

SHALFORD NEWS

Published Quarterly

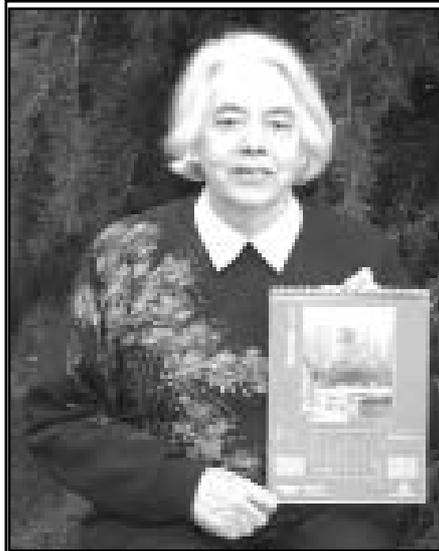
Issue 10

Spring Edition 2005



Calendar Girl

JACQUELINE Wisby has been taking photographs since she was a schoolgirl, and she still has her Mother's Box Brownie camera, complete with a film in it too. In the early 60's as a working girl she purchased a top of the range Voitlander, an automatic fixed lens camera, changed from prints to slides, bought a projector and screen and began her lifetime love affair with photography. After marriage to Gerald, a farmer, and the birth of two children her photographing activities were mainly confined to family and farming. By the late eighties she realised that she needed an assortment of lens and bought a Nikon 501, but not understanding its technicalities, she enrolled on a "get to know your camera course". The course instructor was a member of the Halstead Photographic Society, and Jacqueline joined the club. Her subsequent world travel is recorded on 10,000 slides some of which she is busy scanning onto discs for her daughter, Anita. Many of these slides she has shown to various groups such as the WI, Ladies' Group, and Flower Clubs free of charge, but any donations she receives go to the Epilepsy Charity.



Jacqueline with the Calendar

The Halstead Photographic Society was recently awarded a £5,000 Lottery grant to spend on upgrading to digital equipment; this will enable the Society to reintroduce Colour View Audio Visual Shows in local villages. As Chairman of the Halstead club, now the owner of a Nikon F5 camera and with more lessons on the new technology Jacqueline's long interest in photography is certain to continue. An example of Jacqueline's photogra-

Art for Farleigh

Why is artist Steve Downey of Wades Garden, Shalford organising a mammoth fund raising in aid of the New Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford? Last year his wife Maureen died of cancer and he and his two daughters, both artists, decided to thank Farleigh for its support to them and many other families. The new hospice, to serve mid-Essex, will cost over £6 million to build and equip; later this year Steve is planning to walk The Great Wall of China, another effort to collect money for the New Farleigh. Many artists have responded to this building appeal, over 100 paintings have been donated and auctioneer Robert Putt will encourage buyers to bid generously on Sunday 6th March at The Minorities Art Gallery, High Street, Colchester from 3pm to 4.30pm. The paintings, which will be on view earlier, 1pm to 3pm, will have minimum reserve prices from £10 to £150, and Steve is hoping that over £2000 will result from the afternoon auction.

phy is a view of St Andrew's Church in winter, which won her a prize in the 2004 Essex Village Link Calendar competition.

We Won!

MESSAGE from the Editor..... What a surprise: we did it! "Shalford News" was judged the best news-sheet in the New Entries Class in the village magazine competition organised by the Rural Community Council of Essex. The prize? This was a certificate and a £25 cheque, handed to Shalford Parish Council, which finances the newsheet's printing costs. The certificate is on display in the Village Hall.

Our thanks especially to the team of people who help to produce and distribute the paper. For future editions we welcome contributions; please send in articles, newsy items and topical suggestions

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Rural Community Council of Essex

Village Magazines Competition 2004

Winner - New Entries

SHALFORD NEWS

John D. Brown
Signature

7 December, 2004
Date



MAGIC SQUARES

Over 3000 years ago in a Chinese book a story was written about a giant turtle with dots, which represented numbers, in a square on its back. This magic square, known as Lo Shu, is the oldest number mystery and is supposed to bring good luck and drive away disease. The dots in the square stand for the numbers 1 to 9. They are entered in the square so that the columns, rows and diagonals give a total of 15. Can you complete the squares? Solution on back page

8		6	6		8
			7	5	
4		2			
2	7				2
			1		9
	3	8		3	

Busy Bee-Keeper

Over 25 years ago I took up beekeeping, even though colleagues thought it madness to consider such a "bizarre" hobby. Over the months in a local class of would-be beekeepers I became absorbed by the craft's basic know-how, and eagerly took the next step of acquiring bees and equipment. Two hives of bees were located and with the invaluable assistance of Melanie, my daughter, we started beekeeping.

The bee-keeping year begins in early September when the previous year's honey crop is removed and after which the bees are fed with sugar syrup. All being well the bees should over-winter, but regular checks are necessary on hive weight and food supply. The Queen commences egg laying in early spring, when supers, (boxes holding frames for honey storage), are put on. Hopefully, these fill as the season progresses. Until July/August regular inspections are made at ten-day intervals, to prevent swarming. A colony naturally produces Queen cells to ensure the species' continuation, and as swarming reduces productivity, inspections and removal of unwanted cells are a necessity, although not always successful!

Local Band 'Refrain'

Should you be passing the Village Hall most Friday evenings and hear music you may wonder who is playing, this is where Shalford's band "Refrain" rehearse, the band has four enthusiastic, talented young men with a shared passion for music.

Two of the band members are the Barber brothers who live in Barryfields and went to Shalford School; Stuart, is 17, a guitarist and the lead singer and his brother Daniel, aged 15, the drummer. The other members live in Braintree and are Tony Page, 17, a guitarist and 18 year-old Edward

Groombridge, bass guitarist; both boys join Stuart in the vocals. Stuart, and Tony are full-time students at Braintree College and Tony who is on a Media Course ably designed and set up the band's web site, www.refrainonline.tk

Edward is studying at Colchester's Sixth Form College and Daniel, a pupil at



Stuart, Daniel, Tony and Edward rehearsing

Tabor High School has his sights set on going on to university eventually, as do the other three. All four have saved hard for their expensive professional equipment, or been given it as presents by their supportive families; the band play easy listening music as well as Rock and Roll, tunes from the 60's to the present. Would they like to be "discovered"? At the moment they enjoy the band as a fun hobby and not as a career, but agree they would be forced to re-think if fame did come their way. Without a manager or advertising they already have a following in the area and are being booked for more gigs which is earning them some cash. This year they are keen to produce a demo recording, which will be used to promote the band more widely. It comes as no surprise that "Refrain" has played at village and charity events for free; for many reasons youngsters often come in for criticism so it is refreshing to meet a group of good humoured, charming, well-balanced teenagers who spend their free time together making music.

Our previous home in Buckhurst Hill was surrounded by gardens and woods and in August /September, we were excited by our first ever honey crop, it did not crystallise and was akin to getting Nature's bounty free from the hedgerows. However, when we moved to Shalford the surrounding dreaded oilseed rape gave us a baptism of fire experience. The rape provides an excellent honey crop, but the extraction timing from the supers is critical. If crystallisation occurs it is almost impossible to extract the comb, and that year our seven/eight supers needed heating before the honey, which was of poor quality (a result of the heat treatment), could be removed. But some of this honey mixed with sugar did provide the winter-feed. The experience was a salutary lesson. Sometimes, despite diligent checks some Queen cells did escape and we had swarming problems. Although quite large swarms they were mostly accessible; our first one, from a different apiary,

was a classic case. One fine Sunday morning a smallish swarm settled on a fruit tree branch some six/seven feet above ground, a quick snip of the secateurs, and the swarm dropped into a box and was secured for the short trip home. Not every manipulation is such plain sailing. Once, in the dark, we attempted to move several hives. All went well until the securing ropes of the final hive, which was big and heavy, came adrift. Although we were properly dressed for the operation the bees so rudely awakened, quickly found their way into our wellies and clothing. Scooping up bees by torchlight is not a pleasant activity! Later, re-assembling and re-positioning the hive was a chastening experience. In some areas hives suffer annually from extensive woodpecker damage, luckily not a real problem for us. Sadly, my adventure with bees has now come to an end, and I shall miss the satisfaction and fascination of this "bizarre" hobby

Gordon Cornhill.

A Bright Museum

John Bright, who has spent a lifetime working with wood, made his first to-scale model, a lorry in 1986. Little did he and Janet, his wife realise that this would be the beginning of an absorbing hobby, one that would develop gradually filling their sitting room with models. In 1997 John bought a new car, which required a larger garage, and when this was built the old garage provided the much-needed space to display John's models. Their small museum was created. In addition to the models the Brights have filled the shelves with over 1000 other interesting items including a fine collection of salt cellars, Shalford Cricket Club documents and photographs, (John was a club player), a variety of old carpentry and other tools, newspapers of historic value, as well as a miscellany of personal, village, and wartime memorabilia. The collection continues to expand; further pieces donated by visitors have been added. Without any advertising the museum has attracted over 200 visitors, including family and friends from near and far, some from abroad, who have come eagerly to view this singular and fascinating collection. The Brights are always pleased to show interested people what lies behind their old garage door, but request a phone call telephone 01371 850877 from would-be callers to fix a convenient date and time before they make a visit.



John, son Jeremy, with the original model lorry and a later model windmill

W I Celebrations

The WI movement was born in Canada set up by Mrs Ada Hoodless, who after her child's death determined to educate women, many living in rural isolation, in basic household management. At the first meeting over 100 women attended; the idea quickly spread overseas to England and Wales and in 1915 the Essex Federation was formed, this year is its 90th Anniversary.

On the last Saturday afternoon in January 1920 at the Village school 77 women attended the inaugural meeting of Shalford WI. Five years later the

Village Hall was built and the afternoon meetings transferred there until many years later the group opted to meet in the evening. Originally the WI concentrated on home and handicraft skills, but now members can study a broader range of subjects from computer use to setting up a business, at the WI Denman College near Oxford.

On its 85th Anniversary the Shalford WI held a celebratory dinner in the Village Hall attended by the Essex Federation Chairman, the branch's WI Advisor, members and husbands. The guests who enjoyed the display of minute books, photographs and other memorabilia collected over the preceding

AS A TRAILER OF SPRING

In the flourish of mahonia a first harmony of bushed bees squeezes the breakfast juice from this unripe morning, and more than one budding cock blackbird skips about with no possibility of keeping his tail down... and all a stupid mortal can think of, would it be any help offering them an elastic band or two?

Printed here by kind permission of David Cobb (published in Anon One, 2003)

More Blooming Trees

DURING National Tree Week, Nov. 24th to Dec. 5th volunteers planted a collection of trees around Shalford. An anonymous villager had generously gifted the trees, and Melvyn Crowe, BDC Tree Officer, advised on species and supervised the planting sites. It is hoped the trees will give pleasure to people and wildlife for years to come. Two Wild Service and three Rowans (Mountain Ash), these produce white blossom in May followed by autumnal coloured berries, have been planted in a small grove in Stoneley Park. An Acer, pseudoplatanus brilliantissimum, noted for glorious autumn foliage will complete this planting. Sited near Abbots Hall Lodge is a Robinia, (False Acacia); this has sweet scented white pea-like flowers followed by long fruiting pods. Near Water Hall Lane corner an Oak is planted, a group of three Silver Birches is now situated at the junction of Clifffield and The Street and four more Birches fill the gaps between existing trees along Clifffield. Two Yews, one to replace an existing old Yew, and two Wild Crab Apple trees are now planted in the churchyard. Shalford School pupils helped choose and plant ten assorted native trees around the school field; the children have adopted and will care for them.

85 years showed interest and nostalgia. New members and visitors are welcome to join Shalford WI meetings on the first Wednesday every month, here is an opportunity to make new friends or catch up with old ones

What's going on and where

MARCH

Sat 12th - Rummage Sale by Friendship Club. 2pm Village Hall

Mon 14th - CREAMER FUND, Easter Raffle at Freshwell Health Centre

Sat 19th - Royal British Legion. Jumble Sale including bric a brac, plants, cakes, etc. 2pm Village Hall

Mon 21st - CREAMER FUND AGM 7pm Open Evening Freshwell Health Centre. 7.30pm. Everyone welcome

Tues 22nd - CREAMER FUND, Raffle Draw at Freshwell Heath Centre

Thurs 24th - Flowers, coffee and a chat St. Andrew's Church, 9 to 11am

APRIL

Wed 6th - WI Meeting Village Hall, 7.45pm, talk "25 years in Health Visiting. How families have changed"

Wed 13th - Parkinson's Disease Society Information Day Braintree Town Hall 10am - 3pm. Specialist Nurse will be on hand.

Thurs 21st - Flowers, coffee and a chat St. Andrew's Church, 9 to 11am

MAY

Sat 21st - Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale, plus rummage white elephant, cakes, raffle. Village Hall 2.30pm

FLOWER POWER!

Do you like flowers? Interested in decorating St Andrew's Church with flowers? More helping hands are required to join the very small flower arranging team who keep the church looking lovely throughout the seasons. Beginners, the dabblers and the more experienced are needed and will be made very welcome. To find out what's involved and how you could assist, why not meet up for a coffee and a chat with Nan Stevenson, Shirley Bedding, and Jo Crow in the church on Thursday 24th March and Thursday 21st April, 9 to 11am on both mornings. Please note; volunteers do not have to be churchgoers.

***THE DIARY OF A FORGOTTEN BATTALION.** Former Shalford resident and author Gerald Harvey has written about the Household Battalion based on many Regimental War Diaries, memoirs, diaries and letters. Further information contact the author at 22 Meadowfield, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1PL

NEWS IN BRIEF

* USED POSTAGE STAMPS

are sorted and sold by charities and are a useful way to raise funds. Anne Tee who collects stamps to send to the RNIB and the Children's Society will be pleased to receive stamp donations. Tel 850975 for more details.

*SURPLUS KNITTING WOOL.

Marguerite Sillett organised the Christmas Box Appeal, which contained scarves, hats and gloves. Wool is needed for this year's boxes. Telephone Marguerite on 851535

***WINTER WALK.** Thanks to Dave and Sue Martin, who planned and led the walk, over 20 people enjoyed the footpath ramble on a beautiful crisp winter's morning at Christmas and afterwards welcomed the hot drinks, biscuits and mince pies at the Village Hall

***HISTORY ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION.** Do you have any small interesting local objects/bygones, which you would be prepared to lend for display in the Village Hall cabinet? If so please contact Iris Beard, tel 850906

***BENDLOWE TRUST.** Jo Smith, has agreed to become a Trustee, she is the grand-daughter in law of the late Vera Smith, a former long serving Trustee. The Trust has equipment suitable for use by the disabled, which can be borrowed. The Clerk, Angela Tanner has more information, tel 850445/256

***NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.** The Police again warn that "hard sell" companies, offering security are operating locally. The charges for such safety surveys and installations by these companies are often very high. Contact the Crime Prevention Officer at Braintree Police Station 01376 551312 if you need help with home security.

*** "LOVE LETTERS"** performed by Serendipity Productions to raise funds for St Andrew's Church was well supported and resulted in over £1000 being handed over to the PCC. The atmosphere was created by the small stages, which replaced the two front pews and spotlights theatrically lit the area. The audience, packed in tightly, an advantage on what was a bitter cold night, enjoyed this thoughtful and unusual play. The social get-together after the show, with wine and light refreshments provided a pleasant end to the evening.

***FOOTPATHS** "Can you help with footpath maintenance?" asks Parish Councillor Alan Oates. If you are willing to offer help contact Alan now. Volunteers are urgently needed to cut the paths around the field edges. The PC is responsible for keeping these paths "walkable". A strimmer-on-wheels is available for this work, which is straightforward and easy to use and does a good job. Tel: Alan 850621

FRESHWELL HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

Dr David Oliver commenced as a full-time Doctor in October 2004

Following her six month sabbatical in Canada working in gynaecology, Dr. Shaw returns in April

CREAMER FUND UPDATE

*Christmas raffle... raised £1917, made up to £2000 by a generous donor. £667 for ECG machine repair and the balance was banked.

*The Easter Raffle runs 14th to 22nd March. Prizes gratefully received at the Surgery.

*AGM/Open Meeting 7pm Monday 21st March. Meet the Medical Staff and Trustees and hear how the funds raised over the last year have been used.

Answer to the Chinese quiz

8	1	6	6	1	8
3	5	7	7	5	3
4	9	2	2	9	4
2	7	6	6	7	2
9	5	1	1	5	9
4	3	8	8	3	4

Contributors this quarter.

John Bright, Anita Clapson, David Cobb, Gordon Cornhill, Steve Downey, Jean Murphy, Heather Smith, Anne Tee, Jacqueline Wisby, Sally Wood

Please note that the June copy deadline is Monday 23rd May

The Editors welcome articles of village happenings/events, ideas and photos. Please contact Jo Crow tel: 850101 or e-mail pinelodger20@hotmail.com Brenda Hanley 850480 or e-mail hanley.millfields@btinternet.com Writers' names and addresses are required, but will not be published, with articles.