. Also there were crates of Burgess minerals. I wonder what health and safety would say about these conditions.

When my husband and I were courting we both worked at the Delco and sweets regularly would appear on my desk, I thought he must live at some big store. After my first visit to their cottage I realized he must have just grabbed a handful out of a jar on his way out.

Thank you for your kind donation to the Chalgrave News Barbara

Remembrance Sunday



Wreaths were laid at our village hall this year as every year.

Chalgrave Memorial Hall was erected in 1947 in remembrance of the fallen of this parish in the two World Wars.

‘At the going down of the sun...’ are words familiar to many of us. However not many people realise the verse is from a longer, very moving, piece. The full poem, by Robert Laurence Binyon was published in The Times on 21 September 1914.

Laurence said the four lines of the fourth stanza came to him first. These words have become famous, having been adopted by the Royal British Legion as an Exhortation for ceremonies of Remembrance. Laurence Binyon was too old to enlist in the military forces but worked for the Red Cross as a medical orderly. He lost several close friends and his brother-in-law in the 1st World War.

For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.



How does your garden grow?



After the extreme weather we have had recently, the only sensible thing to do is to sit down somewhere warm with something refreshing and plan what you are going to grow next year.

If you really want to go out, here is a list of the jobs you could be getting on with:

Trim your hedges by the end of January before the birds start nesting.

Make sure all climbing plants are secure on their supports.

Take hardwood cuttings of any hardy shrubs.

Service and clean your tools ready for the new season.

Clean your terracotta pots and store them out of the rain to prevent any frost damage.

Don't be in too much of a hurry to tidy up your garden, the spent stems of flowering plants are important shelter for all the insects that live in your garden.

Don't forget to feed the birds.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your gardening.

John Wojdyla

Keeping Our Magazine Alive....

Chalgrave News Wreath Workshop & Festive Afternoon Tea

With the ever increasing costs that apply to everyone and everything in all walks of life these days, keeping a freely distributed parish magazine alive is a tough job and running it relies heavily on advertising sponsors.



An editorial team work hard, freely donating their time to gather the information from many contributors in and around the parish and then create the newsletter that pops through the letterboxes around the parish for all to enjoy and read about local events and news of interest.

As with everything the print costs creep up and sadly sponsors pull their belts in too so withdraw their advertising as they also review their expenditure. So raising income to ensure the newsletter survives becomes a must. The editorial team looked at ideas to raise some funds and so a Christmas Wreath Workshop with Festive Afternoon Tea was born and what an outstanding success and wonderful day was had by all.

The editorial team pulled together to create a fantastic day providing guests with materials needed to create a wonderful Christmas wreath. A huge thank you to Janet & John from Tebworth who kindly allowed access to their wonderful garden to harvest some amazing foliage for the day and also to Sally Gutteridge from Wingfield who gave permission for us to take some of the wonderful branches from her Christmas Tree growing in her front garden and lovely pampas grass blooms too, allowing us to give a really fresh foliage selection together with an array of beautiful wild foliage accessories that were gathered, sprayed and prepared for the day with luxury accessories also to add to the materials available to the guests.

Guests enjoyed spending time making their creations and this was then followed by a Festive Afternoon Tea, I think the pictures speak for themselves here and the feedback from the guests gave us a glowing review, I am sure you will all agree the editorial team excelled in providing a wonderful festive day that primarily was to raise funds to ensure the newsletter can continue but will evolve into a traditional yearly event to be enjoyed by all, we have already had enquiries to book for next year so we have set a date and will run the event again on Sunday 7 December '25.

Enjoy looking at the fabulous wreaths over the page that our guests created, everyone had access to the same materials and no two wreaths came out the same, individual styles and visions gave a glorious selection of spectacular wreaths to take away.

Christmas Wreath workshop

Marvel at the the festive afternoon tea that was lovingly made by the editorial team, some beautiful festive food enjoyed by all plus all dietary requirements catered for. With Merry Christmas wishes to all our readers, this event certainly catapulted us into the Christmas spirit, from the Chalgrave Editorial Team. **Lisa Scanes**



Christmas Wreath workshop



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Aunt Agnes



Hello again Dear Readers,

A short time ago, while I was sitting on my ocean facing Caribbean veranda I came across a reader's email asking for my advice which of course I was pleased to give.

Now I find that once again due to an unfortunate spelling error I am expected to apologise for something that plainly is not my fault.

The reader, who shall remain nameless, wrote to me asking for advice on behalf of her daughter, who having just left university had set up her own event management business and had obtained her very first customer. So of course her daughter wanted to make sure she did a great job in organising the event from which she expected to gain many more clients by recommendation.

In Mrs Jones' message (note to Chalgrave News Editor – please delete Mrs Jones' name as she wishes to remain anonymous) she told me that her daughter was asked to organise a weeding party to take place at Chalgrave Church.

At the time I did think this a little unusual, but I always work by the old saying 'the customer is always right'.

I therefore set out a lengthy reply detailing everything her daughter had to do to achieve a successful weeding event at the church.

Some of my suggestions were to ask all those taking part to make sure they dressed in their old dirty clothes and to bring with them any gardening implements they could find, such as rakes, scythes, lawn mowers etc. Where possible everyone who owned ride on lawn mowers to drive these to the church for the event.

I am told over 150 people turned up at the church dressed in old torn and dirty clothing carrying a mixture of garden implements.

After the event you told me that the it was actually 'a wedding' and not as you wrote 'a weeding event', and the bride took over 2 hours to reach the church as she was on the back of a ride on mower!

In addition, both the bride and groom looked closer to Worzel Gummage than a bride and groom! I take no responsibility for them each carrying a garden rake up to the alter as they must have realised that it is more traditional for a bride to carry flowers when getting married.

However, some good has come out of this unfortunate situation in that the vicar tells me that the church grounds have never looked so tidy after forcing your guests to spend 3 hours using their garden implements to work on the grounds.

Also, I am sure your daughter's business will be able to make good use of the world wide publicity it is getting by now holding the Guinness Book of Records most ride on lawn mowers gathered together at any time.

If this does not work please tell her from me that bankruptcy is not that bad, as she can always start up some other new venture which I will be very pleased to help her with.

Well until next time dear readers.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and New Ear.



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