

2025
ISSUE 86

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 to Bethany Mooring for the cover photograph

Annual Sponsorship Rates

thechalgravenews@gmail.com / 07927 144090

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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

Summer has arrived and the Parish now begins to look at its best. At this time of year everything feels green and fresh. We are so lucky.

Like the seasons, the rhythm of village life is punctuated by regular community events that bring friends and neighbours together; from the weekly services at our historic Chalgrave church to the monthly pop up tea room and the big annual events such as the Parish Assembly and Chalgrave Games.

The Chalgrave News team have been busy too this year with the opening of the Teddy Bear Orphanage, hosting a bingo night, a wreath making work shop and now planning a Christmas tree light up ceremony at St Marys Close. These events bring people together and also support the printing costs of our village newsletter. In this edition you will find such a lot is going on for a small parish with so many people happy to give their time and efforts to make sure Chalgrave stays a happy and vibrant community.

So, a big thank you to all who host our village events, all who come along to them and all who support in any way they can.

Thanks also to everyone who has contributed to this bumper summer edition of

The Chalgrave News.
We hope you enjoy it!



Chair of the Parish Council

From the Parish Council -

Please keep dogs under control. There have been four serious incidents of sheep being attacked in our Parish. As well as the suffering of the sheep there is a loss for the farmer.

Remember it is an offence, and farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep.

We had a good Parish Assembly with representatives of all the organisations in our Parish. We also had John Tizzard our Police and Crime Commissioner there along with our Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Versallion.

Our Precept this year is £10,000. About a quarter 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.

The gullies in the Parish have recently been cleared - except for down the Lane. We will press Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to do those gullies. With the gullies being cleared along Wingfield Road we will have to wait for the next heavy downfall to see if it makes a difference to the flooding opposite the Queens Head. We have also reported the collapsed gullies in Wingfield.

We report potholes as soon as they appear it does take some time for Highways to repair them. We continue to press CBC to repair The Lane but it seems it is low priority.

We recently lost our bus service. We conducted a Bus Survey, it indicated that there is very little interest in restoring a service.

The Tebworth Solar Farm is nearing completion. We are in the process of arranging a meeting with the developers to discuss the Community Benefit. Once we know what form it takes or how much our community will receive, we will be consulting you to find out what projects you would like to see funded.

Work has started on the Chalgrave Manor solar farm. Again, there will be a Community Benefit – this will be shared between Chalgrave, Chalton and Toddington. The developers will also be installing solar panels for schools in Chalton and Toddington as part of the Community Benefit.

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.



Chair of the Parish Council

The Speed Watch Team are out once a month in Tebworth and Wingfield to remind drivers of the speed limit.

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 - and 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 for the past year. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement or community service.

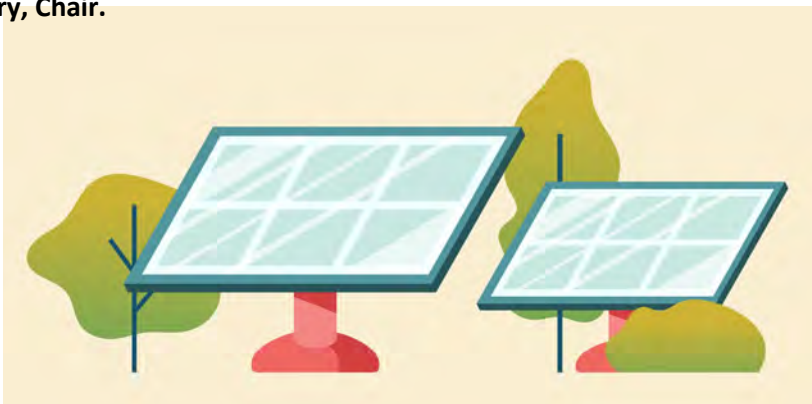
The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under and is a 'well done' for academic or sporting achievement, contribution to the community, overcoming difficulties, or other significant achievement. The Community Award is for over eighteens and is a 'thank you' for service to the community. If you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

The West Educational Trust gives grants towards the cost of any educational activity for young people 25 years and under – this could be music lessons, dance, sporting activity, educational school trips, cubs, brownies, scouts as well as grants to students in full time higher education. 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.

Contact details of all the parish councillors are in the Chalgrave News and on our website. If you have a concern, please contact us.

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

Phil Parry, Chair.



ALEX MAYER - MP FOR DUNSTABLE AND LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Safer A5: The new average speed cameras are now live on the dangerous stretch of the A5 between Thorn Roundabout near Dunstable, through Hockliffe and onwards. Sadly since 2017, there have been 27 serious collisions. I welcome this Government investment. I have been out on the road with Highways England looking at how these changes are helping to slow traffic and hopefully prevent future accidents. Work will also start in June on improvements to the A5/B5120 roundabout including resurfacing and new signage to make it safer.



Honouring Wartime Heroes: Thank you to everyone who organised VE Day celebrations. As part of the 80th anniversary I launched a campaign for a permanent memorial to some of Bedfordshire's unsung wartime heroes. Thousands of personnel, many from the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, were stationed at the top-secret RAF site near Stanbridge, known as Q Central during the war. It housed the largest telephone exchange in the world. Their contribution was critical to operations like the D-Day landing and Battle of Britain that shifted world history. Visit www.qcentral.co.uk to pledge to bring into the light the memories of those people who served in the shadows.

Driving Test Delays: After pressure from the Transport Committee I sit on in Parliament, the Government says it will unlock 10,000 driving tests a month to tackle sky-high waits.

Tough on Fly-Tippers: I've been calling for stronger action on fly tippers for some time so welcome new powers that will allow councils to crush vehicles used by these waste criminals - and make offenders pay the cost. This will save local taxpayers money and gives councils no excuse not to act. I've raised concerns about the impact of the new tidy tip booking system, and want to see full use of these powers across Central Bedfordshire.

Et finalement... Tres bien! Language learning app Duolingo ran a special competition for MPs and I was one of the winners. I have donated my £2500 prize to Home Start Bedfordshire who offer vital support to families with young children.

Don't forget, as ever, if you have any ideas you would like me to follow up or issues I can help with, please get in touch:
contact@alexmayer.co.uk or 01525 301390

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

We need your views

We are seeking your views on what the community may wish to see in the area at the Hall where the playground was located.



We have asked a small number of residents and the options at present are:

New Playground

Community Garden

Any other suggestions from the community?

There are a number of pros and cons for options 1 and 2.

Playground

For a playground there would have to be either a grant from the Solar Farm development or a significant fundraising effort by the community.

Community Garden

For a community garden there are grants available for this type of project which are more achievable than for a playground. But there would need to be a group of people who would be willing to start and maintain a community garden for the benefit of the community.

Any other ideas?

We are very open for other suggestions as to how this space could be used for the benefit of the local community. If you have an idea please let us know!

Please complete the options below and pop through the post box of Chalgrave Old School (next to Signs of the Times)

We will continue with this consultation at the Village Games.

Will Randell and John Wojdyla – Co-Chairs

Option	Preference	Comments
Playground		
Community Garden		
Any other ideas?		

Our second Couch to 5K program is on track. Led by Christina Lawrence and Mike Jackson, the group is set to graduate at the Houghton Hall 5K Park Run in July. Our Yoga class will be running through the summer months - we are in the process of booking Monday nights in the hall for the next three months.

Over 80 enthusiastic quizzers packed into Chalgrave Memorial Hall for our legendary CSC Quiz Night. The atmosphere crackled with excitement as our host, **John Parker**, made his grand entrance, dazzling in a gold-sequin jacket that, let's just say, was more suited to his younger - and slightly slimmer - self! To keep things fair, we again awarded bonus points based on team size: the smaller your team, the more points you were awarded at the start, with the biggest teams starting with minus points! Eleven teams, armed with witty names and (mostly) bright minds, embarked on six quiz rounds plus two table challenges to vie for the title of Chalgrave Quiz Champions.

By the halfway point **Gone Down Swigging** had taken the lead closely followed by **The Lightweights** and **The No Eye Deers**. Several chasing teams had yet to play their Jokers (double points for the round) so it was still all to play for as we paused for the half time interval. Meanwhile, our two picture round table challenges - *Heroes & Heroines* and *Villains & Villainesses* - were collected and whisked away for secret marking, the scores kept under wraps to crank up the suspense for the final positions reveal.

After the interval it was time for CSC's unique quiz themed take on the classic Heads or Tails game, **True or False**. Participants had to guess the answer to an obscure random question by placing hands on their head (true) or bottom (false). After just three rounds, only three contenders remained standing from the original 70+ who started. The next question was *The A5 is longer than the A6* - Self-confessed roads anorak, **Nev Andrews**, confidently placed his hands on his head, **Eddie** wavered (for some considerable time it has to be said) before eventually opting for true, and **Gary Ward** boldly chose false. Drum roll... it was revealed to be false, the A6 being 12 miles longer than the A5 - making **Gary Ward** the triumphant winner of the cash prize. ♦

The quiz resumed with a *Sounds* round, always a popular category, with music, movies and other sound clips testing everyone's ears. **Who Dares Gins** nailed a perfect 12/12, and having played their joker, bagged, a whopping 24 points. The final round, *Double or Nothing* had teams risking points for glory. Teams could earn double points for all correct answers but would lose ALL points for the round if any answer was wrong! Passing on a question didn't count as a wrong answer, but some teams were looking to make up ground and had to go all out to score points. The round ended with some loud groans and cursing as five teams got the dreaded *wah wah wah* trombone fanfare and nil poi for the round.

The battle to avoid last place saw some close rivalry between **Deceptively Dumb** (young, clever, but baffled by anything pre-2000), **We Live in Hope** (more invested in Prosecco than answers), and the **Baldy Bikers** (who messed up their joker round). In the end it was the follically challenged bikers that took the (dis)honour and claimed the wooden spoon award.

The scores continued to be revealed, with a loud cheer from **Signs of the Times**, who seemed very chuffed with their respectable 5th place finish. At the summit, it was a nail-biter between **Gone Down Swigging** and **Who Dares Gins**, but the gin-loving quizzers clinched victory by five points, proving that a well-played Joker can make all the difference.

Although the CSC committee put in a lot of hard work to organise and run events like this, it would not be possible without the unwavering help and support from Fiona, Lesley, Su, Mandy, Vicky Gabe, Libby, and Sarah.

Visit our website for more photos and videos from the night, and details of our other activities.

Please turn to page 10 for the Quiz Night Photos.

Simon Gatward & Phil Parry



Celebrating Chalgrave

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

Wild Chalgrave

LET THERE BE LIGHT – But not too much of it.

For some time there has been growing evidence that Artificial Lighting At Night (ALAN) is having a detrimental effect on wildlife. Bats are some of the species worse affected and most bat species are in serious decline. Artificial lights disrupt their ability to navigate and therefore hunt for food. It has been shown that if light shines directly on the exit from a bat roost it can delay them emerging to feed. As many nocturnal insects are at their most active around dusk it reduces the time available for bats to feed. In extreme cases it can result in them abandoning a roost they have used for many years.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is illegal to disturb bats or their roosts and this could include the use of artificial lighting. We all have seen how moths are attracted to lights but many other nocturnal insects are also affected. Many insects can see shorter wavelengths than us so can detect UV light. A German study estimated that a third of all insects attracted to fixed lights will die. This will then have a massive impact on all their predators.

Birds are also affected by light pollution. In brightly lit areas they will sing and forage throughout the night and therefore not get sufficient rest. They will also start nesting earlier in artificial light when sufficient food isn't yet available. As climate change is also causing birds to nest earlier this increases the negative impact.

Small nocturnal mammals like mice and voles need the cover of darkness to forage and feed. Too much light reduces the areas available to them and to the predators that feed on them such as owls. The greatest effect on all wildlife is from lighting in the bright white and blue end of the spectrum as many creatures can see wavelengths outside our visible range.

There is plenty we can do to minimise the harm done to wildlife without having to keep in the dark:

Position your lights as low as possible and point them downwards.

Use lights with hoods so that light falls where it's needed and doesn't spread over a wide area. Only switch on when you need them or use PIR lights that only come on when triggered. Use low light intensities with warm white or yellow tones. Generally the lower the Kelvin number the warmer the colour.

Excess lighting at night affects us too. It diminishes the number of stars we can see in the night sky. Up to 60% of Europeans can no longer see the Milky Way clearly due to Light pollution. It can also disrupt our sleep patterns so please make sure your security light doesn't shine in your neighbour's bedroom window.

Janet Day

The Fancott Miniature Railway

What could be nicer than a cooling pint on a hot summer's day in a traditional pub garden? Fortunately there are still many pubs to visit in the UK but not many that can boast their very own miniature railway.

To be specific there are just two... and the one just down the hill from Chalgrave at The Fancott Arms is the oldest and most frequently run.

50 Glorious Years

Amazingly it's the 50th anniversary of the Fancott Miniature Railway. It's a real survivor. Pub trains used to be quite a thing but, perhaps due to increasing running costs and the level of commitment needed to keep them going, numbers have dwindled dramatically over the years. In 1975 the original 10 ¼ "gauge 'Fancott Light Railway' was installed as a straight track that shunted engines up and down. This was replaced by a 7 ¼" gauge track in 1996. Soon after, Ron Stanbridge took over the running of the line and has overseen many significant improvements such as a locomotive shed, two looped tracks, a steel footbridge and an impressive electrified signal box.



Fun to Run but Safety First

Behind the signal box is a little wooden cabin. It's a bit of a hub with a large table, chairs, a kettle and a big box of biscuits!

As I sat with Ron (who is President and Chair of Trustees) many of the 25 volunteers were coming and going, making tea and updating each other on jobs done and tasks to do. There was a really friendly atmosphere and I had the impression it's great fun to be part of the railway team.



The Fancott Miniature Railway

That said, safety is taken very seriously. There are government guide lines on how to operate a miniature railway in the UK and Ron explained how a working day starts with walking the line, opening the tunnel and running a stock train to check the tracks are clear.

The smooth running of the railway is monitored from the signal box which is impressive with cameras placed at various points along the line and displayed on a large screen.

Upcoming Events

There are plenty of events you should get into your diary to mark this special anniversary year, that include:

5-6th July Classic Car Show

23-24th August Scamp Locomotives

30-31st August 50 Years of Little Trains

25th October After-Dark Halloween Special

December (date not set) The Big Santa and Steam Run

The Fancott Miniature Railway is a lot of fun for just £3 a ride. You can find out more on the Fancott Miniature Railway Face book page, website and Wikipedia.

They are a registered charity (no. GB-MPR9331) and are always looking for volunteers. Why not give it a try!



The Bobby Scheme

The service is available for people over the age of 65, the vulnerable or those that are disabled. The Bobby Team will attend your home and carry out a survey, identifying any areas which may be vulnerable to crime. Where appropriate, our staff will improve your security with locks, door chains and viewers.

Our “Bobbies” are all qualified carpenters. They are dressed in uniforms similar to the local police in order to offer reassurance to customers. They also carry ID cards with them at all times.

All work carried out at your home is completely free of charge. We are a registered charity and rely on the support of donations, and partnerships with local agencies and businesses in order to be able to continue to provide our service.

You are free to make a donation to the Bobby Scheme if you wish.

To request a visit for yourself, or if you know someone who you think would benefit from a visit, please contact our office on the number below or complete an online enquiry form and a member of our staff will get back to you.

Telephone: 01234 842619

E-mail BobbyScheme@beds.police.uk

Website [The Bobby Scheme](http://TheBobbyScheme.org.uk)



The Chalgrave News is a free magazine to all homes in the parish.

Please log on to view the magazine online including past issues.

www.chalgrave-pc.gov.uk

or

Check out the Chalgrave News Facebook page

CLASSIC CAR MEET
BEDFORDSHIRE
IN PARTNERSHIP



All Vehicles
Welcome
Individuals /
Groups / Clubs

Sunday 13th July 2025

SHOW STARTS AT 12.00 NOON

All vehicles on site by 11AM

Wingfield Village
Nr Toddington
Bedfordshire
LU7 9QH
1200 til 1700



This is our
12th Year!
Don't miss
out!

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 local 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 All Vehicles Recommended Via:

Lisa - 07958363942 or Luke - 07787126230

Email - wingfieldcarshow@gmail.com

Online Booking form available
(Scan to complete)



Arrive & Park on the Day If Space Allows

Find Us on Facebook

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

Lisascanes@live.com

CHALGRAVE WI *Give us a Try!*



We are a friendly and fun group offering a warm welcome if you would like to join us for one or two sessions to see if our WI is for you.

We have been going for over 14 years. We have around 40 members not only from Chalgrave but from Toddington, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, Hockcliffe, Ampthill and Flitwick too. In addition to our monthly meetings we have a thriving **Book club**, **Craft club** and **Supper club**.

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	Calendar FY25_26
Tue-08-Apr-25	Walk through the West End Musicals. Richard Stark is a charismatic entertainer with an eclectic range of musical styles. His musical background began with playing the cello as well as playing guitar in a rock band. He has performed at theatres, concert halls, the Hilton Park Lane, and Glastonbury Festival.
Sat-10-May-25	Toddington Scout Quiz
Tue-13-May-25	AGM with Quiz and Social
Tue-10-Jun-25	Ameyzoo- Zoologist and Animal Trainer for film and television. Mark Amey is a lifelong exotic and domestic animal keeper/breeder, zoologist, environmentalist and conservationist. He has worked as an animal trainer for film and TV, provides educational talks and appeared on the children's TV show TMI. He has a private zoo and exotic pet shop.
Tue-08-Jul-25	Adventures of a Ghost Hunter. Published author, historian and public speaker, Damien O'Dell will share his personal experiences of ghosts and haunted houses, spanning over 40 years of paranormal investigation. Damien leads his own group, APIS (Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society). He will include a section on 'Local Haunts'
Tue-09-Sep-25	Life in Retirement as a TV/Film Extra. Ex soldier and retired police officer, Robert Brewer, talks about how he fell into the TV/Film industry after a visit to his local library. Over the last 6 years he has been on over 40 different features. From Hollywood Blockbusters (Batman, Bond, Wonder Woman) low budget films (Blinded by the Light) to TV dramas, soaps and comedies and even a couple of adverts.
Sat-13-Sep-25	Eyes on the Spies Tour – London - Please contact Sue Bollins if you would like to join us
Tue-14-Oct-25	Lucy Lewis - First female Bomb Disposal Officer. Lucy reveals the hidden world of bomb disposal training and how she became the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. From joining Sandhurst to rushing to her first bomb disposal call out
Tue-11-Nov-25	Helping you to protect yourself online from Cyber Crime - Veri Granger,- Bedfordshire Police
Tue-09-Dec-25	Christmas Social
Tue-13-Jan-26	Ventriloquist and Comedy Magician. David Tomkins is a Speciality Ventriloquist and Comedy Magician. He will perform something completely different, varied and entertaining!
Tue-10-Feb-26	The Great Train Robbery. Nick Cooke who will be talking about The Great Train Robbery which took place in 1963. He will tell us how the robbery came about, how they stopped the train, some of the main personalities, their hideout and their eventual capture.
Tue-10-Mar-26	Ladies of the Grand Tour - Intrepid Wives, Widows and Mistresses



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! **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.

In March we read *This Is Going To Hurt* by Adam Kay

Welcome to the life of a junior doctor: 97-hour weeks, life and death decisions, a constant tsunami of bodily fluids, and the hospital parking meter earns more than you. Scribbled in secret after endless days, sleepless nights and missed weekends, Adam Kay's *This is Going to hurt* provides a no-holds-barred account of his time on the NHS front line. Hilarious, horrifying and heartbreaking, this diary is everything you wanted to know and more than a few things you didn't about life on and off the hospital ward. We had hilarious evening discussing this book with anecdotes from some of our members who have worked in health care. There are also some very sad moments which some of us could relate to. This book is also a BBC TV series now. We scored this book 9/10.



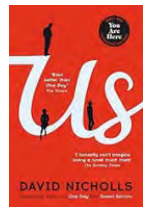
In April we read *Old God's Time* by Sebastian Barry

Tom Kettle, a retired policeman, and widower, is settling into the quiet of his new home in Dalkey, overlooking the sea. His solitude is interrupted when two former colleagues turn up at his door to ask about a traumatic, decades-old case. A case that Tom never quite came to terms with. And his peace is further disturbed when his new neighbour, a mysterious young mother, asks for his help. A beautiful, haunting novel, in which nothing is quite as it seems, *Old God's Time* is an unforgettable exploration of family, loss and love. This is beautifully written and we gave it 8.5/10.



In May we read *Us* by Davis Nicholls

Douglas and Connie - scientist and artist, husband and wife - live a quiet and quietly unremarkable life in the suburbs of London. Until, suddenly, after more than twenty years of marriage, Connie decides she wants a divorce. Heartbroken but determined, Douglas comes up with the perfect plan: he is going to win back the love of his wife and the respect of Albie, their teenage son, by organising the holiday of a lifetime. The hotels are booked, the tickets bought, the itinerary planned and printed. What could possibly go wrong? A brilliant, bittersweet novel about love and family, husbands and wives, parents and children. An easy-to-read book that bought up all sorts of emotions for us and lots of discussion about relationships. This book is also now a TV series. We scored this 9.5/10.



Chalgrave News Bingo Night



Firstly a big thankyou to everyone who came along to the Chalgrave News Bingo Night!

It was great to see the hall super-busy with lots of tickets sold and nearly 70 orders in for a tasty fish and chip supper provided by The Codfather in Houghton Regis.

John Fullalove did a fabulous job as our caller for the night and the News Team and helpers were kept very busy on bar duties and making sure the hot meals were distributed quickly to each table. There were some really great prizes too with a top cash prize of £50.

Yes, in response to your feedback, we will do it again! Seems like it was a big hit and



people were really pleased to have another fun event in the village.

Village events

We are so lucky to live in a village where so many residents are supportive of local events and often happy to help out too. The Chalgrave News team are committed to promoting more events for the village and, with that in mind, are already getting ready for our next Christmas wreath making work shop. We're also helping Ray and Sue with the Xmas tree light up at St Marys Close on Sunday 30th November. It's not too early to save the date. Toddington band is booked. There will be carol singing, mince pies and plenty of mulled wine to get us all in the Christmas spirit!





CHALGRAVE VILLAGE GAMES & SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 26 JULY

12.30 PM to 5.30 PM

MEMORIAL HALL, TEBWORTH. LU7 9QQ

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**DOG SHOW * TRAIN RIDES * FAMILY
GAMES * WATER GAMES * TUG O' WAR
TAROT READINGS * REIKI TENT * BBQ
FACE PAINTING * TEA ROOM * TOMBOLA
BEER TENT * COCKTAILS**

WANT A PITCH? JUST £10!

thechalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com

CHALGRAVE GRAND SUMMER RAFFLE

To be drawn at the Chalgrave Games on
SATURDAY 26 JULY at 3.30pm
MEMORIAL HALL, TEBWORTH. LU7 9QQ

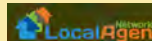
Sponsored by

Capello Hair Design

**K & K Pet
Foods**

Fencible - Gary
Francis
TROPIC

**MEAD
OPEN FARM**



thechalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com

CHALGRAVE GRAND SUMMER RAFFLE

To be drawn at the Chalgrave Games on
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MEMORIAL HALL, TEBWORTH. LU7 9QQ

PRIZES INCLUDE

FIRST PRIZE - £100 Amazon voucher
SECOND PRIZE - £50 Amazon voucher
Woburn Safari Park - Family ticket
Awaken with Yoga - 1 month's free yoga
Chalgrave Manor Golf Club - round of golf for two
K&K Petfoods - basket of bird feeding items
Mead Open Farm - Adult and Child ticket
Ali Jamie - 1 hour's gardening
Panache cut and finish
AJ Autos - MOT
Poplars Nursery - meal for two
Delicious Desserts - £15 voucher
Capello - Cut and finish
Child's Bakers - basket of baked goods
Teddington Traditional Turkish Barbers - hair cut
Fencible - 2-hour garden tidy from Gary Francis
Any many more!!

thechalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED! CHALGRAVE GAMES

SATURDAY 26 JULY

**Creating a wonderful community event
and raising funds for the hall's upkeep.**

Please get involved by

- Donating an item for the raffle or tombola
- Buying some raffle tickets
- Hiring a pitch
- Helping with setting up or clearing away
- Lending a hand on a stall for an hour
- Assisting with the children's, family or water games

MEMORIAL HALL, TEBWORTH. LU7 9QQ
thechalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com

How does your garden grow?

I'm going to write about compost which is not the most exciting subject but so many of my gardening friends have said how disappointed they are with peat-free composts.

It's true some of them are pretty awful but if we want to do our bit for the environment we're going to have to get used to them.

The main ingredients of peat-free composts are:

Wood bark: this is porous and can help add air to a mix.

Wood fibres: these are treated wood chips which usually make the compost loose and lumpy although they may be milled which improves drainage.

Coir: light and porous with good water retaining properties but it doesn't hold nutrients well.

Green waste: this is the stuff that councils and some private companies collect and can be variable but there are minimum standards it must meet.

Some mixes may also include soil, sharp sand grit or perlite.

The worst problems seem to be raising seeds and cuttings using peat-free composts as they're often lumpy and soggy.

If you buy seed and cutting compost it should be a finer texture or you could sieve one of the lumpy ones to get a finer mix. I usually add perlite which aerates the mix and improves drainage.

Most peat-free composts hold water well but can dry out on the surface so it's difficult to know when to water. Stick your finger in the side of the pot to see if it's wet and feel the weight of the pot. More plants are killed by overwatering than under watering. Although ready bought composts should contain some nutrients peat free mixes don't hold them well so plants may need more feeding.

Larger plants in pots and containers aren't as fussy but you should still take care with watering and feeding. You could make your own compost mix for these. Use 70% garden soil and 30% organic matter such as compost or leafmould. Then add either grit or sharp sand to improve drainage or extra organic matter to retain moisture depending on what your plants prefer.

I always add a bit of garden soil to whatever compost I use (except for seeds and cuttings, as this adds important beneficial microorganisms to the mix.

Jan Day & John Wojdyla



Chalgrave Church – From Sandy Ryan

The cold weather has gone and the church and the churchyard look beautiful in the sunshine. How blessed we are to have this historic church and grounds to worship in!

Our 9:30am Sunday services are being taken by Rev. Anne Barker, Rev. Roger Wood, and other priests during the vacancy, until a new priest is found. For those with younger children, Messy church is held at the Wilkinson Hall in Toddington on the 4th Friday of the month from after school until 5:30pm. Youth group meets fortnightly, 5:45-7:15pm (for 9+ years) at the Wilkinson Hall. The next one will be Tuesday, 27th May.



The Interregnum process continues. The Benefice has submitted the Parish Profile to the Diocese of St. Albans. The next step is for Advertisements to be placed in Pathways and on the Diocese website in June. The closing date for applications is July 1st and the interviews will be held at the end of July. Please continue to pray that God will send the person we need to be our next Vicar.

The church members and volunteers are busy maintaining the church and the churchyard.

We would like to thank Bob for the 10 years that he cut the grass for us and wish him a happy retirement from the job. Many thanks to Jim Catto who has now taken on the mowing and to Roger and Sally for all their hard work.

It was a glorious sunny day for our Afternoon Tea & Band Concert by the Toddington Town Band. We had a very good turnout and everyone enjoyed being able to have their sandwiches, lovely cakes and teas in the fresh air while listening to the band play. Our fundraising team worked hard to make this such a wonderful success.



Our Pop-Up Tea Rooms are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month in Chalgrave

Chalgrave Church – From Sandy Ryan



Memorial Hall from 11am-1pm. It is a great chance to have a chat, meet new people and enjoy the homemade food. You would be sure of a friendly welcome. There is no Pop-Up in August, but we will resume in September.

We are a small but friendly group at All Saints Church Chalgrave and we would love you come and join us for the church services, meetings and all of our activities. If you require information about weddings, funerals, christenings or would like prayers or any other information, please contact **Sandy on 01525 874748.**

Service dates for your diary:

August 10 th	Harvest service with Bishop Richard
September 14 th	9:30 am service with Rev Tricia Reed
October 5 th	Service with Archdeacon Dave
November 9 th	Remembrance Service- 2pm Chalgrave Church, 3pm Chalgrave Memorial Hall
December 20 th	Carols by Candlelight TTBC
December 24 th	2:30pm Crib Service 11:15pm Midnight Mass

We will hold our annual Christmas Craft Fair at Chalgrave Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 8th from 11am-4pm.

Contact Alison on 07771897451 for more details.

Easter EGGstravaganza

The Chalgrave Memorial Hall was a scene of Chocolate, Eggs, Buns and Bonnets galore. It was nice to see so many children coming along with their family to the Easter EGGstravaganza wearing beautiful handmade Easter bonnets and fancy dress. To join in with hunting for little prize eggs, crafting their own little Easter decoration, hopping on the bunny hopscotch game.

It was a difficult decision to pick the winners of the Easter Bonnet and fancy dress competition which was judged by our very own parish councillors Lesley Smith and Phil Parry. So many beautiful bonnets to choose from. This year all the participants were given an Easter Egg prize.

The refreshment area was a great success offering drinks and a wide variety of Easter themed cake and treats. Bunny, chicks, nests and sheep cupcakes were a hit with the community that came along.



Easter EGGstravaganza



We would like to thank all the volunteers and the community (near and far) that came along to support the event. All funds raised goes towards the upkeep of The Chalgrave Memorial Hall, without your help and interest these kind of events would not happen.

Special thank you for donations and the time and effort from The Chalgrave News, Phil Parry, Lesley Smith, Tracy Malster, Baking Team, Tesco Luton and the committee members of The Chalgrave Memorial Hall.

We look forward to seeing you all at next years Easter EGGstravaganza.

Chalgrave Memorial Hall Team



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The Queen's Head

We are in danger of losing the last pub in the parish.

The current Landlord will be leaving in the near future. We would like to find out what people would like from our local pub if it is to survive with a new landlord or as a community consortium. ***The owner is keen to keep it as a local village pub, and we hope to engage with him very soon.***



What would make you consider becoming part of a new Queens Head Community? We'd really love to hear your ideas and whether you would like to be involved in any way.

Some six years ago we had a consortium that tried to buy the pub. Is there any possibility of a group being formed to look at taking on the lease and forming a community pub?

All comments would be very very welcome. We would love to see more locals at the Queens Head and for it to become a sustainable business.

Please comment on the Facebook page **Queens Head Tebworth Needs You** or email your thoughts to Ken Green via kentebworth@gmail.com or tel 01525 874107

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.



Willow tree farm

Growing up, the countryside surrounding Barton-le-Clay was my playground. However, two years after finishing my education at Harlington Upper, the manmade lights of the town twinkled at me and I left the area. It has taken me 35 years to return to roost and live the life my Mum always predicted I should live. I guess I'm not such a fast learner. However, as creating our smallholding at Willow Tree Farm is proving to be a vertical learning curve, I hope the skill of learning (albeit not at the pace I desire) is still with me.

Our vision for Willow Tree Farm (WTF) is a Janus. One face looks towards the creation of self reliance. With the management of the smallholding leaning into small scale livestock keeping, growing our own vegetables, creating a herb garden and planting a mixed fruit orchard and nuttury. The other face is about standing guardian over this green space and creating a diversity of wildlife, from the soil itself upto the birds that fly overhead. This second view supports my growing passion for foraging. Any good Roman mythologist will tell you: Janus may have two faces, but both are attached to the same head...my two visions for WTF are inextricably linked and the kitchen features in both.

The reinstatement of the mixed fruit orchard and nuttury was our first move forward, whilst looking back. A range of apple trees, hazels, walnuts & pears planted for our heirs, and fruit bushes have already gone in. We have plans for more trees too.

My sister remembers WTF as a pig & Turkey farm, with the turkeys plucked and strung along the wall at Christmas time. Presently, our feather village has chicken, geese and duck residents. I do have plans to swell feather village by adding a few turkeys and some quail. But our feathery residents will be quite safe at Christmas time - none of them are for the eating. Yes, back up Mr Fox, that includes you!

This is the third year we've kept pigs for WTF's meatasaurus men. Benson & Hedges are a pair of male Oxford Sandy & Blacks. Pigs love to rummage, dig and turn the soil, all whilst naturally fertilising it. Ain't Mother Nature grand! Working with the mighty Green Goddess herself, our pigs are consciously located. This year they are working the land to the side of the original copse. I want to expand the tree planting in this area. With a nod to the smallholdings namesake, and a consideration to what species naturally thrive in wet areas, a mixture of Willow trees will be planted here.



Willow tree farm

Beau & Peep, the two blind sheep, arrived at the end of March. Their job is to be woolly, pet, lawnmowers and enrich the soil at the top of the meadow. Nature will do her thing and the black gold will be used to improve the soil in our growing areas.

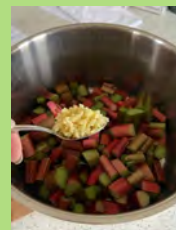
I believe the previous residents of WTF watch over us here, laughing along with us on our journey, but ultimately seeing us inch Willow Tree Farm back towards its previous life.

Thanks for reading along, but Hawthorn now calls. I'm currently on a mission thickening up our hedgerows. I'll keep you posted on our progress - Sam at Willow Tree Farm xx

Willow tree farm— Mood of Food Kitchen Socials



Sweet or savoury? A bar of chocolate, a bowl of ice cream or a glass of vino, what is your food SOS? Does the smell of cinnamon, vanilla or cabbage hold nostalgic vibes for you? Have you ever considered how your mood is influenced by what you eat? Food is my passion, and the tango it dances with: our individual psychology, is my intrigue. I host monthly kitchen socials that explore seasonal, vegetarian cooking, that expose mindfulness techniques that are hidden in our kitchens and unlock the potential held, within the understanding, that food is extrinsically linked with our mood. Our bodies functions are orchestrated by a symphony of chemicals called Hormones. Hormone 'factories' are situated throughout the body, both within the endocrine system (for example, in your thyroid and adrenal glands) and at sites outside of the endocrine system (for example in our fat tissue and kidney's). Hormones whizz around your blood stream faster than an angry email is sent and received, exerting specific affects. For instance, insulin regulates blood sugar levels, testosterone is important for muscle mass and the sexual health of both men and women. But have you ever wondered how what you eat impacts these vital messengers?



The macronutrients consumed (carbohydrates, proteins, and fats), the time you eat and even the micronutrients present in your food (the vitamins and minerals) all impact your hormonal health and ultimately your mood.

April's kitchen social explored seasonal rhubarb (every good vegetable patch should have some)! The simplicity of compote making was shared (with ideas for other fruits and flavouring combinations). Rhythmical stirring, provided mindfulness fodder and upping nutritional content, by adding natural yoghurt and a nut topping to the rhubarb compote was discussed. The food mood of ginger was highlighted: Did you know studies indicate ginger enhances working memory in middle aged women? Research suggests this may be due to the way ginger increases levels of adrenaline, noradrenaline, dopamine and serotonin in the cerebral cortex and hippocampus.

Want to join the conversation that accompanies a taste sensation? Mood of Food kitchen socials happen on the last Wednesday of every month, 7-9pm, in the Willow Tree Farm kitchen, Tebworth and on the last Saturday of the month, 2-4pm, at Dwayne Edwards Ltd, George Street, St. Albans. Booking is required.



Please follow the link: <https://bookwhen.com/moodoffood>

Welcoming Back the Christmas Lights!

You may have noticed the Chalgrave News strap line is 'Celebrating Chalgrave.' As an editorial team, we are committed to promoting all things positive about life in our tiny parish. There is certainly much to celebrate and lots going on, with local groups organising some really successful village events recently.

The News team have been busy too. Apart from working hard to bring each quarterly edition together, the team which comprises of Chalgrave residents Lyndie Lothian, Tracy Malster, Sharon Brown, Jane Spiers, Lisa Scanes, John Wojdyla, Jan Day and Frances Masters, have been doing a lot of fund raising to cover our costs and ensure our newsletter can continue to be delivered free of charge to local residents.

It's not something every village has. We are a community asset in that sense and our ethos is most definitely focused on village and community. The teddy bear orphanage has been a key fundraiser for us over the last 12 months, as have the wreath making work shop with afternoon tea and our fish and chip bingo night.

Apart from funding our running costs, we also want to give back to our community by hosting more of the kind of events that make village life so special; events like the Christmas tree light up ceremony at St Mary's Close.

It hasn't been able to go ahead for a while. I think many of us have missed not just the lights on the tree but also the carols and mulled wine, all organised by stalwarts Ray and Sue for so many years.

This year, on Sunday 30th November, the Chalgrave News are bringing back this much loved event with Toddington Town band already booked to play some sing along carols for us, a free welcome drink, mince pies and more. It's another important date for your village diary. We'd love to see you there. PS Let us know if you want to help put the lights up!



Aunt Agnes

Hello once again to my Dear Readers and friends.
How many times must I have to ask you to please read your correspondence rather than just rely on spell checker, which will help reduce the number of unfortunate misunderstandings which seem to occur. Here is another example of the problems that can arise as illustrated in a recent letter I received from a resident of the parish who wishes to remain anonymous in both name and the problem he contacted me about. I will just call him 'Mr frustrated from South Bedfordshire'.



I must say his problem seemed very straight forward.
In his letter he told me that he was having many problems with his wifi and did not know how to resolve matters and so was seeking my advice.
He went on to say his wifi would only respond to his efforts when he was in the kitchen and only then on the kitchen worktop.
He had been having this problem for some time and it was driving him crazy.
My very helpful reply was to contact a service engineer and get him to service his wifi.
Having taken my advice, I am now told that the engineer has run off with his wife.
Had Mr F checked his letter before posting he would have realised that his spell check had changed all the words 'wife' to 'wifi' so how was I to know that he wanted advice on a more personal matter than his wifi reception!
I suppose I should have been suspicious when Mr F went into a highly detailed description of trying to connect to his wifi when in the bath!
In fact, now having reread Mr F's letter I must say I find it highly offensive and not the sort of problem that I either deal with or have any experience with!

Unit next time Dear Readers.

Aunty Agnes



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Chairman	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil.parry@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Councillors	Ken Green	874107	Ken.green@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
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