

SHALFORD NEWS

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What is a Parish Council?

It is some years now since there was a parish council election in Shalford. There is an opportunity in May this year to stand as a candidate for election as a councillor. Here is some useful information on parish councils for those interested in becoming more involved in the local community.

WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?

- The Parish Council is the first tier of democratic government.
- The Parish Council is an independent village administrative body
- Shalford Parish Council has 7 councillors and a Parish Clerk
- The next Parish Council Election will be held on

THURSDAY 3RD MAY 2007

SOME OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

can be done by itself or it can give financial help to others to carry out the work.

- to spend the parish grant on improving the quality of village life.
- to preserve the best of village life.
- to make recommendations to the BDC on planning applications
- to be involved in the provision of halls and meeting places
- to produce parish plans and village surveys
- to provide village newsletters, leaflets to newcomers, litter and dog waste bins.
- to maintain bus shelters, public benches, burial grounds and rights of way by transferred ECC powers
- to monitor and fund through the parish grant street lighting
- to appoint charitable trustees and school governors if required.

NOTE: The Parish Council has nothing to do with the Parochial Church Council or any other church.

Braintree District Council through its Community Charge funds some of the parish grant; the rest is raised from the precept, or local tax, which is based on the size of the village population and number of houses.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

If you live in Shalford, or within 4.8 kms or 3 miles of the parish boundary, are the owner or tenant for the last twelve months of a piece of land within the parish, or your principle place of work is within Shalford, albeit you live elsewhere, you are eligible to stand for election.

An information pack giving all the details can be obtained as from

MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2007

from either Steve Phillips, Electoral Services, Braintree District Council

Tel: 01376 557751

or the Parish Clerk, Cathryn Carlisle 01371 851342

The pack contains all the relevant information for prospective candidates who need to be proposed by two parishioners, these can be the candidate, a partner, a friend, a neighbour or any other Shalford resident.

The completed form should be returned to:

Steve Phillips, Electoral Services, Braintree District Council,
Causeway House, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB

Before 12 noon WEDNESDAY 4th APRIL, 2007

FOSTAC

Successful fund raising continues and hopefully plans for the toilet and kitchen will be turned into reality. Regrettably the 10k Run in April has sadly to be cancelled again because of unforeseen circumstances.

Charlie Haylock appeared in February and with his unsophisticated rural Suffolk humour entertained a large audience and filled the church with laughter.

On March 3rd Peter Mayo, with his wife Jo, have organised a musical evening, when local young musicians have an opportunity to show off their talents, report next issue.

A Coffee Morning has been arranged for April.

On Saturday 25th May "Martyn Harrison Entertains" he is presenting "A Century of the British Musical"; as a freelance professional singer Martyn has performed with many national opera companies in the UK and Europe. Tickets for all events are obtainable from Jo Crow tel: 01371 850101

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

WARNING; please be wary of anyone offering a service to remove large items of rubbish/unwanted goods. The scam is to charge for this collection service, the cash is taken and the rubbish "to be picked up later" never is. Telephone Braintree District Council 01376 5525525 for details of the special disposal service for larger items.

NEWSFLASH; following a spate of thefts e.g. phones, lap tops, digital cameras, sat-navs etc. from cars parked overnight on home driveways owners are warned to remove anything of value from their cars.

Obituary - Thomas Frank David Easton, 1974- 2006

Tom was born with a heart defect which required early surgery and caused him a difficult childhood. The family moved to The Old Post Office in Shalford in 1980 where Tom attended the village school. He was very articulate, being recognised as a gifted child by the Education Authority in his teens; he much enjoyed farming with Tim Goodchild at Shalford Hall Farm. Following secondary education at Newport Grammar School, he had further heart surgery before going to Wye College where he studied environmental biology achieving a 2.1.



He joined ALcontrol, becoming Organics Manager; a senior colleague described him as the best practising chromatographer he had ever met, while another remarked on his supreme intellect, problem-solving ability and “hands on” approach. The many tributes received describe him as a brilliant scientist, witty, friendly and supportive, generous and a man of integrity.

He fought the adversity of his ill-health with little complaint and great courage and humour. In 2002 more heart complications were diagnosed, and later he developed what became a

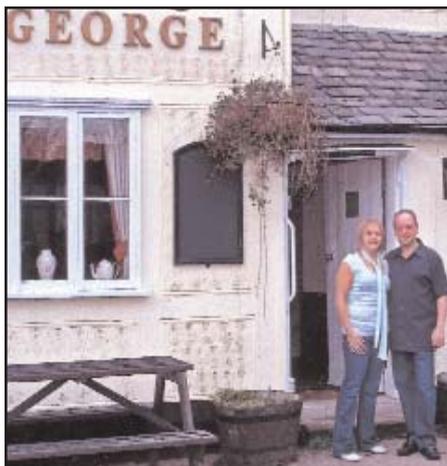
severe case of ulcerative colitis. In November 2006 he underwent a further heart operation which tragically proved fatal. Tom had moved away to pursue his career and was about to move again with a precious love in his life. He loved Shalford and always thought of it as home. Although his life was cruelly cut short Sandra, Frank, William, and Abigail feel privileged to have been part of it; their loss is inestimable.

The family chose the charity National Association for Colitis and Crohn’s (NACC) as the beneficiary of donations in lieu of flowers. They wish to thank the many from the village and elsewhere who donated, and those who provided meals and support at a dreadful time and helped in so many ways on the day of Tom’s funeral.

So far £4,200 has been collected for the NACC including £708 at the funeral service.

Free House

Fifty years ago Shalford was a thriving village with a school, shops, garage, pubs, and frequent deliveries, but with the decline of public services and the advent of supermarkets the villagers’ lifestyle changed; easy car travel, new housing developments and in-comers have altered the village but The George public house has remained con-



stant. In April 2006 this 15th century listed pub was bought by a London management consultant Stuart Alderson; his older brother Steve, experienced in the licence trade now manages it with the help of Tracy, his daughter. Their aim is to attract local and passing trade with good beer and home cooked meals using fresh food from local suppliers. During the first year’s trading business has gradually built up assisted by the vouchers given to the MOD staff at Wethersfield. Apart from having its own web site, being AA listed and in “The Hidden Places” travel guide and been nominated for the Good Beer Guide the pub’s reputation relies on personal recommendation rather than advertising.

A small beer festival is planned this summer; keeping and serving beers is important in this “free house”, “George Bitter” is especially brewed locally for the pub. Negotiations are in hand for a new competitively priced wine list. A charity event in March precedes the April celebration of family birthdays and

Shalford Children’s lives 160 years ago...by Dorothy Gardner were these really the “good old days”?

February-March was not a favourite time of year. In “February fill-dyke”, for the majority of Shalford people keeping dry and warm was difficult, and for many food was in short supply. Families of farm labourers, the majority of the population, lived on bread and potatoes and any vegetables they could grow with “a little pig meat” and perhaps an ounce (28grs) or two of tea per week. After paying 5p or more a week rent for their cottage and buying coal and wood, there was not much left for clothes and the most expensive item, boots. Applying for poor relief now meant going into the workhouse, the last resort which actually kept people from starving.

Far from being given pocket money by their parents, like children today, children had to work in order to contribute something to the family income, and they started early. A 9 year-old boy might earn one and a halfpence a day for scaring the crows off the corn; a 10 year-old plough boy could perhaps earn two and a halfpence a day and a 12 year-old driving a pair of horses three and a halfpence per day taking a hunk of barley bread with him for his midday meal. Older children could earn 15-20p per week and adults 30-40p; 40p per week was the general rate for farm labourers. Little boys of 6 might be at a “dame school” beginning to learn to read and write, but at the age of 9 they were employable on the farm where they might be expected to spend the rest of their lives. Little girls could earn much earlier.....this article will be continued in the summer edition.

Editors’ note: All prices and earnings quoted are the equivalent of today’s money.

Steve and Tracy’s first year in Shalford. “The George” is a member of the pub watch scheme which covers Braintree and the surrounding area. This July legislation will ban smoking in public places and Steve, a smoker, will welcome this in his effort to give up the habit!

Battlefields and War Graves

The Harvey family has a long association with the village and John and his three brothers were born and lived with their parents at Keeper's Cottage. John's early interest in the Great War was aroused on hearing his father read out the names on the War Memorial, St Andrew's Church.

His interest deepened after being an Army cadet at school, doing National Service and joining the Territorials. As a result he wrote a book on the war and has taken many groups of Regimental Associations on 3-day visits to the Western Front Battlefields.

Whenever possible John visits the graves of Shalford men who gave their lives in this terrible conflict. This year, is the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, during the Last Post John has been asked to read the exhortation "They shall not grow old" etc. For more details of his tours telephone John 01778421038, who now lives in Lincolnshire.



The gravestone above is that of Private A Watkinson 3/2399, 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment, buried in the Louven-court Military Cemetery.

It is recorded that he died of wounds on 6th July 1916, aged 35. He was the son of Robert and Mary Emily Watkinson of Shalford. He had also served in the South African campaign.

For Sale....

THE LORDSHIP OF THE MANOR OF SHALFORD

The Lordship, held by Crown Lands, has been in the same family for over 300 years and is available for purchase. A copy of the title is registered with the Land Registry, and the 84 original manorial documents beginning with letters patent from Elizabeth 1, circa 1569 go with the title. There are many attached manorial rights and the suggested price is £250,000 for the title and documents, this is half the stated value at the Land Registry. For more information please contact by e-mail: john.deicher@ebby.com

100 Words, more or less

Could you write a piece about hobbies, holidays, thoughts, family, gardening, animals, history, in fact on any subject for inclusion in a future Shalford News? Articles, plus names and addresses please to Brenda Hanley 01371 850480, brenda@ukhanley.co.uk or Jo Crow 01371 850101, pinelodger20@hotmail.com, or by post.

CREAMER FUND NEWS

by Jean Murphy

- The Christmas raffle raised over £1,750; the flu jab clinic tombola was well supported. Thanks to all who helped.

- Items purchased/replaced to date with previously raised money.

1. A 24hr Event recorder and an ECG Holter System, tapes and 5 year service contracts have been purchased to support patients suffering palpitations

2. Defibrillator battery replaced.

3. Echocardiogram contract renewed.

4. More pill boxes for disabled patients.

Forthcoming Events

- Coffee Morning 10.30am Sat. 17th March URC Hall, Wethersfield. Entrance £1 to include coffee and cake. Bring a small green object; most useful one wins a green prize!

- Easter Raffle at the surgery Mon 23rd March to Tuesday 3rd April.

Donations of prizes greatly appreciated!

- AGM 6.30 pm Tues 27th March at Freshwell Health Centre, everyone welcome

Return flight? There and Back?

One swallow does not a summer make! By Sue Martin

But, the first sighting of one is a welcome sign that summer will soon be with us. This re-appearance each year is part of the bird migration marvel when millions of birds move at predictable times from their winter quarters to their breeding grounds. Not only do they fly thousands of miles and encounter many hazards on the way, but many actually return to the location where they nested or were reared the previous year. This migration gives the birds a better chance of survival and greater breeding success, they move to a more favourable climatic environment where there will, in most years, be an abundant supply of food for their young.

Birds, such as redwings and fieldfares are UK winter visitors leaving by April's end to breed in northern Europe. Summer migrants, from sub-Saharan Africa, start to arrive from mid-March; migration is complete by early May. Chiffchaffs are among the first to arrive, swallows and house martins follow between late March and mid-April. Neighbours compete to hear the first cuckoo call; this eagerly awaited sound is in mid to late April. The cuckoo looks like a longer tailed sparrow hawk. Warblers, whitethroats, swifts and flycatchers are among the later arrivals. Another migrant known for its song is the nightingale, an inconspicuous robin-like bird which sings at night as well as during the day. One of the last to arrive is the turtle dove, a small, slender dove with a purring call, whose numbers visiting this area appear to be decreasing.

Some of these migrants, chiffchaffs and blackcaps are hardier and regularly over winter here having adapted to local conditions; for those other birds which cannot survive the cold conditions and lack sufficient food for survival, they depart by the end of October for warmer climates; hopefully many will return to enrich our summer the following year.

An all-consuming hobby

At 10 years old Darren Lamb, who being bullied at school, joined a karate club to build up his self confidence. He could not have imagined that years later he would have



achieved a "Black Belt" and recently was awarded his third "Dan". In Braintree he was once able to defend himself from a two man attack, one struck from behind but Darren's technique soon threw and pinned him to the ground, quickly both men ran off. He does find time for other hobbies, particularly 10-pin bowling and films. Darren practises Wado Ryu karate on Tuesday evenings at Glebe Hall, Braintree; anyone interested in trying this sport can telephone him 0777 912 8586, Darren will enthusiastically share his karate knowledge.

Take a stroll round the hamlet

by Brian Beard

In earlier times Shalford Green's thatched non-conformist church, built 1854, was destroyed by fire in its centenary anniversary year. Miraculously it was re-built in brick and tile within a year.

The Victoria public house, once known as Allens on the Hill, ceased to operate as a licenced premise in 1966, but still continues as an attractive dwelling house today.

Not so fortunate was the windmill behind The Bungalow on Victoria Hill where only the base remains. This post mill was operated by the West family until 1896 when it was taken down and the component parts were put into service again at Cock Green; the roundhouse was used to house pigeons for a while.

Little's Lane once boasted a blacksmith's forge in Webb's field, but in common with the windmill, this too is long since gone, leaving only the remains of some associated buildings as evidence of its previous existence.

What is Dressage? by Camilla Jarvis

What is it? This is a sport in which horse and rider are judged on the level of training of the horse. The criteria is harmony of the partnership, smoothness of pace increase and decrease, balance of the horse's paces, correct shape of the horse when travelling and horse's obedience to rider's wishes.

From where does the name originate? From the French verb "dresser"- to train.

What are the sports' roots? Dressage was devised to allow cavalry soldiers ease and precision of movement in battle. Fashionable in the late 16th century; noblemen observed and participated in the sport in specially built indoor riding schools, one at the Palace of Versailles.

What is the entry level? The Beginner's test is to walk and trot; Preliminary tests are simple movements, circles and turns at walk, trot and canter. What is the maximum level? Grand Prix, when a horse looks as though it is a dancing horse. Some of the amazing movements are; 1.Piaffe, trotting on the spot; 2.Passing, horse looks like a puppet moving suspended by strings; 3.Pirouette, hind legs stationary whilst front legs circle around; 4.Full Pass, horse moves sideways without moving forward.

Where can dressage be seen? Sky Sports features dressage events. Unex Towerlands, Bocking hold displays.



Many thanks to all the contributors,

Please note that the Summer copy deadline is Friday 18th 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 brennda@ukhanley.co.uk

Writers' names and addresses are required, but will not be published, with articles.

OPEN INVITATION

The Shalford Village Hall Management Committee invites all residents of Shalford to attend the
Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Wednesday 25th April at 8pm

Come and see how we have spent your donations on the Hall.
Help us to continue our programme of improvements
by joining the Committee -
a little of your energy and time goes a very long way!

Want to know more?

Ring Charlotte Lewtas, Hon. Secretary, on 01371 851003

News in Brief

Changing Faces - Retired Parish Clerk

Ted and Anne Tee moved from Theydon Bois to Shalford in 1985 and they quickly became involved in village life. Anne took over the role of Parish Clerk in 1997 and since being widowed eight years ago she has kept herself very busy being W.I. President, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council, as well as secretary to both the United Benefice and Deanery Synod. Recently Anne relinquished her parish clerk post so she could devote more time to her many other interests which include craftwork, choir singing and dog "sitting". Anne has now decided to sell her Shalford home and has purchased a more compact Braintree house with less garden, and from where she can walk into the town. All good wishes go with Anne for her retirement.

New Parish Clerk

Cathryn Carlisle has lived in Great Saling for over 5 years with her partner Colin and two sons Robert and Stewart. She was brought up with her twin sister on a Leicestershire farm along with another sister. Her introduction to the job of Parish Clerk was through her mother, who held the post in her home village, Cathryn is now experienced in the post as she is already clerk to the Great Saling Council and we welcome her to Shalford. Tel 01371 851342

Don Leeder 1925-2007

Acknowledgement- Peggy Leeder and all her family wish to thank everyone who attended the recent funeral service for Don in St Andrew's Church, with especial thanks to the Rev. Colin Wilson who officiated. The many cards and messages of sympathy were much appreciated and the generous donations in Don's memory will be divided between the CREAMER and the Macmillan Nurses' Funds.

Don lived, worked and gave great service to St Andrew's Church, the Village Hall Management Committee and the tennis, table tennis and football clubs during his long life in Shalford.

Royal British Legion

Wanted.... bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts, surplus goods for a Rummage Sale at 2pm on Saturday 31st March in Shalford Village Hall. Entrance 20p. Tel David Brown 01371 850743 or Peter Morton 01371 850626 to arrange collection of bulkier items.

Shalford Horticultural Society

Book to visit Kew Gardens on Saturday 23rd June Coach and entrance £18, over 60's and disabled £15.50. Tickets available now. First come, first served contact Sue Martin 01371 850535.

Start planning now to enter Shalford's Best Kept Garden Competition. To be judged in June, date advised in schedule. Saturday 19th May. Make a note of the date and book a table, for only £5, at the next Table-Top Sale. Take this opportunity to sell your surplus belongings, books, clothes, toys, homemade goodies and plants, in fact anything. Contact the Secretary Charlotte Lewtas 01371 851003

Plan now for the Summer Show, 25th July. Here's an opportunity for all the family to enter and display their horticultural, culinary and handicraft talents. Watch out for the schedules.

Indoor Carpet Bowls Club

23 members of the Indoor Carpet Bowls Club enjoyed the annual dinner last month at The King's Head, Gosfield. The club continues to meet on Tuesday evenings in the VH, anyone interested in having a "taster session" is very welcome just go along or tel Gerald Wisby 01371 851484

George PH Darts Team

An enthusiastic group of nine, local lads including one lady, play darts on Monday evenings. The George team have been successful in matches and are already creeping towards the top of the league. A "B" team is required and would-be players are needed, contact Steve 850207 for more information

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Sat 3rd FOSTAC: Peter Mayo and Young Friends in Concert. 6.30pm St. Andrew's Church. Tickets £5, children free

Wed 7th W.I. "Puppet Tale" speaker Angela Collins, VH 7.45pm

Sat 17th CREAMER Coffee Morning URC Hall Wethersfield, 10.30am. cake stall etc. Admission £1 includes coffee

Sat 17th Friendship Club, Rummage Sale, bric-a-brac, raffle etc. VH 2.00pm

Mon 19th Information pack for Parish Council Election from BDC or Parish Clerk 851342

Mon 26th to Tues 3rd April CREAMER Easter Raffle Freshwell Health Centre

Tues 27th CREAMER AGM Freshwell Health Centre 6.30pm

Sat 31st Royal British Legion, Rummage Sale, bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts, cake stall, etc. VH 2.00pm

APRIL

Wed 4th W.I. "Flora, Fauna, and Fun in NZ" speaker Dudley Chignall VH 7.45pm

Wed 4th Parish Council: before 12 noon last day for candidates' application forms to BDC

Wed 11th FOSTAC Coffee Morning 11am Thatched Cottage, Cherry Gardens. Entrance £1 includes coffee

Sun 15th St Andrew's Parochial Church Council AGM 10.15 after Morning Service; all parishioners most welcome

Wed 25th VHMC AGM Village Hall 8pm

MAY

Wed 2nd W.I. Resolutions VH 7.45 pm

Thurs 3rd Parish Council Elections. Polling Station VH

Sat 19th Horticultural Society Table-Top and Plant Sale. Table bookings £5 tel: Charlotte Lewtas 851003

Sat 26th FOSTAC: "A Century of British Musicals" presented by Martyn Harrison. St Andrew's Church 7.30pm Tickets £7 from Jo Crow 850101

Forthcoming Horticultural Society events in June see "News in Brief" for details of Kew visit and Best Kept Garden Competition.