

Shalford News

Incorporating Shalford Village, Church End, Shalford Green and Jaspers Green
Promoting Shalford, its facilities, its events and its people



The Shalford Spider

No - not wildlife this time, but the new Shalford Web Site!

Does Shalford need a web site? Yes, as the Government's aim is that every parish should be on line by 2005 and the BDC are helping to implement this aim at no cost to parishioners.

Who will set up the web site? Parish Councillor Jason Daniel, who will also edit material for the site.

What is a web site? It is an electronic notice board, which can be accessed by a computer. For those who haven't a computer, but would like to learn how to use one, remember that an hour a day, web and e-mail, free sessions can be booked at all local libraries. Friendly, trained librarians are at hand to give help, advice and details of the more formal training sessions, which are available.

What use is the web site and who can use it? It will keep local people informed by giving them direct communication to the parish and district councils, provide a bulletin board for local issues, clubs, events and activities and general information about village amenities and businesses. Anyone can contribute to the site, and it will improve the democratic process and strengthen the community as it develops.

You can find the web site at www.shalford-essex.co.uk

It is fortunate for the village that Jason Daniel the young enthusiastic Shalford Parish Councillor is a self employed Creative Director whose computer expertise enabled him to design and set up the village web site.

Jason, born in Cyprus where his father was serving in the RAF, was brought up and educated in Merthyr Tydfil. After completing his studies at Blackpool Art College, he returned to South Wales to

work as Assistant Design Editor for Celtic Press.

Having gained further experience on a couple of provincial newspapers he landed a Fleet Street job as the Daily Express' Design Editor. He moved on, this time to become a Company Consultant, where he met and married Zoe, a work colleague, whose parents lived locally in Great Dunmow.



Three months after they bought the cottage in Shalford Green, their home was flooded and they were forced to leave it for 6 months until it dried out. They have a young daughter and are happily playing an active part in village life, Zoe is on the VHMC and Jason is on the Parish Council's sub-committees for Planning and Youth Activities. Among his many interests Jason is a keen sportsman whose passion until recently was playing rugby, but golf has now filled that gap in his busy life.

ford Green telephone exchange to support broadband to all those in the area - that is all those who have phone numbers starting with 01371 850, 851 or 853.

Particular thanks must go to Mark Gardner, Tom Nicks, Richard Clubley, Debbie Barker, and John & Helen Hooper for help in distributing campaign leaflets, Delya Douse for collecting names, num-

St Andrew's Church Shalford presents an exhibition

"Celebrating Christenings"

Saturday 1st May, 2pm to 5-30pm

Sunday 2nd May 2pm to 5-30pm

Monday 3rd May 12 noon to 5-30pm

A display in the church of christening memorabilia and other associated things. For children 'A doll dressed for a christening' competition. Organ Music. Baby books, toys, and many other things.

Homemade teas available every day and Ploughman's Lunch on Monday only.

bers and postcodes and her son-in-law, Andrew Goodwin, for showing us it could be done!

So what happens now?

BT will now review the exchange and set a ready for service date (RFS date). It takes typically 3-4 weeks for them to do this (sometimes less). But when the RFS date will actually be is anybody's guess. Of those exchanges with RFS dates, the furthest out is currently March 2005, but we hope we would not be that unlucky. Once we have an RFS date, then orders can be placed for broadband access.

Just to remind you of the benefits - upwards of ten times the current speed of access to web pages, multimedia and email as well as simultaneous availability of normal phone service on the single BT line.

For those who have not yet registered, but may be interested in getting broadband, register by clicking on the 'register now' button on:

www.broadband4shalfordgreen.co.uk Or by sending an email to:

info@broadband4shalfordgreen.co.uk,

All those registered will be kept up to date with the latest news.

Broadband is on the way!

Many thanks are due to all those who responded to the recent leaflet campaign, registering interest in broadband on the campaign website. On Tuesday March 23rd we reached the required 350 registrations to trigger BT to upgrade the Shal-

If you go down to the woods today....

keep a look out for stag beetles.

It's official, there are stag beetles in Shalford, these are rare and now a protected species and have been found within the parish.

During the Middle Ages it was believed that the beetle carried live coals in its



jaws and set fire to thatched roofs! Sightings of these beetles are rare as the adults have a very short life and are only seen on the wing on warm evenings between June and August.

The beetles are black in colour and have violet coloured wing cases; the adult male is 5cms in length and is very impressive with its stag horn like jaws. Actually these jaws have weak muscles and are used for courtship display and posturing only, but take care as the smaller females can bite if handled! After mating the male dies whilst the female searches for a rotting tree or tree stump where she lays the eggs, once this is done she too dies. The eggs soon hatch and the white larvae immediately start feeding on the rotting wood becoming large and fat over a three-year period before turning into pupas. The pupas remain in small chambers within the wood and hatch out the following spring as fully-grown beetles. These beetles take no further solid food whilst they are in the adult form and rely on their fat reserves built up in the larva stage to sustain them until they die.

IMPORTANT...If you are lucky enough to spot one of these harmless beetles please don't harm it, instead let Len Chinnery know where and when you saw it, his telephone number is 01371 850 495

Len Chinnery

OPEN GARDENS.

Shalford Open Garden Trail, 2-6pm on both Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th June - proceeds towards the upkeep of Shalford's beautiful church of St Andrew.

WANTED...can you help?

*Owners of gardens, all sizes, locations and types, willing to open one/both days.

*Surplus plants of any sort to sell, all donations welcome.

*Visitors to see what lovely gardens there are within the village

Telephone Anne Tee 01371 850 975 now if you feel you can give any support before or on this weekend. All offers gratefully received.

More details and a map will be available nearer the time to show which gardens are open and when and where afternoon teas will be available.

New Standard

Although the first minutes of the meeting of the Wethersfield and Shalford branch of the British Legion were recorded in July 1930, a branch Standard was not purchased until three years later at a cost of £4. 4s. 5d (approx £4.25 in today's cash.) As the prefix "Royal" to the organisation's title was not added until its 50th anniversary in 1971, the old local standard lacked this word.

The two villages' branch, which is one of the county's 86 branches, has 36 members and recently at the AGM members voted overwhelmingly to renew the Standard, one has been ordered now at a cost of over £400. The RBL welcomes men and women of all ages as members, whether or not they have served in the Armed Forces. For further information about membership and the RBL contact the Branch Chairman, Len Butcher tel; 850681, or the Secretary; Peter Morton tel; 850626

Through its Poppy Appeal and other fund raising efforts the RBL is able to spend over £50 million annually providing a wide range of welfare assistance to the ex-Service community. It gives practical assistance to the war-disabled, ex-service personnel, service widows and their families, and offers information, advice and support on many subjects including claiming war pensions, accommodation, and employment

At Wethersfield Church on Sunday, June 6th at 3pm there will be a special service to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in France, when the old Standard will be laid up and the new one dedicated. It is hoped that many people from both villages will attend this

B a d g e r Tips.....

Several people made various suggestions as to how these creatures could be persuaded not to visit our gardens but no guarantees can be offered as to whether any of the ideas work. One old-fashioned remedy was to lay human hair along the garden boundary; access to the sweepings of the barber's floor is very necessary for this.

Another unproven idea was to water with urine the ground around the garden, this is clearly a less practical solution today as modern sanitation has made the pot under the bed redundant. The following extract is taken from a letter received recently from a publicity shy villager (S.L) on the subject of badgers...

"One of our lawns which is kept well-watered, seeded and fed during the year has an abundance of delicious fat wriggly worms, a feast for badgers. There are a couple of badger setts near our cottage and we are sure that on moonlit nights, at least when it's not raining, the badgers whisper to each other and gleefully toddle down to our garden lawn which following the badgers' digging by morning resembles a ploughed field. Now we think we may have the answer... last year we rigged up on a timer, some flashing Christmas lights and a radio, set on Radio Essex: these flashed and played during the night at 20 minute intervals.

Did our neighbours think we were having a party? No, this was for the badgers and last year our lawn remained intact. It conjures up visions of badgers visiting in the night to dance to the music rather than digging up the lawn for worms.

As a deterrent will this continue to work, or will the badgers like most intelligent animals overcome the disco hazard, and will we have to think of something else? Shaving brushes come to mind!"



Sketch of new Standard by Sue Morton

service to remember especially those who fought and died and also the survivors of World War 2 and other conflicts.

Parish Council News

Margaret Jack, Chairman of Shalford Parish Council reports:

"The winter period has been a quiet time fortunately and the anti-flooding sandbags which were delivered have not needed to be used, and I am sure there are several parish householders who have breathed a sigh of relief. The winter is not quite over yet, but hopefully there will not be a repeat of previous wet weather conditions.

The Council has looked at a number of planning applications, some of which have been passed, others still are going through the process. ECC Highways have responded to requests for various holes to be filled, but some have re-appeared. The PC footpath representatives continue to ensure that stiles etc are kept up to scratch and to oversee footpath cutting, although with the exceptional mild wet weather it will be difficult to keep apace of growth. For the last two years this has been a problem but the Council intends to have footpaths cut regularly this summer. Within the village there are areas of soft ground damaged by vehicles tyres, particularly on the hill from the church to the village hall, as the PC is responsible for verge maintenance it is keen to keep them looking good, please do your bit to help.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Thursday 20th May at 8pm when it is hoped to have a speaker talk on "The Development of Stansted", I look forward to seeing many of you on this occasion."

Invitation to Shalford Green Congregational Church 150th Anniversary Celebration

This Shalford chapel was established in 1854 and to celebrate the occasion all villagers are invited to Hubbard's Farm Large Barn (by kind permission of Mrs Vera Smith), on Saturday 19th June 2004 at 5-30pm for a buffet tea and later at 7-30pm for an evening of celebration presented by The Chelmsford Salvation Army Band.

A message from the Minister Mr Roy Cavinder, "Please join us, it will cost you nothing except your presence, which will be most welcome."

Should you wish to attend either /both events please advise Mrs Smith, tel 01371 850 273 ASAP

Dates for your diary

April

5-16 Shalford School closed for Easter Holidays

7 WI meeting 7-45pm Village Hall Talk "Book Binding" by Miss A Wood
Contact Anthea Morcom 850881 for more details

14 VHMC AGM 8pm Village Hall

14 & 16 "Football Skills" courses 10am-3pm at Village Hall for boys and girls, under 8s and under 16s
Contact Scott White (CRB checked) on 079777 50694 for details

16 Coffee/Tombola Morning 11am at Nan Stevenson's "Thomas-ton", Braintree Road to raise funds for "Celebrating Christenings" flowers

17 Royal British Legion -Jumble Sale 2pm Village Hall

May

1-3 "Celebrating Christenings" St Andrew's Church, Sat /Sun 2-5.30pm. Mon 12 noon -5.30pm

7 Friendship Club 2-30pm Village Hall, a Braintree Librarian on "Library Facilities"

15 Shalford Horticultural Society 2-30pm Village Hall "Spring plant and rummage sale"

20 Annual Parish Meeting 8pm Village Hall "Development at Stansted"

22 Shalford School PTA Music Quiz 7 for 7-30pm Village Hall. Contact Sharon Cornelieus 850524 for details by 15th May

June

2 WI meeting 7.45pm Village Hall. Demonstration of Encaustic Painting by Mr Barry Moulton. Contact Anthea Morcom for details 850881

6 RBL Dedication of New Standard 3pm Wethersfield Church

19 150th Anniversary Celebration of Shalford Green Congregational Church at Hubbard's Farm Barn, contact Mrs Vera Smith 850273 for information.

19 and 20 Shalford Open Gardens 2-6pm

26 Fund raising for Essex Air Ambulance by local group 6.30pm Village Hall. Music, refreshments and bar, admission £2

THE BENDLOWE TRUST.

Following the Trustee's meeting it has been decided, providing there are no objections from the Parish Council, that the Annual Afternoon Tea Party will be on **Friday 23rd July**, further details of this in the next Shalford News. Meanwhile the annual distribution of gifts, this year house plants, will take place in April.

Creamer Fund

At the recent AGM, the Chairman, Chris Ablewett, thanked the ongoing committee for their hard work and support during theyear.

Having taken delivery of an excellent ultra sound cardiac scanner with several probes, to which the Creamer Fund was able to donate £25,000, we are now saving for one more probe, this one to cost approximately £10,000,

There is on sale a quiz sheet costing £1, available at the Post Office, Wethersfield, the Surgery or ring Jean Murphy on 851147.

Please join in the fun - first prize £75, plus runners up prizes.

Tickets for the Easter raffle can be bought at the Health Centre from Monday 29th March until Tuesday 6th April, when the draw will take place.

If you would like to donate a prize, this can be handed in at the Health Centre at any time, or Jean is happy to take it

Your continued support for this Community Fund is much valued and enables the fund to make purchases for the benefit of all patients.

For further information contact Jean Murphy

Useful telephone numbers

Police(Braintree)
01376 551312
Freshwell Health Centre
01371 810328
or if the surgery is closed
TEDS (The Emergency Doctor Service)
01279 461502
The Vicar The Rev John Shead
01371 810309
Shalford Parish Council Clerk
01371 850975
Shalford Village Hall Management Committee 01371 850784

Dog Fouling on Village Hall Playing Field

The VHMC thanks all the responsible dog owners who do clear up their pet mess, but reminds everyone that this area is used by children and adults alike for the purpose of PLAYING. Please help to keep our field clean.

Ongoing Events.

Shalford Parish Council Meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm. Public welcome to attend. Further information from Anne Tee, the Clerk, on 850975.

Village Hall Management Committee Meet on the 2nd Wed. of the month in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm. Further information from John Nicholson on 850784.

The Friendship Club Meet alternate Friday afternoons in the Village Hall. Tel. Mrs. Smith on 850273 for more information.

Women's Institute Meet on the 1st. Wed. of the month in the Village Hall at 7.45 pm. Tel. Anne Tee on 850975 or Hilary Shead on 810309 for more details.

'The George' Various 'Theme Nights'. Look on board outside 'The George' for more details or telephone Wendy on 850207.

Mobile Library
Every Thursday, the Mobile Library will be parked at the following venues:-
Jaspers Green phone box 11.00am-11.10am.
Broome Close Villas 12.00noon-12.20pm.
Village Hall 1.25pm - 1.50pm.
Barryfields 1.55pm - 2.20pm.

Sports & Leisure.

Carpet Bowls Club Meet every Tuesday, Village Hall, 7.30 pm. New Members welcome. Contact June Dickinson, 850885.

Line Dancing Monday evenings. Contact Marion Taylor on 850891.

Shalford Football Club Contact Managers, Ian Butcher on 01376 348040 or Justin Daniels on 01376 342594.

Shalford Cricket Club New players are welcome. Contact Manager, Nick Wright 01376 344274.

Tennis Subscriptions/Membership payments-contact John Nicholson 850784 From 1st April £20 for family membership, £5 for individual member: court bookings, contact Pat Evans on 850822.

Boxercise Kick. Two Boxercise Kick classes are held on Thursday evenings at the Village Hall. The first commences at 7.00 pm when mainly teenagers attend. The second commences at 8.00pm and ends at 9.00pm. These classes are open to both male and female. Tel. Phil Prele on 07941 257425 for more information.

Using Your Library Service

Most readers will know that a full range of services is available from the Braintree Library, but the mobile and other library facilities may be less well known. I recently visited the Mobile Library at its stop at Barryfields and asked the Mobile Library Manager Jill Harding about the service.

The vehicle has a lively livery and carries about 3000 books together with videos, audio and large print books on its visits every Thursday (times and locations below). An on board computer links to the Essex Libraries' catalogue Elan allowing book reservations to be made for a small charge. There are no fines and blind or partially sighted users may borrow the audio books free of charge, and there are also additional services available direct to the home. Apply to Braintree Library 01376 320752 or phone 01245 438438 for details. There is a step lift into the van, which can be used by anyone who experiences difficulties with steps.

Housebound people and carers who are tied to the home can have books, music and videos and other items delivered through a service called Library Direct. Volunteers are needed to help deliver this service, please contact the numbers above if you are willing to help or would like further details of this service.

Specific information

requirements can be met by a service called Answers Direct. This can be accessed by phone or email and will handle almost any type of enquiry e.g. to identify a quotation or find weather tables for Timbuktu. Most enquiries are answered immediately, or within a couple of hours: their boast is a reply within 24 hours.

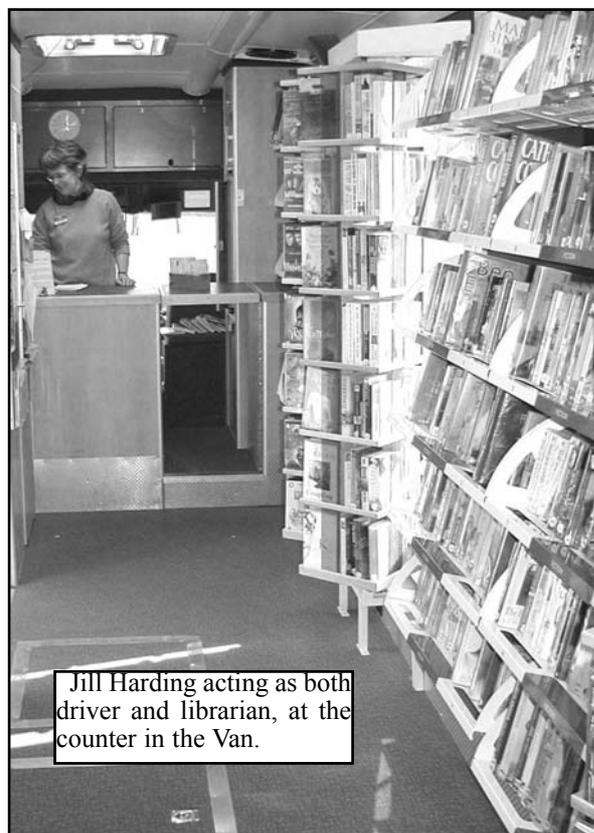
The Essex Libraries' catalogue Elan is also accessible over the Internet go to <http://elan.essexcc.gov.uk> These details are necessarily brief, but further information about any Essex Library service can be provided by contacting Answers Direct:

email answers.direct@essexcc.gov.uk. or phone 01245 438438.

There is also a web site www.answersdirect.info

See 'Ongoing Events' for Library van schedule of stops.

Frank Easton



Jill Harding acting as both driver and librarian, at the counter in the Van.

NEWS FLASH BDC inform us that road channel sweeping will take place in Shalford on the following days:

7th May	18th September,
30th November	8th March 2005.

Householders are asked to move vehicles off the road where necessary to ensure access to the machines. Although sweepers concentrate on main highways, it is possible, if time permits, for them to sweep other kerbed areas; if there are areas requiring particular attention please alert the BDC Contact Centre 01376 331616 at least a week before the proposed visits.

PLEASE NOTE THAT JULY COPY DEADLINE IS JUNE 30th.

We are always looking for ideas for articles or photos. Correspondents and editorial volunteers most welcome. hanley.millfields@btinternet.com or pinelodger20@hotmail.com

Letters and comments are welcome, but please note that they will not be used unless name and address is supplied. This information will not be published