

WINTER
2025
ISSUE 88

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 Frances Masters for the tree lighting photos

Annual Sponsorship Rates

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Please send your contributions to: thechalgravenews@gmail.com

The Chalgrave News team produces the Chalgrave News in good faith and we do all we can to ensure that no offence is caused to any individual or organisation. We also reserve the right not to publish articles and contributions submitted to us if they do not comply with our policy.

A note from the editorial team

The festive season is fast approaching and there are many things we can celebrate in our community.

This festive season has seen the return of the village tree lighting event in St Marys Close, a wonderful gathering of friends, families and neighbours, accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies and Carols from Toddington Town Band. The event was organised and funded by the Chalgrave News.

There have been other events, a fantastic soul night, a wreath making afternoon and The Plough is reopening its doors with a special event for retirees.

Also it's a good time to remember this season may have its challenges for some of us and our community can be a real lifeline to many amongst us. See pages 36 and 37.

Don't forget to watch out for the Rotary Santa float the dates this year are:
Chalgrave and Milton Bryan—13 December and Hockliffe - 14 December.

Note: To make it easier to find quickly we have moved the **EMERGENCY** information about the defibrillator to the back of the magazine, opposite page to the contacts list.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



The Chalgrave News Team

Chair of the Parish Council

We are in the process of getting repairs done to the bus shelter at St Marys Close. Although no longer a bus stop it is used as a shelter. We are also replacing the broken bench on the corner of Tebworth Road and Hill Close.

The June Horne plaque will be removed and placed on the new bench.

We have been asked for daffodils to be planted on the corner of Toddington Road opposite the Queens Head. We will be buying bulbs for this area as well as some to be planted in Wingfield.

Unfortunately, we still have irresponsible dog owners who are not picking up after their dog. Our responsible dog walker community think it is down to a small handful of dog owners. Please pick up after your dog so that we have clean paths in the Parish.

We have a few streetlights out in the Parish. They have been reported, and I have had a message from CBC informing me that they will be repaired 'within twelve weeks'!

The bus survey indicated that there was limited interest in having a service through the Parish and therefore would be uneconomical.

Cllr Ken Green has had a meeting with the Ripple Volunteer Group who are keen to carry out work on our footpaths. This will include work on the two bridges on footpaths leading off The Lane.

We were saddened to learn that Curly Brinklow died. He was a one-man streetwatch. His wife Dot was a parish councillor and chaired the Council for many years.

Minutes of our Council meetings are posted on the notice boards and our website. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

We wish you a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Phil Parry, Chair.



Festive Tree Light-up in St Marys Close

Well what a glorious way to welcome Christmas with re establishing an old village tradition, St Mary's Close Tebworth Christmas Tree Lighting. See the tree in all its glory on the front cover of this magazine.

Sunday 30th December on a clear and cold crisp winter evening residents gathered to the wonderful sound of Toddington Town Band, Sue & Ray organised refreshments and a wonderful hour was spent socialising with each other, singing carols and getting into the Christmas spirit. Thanks go to Dan Osborn who had given us some time a few days earlier to install and arrange the tree lights ready for the big switch on at 7pm.

After a short welcome and thank you speech from Phil Parry the count down began and wow there it was a beautiful tree full of lights for all to enjoy.

The interaction from the conductor, Kenny, of Toddington Town Band was fabulous and one lucky guest was clever enough to guess a correct answer and ended up conducting the band, well done Mrs Teresa Potter, good job.

Chalgrave News team wanted to give back to the community and I think we were a success. Purchasing 4,500 lights to fill the wonderful tree, providing funds for the refreshments and arranging and paying for Toddington Town Band to attend, I think we can all agree it was a lovely way to give back and re establish an old tradition to the community and was enjoyed by all.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Chalgrave Memorial Hall

The Hall is the main community asset that we have in Chalgrave and Wingfield and the committee are exploring how we can increase the use of the hall and the grounds.

On the 16th November we hosted a very successful Soul Disco with local Legend Dave “Philly” Grimes and DJ Duncan spinning the discs from the 60’s to the present day. Events, like this, raise funds for the maintenance of the hall and allow the local community to rent the hall at reduced rates. For those who braved the weather and put on their glad rags and dancing shoes the feedback was, “When are you going to put on another event?” We have listened and will promote another disco in 2026.



Date for the diary – Community Collaboration Meeting – ALL INVITED
14th January 2026 19.30 Memorial Hall

Prior to the village games the hall hosted a meeting with a number of local organisations about how we may develop the area where the playground was situated at the hall. The consensus at this meeting was that a playground, of some type, is what the village wanted, but to get more views from the community. The hall and more specifically Sam Edwards, who many will know from Willow Tree Farm have come up with ideas as to what could be in the area where the playground was. The meeting is an opportunity for the community to hear about the ideas we have, offer suggestions and most importantly to be involved in how the community can deliver an asset for all of us.

Football net now at Chalgrave Memorial Hall. Chalgrave Sports Club have kindly supplied and the Hall has fitted a football net for the goalposts on the field at

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

the hall. Please feel free to use, however if there is a booking at the hall, this includes the hall grounds and the goal will not be available to use.

Future Events

The hall is planning in 2026 to host a series of pop up pubs with food trucks at the hall. We will publicise these to the community via Facebook.

Will Randell and John Wojdyla Co-Chairs

Chalgrave's Harvey Greenwood Wins Gold at Bedfordshire SME Awards

On Thursday 19th June 2025, I was incredibly proud to be awarded Gold in the Young Business Person of the Year category at the Bedfordshire SME Business Awards. The awards ceremony, held at Venue360 in Luton, celebrated the best of local enterprise and to be recognised among so many inspiring individuals and businesses was truly an honour.

I received the award for the founding, growth, and ongoing management of my business, Greenwood Drones, which I launched in 2023. We provide a range of services including aerial photography, drone inspections, FPV videography, and 3D mapping and it's been amazing to see the company take off, both literally and figuratively, over the past two years.

Winning this award is not only a milestone for my business and professional journey but also a very personal achievement. At just 22 years old, being acknowledged for my efforts in such a prestigious setting is something I'll never forget.

Perhaps even more exciting is what comes next:.. This award means I now progress to the National SME Awards at the QEII Centre in Westminster this November, where I'll be representing Bedfordshire on a national stage.

As someone born and raised in this area, I'm incredibly proud to bring recognition back to our local community. I've always felt supported here in Chalgrave, and I hope this achievement shows that with hard work, ambition, and the right support, it's possible to build something meaningful.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey so far. I look forward to continuing to grow Greenwood Drones, sharing more successes with the community, and encouraging other young people to pursue their own ventures... whatever they may be. **Harvey Greenwood**



Reflections - Rural Crime Advisory Group Meeting

On 12th September, which coincidentally was the final day of rural crime awareness week, I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural meeting of the Rural Crime Advisory Group, having been personally invited to join a small group of seven representatives to discuss the pressing issues of rural crime in Bedfordshire.

In attendance were Police and Crime Commissioner John Tizard, members of the NFU, a representative from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Group, and members of the Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT), Rob and Hayley.



The purpose of this group is clear: to raise awareness of rural crime, to advise the Police and Crime Commissioner and the wider force, and to highlight where improvements are needed.

Topics of Discussion

Our discussions were wide-ranging and covered:

- **Rural theft**, including the growing problem of tractor dome thefts and equipment stolen to order and shipped abroad.
- **Police visibility**, which remains a priority for our rural communities.
- **Hare and wildlife coursing**, which continues to affect local areas.
- **Off-road bikes and e-scooters**, are becoming more frequent concerns.
- **Firearms licensing**, where significant backlogs across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire remain a serious issue.

The Funding Challenge

Bedfordshire is the lowest-funded force in the country by head of population, despite being one of the fastest-growing areas with major developments such as new housing, trainlines, and the proposed Universal Studios project. We are still funded as though we are a rural force, despite our shift towards becoming more metropolitan. Additional funding is being sought, but the challenge remains significant.

Reflections - Rural Crime Advisory Group Meeting

Why Reporting Matters One of the strongest messages from the meeting was the importance of reporting crime. Policing resources are allocated against *need*, and reporting helps build the picture of crime in our communities. Every call matters, no matter how small.

- **999:** Use for anything urgent and happening now, however minor it may seem.
- **101:** Use to report crimes that have already happened. If the incident occurred in the past 30 minutes, dial **1** after calling 101 to mark it as a priority. Each report generates a CAD (computer aided dispatch number), which contributes to the evidence of crime levels and helps shape police responses.

Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT)

RCAT, now based in Flitwick, continues to work hard to tackle rural crime. They are exploring shift pattern adjustments and the potential for 24-hour rural patrols. Response times to 999 calls were reported to be broadly consistent between urban and rural areas.

Specific local hotspots were also raised, such as *The Lane, Tebworth*, which has seen hare coursing and drug-related activity.

Community Engagement

Police visibility was raised as a key concern. I have asked for RCAT attendance at community events, such as the Memorial Hall coffee mornings, to help strengthen ties with residents and ensure people feel supported.

Closing Thoughts

I want to take this opportunity to thank Bedfordshire Police for their hard work in challenging circumstances. Rural crime is complex and evolving, but with ongoing dialogue and partnership between the police, local groups, and residents, we can make a real difference.

If you have any concerns, experiences, or suggestions relating to rural crime, I encourage you to contact me directly at harvey.greenwood@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk. Your input is invaluable in ensuring our communities remain safe and well-represented.

Cllr Harvey Greenwood



Meeting Update

In September ex-soldier and retired police officer, Robert Brewer, told us about how he fell into the TV/Film industry after he saw a poster at his local library. Robert sent off a head and should shot and was signed to an agent.

Ben Hur used over 10,000 extras and although CGI would be used now to create large-scale digital crowds, film extras or “Supporting Artists” (SAs) are still in demand. Robert has worked regularly at Pinewood and Warner studios. SAs are paid at a standard rate of £180 per day plus food. You may earn extra if a dinner jacket is required and you can supply your own, a specific haircut is needed or if you have some dialogue.

Sometimes you are a background character in a pub or restaurant – you are told to mime saying “rhubarb and custard!” There is a lot of hanging around – you get to meet some interesting people, but Robert recommended taking a book or some games.

Below: Robert with other SAs who worked on the live action film, Dumbo, and appearing behind Batman.



In October Lucy Lewis talked to us about her Army career and the triumphs and the challenges of being a woman in a man’s world.

In her early twenties Lucy was working as an airport Security Officer.

She decided that she would only gain promotion if she had some experience with the police or the army. She went to a Territorial Army taster weekend and enjoyed it so much that she opted to join the Regular Army.

She entered Sandhurst as a cadet officer in 1989 - one of 48 women amongst 350



men.

Lucy went on to become the first woman to operate as a Bomb Disposal Officer with the Royal Engineers. She subsequently served with the Royal Military Police in Germany and Northern Ireland, retiring in the rank of Major to start a family. In 2018, Lucy made history for a second time by becoming the first woman to be appointed University Marshal at the University of Cambridge and now leads one of the oldest Constabularies in the world.

Lucy has a very entertaining and self-deprecating style. She brought along copies of her book, *Lighting The Fuse* to sign.

In November Veri Granger of Bedfordshire Police ran a Cybercrime workshop. Veri had a lively and informal style that suited us! The audience members shared their own experiences of cybercrime. One person's mother had been conned out of £20,000 and another parent had been a victim of a romance scam. In both cases the victim felt a huge amount of shame and embarrassment. Veri commented that this type of crime is unusual in that the victims often feel that they are to blame for having been taken in by the crime.

Veri gave some useful tips for protecting yourself:

- Create **strong passwords** (eg combining three random words) – especially for your email address – since your email can be used to gain access to other accounts.
- **Save passwords to your browser** – then you can use strong **unique** passwords for all your important accounts
- **Turn on 2-step verification** to make it harder for criminals to access your account
- **Update your devices** to ensure you have the latest virus protection
- **Back up** your important data and documents
- **Dial 159** if you receive a suspicious or unexpected call about your finances. The service connects you to your bank's fraud team and cannot be spoofed, protecting you from scams.

I have some booklets with more advice – please let me know if you would like me to drop one round. I will also leave some at the Village Hall.

Clubs

Our **Book Group** – led by Sue Watling, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month.

- Bern Inzani runs our **Supper club** which meets on the third Friday of the month at different restaurants.
- Tracy Malster leads our **Craft club** which runs on the third Monday of the month at Chalgrave Memorial Hall from 7 to 9pm.



Future Meetings

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

Fri 28 Nov-25	Christmas Party – Robbie Williams Tribute act at the Fancott
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

Calendar FY25_26

The WI – Give us a Try!

We are a friendly and fun group and we offer a warm welcome to any woman who would like to join us for one or two sessions to see if our WI is for them. Please contact me if you would like to know more – or just pop along to one of our meetings.

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



CHALGRAVE WI Book Club

The WI book group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm. There are currently 13 of us and we meet in group member's houses, or a local pub, 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 - A Terrible Kindness by Jo Browning Wroe.

It is October 1966 and William Lavery is having the night of his life at his first black-tie do. But, as the evening unfolds, news hits of a landslide at a coal mine. It has buried a school: Aberfan. William decides he must act, so he stands and volunteers to attend. It will be his first job as an embalmer, and it will be one he never forgets. His work that night will force him to think about the little boy he was, and the losses he has worked so hard to forget. But compassion can have surprising consequences, because, as William discovers - giving so much to others can sometimes help us heal ourselves.

The start of this book is very dramatic and we learnt a lot about the horrors of the Aberfan disaster. The main character got a bit annoying at times but it's still a good read.

In October we read - The Greenway by Jane Adams.

Cassie Maltham's life changes forever one scorching day. She and her twelve-year-old cousin Suzie take a shortcut through the Greenway, an ancient pathway steeped in Norfolk legend. Somewhere along this path Suze simply vanishes!

Twenty years later and Cassie is still tormented by nightmares, parts of her memory completely erased. With her husband Fergus and friends Anna and Simon, she returns to Norfolk, determined to confront her fears and solve a mystery that won't let her rest. Some of us found this book hard to put down and others were less keen on the writing.

In November we read - Go As A River by Shelley Read 1940s Colorado: Teenage Victoria Nash is the only woman in a family of troubled men.

When she meets Wilson Moon, a young drifter with a mysterious past, on a street corner, their connection is immediate. And dangerous. Then tragedy strikes, and Victoria is forced to leave her home and face a decision that will change her life forever. I really enjoyed this book and it's not one I would have chosen to read myself

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

LOUMIN POTTERY

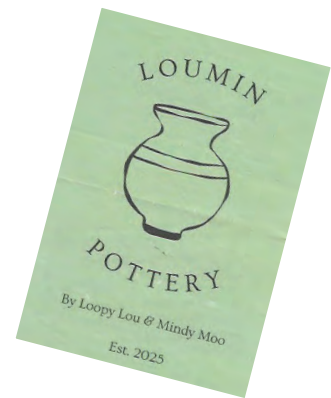


We are Lisa (Loupy Lou, the brunette) and Melinda (Mindy Moo, the blonde one) Best Friends, Sisters-in-law twice over.... Yes really) and the team behind Loumin Pottery Studio.

Our pottery journey began a few years ago as a bit of an escape from the everyday, we quickly discovered that working with clay is not only relaxing but surprisingly addictive as well as therapeutic and inspirational. What started as a hobby at a local studio has grown into a real passion and a fair amount of clay covered clothes too.

Over the years we've explored courses across the UK and for the past four years have been lucky enough to attend an incredible Raku course in Sorano, Tuscany, it's become a highlight of our year, full of inspiration, friendship and plenty of laughter all thanks to the wonderful Mara Funghi and our every growing Italian pottery family, one day we'd love to take our own students along to join in this experience too.

We are thrilled to bring everything we've learned back home and open a creative space in the heart of Toddington. Our studio is designed to be a calm, welcoming place where you can relax, unwind and explore your creativity through clay. You can immerse yourself in hand building or throwing on the wheel, or maybe both, and leave the stresses of the day behind. Whether you're a complete



beginner or an experienced maker our small classes will give you plenty of time and space to learn, experiment and make something uniquely yours.

Loumin Pottery is based at Conger Cottage Toddington, the cottage is an Iconic Grade II listed property overlooking the green which dates back to the 1750's.

The cottage was purchased back in August 2024 by Mindy and her husband Stuart, a leap of faith was taken by them both as the cottage had fallen onto hard times.



LOUMIN POTTERY



Having been empty for nearly two years and with no running water, functioning bathroom or heating certain jobs took priority, all of course on a budget.

A year on we still have a long way to go but the main focus of getting the bathroom and heating up and running have been completed, all carried out in the first six months. Stuart & Mindy both fell in love with the cottage at first sight, even in the state it was in, but Mindy had a certain twinkle in her eye as soon as she saw the barn at the bottom of the garden.

Once she was able to boil the kettle, bathe overlooking the church and warm her toes by the radiators she soon persuaded Stuart to turn his attentions to the first story of the barn, turning it from a spider haven into a wonderful space to create her pottery, a far cry from the studio at the bottom of her old garden that her and Lisa spent many an hour in.

We could talk about pottery all day (and often do) but we'd much rather invite you to come and try it for yourself so if you're curious, creative or just fancy getting your hands a bit muddy, watch out for our upcoming events.

We will be offering a mix of small group sessions, taster workshops and longer courses and we hope to collaborate with other local artists to introduce new crafts and creative experiences along the way.



Opening January 2026 but with our diary fully open for pre booking we look forward hearing from you to discuss how we can be creating with you, drinking tea and talking nonstop about pottery. You will find our full contact details in the advertisement section of this newsletter and we look forward to hearing from you all soon.

Warm Regards

Lisa and Melinda
Loumin Pottery

Chalgrave Church

Welcome to my first Toddington Magazine page as Rector of the benefice – it is a privilege to be here, back in the communities of my childhood and my life before ordination. Hopefully by the time you read this page Christine and I should be living in the Rectory, although you will probably find me encamped in the office at the Wilkinson Hall or out and about within the Parishes. My normal days of availability for “Parish duties” will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday with services on Sundays of course; but I will be as accommodating as possible for any pastoral or life event occasions that arise. My intention is to be as visible and available within the parishes as possible whilst remembering that I am still only part time.



After a busy October and November there is no slowing down with the seasons of Advent and Christmas approaching at speed - I have included a table of services and events for All Saints' Chalgrave for this period, to which all are welcome to join us.

On behalf of the PCC and congregation of All Saints I wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas.

Rev Ian

Contact details are not available at this point – I will publish as soon as can



Chalgrave Church Services and events

Day	Date	Service / Event	Time	Venue
Sun	30 th Nov	Parish Communion	09:30	Church
Weds	3 rd Dec	Advent Course	14:00	Memorial Hall
Sun	7 th Dec	Parish Communion	09:30	Church
Weds	10 th Dec	Pop-Up Tea Room Advent Course	11:00 14:00	Both at Memorial Hall
Sun	14 th Dec	Family Service	10:30	Church
Weds	17 th Dec	Advent Course	14:00	Memorial Hall
Sat	20 th Dec	Carols by Candlelight	19:00	Church
Sun	21 st Dec	Parish Communion	09:30	Church
Weds	24 th Dec	Crib Service Midnight Mass	14:30 23:15	Both at Church
Thurs	25 th Dec	Benefice Christmas Communion	10:00	St George's Toddington
Sun	28 th Dec	Family Communion	09:30	Church
Wed	28 th Jan	Pop-Up Tea Room	11:00	Memorial Hall
Wed	25 th Feb	Pop-Up Tea Room	11:00	Memorial Hall

Willow tree farm

For those of you that follow us on social media, you'll know Willow Tree Farm is fondly abbreviated to WTF. We've quickly recognised Winter Days contain more abbreviations than any other season. But - For the record, I have a strong, heart warming, connection with Winter.

The cold, short, days, lend themselves to slow living. Our log fires and the kitchen stove pump heat into our home. The smell of slow cooked casseroles, curries, soups and crumble & custard take up permanent residence in my nostrils, the dark afternoons give me license to hibernate on the sofa with a good book and jigsaws vie with board games and decks of cards for the prime spot at our kitchen table.

Outside, my movements are anything but slow. Feeding, watering and mucking out WTF's outdoor residents, happens at a pace. It often feels that as soon as our

Hens, Geese & Ducks, in feather village are let out for the day, I'm back, putting them to bed!

Our move out to Tebworth now means our brisk walks, enjoying the magic of the winter landscape, stretches well beyond Boxing Day. Ambling on our smallholding I can't help but notice that Autumn's leaf drop, has revealed the architecture of our trees. From their uniquely patterned bark through to their delicate, skeletal, branch formation, the raw beauty of the tallest residents at WTF is breath taking (in fairness, that could just be the freezing, cold, air...).

With the sparse eyes of Winter, plans for spring planting begins: Gaps in our hedgerows are noted; seed catalogues are leisurely perused and mulch is spread to preserve the integrity of our planted areas. Mulching with Woodchip goes on all year round, but during the winter months bark is also used to soak up some of the mud in heavy footfall areas. Wheelbarrowing mulch is a daily work out.

Awaken with yoga, in Selene -the-yurt, fills the top meadow with the scent of log



Willow tree farm

fires (with the exception of the Christmas break). Whilst welly clad yogi's battle the muddy trails across WTF, Gandalf-Goose shouts his warnings of stranger-danger to his ladies.

My Mood of Food, kitchen socials, (after a nut roast extravaganza in November) take a December break. However, January will see my seasonal, vegetarian, wholefood, cookery event return. Our smallholder experience days won't reappear till the Spring. Like a Grizzly bear I hibernate in the last two weeks of February. Cabin fever hits me every year and I start impatiently pacing, ready to begin some serious outdoorsing again.

Merry Christmas All
Sam at Willow Tree Farm



WILLOW TREE FARM



Reconnect. Move. Breathe. With weekly classes & one-off wellness events. Or 1 to 1's & private group practices.

Seasonal, Monthly, Wholefood Recipes. A kitchen social to discuss the food-mood connection.



Book your time of rest & rejuvenation here:
www.bookwhen.com/awakenwithyoga
awakenwithyoga
07530148685

Both held at:
Willow Tree Farm, The Lane
Tebworth, LU7 9QB

Grab a spot on my next event:
www.bookwhen.com/moodoffood
the_mood_of_food_from_wtf
07967590326

The Plough

Hi, we are Rosemary & Nikki, one of us was born in the 1950's and the other one was born in the 1970's and we are the proud owners of our Freehouse, The Plough, Wingfield along with another local, albeit, very different business, Heritage Funerals,

Yes..... you did read that right, we are Funeral Directors...

Whatever Next, Funeral Directors Buying A Pub?



Heritage Funerals Ltd was born in July 2018 over Sunday Lunch when a family discussion of could we run a Funeral Directors in the local area better than the already established Funeral Homes. Could we? Really?

The last 6 years have been, and continue to be, a privilege to serve our local community at what is normally a time of great sadness; however with our moto of 'Making a difficult time easier', we are proud of what we have and continue to offer to our families, and are determined to keep serving our families to the highest standards in a personal way, but we want to offer them more.

So have we done what we set out to do, be better than the already established funeral homes?

Answer: - You would have to ask the families we have served but one thing is for sure, we are certainly different.

Talking of different, whilst the other funeral directors open new branches we bought a pub!

So why buy a pub? and why in Wingfield? It's very simple really.....

We are delighted to be able to support the people of Wingfield and surrounding areas, by breathing life back into a stunning Grade II thatched picture postcard English country pub offering a local meeting place and putting The Plough back at the centre of community life.

But also..... With our Top Hat's on from the funeral side, we have been surprised to find that many of the families we serve have found it increasingly difficult to find a suitable venue to host family and friends locally at a reception / wake following a funeral service.

We know the struggle that faces pubs to make enough to survive and so many are falling by the wayside, but we believe that our plan to be open to the locals in the evenings and

The Plough

weekends supported by bringing wakes from our funerals to The Plough during the week in the daytime, we are confident that this stunning location will stand the test of time.

So what's happening now, when is The Plough going to open?

The Plough will only be selling drinks and snacks to start with and will have limited opening times until we get things going but we are confident with local support we will be able to grow quite quickly.

We are currently busy cleaning, dusting, polishing, painting and everything else you can imagine to get the place spic and span!

We are also in talks with drinks suppliers and breweries and with some strong negotiation and of course a little luck, we hope to have the beer following through new taps within the next few weeks.

The Plough Wingfield will have an 'open door policy' for everyone and will be a 'paw friendly' location!

As for when will we be open, we hope to bring the people of Wingfield an early Christmas present by getting the doors open before the festive period but the only way you will be guaranteed to know the exact date is to follow us on Facebook by scanning the QR code below or if you would prefer please feel free to email us at **ploughwingfield@gmail.com**.

In the short time we have been in Wingfield, we have been nothing short of humbled by the local interest in the Plough and the enthusiasm by local people to 'have the pub back' and the support from people has been quite simply amazing; all we can say is simply thank you, we certainly feel we have arrived in a friendly and welcoming community.

Oh and finally, as our friends will tell you, if we can't find what we want, we will find a way. With your support The Plough will, once again, become the centre of Wingfield life.

We hope to see and serve you soon.

Rosemary & Nikki



Chalgrave Sports Club



You may be familiar with our MAD programme – running or walking a ‘Mile a Day’ for a year. We started this activity in 2023 and some members who completed that year continued to do their mile every day hoping to complete MAD 1000. Doing a dedicated mile day no matter the weather, holidays, work, flu, hangovers, etc. running/walking a mile in airport terminals, on beaches, in car parks and other strange places. The elite group of Mile a Day finishers include Mike Jackson, Christina Lawrence, Tracey West, Frances Vosper and Richard Moore.

A more recent finisher is our Head of IT Stuff **Simon Gatward**. His finish line was at the Oddfellows pub in Toddington so unsurprisingly there was a group of us there to witness his triumph - and then go for a drink!

As I write this article in November, another committee member, **Kevin Hydes**, is due to finish his 1000. Hopefully it will be near a pub!



A special mention also goes to **Shelah Surgery**, who with just a week and a half remaining before completing her MAD 1000, went out for her mile walk, but tripped and fell just a short way into the walk. A broken wrist and a trip to A&E meant she sadly missed her mile that day having completed 990 of her 1000! Hopefully when she recovers she will continue her MAD 1000 journey.

We hope to honour both MAD 1000 and MAD 2025 finishers with a medal presentation at our annual club Dinner & Drinks evening at the Chequers in Westoning on February 7th.

Congratulations to Toddington based CSC member, **Roy Carey** who has just completed an incredible achievement – cycling from one end of France, St Malo, to the other end, Nice, in just 14 days. That’s a total of 877 miles, 55,909 ft of elevation, and over 28,000 calories burned. The ride finished with a particularly challenging climb up the legendary Mont Ventoux – a 6,273 ft high mountain that features in the Tour de France.

Our Monday night Yoga classes continue under the expert guidance of Rachel. You are welcome to join us at 7.00 in the Tebworth village hall. You will learn to cultivate strength, flexibility, and inner peace through a range of postures and breathing exercises.



Chalgrave Sports Club



Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced practitioner, these classes are suitable for everyone, regardless of age, gender, or ability. You do not need to book – the sessions are subsidised by the Club £6 for members and £9 for non-members.

On the first Saturday of the month join us for a Park Run at Houghton Hall at 8:30.

Finally, we are pleased to see the new net has been attached to the goalposts at the Village Hall.

Looking ahead, the best quiz of the year returns to Chalgrave Memorial Hall with the CSC Fun Quiz Night taking place on Saturday 25 April 2026. Tickets are on sale now via the Chalgrave Sports Club website or any of the Committee members.

Phil Parry, Simon Gatward

Seaside trip

The Chalgrave News is organising a coach trip to Southwold in June of next year (date to be confirmed).

It's a first for us and part of our plan to 'Celebrate Chalgrave' by putting back what we earn, from our various fundraising activities, into projects for the community (like the xmas tree lighting event at St Marys Close on 30th November).

The cost of the coach plus lunch will be a nominal £10 for senior citizens who are residents of Chalgrave. Other seats on the coach will be available to Chalgrave residents at around £20 a head (to be confirmed once we know how many of our senior residents will be joining us).

We anticipate this will be a popular event and likely to get booked up early so do let us know if you want to reserve tickets.

You can call or message Lisa Scanes on 07958 363942 lisascanes@live.com





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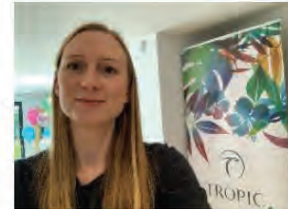
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Educational grants are available to every local child and young person through West's Educational Charity.

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.





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Understanding Dementia in Our Community

Dementia is something that touches many families, whether directly or through friends and neighbours. It is not a specific disease but an umbrella term for a group of conditions that affect the brain, including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and dementia with Lewy bodies. Symptoms may include memory loss, confusion, difficulty following conversations, and changes in mood or behaviour.

Although dementia mainly affects people over 65, it is not an inevitable part of ageing. Many older people never develop it, while some younger people do.

What is certain is that dementia can be frightening and challenging, not only for the person living with it, but also for their loved ones.

Living Well with Dementia

Receiving a diagnosis of dementia is difficult, but support is available to help people live well for as long as possible. Simple adjustments can make a big difference: Families and carers often need support too. Caring for someone with dementia can be exhausting, and it's important that carers know where to find help.

Routine and familiarity:

Keeping to regular routines helps reduce anxiety and confusion.

Clear communication:

Speaking slowly, using short sentences, and offering reassurance can help conversations flow.

A safe environment:

Removing trip hazards, using clear signs around the home, and ensuring good lighting all reduce risks.

Staying active:

Gentle exercise, gardening, or walking can improve mood and mobility.

Social connection:

Isolation makes dementia symptoms worse. Village activities, church groups and coffee mornings can be a lifeline.

How Communities Can Help

In small communities like ours, kindness and understanding can make a world of difference. Here are some simple ways we can support neighbours living with dementia:

Patience in conversation allowing extra time without finishing someone's sentences.

Inclusive activities encouraging attendance at social groups even if someone seems quieter or forgetful.

Understanding Dementia in Our Community

A watchful eye gently checking in if a neighbour seems confused or forgets familiar details.

Carer support offering to sit with someone for an hour, so a family carer can rest or run errands.

Creating a “**dementia-friendly community**” is about small acts of awareness and compassion. It helps ensure that everyone feels valued and included whatever challenges they face.

Support in the UK

There are many reliable organisations offering information, advice, and a listening ear:

Alzheimer’s Society – the UK’s leading dementia charity, offering a helpline, support groups, and practical resources: www.alzheimers.org.uk

Dementia UK – provides Admiral Nurses, who are specialist dementia nurses supporting families: www.dementiauk.org

Age UK – offers advice, befriending, and local services for older people and their carers: www.ageuk.org.uk

NHS Dementia Guide – clear medical advice and step-by-step guidance: www.nhs.uk/conditions/dementia

Tibbs Dementia Foundation – offer lots of different kinds of local support and meet ups: <https://tibbsdementia.co.uk/>

If you are worried about memory problems in yourself or someone close to you, the first step is to speak to a GP. They can rule out other causes and, if needed, arrange further tests.

Looking Ahead Research into dementia is ongoing, and while there is currently no cure, treatments and care strategies are improving all the time. Importantly, early diagnosis means people can access support sooner, plan ahead, and live more positively. If you or your family are affected, remember: you are not alone. Help is available, both locally and nationally, and there is always someone willing to listen. By working together as a caring village, we can make life brighter and more manageable for those living with dementia among us.

JANE'S Cranberry Christmas treats

These are very easy to make and a real treat for guests and family nibbles during the run up to Christmas.

- Large sheet of puff pastry into cut into squares.
- Generously coat your mini muffin pans with nonstick spray or use baking parchment cut into squares. Press the squares into each muffin cup. Use a fork to prick the bottom of the puff pastry in a couple places.



- Dice the Brie and add one piece to each muffin cup.
- Top the Brie with cranberry sauce either homemade or shop bought, sprinkle chopped pecans or nuts of your choice, egg wash around exposed pastry and sprinkle with some sea salt flakes.
- Place the muffin pans on top of baking sheets to catch any drips. Bake the Brie bites for 18 to 20 minutes at 190c or 180 c fan, until puffed and golden. Let cool in the pans for a few minutes. Transfer the bites to a serving plate, and garnish with fresh rosemary. Serve hot or at room temperature, and DIG IN!

Do I Need to Cut the Rind of Brie Before Baking? No, it is edible and barely noticeable once the Brie is baked. If you prefer to cut the rind off, you can cut it off and use only the inside, but I find it wastes a lot of cheese.

Cranberry sauce recipe:

1 x 340g pack of fresh cranberries, 200g caster sugar, 45mls cherry brandy & 75mls water. Put everything into pan & let it bubble away until the berries start to pop stirring every now and again with a wooden spoon. This will take about 10 minutes. Allow to cool before use and can be stored in a jar in the fridge.

Mary Berry's American Light Christmas Cake

A fun festive adaptation of this festive favourite.

To start: Pour a glass of sherry for the Cook. Turn on soothing music. No need to stand if weary, just sit at table for preparation.

Set Oven to 170 C to pre-heat.

350g(12 oz) glace cherries
1*200g(7oz) can of pineapple in natural juice
350g(12oz) no-soak dried apricots
100g(4oz) whole almonds
Finely grated rind of two un-waxed lemons
350g(12oz) sultanas
250g(9oz) self raising flour
250g(9oz) caster sugar
250g(9oz) soft baking margarine
75g(3oz) ground almonds
5 eggs
To decorate: put aside at start-
Whole almonds (small handful)
Glace cherries (say 12 halves)
100g(4oz) icing sugar, sifted. (optional) to finish

1. The above makes quite a lot of cake mix!

Grease a 23 cm (9in) DEEP round cake tin and line base and sides with greased greaseproof paper.

This will make two smaller cakes from above quantities so that we can eat one and store one for next time we get the yearn!

Freezes beautifully and may taste even nicer after freezing.



2. Cut cherries into quarters. This can be fiddly so I just get the scissors and chomp them any which way to get bits. Only neat ones are for decoration as above. Rinse and drain well (or do not bother!).

3. Drain and roughly chop the pineapple. (Juice is nice to drink and if you like Vodka then add a shot with some ice and lemon juice and enjoy!)

4. Dry the pineapple (and if you have washed the cherries) with paper towel or clean dishtowel.

5. Snip apricots into pieces with scissors.

6. Blanche almonds on hot water and remove skins and roughly chop. (Or cheat by getting pre-shelled ones already chopped up a bit).

7. Put sultanas and chomped up fruit and nuts into a large mixing bowl.

8. Add grated lemon rind.

9. Put your right leg in and shake it all about.

10. Time for another sherry?

11. Add remaining ingredients a. Eggs b. Flour c. Caster sugar d. Margarine e. Ground almonds

12. Beat well to mix thoroughly for a few minutes to get a nice well mixed paste.

13. Decant into Baking Tin.

To Bake. One hour at 170 C (makes it nice and brown on top) (set the timer) Then 2 ½ hours at 150 C Set the timer for last two hours and check with testing pin if you like so that it does not get too dry! You are a perfectionist after all!

Another sherry to fortify you for big clean-up! All done cleaning? You need a final sherry then a snooze in front of the telly, keeping one ear alert for the timer!

This cake can be enjoyed at all times of the year!

Chalgrave Footpaths

TO WALK OR NOT TO WALK;- That is the question!

We read every day about how walking can increase our lifespan and even delay oncoming Alzheimer's!

The **good news** is that we have many miles of footpaths in Chalgrave.

The **bad news** is that Central Beds, despite insisting farmers take their responsibility, they have not taken theirs and have spent nothing on maintaining the paths in our parish since they appointed a new sole contractor [M group previously Milestone] some many months ago. There is one major bridge on FP3 to the Woburn Rd. that was washed away in last year's storm and despite many requests from the PC that footpath is still closed and there is still no news on when that will be replaced.

The **really good news** is that our ROW officer Lindsay Measures has managed to get a group of volunteers, the Ripple group, to get involved in our Parish to take on some of the tasks that are Central Beds responsibility.

Our grateful thanks go to them and their leader Paul Gransby who have already repaired some impassably poor bridges, cleared verges and undergrowth and have an objective of doing their very best to make all paths open and accessible to walkers.

This is reminiscent of 1994 when the footpaths were in a dreadful state a group of us, Michael Kingham, Malcolm Skevington, Ian Lothian and myself got together to make them fully accessible and in 1997 we produced, via the Parish Council, the ROW map.

We would love to encourage more volunteers within the parish because our footpath group is quite small and personally I find I don't have the energy to do much hands-on work [I wonder why that is?] If there are any volunteers or if anyone wants a map, please contact me.



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Festive Pastimes

Natural Foliage for Wreath Making:

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Wreath making is one of the most charming ways to bring the beauty of the garden and countryside into your home. The UK's natural landscape offers an abundance of foliage that is not only beautiful but fragrant too. So, whether you're crafting a traditional Christmas wreath or a table decoration, there's plenty of native and locally available greenery to choose from.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Perhaps the most iconic British foliage, holly has been used for centuries in winter decorations. Its glossy, deep-green leaves and bright red berries add instant festive cheer. Holly is hardy, holds its shape well, and keeps fresh for weeks, making it ideal for winter wreaths. When foraging, choose stems with strong structure and take care to leave plenty for wildlife.

Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

A classic for wreath bases and trailing accents, ivy is both versatile and abundant. Its different leaf sizes and variegated varieties allow for lovely visual layering. Ivy drapes beautifully around a wreath frame, softening edges and adding natural movement. It also stays fresh for a long time, even indoors.

Eucalyptus

Although not native, eucalyptus is widely grown in UK gardens and sold in florists. Its silvery-blue tones add a modern, calming feel to wreaths. The leaves release a fresh fragrance that works well in winter or bathroom-friendly wreaths. Eucalyptus varieties such as *gunnii* or *parvifolia* hold colour well when dried.

Pine and Spruce

Conifer foliage forms the backbone of many winter wreaths. Species such as Scots pine, spruce, and fir offer dense greenery with fine needles that add structure and longevity. The scent is quintessentially seasonal, and the branches provide excellent coverage. Pine cones can be added as natural embellishments.



Festive Pastimes

Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)

Bay leaves bring a Mediterranean touch but grow well in sheltered gardens. Their rich green colour and smooth, aromatic leaves create an elegant, tidy wreath. Bay foliage dries nicely, keeping its shape for months, and can even be reused in the kitchen if kept clean and untreated.

Rosemary

Another aromatic favourite, rosemary provides lovely texture with its fine leaves and woody stems. It's perfect for smaller wreaths or herb-themed decorations. Its scent is soothing, and the foliage dries gracefully, making it suitable for year-round wreath making.

Yew and Juniper

These evergreen conifers offer darker tones for a more dramatic look. Yew has soft needles and a deep green shade, while juniper adds small blue-tinged berries that give beautiful contrast. Both are long-lasting and ideal for outdoor wreaths.

Willow and Dogwood Stems

For natural wreath bases, UK-grown willow and dogwood are excellent choices. Their flexible stems can be woven into rings, providing a rustic, fully biodegradable frame. Dogwood also brings vibrant red or yellow stems that can be showcased on their own.

Ferns and Seed Heads

Dry bracken, hart's-tongue fern, teasels, honesty, and cow parsley seed heads add airy texture to autumn and winter wreaths. Their muted colours and interesting silhouettes complement evergreens perfectly.

With such a wealth of foliage available, wreath making is a lovely way to celebrate the shifting seasons while using sustainable, locally sourced materials. So, why not give it a go?



Teddies on show



Saturday 8 November was the day for all the teddies from Chalgrave News Teddy Bear Orphanage to come out looking for new homes. Taking pride of place on a table at the All Saints Church Chalgrave Christmas Fayre held in the Memorial Hall we are pleased to say that the majority of the bears found new homes and were snapped up and snuggled into the arms of their new owners and taken home to be loved once more.

Together with some wonderful potted Tree Aeonium in beautiful terracotta pots that had kindly been donated by John Wojdyla for us to sell we had a lovely day and managed to raise enough funds to purchase the much needed new lights for the Christmas Tree Lighting event held in St Mary's Close Tebworth on Sunday 30 November, a fabulous result and a fantastic time was had by all.

The Chalgrave News Team

Auntie Agnes

Hello again dear fans.

Well once again I find myself being blamed for something that is not my fault!

I don't know how many times I have asked you, my dear readers, to double check your letters to me for spelling mistakes, but this keeps happening.

Another example is in a letter sent to me by Miss X who told me that she would shortly be marrying a Mr Fronts , who I will call Mr Y in order not to identify him.

Miss X said that she is having a problem accepting Mr Y's Stetson and this is starting to cause a rift between them, and how can she resolve this difficult problem.

I must admit that I did not know why this cowboy hat could cause any problems to Miss X but as she was obviously quite upset and did not want to lose multi-millionaire Mr Y, I set out trying to help.

The problem with the Stetson was apparently that Mr Y paid more attention to it than he did to Miss X which I found very strange and not the foundation of a long and lasting marriage.

Mr Y insisted on having his Stetson with him wherever they went and whatever they were doing.

My advice was to suggest to Mr Y that he kept his Stetson in a cupboard at night so that Mr Y could give his full concentration to Miss X during this time.

I now find myself summoned to court together with Miss X and Mr Y on charges of child cruelty.

Miss X, if you had told me that the problem was with Mr Y's stepson and not his Stetson we would not be in this unfortunate position and Mr Y would not be counter suing you.

Let this be a lesson to all those of you who write to me to please, please check your spelling before sending correspondence to me.

Until next time dear readers.

Aunty Agnes



Chalgrave Memorial Hall

Rates may increase without notice. Existing bookings will be honoured.

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Friday, Sat., Sunday 6pm to midnight*	£25	£40	£50

*Hall must be locked and vacated by this time unless agreed by special arrangement.

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Phil Parry 07831 605600 Paul Whitton 07808 174843

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Council			www.chalgrave.org
Clerk	Lesley Smith	874716	clerk@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Chairman	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil.parry@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Councillors	Ken Green	874107	Ken.green@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Peter Warburton	874036	peter.warburton@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Kevin Ludgate	07768 606968	kevin.ludgate@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
	Harvey Greenwood	07932 326274	Harvey.greenwood@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
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	Vicky Hydes	07817 593784	lcky.hydes@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Council	Central Beds	03003 008000	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Ward Cllr	Mark Versallion	03003 008555	Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
MP	Alex Mayer	015253013901	Alex.mayer.mp@parliament.uk
Memorial Hall Bookings	Jane Spiers	07803 378548	chalgravememorialhall1@gmail.com
Senior Citizens	Roger Fenwick	873768	
Speedwatch	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil.parry@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk
Rector	<i>To be advised</i>		
Warden	S. Russell	07796 66174	
West Charity	Clerk Lesley Smith	874716	
Schools			
Lower	St Georges	872360	office@toddstg.co.uk
Middle	Parkfields	872555	schooladmin@parkfield.cbeds.co.uk
Upper	Harlington	755100	enquiries@harlington.org
Doctor	Medical Centre	872222	www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk/
Library	Toddington	03003 008069	
Police		101	
Helping Hands		07882 988270	
Clubs			
Rotary Club	Chris Osborn	873920	
Sports Club	Phil Parry	07831 605600	www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk
Tennis Club	Roger Fenwick	07814 598309	
Chalgrave WI	Debbie Parry	07770 543797	Debbie.helen.parry@outlook.com
Brownies/Guides	Dee Curtis	872649	
Rainbows	Dee Curtis	872649	
Cubs /Scouts	Karen Calder	873065	

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