

CHALGRAVE NEWS



Publication No.15 2006-1

Chalgrave Social Diary

- Parish Council meet Village Hall 7.30pm, last Tues of the month
- Plough Inn - Quiz nights every other Tuesday 9.00pm
- Queens Head - Live entertainment every Friday 7.30pm
- Karate - starting Mondays Village Hall after Christmas
- Book Club meetings - weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- Queens Head - Darts Weds, Dominos Tues & Thurs evenings
- Cricket/Sports Club AGM - 12th April at The Plough
- Karate classes - Mondays 7pm at Village Hall
- B-B-Q and Summer Solstice party 17th June, at Village Hall
- Beginners Line Dancing started at Village Hall 23rd March, 7.00pm.
- Parish Council AGM - 30th May, 7.30pm
- Parish Council Assembly - 25th April, 8.00pm at Village Hall
- Village Games - Sunday 16th July at Village Hall
- Rogation Day - Sunday 21st May, meet outside the Queens Head
- Memorial Hall AGM - 7th June at the Hall

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY EVENTS IN THE PARISH PLEASE LET US KNOW FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SOCIAL DIARY

If you would like to subscribe to this magazine please send a cheque for £15.00 (4 issues) made payable to "The Chalgrave News" together with your name and UK address to L Lothian, 30 The Lane, Tebworth, Beds, LU7 9QB.

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Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Chalgrave News. The first one in the Chinese year of the dog. Spring has finally sprung and the daffodils are out, the days are getting longer, summer hols are not far away, and hopefully most of us will by now have recovered from the excesses of the Christmas period.



We at the News hope you will enjoy this edition, lots of fun and nonsense inside together with reminders of dates for your diaries.

Unfortunately, we did not receive one correct answer to the 'Find the Welly' competition in the last edition so the prize will be carried over.

A bit partial to tasting good nosh one of the team has taken on the onerous! task of visiting a few restaurants in the area. The aim - to keep us all informed about where to eat out and what to expect. We have the first review - if you know of any places worth a visit please let us know.

Please use our advertisers as much as possible and always mention the News when using them as this is our main source of income. We do of course still welcome individual sponsors so if you are feeling generous just contact any member of the News team.

On the subject of fund raising, one of our illustrious team is contemplating a



sponsored parachute jump in June on behalf of the Chalgrave News. Sponsors will be welcomed with open arms!

Finally and on a more sombre note, we are sure you will join us in wishing Tom Home of Wingfield a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

What's happened in Chalgrave since the Last Chalgrave News

Early February a car in The Lane was broken into and the satellite navigation unit was stolen. The police say that this is the new 'must have' for thieves and advise that you should take the units out of the car with you. Even leaving any evidence such as the holder or even the tell tale sucker marks on the windscreen is asking for thieves to break the glass and search the glovebox etc.

UFO sighting - see article page 18

An attempt to fill the pot holes in the roads through the village is surely as a result of Beds Highways Customer Service Team's 24 hour target scheme. Call them on 01234 228661 and they guarantee to fill any deep potholes by lunchtime the next day.

If at first you don't succeed..... try, try again. The words of the old proverb have never been more applicable than to describe the dogged persistence shown by Mike Stringer in trying to pass his driving test. It is not known how many times he tried and failed but his determination finally paid off and he is now hurtling around the green pastures of Tebworth quite legally. Well done Mike!!!

Towards the end of January this year was a very cold snap of weather. One of the last things anyone would

expect to see was the grass verges around the outskirts of the parish being cut, but there he was, complete with tractor and grass cutter merrily trimming the verges!

Why?

What possible reason could there be for the verges needing cutting at that time of the year? The grass still had 3 months to go before it started growing again, it was still short from the last cut of last year and no weeds or self-setting trees etc. could possibly have started growing yet!

Every year we hear our councils telling us that yet more rises in council tax are needed to cover essential services. Every year the rise in council tax is well above inflation. Every year many people, such as pensioners, who are on fixed incomes struggle that little bit more to pay their council tax by reducing their spending on other items such as food or heat for their homes.

We are sure that they and the rest of Chalgrave Parish will be extremely grateful to the powers that be who authorised this total waste of our council tax monies!

Burglars struck again last month in StMary's Close, faking their identity and trying to pass off as a meter reader. Money was stolen and confidence shaken.

Watch out for these people and don't let them in without first checking their identity.

Be safe! If in doubt keep them out!

COUNCIL TAX BOMBSHELL

A document that has been leaked from County Hall is raising fears of a two tier tax system throughout South Bedfordshire. We at the Chalgrave News are obviously more concerned with the details of the report as it mentions Chalgrave.

The reason for this two tier system is because many people in Tebworth and Wingfield have, over the years written to complain about the amount of traffic passing through the villages and specifically the big articulated lorries. The main complaint has been the damage done to the road surfaces and vibration damage to properties alongside the road. The Council admit that there is little that can be done until the bypass extension is completed which will mean a delay of some four years (providing the bypass goes ahead). It has therefore drawn up a series of proposals that will hopefully alleviate the problem in the interim period.

One suggestion in the document is that those people living on the through

roads will pay less Council Tax than those who live in cul-de-sacs or dead end roads.

The report goes on to say that the residents of the through road from Toddington to the A5 at Hockliffe and from Tebworth to the junction of Tebworth Road and the A5120 in Wingfield, an area referred to in the report as Upper Tebworth should receive "substantially less increase in Council Tax" than those living in a non through road such as The Lane in Tebworth referred to in the report as Lower Tebworth.

Whilst the Editorial Team has yet to confirm this report we felt it was an important enough issue to include in this issue of The Chalgrave News.

We hope to receive some sort of response about this most serious of issues from the Parish Council, the local County Councillor, and also from you the parishioners ,after all you are the ones who will be most affected, all correspondence will of course be included in our next issue.



Apparently, one in five people in the world are Chinese.

And there are 5 people in my family, so it must be one of them.

It's either my mum or my dad or my older brother Colin or my younger brother Ho-Cha-Chu.

But I think it's Colin.

Restaurant Review

There are some people in the parish who feel that they live in a culinary desert, this is not so, whilst there may not be many Savoy Grills or Mucky Duck type places to eat, there are quite a lot of restaurants, pubs that do food to a good standard and Bistro type bars.

One Pub/Restaurant that springs to mind is the Fancott down by Chalgrave Manor; there you will find a good clean pub that has a really good restaurant and a friendly welcome.

We went there on a Sunday lunchtime and although I didn't book until about 11.00 that morning they managed to fit me in, (although they asked if I could vacate the table by 4.00pm as it was fully booked) we were greeted with a smile by a young lady and shown to our seats, she then introduced me to my waitress who also smiled and was then told of the day's specials.

After perusing the menu which was not one of those massive lists that takes twenty minutes to read I chose the Steak and Kidney Pie, my wife chose the Roast Lamb Sunday Lunch and our guests all had the Roast Beef Sunday Lunch. I can honestly say that my wife is not the easiest lady to please where food is concerned and neither are her relatives (our guests) but they all agreed that it was a super meal, the meat was lean and with plenty of unmistakably fresh vegetables there was more than enough to eat and despite the fact that the restaurant was packed the meal was served piping hot and with another smile.

The dessert menu was equally extensive and mouth watering but having gorged myself on the delicious homemade Steak and Kidney Pie I declined.

The whole meal for 6 people came to £68 and some pence which included drinks and considering the portions was very good value for money.

In the summer months there is a large garden with a play area and a miniature railway that takes the kids (and some adults) round a circuit for a small fee.

Frosty morning in Tebworth 2006



At Your Convenience

For some time now Chalgrave Parish Council has been at the forefront of the movement to keep our footpaths and countryside free from any form of excrement, particularly from dogs, (erection of letter box style doggy poo collection points etc). Recently they have gone to extreme lengths to ensure that the ruling issued from Brussels concerning human waste is adhered to. This edict (EU 1573/44HS) states that there has to be a public convenience in a residential area within easy reach of all residents and travellers, providing that the population of that area is 500 people or more (Chalgrave has a population of 614).

After exhaustive research The Parish Council has decided to commission not

one, but two public toilets as close to the centres of the Parish as is prudently possible. The area known as The Golden Triangle, which is situated near the top of The Lane just where it divides has been earmarked as the best pissable site. The other suitable situation is in Wingfield on the corner of Hill Close, just by the Wingfield sign. We have been reliably informed that it will not be an all singing all dancing type of modern toilet but something more traditional, probably just a couple of planks strategically placed. There will of course be a consultative period and any parishioner wishing to express an opinion can either attend the next Parish Council meeting or write to The Parish Councillor in charge of toilet erection. Please post all correspondence in the Village Hall letterbox or tel. 873012.

THE 2006 BEST KEPT FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

What a success last year's competition was. As friendly rivalry spilled over into competitive zeal, the sounds of mowing and clipping could be heard into the night as the parish prepared for judgement day (in gardening terms that is!)

There's nothing like a well kept, colourful front garden to enhance the appearance of your home, whether large or small, and nothing as welcoming as an attractive display of flowers in full bloom to greet you as you come in from a hard day at the office, or shops, or school.

Then there's the perfume of the blooms. Often at their best in the early evening, many flowers give off a heady aroma that inspires the senses and lifts the spirit.

And, of course, everyone knows that gardening is therapy. Just making things grow produces its own reward and a sense of continuity and meaning in a sometimes frantic and fast changing world. The flowers are always there.

Poplars Nursery have very kindly agreed to sponsor our competition for a second year. So, get to work, you gardeners of the parish and let's produce the best and most colourful front gardens Chalgrave has ever seen!!! Not forgetting the tubs and window boxes of course.

Oh, by the way, the enclosed sunflower seeds are for a little side bet, a special section, for the tallest sunflower. Put it where it can be seen and it will be automatically judged with the best kept front garden competition.

Happy growing !!!!!



40000 Houses

Despite the efforts of the undercover reporters on the Chalgrave News Editorial Team we have not been able to establish too much additional information on John Prescott's (the Deputy Prime Minister) command to rid the South of England of its countryside and replace it with millions of new homes.

His department's instruction to build 40000 of these new homes on the outskirts of Houghton Regis still stands, and the proposed Northern route of the Dunstable bypass will provide the land for the first tranche of 17,000 homes.

What has come to light is that many of the new homes built will be for social housing as there is a large and still growing housing list for both Luton and Dunstable. We understand Luton has around 20000 people on its housing list at present.

South Beds District Council favour the Northern route for the new bypass as they say this will establish a housing boundary and stop further spread of house building.

Toddington Council also favour the Northern route for the same reason.

However we know from an investigation conducted last year by the Evening Standard newspaper that the plans for the rest of these new homes show that much more green belt land will be built on, and eventually these new houses will spread between Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard and Chalgrave Parish will find itself surrounded by housing estates.

Apart from all the obvious difficulties that will have to be overcome with Mr Prescott's new building program across the South East of England green belt, such as creation of new jobs, roads etc. another and possibly far more worrying long term effect will have to be tackled. That is with the supply of water to all these new homes. Already this year some areas of the South East are facing hosepipe bans and compulsory installation of water meters because the water companies cannot supply their existing customers and on past experience will have no chance of increasing water supplies to cope with over 2 million of new homes.

Incredible as it sounds, according to a recent national radio report, the water companies have no say whatsoever in this matter and merely have to do as the Government instructs to ensure that every new home built is supplied with water and sewage services!

How is this going to be achieved? Perhaps Mr Prescott can give us the answer, as it appears the water companies do not know!

In 2004 the Chalgrave News wrote to many of our representatives and councils to try to establish the facts regarding this huge redevelopment of our landscape but we still await any response from South Beds District Council, Rhys Goodwin our Country Councillor or Norman Costin our District Councillor.

We will continue to report on this very important subject in future issues of the Chalgrave News.

Friends or Foes

Mention the word 'Cull' and there is an immediate uproar. Yet unbeknown to most people last year 22,000 beef and dairy cattle were destroyed in the UK as a direct result of Bovine Tuberculosis at the tax payers' expense of £90,500,000. The carrier is the Badger who supposedly transmits the disease.

I, for one, have my doubts as to whether the badger is the sole source of the disease and even scientists are still not convinced that this is the case. Some conservationists feel that a cull could in fact make matters worse.

The Department For Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA.) headed by Margaret Beckett MP, in their infinite wisdom has called for a cull. This is perhaps to appease the farmers after the disastrous way in which BSE and Foot and Mouth was handled.

There is no doubt that the badger population has increased over the last 20 years and despite the fact that they are nocturnal creatures and are rarely seen, more are killed on our roads than foxes. They are our largest carnivore.

Although worms are their main diet they will also feed on carrion and road kills and are also quite capable of taking chickens, ducks and weak livestock.

Ground nesting birds and their young are also frequently taken. Most of our wild bees' nests are destroyed by the badger, which also attributes to the wild bees serious decline.

The Government has also called for a cull on the Grey Squirrel, which now out numbers our native Red Squirrel by 66-1. This alien species was introduced into this country (mostly in Woburn) in the 19th century without much thought to the consequences of either the wildlife or our own species and has spread throughout the United Kingdom (with the exception of the far north of Scotland) where it competes with the Red Squirrel. The Grey also carries a disease, which is fatal to the Red and, unlike our native Red it is also a carnivore and will take birds eggs and fledgling from their nest. It has now become a major forestry and agricultural pest.

Who knows, perhaps the mink will be next as they too play havoc with our natural wildlife.

The Chalgrave Mole

M1 Widening Plans

A word of warning for anyone who uses the M1 to travel south.

For the next 3 years a 40 mph speed limit will be in place between junctions 10 & 6a while the road widening takes place.

Instead of traditional speed cameras being used to enforce the new speed limit the Highways Agency will be installing average speed cameras.

These will time individual vehicles travelling between these junctions, north and south, and issue penalties to any vehicles that are found to have completed the journey in a faster average speed than 40mph.

You have been warned!!

It has also been announced that the new 4th lane once open will only be available to those vehicles travelling the motorway carrying more than one person.

Cathy & Bernie Muspratt

Congratulations to Bernie and Cathy Muspratt of Parkview Lane Tebworth on their wedding which took place on 3rd September 2005.

On what must have been one of the best days of weather of the year Cathy was taken to Chalgrave Church in an open horse drawn carriage and their reception was held at Chalgrave Memorial Hall later that afternoon followed by an evening open air party for guests and other friends at their home.

We wish them well for the future.



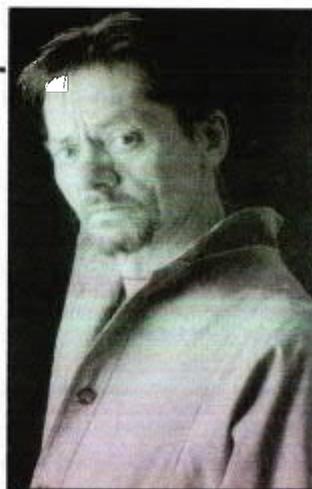


Sunset over Fancott with Chalgrave on the horizon - picture submitted by S.Elwes

Jack Wild

If you have been watching the television and reading the National Papers most of you must know about the sad death of the parish's most famous resident, Jack Wild. Jack was certainly most famous for his role as the Artful Dodger in the 1968 version of Oliver, for which he was nominated for an Oscar, but he also had success in the children's T.V.series H R Pufnstuf and other T.V. and film roles.

Jack and his wife Claire had moved to Tebworth from Toddington and had yet to become fully integrated in village life. They were gradually becoming known to the villagers and I am sure that they would have become major supporters of all parish activities but for the unfortunate and untimely death of Jack. All those who know Claire as well as those of us yet to meet her, offer our sincere condolences and hope to see her participating fully in our village life as soon as she feels able.



WHAT'S IN YER DRAWERS...by Florry Bunda

Hello once more dear readers. Our collective rummage through the drawers of the parish has revealed an interesting piece taken from the 'Dunstable Methodist Circuit' 1843-1993 and concerns the Wingfield Chapel which has long since disappeared.

With thanks to Barbara and Michael Kingham for coming up with the info...



The Wingfield Chapel was built in 1854.

It was a low wooden building covered with corrugated iron. With a roof of the same material. If there was heavy rain or hail, it was a job to hear the preacher. It was approached up three steps and a short path and the entrance door had a canopy over it.

There was also a draught screen inside. Seating accommodation was 50 consisting of simple benches with a rail for back support. In the early days, it is thought, there were four pews and the remainder benches.

Coconut matting covered the floor. Heating was provided by a Tortoise coke stove and lighting by oil lamps. At the far end was a low platform on which stood a lecturn, a chair and a harmonium.

Although the membership, which fluctuated, never seemed to be more than seven, as with many chapels, this does not give a real idea of numbers attending. The last services were held in 1937 when membership was down to five.

The chapel was requisitioned during the War by Luton Rural District Council as a store for army purposes.

The little wooden building was sold in 1947 to a Tebworth farmer. Not long afterwards, it was pulled down.



Please keep this date
free!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SATURDAY 17th JUNE
(England are NOT playing)

An informal

**Summer Solstice Party,
Music and Bar-B-Que**
at the Memorial Hall

All welcome

Tickets cheap

Bar provided



You may even be surprised by
LIVE entertainment

More information soon

If you can help with the arrangements
please contact Elizabeth on 872403



To counter rising gas prices,
Cocoon your home!

Energy suppliers have warned that home energy bills will rise by as much as 25% in the first half of 2006 as a result of the rising wholesale price of gas. Despite such increases, concerned homeowners may find that they can still counteract rising prices by making their homes more energy efficient. Making a few simple improvements to your home can save you up to £250 on your bills*.

Insulating your hot water tank and pipes, draught proofing gaps around doors and windows and applying low cost secondary double-glazing are all good ways to keep heat in. "Loft and cavity wall insulation can make a huge difference," says Gary Cowell, Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Energy Agency. "Around 40% of the heat you pay for could be escaping through uninsulated lofts and walls. This makes loft and cavity wall insulation two of the most cost effective ways to prevent heat loss and reduce the amount of fuel needed to keep your home warm." According to recent research, around two thirds (62%) of householders in the East of England are plagued by icy draughts, condensation problems, hot water shortages and high heating bills in winter. All these problems are greatly reduced by fully insulating your home, including topping up loft insulation to the recommended depth of 11 inches.

The good news is that a new freephone service is now available to help householders find the best grants and discounts to insulate their home. Called **Cocoon**, the 0800 freephone service works by identifying the best value scheme or combination of grants or discounts for each householder's particular circumstances, saving callers time and expense.

Discounts are currently available to ALL homeowners and private tenants for loft and cavity wall insulation under the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) scheme operated by all the main fuel suppliers. Residents in receipt of certain benefits can also apply for a grant to cover the full cost of the work.

*To find out how you can "Cocoon Your Home", call the help line free on
0800 80 48 777 or visit **www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk**

Cocoon is managed by Milton Keynes Energy Agency, the independent, not-for-profit company responsible for your local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.

For more detailed advice on energy saving in the home, contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm.

Hockliffe Double Murder Trial

Mid January saw the outcome of the trial at Luton Crown Court of the murders of 79-year-old Iris Jones and 34-year-old Mandy Joseph both of Watling Street Hockliffe.

Anita Mansfield aged 36 was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 30 years and Michael Millcroft aged 46 life imprisonment with a minimum term of 25 years.

They had both accused a 15-year-old boy of the murders but he was found not guilty.

Michael Millcroft -- who had been fostered by Mrs Jones since a 10-day-old baby -- used a shotgun to commit both murders while Anita Mansfield and her three young daughters waited outside in their car.

Police said ' Mansfield was the driving force. In 30 years as a police officer, I have never come across anybody quite as evil. Her husband (Michael Millcroft) is a man of low intelligence who she used to her advantage'.

The reason for this terrible crime was, incredibly, to collect £800,000 life assurance that they had fraudulently taken out a short time earlier on the life of Mandy Joseph in order that they could purchase a £750,000 seven bed roomed luxury country house with a swimming pool in Barsham, Suffolk, despite having no other assets of their own!

The court also heard that Michael Millcroft was a benefits cheat who had already burnt down his council house in order to claim £20,000 in insurance.

Neither defendant showed any emotion as Mr Justice Wilkie handed down the life sentences.

Our condolences go out to Mrs Jones' son Brian and other members of the family.

I wonder if these evil people would have planned and carried out this crime had the death penalty still be in force in this country?

President Bush is rehearsing his speech for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

He begins his remarks with "Ooo! Ooo! Ooo! Ooo! Ooo!"

Immediately his speech writer rushes over to the lectern and
whispers in the President's ear:

"Mr President, those are the Olympic rings. Your speech is underneath."

Chalgrave Church



Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

Services and special events at All Saints before and after Christmas.

Usual Sunday Services.

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month – 9.30am Parish Communion

2nd Sunday – Family Service 11am (For people of all ages lasting about 35mins)

4th Sunday – Family Communion 11am

Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching.

There will be a Family Service with **blessing of Palms** on 9 April at 11am.

There will also be short devotional times of prayer on Monday 10 and Wednesday 12 at 7.30pm in the Church. On **Good Friday** there is a service with those great hymns of the season at 10am and on **Easter Day** the Parish communion is at 9.30am.

For details of services generally in the benefice, please see other publications.

Easter is a time when the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. It is a time of new life, a time of joy. Everyone is of course most welcome to the services and may I wish you all in advance a very happy Easter.

Nick McNeil - Rector

The Big Willow Search

Come and join us to try and find the largest willows in Bedfordshire.

The Ivel & Ouse Countryside Project are on a mission to try and find the largest willows in Bedfordshire. A mature willow is on a par with the oak, in supporting the most animals in the British countryside.

As they are such an important habitat, we are looking for volunteers to help us try and map the enormous willows in Bedfordshire. The willows that we are looking for are greater than 1 metre in diameter. We need to know where the veteran willows are so we can manage them to help them survive longer and continue to support all the wildlife that depend on the trees.

If you enjoy walking, even short distances and would like to help with the search or know the location of any large willows please contact Carrie-Anne Rowley on 01767 626454 or e-mail carrie-anner@bedsrcc.org.uk. Any help or information you can give would be greatly appreciated.

Dunstable Northern Bypass A5-M1

Towards the end of 2005 several public meetings were held around the South Beds area, and a questionnaire sent to all homes giving everyone the opportunity to express their views on the new bypass proposals.

The results of the Public Consultation Report have now been published.

The Highways Agency proposals are to build a new two-lane dual carriageway from the A5 to a new junction of the M1 south of Chalton. One of the main reasons for this new M1 link road given in the report is to relieve traffic congestion in Dunstable identified as motorway traffic driving south from Milton Keynes towards the M1 junction 9 at Flamstead.

Two options for the route of the new link road were proposed. A Southern route (2.7 miles) south of the existing Thorn Road and a more expensive Northern route (3.6 miles) which brings the new road to very near the boundary of our parish.

The main points made in the Public Consultation document are that 91% of the 958 completed questionnaires returned agreed that existing traffic through Dunstable needs an alternative route. 60% stated that they did not want to see the existing Thorn Road closed once the new link road was open.

43% chose the Northern route against 37% who preferred the Southern route while the remaining 20% had no

preference.

Chalgrave Parish Council preference is for the Southern route.

The Chalgrave News editorial team have already established from previous investigations that the Government departments involved want to see the Northern route built.

The South Beds District Council see this as the only way in which they will find the land available to build the many thousands of new homes – a mixture of private and social housing needed – and intend using the new link road as the development boundary.

The Highways Agency prefer to build on the Northern route as they say that the Southern route crosses a flood plain and will cause them additional construction problems.

There has been much talk about the additional cost of constructing the longer and more expensive Northern route but the Chalgrave News has learnt from contacts that cost is not going to be an issue as it is intended that the road building costs are going to be met by the property developers and not by us the tax payers.

If anyone would like to see the Public Consultation report it is at present available on the Highways Agency website at www.highways.gov.uk

We will keep everyone updated with link road news and information throughout 2006.

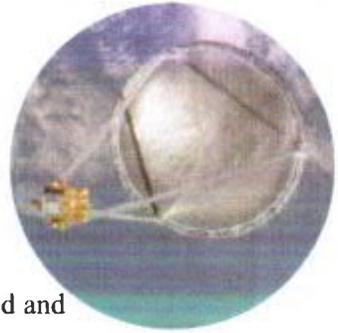
UFO's Over Wingfield!!!

Time – Morning

Date – Mid January 2006

Weather – Cold and very windy

Sightings of an unidentified flying object descending on Wingfield were quickly reported to the Chalgrave UFO Recovery Society who leaped into well rehearsed and quite unsuccessful action stations.



The Societies 'Special Recovery Team' immediately attended the site and made efforts to make contact with the UFO, which was hovering above the Tebworth Road having caught it's docking line in nearby trees.

Despite the Recovery Team's (consisting of 1 man 2 ladies and a dog) best efforts contact with the UFO could not be established and so after an hour or so they left it still hovering above the Tebworth Road and disbanded for lunch.

Later that day the UFO was seen landed in the garden of a nearby farm!

We are still not sure what it was but it seemed to be a large, robust and very unusual shaped balloon – possibly a weather balloon?

Strangely, when this balloon first appeared a twin-engine airplane also flew several circuits around Wingfield before disappearing into the distance!

Anyone any idea what the balloon could have been used for?

A university student delivers a pizza to an old man's house.

"I suppose you want a tip?" says the old man.

"That would be great," says the student, "but the other guy who does deliveries told me not to expect too much – he said if I got 50p, I'd be lucky."

The old man looks hurt. "Well, to prove him wrong, here's £5.

What are you studying?"

"Applied psychology," replies the student.

CHALGRAVE NEWS

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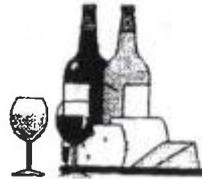
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Theresa, Roger and Ben Burden

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| | Chairman | Philip Parry | 875169 |
| | Vice Chairman | Ken Green | 874107 |
| | | (Grass cutting, Footpaths) | |
| | Councillors | Frank Griffin | 874126 |
| | | (Planning, Street lights, Road signs) | |
| | | Daniel Osborn | 873920 |
| | | June Horne | 873965 |
| | | Roger Mence | 874516 |
| | | Derek Smith | 874105 |
| | | (Traffic calming) | |
| District Council | South Beds District Council | | 01582 472222 |
| | Councillor | Norman Costin | 874232 |
| County Council | Bedfordshire County Council | | 01234 363222 |
| | Councillor | Rhys Goodwin | 210629 |
| Chalgrave Church | | | |
| | Vicar | Rev. Nick McNeil | |
| | Secretary | Mrs M Hibbert | 872828 |
| | Warden | Larry Ryan | |
| Schools | Lower | St Georges | 872360 |
| | Middle | Parkfields | 872555 |
| | Upper | Harlington | 873836 |
| Home Watch Co-ordinator | | Vacant | |
| Tree Warden | | Tony Smith | 874716 |
| Doctors | | Drs A Long/J Perkins | 872222 |
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| Water Board - emergency | | | 0845 7 145145 |
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| Chalgrave Memorial Hall | | | |
| | Chairman | Linda Hadden | |
| | Booking Secretary | Roger Masters | 873039 |
| Senior Citizens Committee | | | |
| | Chairman | Roger Masters | 873039 |
| Secretary | Velda Cooke | | 875363 |
| West Charity | | | |
| Clerk to the Trustees | Norman Costin | | 874232 |
| Mums and Tots and Youth Club | | Vacant | |
| Cricket Club | Chairman | Mike Wells | 877098 |
| | Secretary | David Cestaro | 873887 |
| Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts | | David Yirrell | 875410 |
| Toddington Rainbows | | Gill Hiscox | 875239 |
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| Toddington Tennis Club | Ray Smith | | 874148 |
| Chalgrave Parish News | | Tony Cornes | 874605 |
| | | Lyndie Lothian | 874166 |
| | | Frances & Roger Masters | 873039 |
| | | Mick McDonagh | 873012 |

A note from your County Councillor

While it is very cold at the moment, we can all see welcome signs of spring and we know that Easter is only a few weeks away. As we move into the last quarter of the Council year, it is a time for members to collate the information they have learned, analyse it and take appropriate action.

Central and Local Government Agencies across the County, together with the Voluntary and Private Sector are working together as "Local Area Agreement Partners" to support more Healthy, Safe, Vibrant, Inclusive and Sustainable Communities! Each of those adjectives represents a whole area of work that has been defined by Government and is important to us all. However, I think that our communities are under threat and so I have requested help at District, County, Region and Government levels.

So, what's the problem?

I believe that new and growing communities in adjacent authorities, mainly north of us, are going to over stress the rail and road links through Bedfordshire - and its villages and towns where there is no by-pass.

While the widening of the M1 should help in some cases, there is always the danger as far as Bedfordshire is concerned that in these circumstances the M1 will just extend northwards the

biggest "car park in Europe" (M25)! Whether this happens or not, the likelihood of substantial increased grid locking in our urban areas is very high and the Government spend needed to avoid it in time is most unlikely! The probable further five year delay in the northern Bypass for the L/D/HR Conurbation is just one of several reasons for my heightened concern level. The peak hour stress levels on the Dunstable/Houghton Regis conurbation road network (c.f. the Church Road traffic light scenario) demonstrate that it cannot take much extra traffic before grid locking.

It is not just the effects on the environment, waste of time, people's health, cost and opportunity that grid locking causes - that concerns me - it is the fact that **grid locking kills jobs** - just at the time when we need a local job explosion!

That is why I think that it is absolutely the wrong environment for a 40K dwelling build north Luton and Houghton Regis.

My impression is that all Parish Councils in our Division support concerns like these and together we will be pressing for meaningful answers.

Rhys Goodwin

Easter Jokes

What did the egg do when the other egg told it a joke? *It cracked up!*

How does the Easter bunny keep his fur neat? *With a hare brush!*

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? *Hot Cross bunny.*



View from the House – Andrew Selous MP

South Beds 'first' with family launch

On Tuesday 21 February, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard and their surrounding villages became part of the first shire district in the country to launch a Community Marriage Policy, after similar policies have been adopted in Newport, Bath, Swindon and Bristol. The launch took place in Tilsworth and was attended by over 50 local people and clergy who signed the Policy. They are all committed to helping families stay together by giving them the skills to maintain healthy marriages and relationships.



The Bishop of Bedford and Cllr Bob King who is in charge of the registrars across Bedfordshire were the joint guests of honour and also spoke in support of the policy. The support of the registrars is key in this process, as 68% of all weddings are conducted by the registrars.

We are keen to encourage any local volunteers who would like to be involved in this work, perhaps as 'couple mentors'. Training will be available locally for anyone interested in this work. If anyone is interested please could they contact me in the first instance on selousa@parliament.uk or 020 7219 8134 or by writing to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

The pain and costs of family breakdown are clear for all to see and cost us all a great deal of money through the need for extra housing, more social services interventions, more Child Support Agency staff and increased benefit. The best estimate of these costs nationally is about £15 billion. We spend only about £5 million a year through the marriage and relationship support programme trying to help people fulfill their aspirations to make a success of their relationships. The balance is wrong here and much can also be done, without spending public money, by taking relationship skills work more seriously in our schools, in ante and post natal classes, in social services and with the registrars.

Other countries, as diverse as Malaysia, Australia, Dubai, Singapore and America are putting more emphasis on this work as they realise the importance of healthy marriages and relationships to sustainable communities. In some towns in America, Community Marriage Policies, similar to the one launched in Tilsworth on Tuesday, have halved the divorce rate. I think that this is a goal worth pursuing.

It is not just Conservatives that are interested in this work. The Prime Minister gave his support to the work of Community Family Trust when I asked him to help their work in the Commons in December. I have also persuaded Labour, Lib Dems, and

Ulster Unionist MPs, and a Crossbencher in the Lords to join me and other Conservatives to support this work, by forming an All Party Parliamentary Group, which I will chair, to look at best practice in marriage and relationship support across the UK and around the world.

Our aim is to form two Community Family Trusts, one in Leighton Buzzard to serve the town and its surrounding villages and one to cover Dunstable, Houghton Regis and the villages surrounding those two towns to provide relationship skills to all couples, whether married or not. Three quarters of couples who split up with children under 5 have never been married. There are currently 24 Community Family Trusts operating across the UK who are working with schools, health visitors, ante and post natal clinics, registrars and local authorities. I believe that there is every likelihood that this work will lead to an improvement in family stability in the UK just as it has elsewhere.

*Andrew Selous is MP for South West Bedfordshire.
He can be contacted on 01582 662821 or selousa@parliament.uk.*

Christmas Lights Competition Winner

The judging gets harder each year, but on a cold December evening your intrepid News team scoured the Parish seeking the prettiest display of fairy lights.

Despite what appeared to have been a total blackout in Wingfield, many people seemed to have entered into the spirit of the challenge and a number of wondrous displays were to be seen. Mention must be made of Steve and Pam in

Toddington Road
Ray and Sue in St
again obliterated the
with lights, Cathy and
a haze of tiny fairy
the cottages down The
who together put on a
winners by a neck were
from Toddington Road,
Christmas Lights seem to



(winners last year),
Marys Close once
large tree in the close
Ian in The Lane with
lights, and the rest of
Lane in Tebworth
lovely display. The
Arthur and Carol Doris
Tebworth whose
increase year by year.

Carol and Arthur have been in the village for about 17 years now and when told of their success commented 'It's just an excuse to cheer the place up this time of year'. Our picture shows Carol and Arthur receiving their prize hamper.

A Timely Warning from the Police

On 25 February, a handbag and contents including car keys, were stolen from a private room in a Golf Club. On 28 February, the owner of the handbag was contacted by a female, who claimed to be calling from Milton Keynes police. The caller claimed that some of stolen property had been recovered and asked the lady owner to confirm her home address - which she did. Her vehicle was subsequently stolen from the driveway at her home address using the keys which had been stolen with the handbag.

In the incident just related the bogus caller had no idea where the owner lived but had obviously found a name or phone number (Perhaps from a Mobile phone) for the owner. They would then have rung around until the owner identified themselves and unwittingly revealed their home address to the bogus caller. Had there been house Keys as well perhaps the house, too, would have been burgled.

If your are unfortunate enough to have items stolen from you while out in public and any of those items can identify you, either by a phone number or address, then please be cautious of anyone who calls either personally or over the telephone claiming to have found the items. A Police Officer would more likely ask you to attend at the nearest police station to identify the items and would not ask for details over the phone.

For security purposes, if you are contacted by anyone, including the police, and asked to confirm your address details, please ask the officer for their name and [Collar] number. Advise the officer you will call them back via the Police Enquiry Centre on 01234 841212 for members in Mid and North Beds or 01582 401212 for members in SouthBeds and Luton, to verify their identity. If the officer is legitimate, you can then speak to them directly and provide any relevant information.

POLLY PUT THE KETTLE ON

Quite a few years ago there lived in the Tebworth/Wingfield area a lady who went by the name of Joan Fleming (was this her real name or a nom-de-plume?) apparently she wrote a book all about the goings on in our Parish, she did of course change the names of the characters but it appears that the description of the villages and some of the houses are remarkably accurate. Rumour has it that there was more than just "goings on" going on. This book was (we think) called Polly Put The Kettle On, has anybody got a copy or can anybody shed some light on the subject? If so please can we (the editorial team) borrow it, we promise to return it just as soon as we have figured out who is who and what is what. Thanks.

Cockney Invasion

A couple o' Saturdays ago me and my old dutch went down the kicker and we 'ad a right good old knees up followed by anuvver one down the old rub a dub. Wot a larf.

Yes, you good county people of Chalgrave there was a Cockney Night at the Village Hall on Saturday the 25th Feb. organised by the good churchgoing folk of All Saints Church, Chalgrave, all proceeds going to the Church Restoration Fund.

Pearly Kings and Queens entertained the packed house with traditional old cockney songs whilst Sandy and Larry Ryan along with some brave helpers slaved in the kitchen to produce a typical London meal of pie, mash and mushy peas.

After the first bottle of wine was consumed the normal shy British reserve was shed and there were some frighteningly vigorous versions of "The Lambeth Walk" and other equally well known dances, later on in the evening there was a demonstration of how to play the spoons properly and then there was a free for all (they called it a competition) for spoon playing, one of the winners being Chris McDonagh who won a prize not for her skill, more for the violent and ferocious display of spoon playing that had the judges cowering behind their pints. Nevertheless a good night was had by all and for those of us lucky enough to live in Tebworth or Wingfield (plus a few stalwarts from Toddington) there was more to follow down The Queens Head where Colin continued to entertain us with his own brand of madcap humour.

So thanks to those who organised the evening and commiserations to those who missed it, and we hope the coffer of the Restoration Fund were suitably swelled



Beat the Bounds

Rogation Sunday 21 May 2006

Children welcome, see below!

The Roman festival 'Terminalia' was adapted by the church and served the practical purpose before Ordnance Survey maps of defining the parish boundaries. **Children were bumped on prominent marks and boundary stones, or rolled in briars and ditches, or thrown in the pond to ensure they never forgot the boundaries.** The Victorians made it more civilised by beating objects rather than people.

Follow the old tradition and walk the boundaries of Chalgrave parish. We promise to beat just the boundary markers and maybe take some photographs as below



I am no expert but I usually give some information taken from Stephen Coleman's Parish Survey which I hope we will be able to put on the parish website www.chalgrave.org later this year.

This year there will be a leaflet on the "pre-enclosure" landscape circa 1800 showing the field and road layout that is somewhat different from today

We meet at the Queens Head at 10am. Break for lunch at the Fancott arms at around 1pm and back by about 5pm. We walk the majority of the boundary and walk at a gentle pace. If you are reasonably fit you should have no difficulty. You need a tough pair of boots and normal walking gear because this one day of the year we can walk the boundary parts which are not footpaths.

Put the date on your calendar.

Ken Green

Bedfordshire Police

is issuing a warning to all members concerning an offender posing as a Police Officer.

The offender burgled a residence by distraction in the Leighton Street area of Woburn but could try the same anywhere in the County. The offender knocked on the door of an elderly resident and claimed that there had been a robbery in the area and the occupant should place her valuables in a safe place. The occupant became a little confused and showed the bogus officer where she kept her Jewelry and money. The bogus officer then took some of the items claiming that he would place them in a safe place and made off with the occupant's valuables.

The offender was described as a White Male, 20-30 yrs old, Slim build, Slim Face, Clean Shaven and was wearing a dark blue Jacket and Trousers.

IncRef: RM1592-0603-2105 (Bogus Caller).

All members are advised that you should check the identification of all unrequested doorstep callers - even those claiming to be Police Officers or ANY kind of Official. Legitimate callers will be happy to hand over valid identification and wait outside your door until you check them out. Please note that you should not, under any circumstances allow anyone to enter your premises if you are not certain about their identity.

In the case of the Police Officer, ask for the officer's identification number (Collar Number) and politely ask the person to wait while you check the id. Close the door while you call Bedfordshire Police on either: 01582 401212 or 01234 841212. When the phone is answered tell the

operator what the officer claimed and that you wish to check his identification. If the officer is legitimate the operator be able to verify this. Only then should you allow any kind of access into your premises if that is what the officer is requesting.

If you are at all suspicious or the caller claims to have just received an urgent message for another job (!!) or the caller has gone when you return to the door then call the police immediately and report this. If you are able, call your local coordinator (Home watch/Warden Watch) so they can warn others.

If anyone saw or heard anything relating to any incident broadcast by Ringmaster please contact the Dunstable Ringmaster on 01582 473351 quoting the Unique Reference Number given for this incident.

Always, in the case of an emergency, dial 999.

Letters

This letter was received from local teenager who wishes their name to be withheld.

Dear Newsletter Team

I'm writing to inform you about the growing concern for the school pupils who have to cross the busy road outside the Queen's Head every morning and evening. I was hoping there would be something you could do i.e. put up a children's crossing sign.

The school children are often almost getting knocked over as they have to cross on a blind corner at the time people are rushing to work.

Cheers for taking time to read this!

Editors note. Thanks for your letter. We have passed it to the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Terrible Tale of the Tebworth Torrent

Bill (Scoop) Archer



Now, settle down in your armchairs as I'm treating you to a 'listen with Billy'. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. It concerns the Parish Pond (unofficial) at a time BRB (before records began). After a period of rain I gazed out of my window to find Parkview had become Lakeview. At its centre point, this lake which had a circumference of some 15 feet had a water depth of 6 inches. Dredging into my Dickensian past, I regrettably did nothing and waited for something to turn up. It didn't but the water gradually drained away. As surely as summer follows winter, and after a further period of rain, the dreaded pond reappeared, then disappeared with a weather change. Consequently I forgot about it till it happened again and again and again until even my faltering memory registered that summat must be done.

At this time our Parish Clerk was meeting with a District Council official so I took the opportunity to intervene. He stood on the line of demarcation and told me that on his left hand side was a private road and therefore nothing to do with the Highways Department. I think I must have blotted my copybook then by pointing out that an offending blocked drain which appeared to be the cause of the trouble was on his right hand side. His attention span receded and muttering something about 'checking this out', he departed.

Some days later I contacted him via his mobile phone only to be told to stop bothering him and he would see what could be done. So the ebb and flow of the Parish Pond (unofficial) continued.

On one particular weekend, my more energetic neighbours asked me if I minded them 'having the drain up'. The road drain cover was pulled aside and the drain bailed out. At the base, a square brick built conduit went away down Parkview Lane, and above this two pipes led away. One to the drain across the Lane and the other towards the centre of Wingfield Road where there was a manhole. My extensive knowledge of drainage systems (nil) led me to believe that the source of the problem was a main drainage blockage causing a backup into the road drains. To whit, it wasn't us, it was them!

I duly reported this to the District Council and was given a job number. 2006 crept in over the winter landscape and my enquiries of the powers that be were met with 'Oh yes, job number xxxxis in hand with the sub-contractor'. With the remorseless ebb and flow together with the occasional jibe in this very publication, a greater sense of urgency seized me. My next telephone call to the Highways Department elicited the response that the old sub-contractor had been dropped and the new job

number was xxxxy. Three calls later still found me being fobbed off and brassed off, so I asked to speak to a superior. He proved to be a most amenable character whom I had to communicate with on Christian name terms as I couldn't pronounce his surname. He actually rang back as promised!

Time passed and lo and behold a drain clearance vehicle turned up and proceeded to clear the drain on the **other** side of Wingfield Road. My remonstrations produced the information that any of the other drains was in a private road and no concern of theirs. I had already proved that as the flood water level was the same in all the drains then surely this proved connection. Sadly, my main drain theory was destroyed when they lifted the manhole cover showing a much lower water level and pointed out that this was a foul water drain. Even when shown the 4inch pipe running back across the road they were adamant that it dead ended. It was impasse!

I retreated defeated. Minutes later however the supervisor turned up, a man of more sympathetic character and had the drain in Parkview Lane (the private one) pumped out. More water poured from the pipe than could possibly have existed in a 'dead end' and the water level in the drain in Wingfield Road went down. Ergo, we were interconnected to the main drainage system and the Highways Department are going to take steps. I'm left wondering where and if pipes go down to the road junction opposite the Queens Head. If more informed action had been taken in the first place how much time and frustration could have been saved.

Bouquets however go to the existing hierarchy however. For practical reasons the works will have to wait for a period of sustained finer weather and I still maintain that the cause will be found not down Parkview but in the main road towards the junction. Tickets will not be available for the conclusion!

Enjoy the summer
Bill

Editors' note. Has anyone else experienced 'difficulties' with or wish to nominate bouquets for officialdom as we would love to print their story? Rest assured, a copy of the Chalgrave News goes to our District Council and our District Councillor, Norman Costin.



What is the difference between a crazy bunny
and a counterfeit banknote?
One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny!

GVS 858 *continued from the last edition*

In the autumn of 1955, GVS 858 was rescued by a young student and cut out from the undergrowth. This was not an act of mercy, but an act of desperation, because Ethan Philips, the nephew of Harry Gilbert, needed transportation to conduct his emerging drug dealing business. His uncle, unaware of Ethan's business aspirations, had refused to gift him any other car from his selection of used bangers but had heart enough to give him remains of GVS 858. Ethan's friend and customer Jason Bligh was an amateur mechanic and in exchange for a couple of fixes, soon had GVS 858



running well enough to help build an effective distribution operation which came to dominate Ethan's home town of Nuneaton. With the arrival of flower power and music festival era, Ethan's business expanded rapidly, too rapidly for GVS 858 to keep up, so in April 1961, the Austin Big 7 was given to Jason as a token for services rendered. Ethan bought a MK IX Jaguar, much more in keeping with his image, and which covered his growing territory at greater speed, especially when avoiding the long arm of the law.

Jason however, was in love, he now had his own car, and the one he had nurtured and kept mobile with his ingenuity and bits of string. GVS 858 was now lavished with every penny that Jason earned. He rented a lock up garage near to his lodgings in Towcester to keep the Austin warm and dry and when he finished work each day, he spent each night fettling GVS 858 to perfection.

All this love and care eventually came to a sudden end one Tuesday morning in 1969 when Jason stopped abruptly to let a young lady cross the pedestrian crossing outside the Mecca cinema in Luton. Jason caught sight of the Scamell low loader in his rear view mirror just before it ploughed into the back of the stationary Austin. The resulting impact favoured the Scamell, which suffered a scratched bumper; GVS 858 was a completely different story. The little Austin was catapulted across the crossing, narrowly missing the young lady, with the rear portion of the body completely destroyed by the impact. Fortunately Jason was uninjured but unfortunately uninsured and so gathered up the remains of GVS 858 and interred them in the lock up garage. Nothing much is known of what happened to Jason, it is rumoured that broken hearted, he took a job as a stable hand at the local race course, unable to face further work on cars.

The remains of GVS 858 stayed in the lock up in Towcester, undisturbed until 1984 when property developer Ronald McEwan purchased a row of derelict cottages along with their garages, one of which contained the Austin Big 7. Ronald's plans called for the demolition of the old properties to make way for a new high-density development

that would net him and the local planning officer a tidy personal fortune. Jim Arnold was the JCB driver given the job of flattening the lock up garages who fortunately had the sense to first scavenge the sites he was instructed to demolish. He found GVS 858 in the lock up and being a petrol head recognised the remains as an Austin Big 7. Jim decided to take them back to his workshop in Leighton Buzzard because like the hoarder he was, he knew they would come in handy some time.

They lay in the back of Jim's workshop until 1987 when they were spotted by a visiting South Beds rodent control officer, called in by the neighbours who were being plagued by the rats, which bred uncontrolled in the roof of the workshop. Rat catcher, David Hope, was a motorcycle trials addict and immediately saw the potential in GVS 858 to promote himself from 2 to 4 wheels and so started the metamorphosis of the Austin into what it is today.

As the rear portion of the body had been destroyed in the Luton accident, David set out to build a lightweight two seat open body incorporating all the original mechanical components and chassis that would comply with current trial regulations. This was simple to say but what with rat catching, bringing up a young family, decorating the house and doing the washing up, it left little time for car building and so it was some four years later in 1991 before the reincarnated GVS 858 emerged.

It was not the initial success that David had expected. It did not have enough grunt in it's 900cc to drag itself up some of the extreme hills experienced on the Exeter Trial, so he fitted it with a little Arnott supercharger for an immediate boost in power. The 6-volt electrics were inadequate for the night sections of the Edinburgh Trial, so he converted it to 12 volts and replaced the dynamo with an alternator to power the halogen lamps. The cable brakes were downright dangerous on the slippery slopes of the Lands End Trial, so he fitted hydraulic brakes from a Morris Minor. Gradually GVS 858 became competitive in the pre-war class and achieved its first Gold medal in the 1996 Lands End Trial. Sadly in May of 1996, David was bitten by a revengeful rabid rat and the onset of lockjaw caused David to starve until he finally wasted away completely. His great trailing mate, Simon, bought GVS 858 from David's wife but because of the memories the car evoked, Simon could not bring himself to compete in further trials with the Austin. He finally offered it for sale at the Beaulieu Autojumble in 2003, which is where I took over the custody of the Austin Big 7, pictured here at the 2005 Chalgrave Games. With friends and more recently with the Chalgrave Parish Clerk as a passenger GVS 858 has competed in national and local trial events, alas with little success.

So there you have it, a potted history of a little car.

You may wonder how I managed to research the early history of GVS 858?

I was lucky enough to find most of it at the bottom of an empty Jack Daniels bottle.

Regards

by Tony Smith

Around the Organisations

Village Hall

The hall management committee has been meeting despite the dreary weather – and like the curate's egg there is good and bad news to report.

Firstly, the boiler finally gave up the ghost and we had to buy some free standing radiators to tide us over a couple of weeks while we collected estimates, made decisions and actually had a new boiler fitted. Happily it is up and running now, and all is well. Here's to a long and trouble free life from the new boiler!

Our web site should be up and running by the time you receive this news letter. This should raise our profile and increase our bookings. Thanks are mostly due to Tony Dowson for instigating and getting on with the project.

We are gradually coming to terms with the new licensing laws, but still hope that village halls will be reviewed differently when the minister realises the problems he has created.

Our bookings are down on last year, having lost the weekly line dancers. However, from April line dancing for beginners is scheduled to start on a Thursday evening. The tabletop sale was successful as a social event – but little was sold. However, including donations, over a hundred pounds was put into our coffers. Thanks to everyone involved.

Our musical play of war songs and sketches is postponed until the autumn.

Several committee members heroically turned out on a Sunday morning and cleared the storerooms. A lot of rubbish was disposed of.

If any of you would like to join the committee and have a say on how the hall is run please give your name to a committee member. The AGM will be held in the spring and there will be several vacancies.

Enjoy the coming spring, best wishes,
Linda Hadden.

Book Club

We have been meeting regularly during the winter months and enjoying literary discussions and members' hospitality.

We had Christmas lunch at The Plough – after a meeting at Gill Jones' where mince pies and other festive fare was consumed with glee. We also enjoyed a bottle of champagne – thanks to Lesley Smith, who was attempting to forget it was her birthday.

It seems as if our new members, Sherry and Sheila have always been with us. Our debates are becoming more and more lively with everyone contributing their varied opinions.

The most recent book we read was Jeremy Clarkson's 'The World According to Clarkson'. Most people enjoyed his tongue in cheek witticisms, and found it a book easy to pick up and put down at will. It humorously attacks the pompous, absurd, and the downright idiotic ideas, whilst applauding the eccentric.

Around the organisations.....continued

The book that has just arrived on my doorstep and is waiting to be read is 'Buddhism for Dummies' and I, for one, am eagerly awaiting enlightenment, tranquillity and calm!

Wishing you all an enjoyable spring – happy reading!

Linda Hadden.

Sports Club

Chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

As we are about to begin another season, we are still on the lookout for new members.

The cricket team play in a local league about 8 times a year on a Sunday afternoon during the summer months at the ground in Wingfield. The standard ranges from sub-standard to below average which explains why we have yet to win our league. Nevertheless we keep trying and if you would like to join us for a game you would be more than welcome.

Our AGM is scheduled for 8.00 pm on 12 April at The Plough in Wingfield when the coming seasons fixture list should be available.

Roger Masters

Parish Council

Parish Assembly

On the 25 April at 8:00 pm there is the Annual Parish Assembly. Everyone in the Parish is invited and it's an opportunity to meet your Council and to discuss any issues. As with last year, it will be an informal occasion with tea,

coffee, wine and nibbles. We will again invite a spokesperson from each of the various clubs and organisations in the Parish to say a few words about what they have done in 2005 and will be doing in 2006.

We will remind you nearer the time and we hope you can come along.

Planning

We are continually concerned about all planning issues whether it's on a large scale – as in the planned housing for this region – or on a small scale.

Any planning application is referred to the Parish Council and we can put forward our view on behalf of the Parish. M1/A5 bypass - you will know that South Beds DC have voted for the Northern Route. Their thinking is that the bypass will provide a northern boundary for the proposed new housing development north of Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Thus keeping some countryside between the new housing and our Parish.

We understand that there is now a delay of 3-5 years before work starts.

Luton Northern Bypass -- there are proposals under discussion, but no funding. We are talking with other Parish Councils about the impact the bypass will have on our area.

New Housing – we continue our fight to preserve the Green Belt and to get the infrastructure (schools, surgeries, roads, transport, water supply, etc, etc) in place to be able to cope with the rise in population.

Luton Town Football Club -- we are liaising with other Parish Councils, particularly Toddington, to monitor any

proposal of siting LTFC near Junction 12 of the M1

Luton Airport expansion – we are also keeping a close watch on any proposals and developments that may have an impact on our Parish.

Roads

We are very concerned about the state of some roads in our parish. As a number of Parishioners have commented, Hockliffe Road is in a dangerous state. We are pressing very hard to make the repair to this road a priority. Work on the road has now been planned – except there is no date! – to resurface the road. This will mean partial or total closure of the road while the repairs take place.

We are aware of other roads needing repair and are working hard to get the repairs done.

Traffic Calming

We have obtained funding for a 30 mph vehicle activated flashing sign to be installed on the Toddington Road. The sign is similar to the one in Toddington as you enter from Tebworth. It will automatically flash '30 mph Slow Down' if a vehicle is breaking the speed limit. We will also be planting some shrubs behind the white boundary gates as you enter Tebworth. Apart from looking attractive, it should highlight the gates to motorists and make them more aware of entering a village. We will use the prize money from the Village of the Year competition.

Crime

We are fortunate to live in a relatively low crime area. However, there have been a couple of incidents recently – one

serious – so we need to keep vigilant. There have been reports in the South Beds area of 'bogus callers' and distraction burglaries. If you are not sure of the identity or authority of any caller, do not let them into your property. Please report anything that you think is suspicious. Our local beat officer PC Martin Pennell will be attending our Parish Assembly in April.

Parish Plan

There will be a meeting (date to be confirmed) for those involved, together with those that have shown an interest and volunteered to move forward some of the proposals contained in the Plan. The peak time taxi/bus from Tebworth and Toddington to Harlington Station will be starting. You will be receiving information about times and costs.

Other matters

The new notice boards are up at last. There is a new bus stop plinth near St Mary's Close and the broken bollard has been replaced. Repairs to the bus shelter outside the village hall will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

We are looking for nominations for the **Millennium Youth Award**. This is an award for an outstanding achievement during 2005 by an under 18 year old living in the Parish. The range of achievement is broad - sport, academic, music, dance, community activity, charity, etc. Send nominations to Lesley Smith or any member of the Council. As always you are invited to attend the Parish Council meetings. They are usually the last Tuesday of the month. Check the notice boards.

Phil Parry - Chairman

Queen's Head Update

The Queens Head continues to thrive thanks mainly to the success of the two domino teams, and the Ladies darts team whose season has now ended. They finished a very commendable 4th in their division. Friday nights are still a night for noisy enjoyment with live music of various persuasions and maybe, just maybe the Sunday Lunchtime piano recitals might resume because Bill Seaford, the Musical Maestro is recovering nicely after his stroke. Best wishes go to Bill and his lovely wife Sylvie.

Future musical engagements are:-

Friday 31 March Hockliffe Bandits A new booking so unknown
Friday 7 April Jim Turner Middle of the road
Friday 14 April Keith West Easy Listening
Friday 21 April Snip Heavy Rock
Friday 28 April Steve Burton Middle of the road
Friday 5 May Merv Singalong-a-Merv
Friday 12 May Steve Jones 60's - 80's
Friday 19 May Lenny Easy Listening
Friday 26 May Suzie Singalong

At least 3 of the above dates are guaranteed to get your feet tapping so we hope to see you there!

CHALGRAVE NEWS



Receive a Copy of The Chalgrave News by Post

The editorial team have had several requests from people living outside Chalgrave Parish who would like to receive regular copies of the Chalgrave News. Unfortunately the cost of producing the magazine in its present colour format is extremely expensive and whilst some of these costs are



covered by our advertising income there is still a substantial shortfall each year.

We therefore have to organise fund raising events, such as the very successful recent Christmas Fun Night, to bring in additional income in order to keep the magazine going.

Please support these events whenever you can.

Our aim is to provide every house in the parish of Chalgrave with a free copy and so we regret that we are not in the financial position to be able to give away free copies of the Chalgrave News to non-residents. However, in view of the number of requests we have received the Chalgrave News editorial team have decided to offer the following service:-

We will post each copy of the Chalgrave News to anywhere in the UK for an annual subscription of £15.00. (There are 4 copies produced each year).

For delivery outside of the UK please contact any of the editorial team for details.

Calling all Sporty Ladies

Queens Head Darts Team

You may not know, but we are a ladies darts team that play in the Leighton Buzzard and District Ladies league. There are two divisions, A and B and currently we are in the 'B' division consisting of five teams from the Leighton area and one from Eddlesborough.

As a team we have been playing for three years and at present our team consists of the following:-

Karen O'Connor - team captain

Janie Fleckney - Vice captain

Shirley Bird

Janet Rooney (no relation to Wayne)

Wendy Boyd

Kat Naughton

And the baby, 16 year old Charlotte Morris.



We came to the Queens Head when the Red Lion in Hockliffe closed down and Colin kindly invited us to play at the Queens. We have a very enjoyable time, especially when we play at home and Colin provides some excellent food.

Now we are at the very end of the 2005/6 season and at time of writing are 4th in the table. However, we will be back in October for another tilt at the title, although we still have some competitions coming up this year so let's hope we can do well in them. We can always do with some new players so if you sit at home on a Wednesday night wondering what to do why not come and join us in the Queens Head for a good night of fun or get in touch either by leaving your name and telephone number behind the bar or give me a ring on 07840041816.

Karen O'Connor - team captain

What happens if you play tabletennis with a bad egg?
First it goes ping, then it goes pong.

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

It is with considerable regret that I once again have to apologise for a misprint in one of my replies in the last issue of The Chalgrave News.

You will no doubt remember that the Chalgrave Book Club wrote to me (the spelling left something to be desired!) seeking advice on what New Years resolution they should make for 2006.

My reply should have read ' why wait until 2006, start the resolution now'

Unfortunately when printed it actually read ' why wait until 2006, start the revolution now'.

Now I don't know what type of books the book club have been reading over the last year, but surely you must have realised that my advice as printed was a little extreme and might have been an error?

However I understand that many members of the book club descended onto the Houses of Parliament on Xmas eve in a short lived attempt to overthrow the government and ended up spending Xmas at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

An insider informs me that they are managing to keep the Chalgrave Book Club going although the prison library has a somewhat limited range of literature available to them!?

Well until our next issue dear readers.....

SPONSORS

We are very grateful to all our sponsors;

If anyone would like to sponsor the magazine in future please contact one of the editorial team.

Chocolate Easter Eggs

These delicious cream filled eggs taste just like a very famous store bought one. They are easy to make and children and adults love them.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup soft butter
- 2 tsp salt
- 4 tsp vanilla
- 1 can condensed milk
- 10 cups icing sugar
- 1 tsp. yellow food coloring
- 1 lb. semi-sweet chocolate

Method:

Beat butter, salt and vanilla until fluffy.

Add milk, beat in sugar. Blend until stiff.

Dust with brown sugar. Knead 'til smooth.

Set aside more than 2/3 of mixture.

To the remaining mixture add yellow food coloring.

Blend in well. Divide yellow and white into 16 or 24 pieces. Shape yellow into ball, mold white around yellow to form an egg shape. Dry at room temperature on paper towels for 24 hours. Melt chocolate in double boiler or in microwave until smooth.

Dip eggs in chocolate. (Parafin wax may be added and melted with chocolate to prevent chocolate from melting in your hands).

Once dipped cool at room temperature.

Refrigerate once cool.

When sliced these eggs will have a white cream filling with a yellow filling that appears to be the yolk.

They look nice sitting in an Easter basket!

