

Shalford News

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



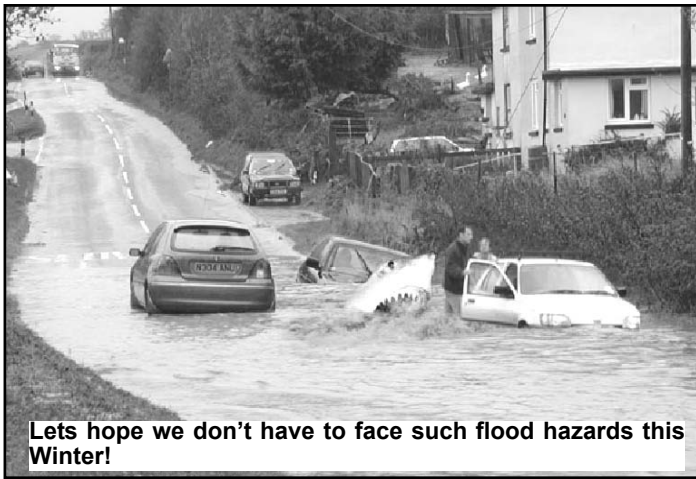
FLOOD PRECAUTIONS IN SHALFORD

Now that memories of our glorious Summer have faded and the rainy season is with us again, it's time to look at potential flood protection.

Shalford now has a supply of sandbags from the BDC available for villagers' use during times of flood, the bags are stored in the gateway entrance to Tanner's Yard, (courtesy of Mr Alex Tanner) in front of the Police Station.

Watercourseswho is responsible for what?

The Environment Agency is responsible for the management of main rivers and is the supervising authority.



Lets hope we don't have to face such flood hazards this Winter!

BDC has "Permissive Powers" through the Land Drainage Act 1991 and Owners of land through which a watercourse flows have certain riparian rights and responsibilities and these are based on common law. Clarification of these can be obtained from the Environment Agency or the BDC.

Householders are responsible for keeping any ditches or pipes on their land clear of obstruction so that the flow of water is not impeded. It is important to check that in the event of flooding water can get away without affecting others.

These are the broad outlines of rights and responsibilities, more detailed information on these is contained in a booklet "Living on the Edge" obtainable free from BDC.

BDC are aware that an area in Churchend has had flooding problems and will carry out further investigations as to the cause in the near future.

New Bus Service

An independent, privately operated mini-bus service is proposed to start in January 2004 from Shalford, Jaspers Green, Panfield and Braintree for children attending various schools in Colchester. For more information telephone Vina Gandecha, 01371 850913.

Chiropody Clinic.... the final cut

Sadly, after almost 15 years the NHS, because of lack of funds, has closed the Shalford chiropody clinic.

The surgery, was set up within the village hall after generous villagers raised enough money in a day-long fund raising to provide a small room, partitioned off from the main hall, and all the necessary equipment for a visiting NHS chiropodist.. The clinic, which catered for the older residents of Shalford and Beazley End, Blackmore End, Panfield, Rayne, The Salings and Wethersfield, was run entirely by volunteers.

The NHS service was free, but patients when they attended the clinic were invited to make a small financial contribution to off set the clinic's modest running costs. The VPMC charged a small amount to cover the rent and heating costs on the mornings when the clinic was in use.

The volunteers arranged appointments for treatment, organised transport if it was needed, served cups of tea/coffee to the patients with whom they were ever ready to have a chat and if required offer assistance. The clinic was a real social service!

The treatment chair was kindly donated



Shalford News wishes all its readers a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

by the late Sonny Hastings, and the other equipment, purchased over the years out of clinic funds, were a chiropody drill, an overhead magnifier/lamp and instrument trolley. All of these items have now been offered to and accepted by the Freshwell Health Centre in Finchingfield and it is satisfying to know that this equipment will still be used in the surgery for the benefit of patients.

At the clinic's closure there was just over £200 left in the bank account and this money has been donated to the CREAMER Fund, the Bendlowe Trust and Shalford Village Hall Management Committee.



Brenda Hanley and Andrew Overall move equipment to the Freshwell Centre.

Book Launch

Favourite recipes from Shalford School pupils and their families have been collected together and published in a book to be on sale at the PTA "Taste of Christmas" on Saturday 13th December.



NEED A LITTLE EXERCISE OR A BREATH OF AIR, POST CHRISTMAS?

TRY A CIRCULAR WALK FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

(Takes about an hour at a brisk pace. Please keep to the paths and put dogs on a lead, especially across open farmland. Suggest wearing walking shoes or boots, it could be muddy in places.)

1 Cross road in front of the Village Hall TR walk along grass verge 100yards approx towards Braintree. TL at first turning towards Nichols Farm.

2 At end of lane, fork right, keep barn on LH side. Strike out directly ahead across open field towards Iron Bridge Farm, (100yards approx) keep hedge on LH side.

3 Follow this headland path to Iron Bridge Lane. TL past Iron Bridge Farm, pass through old farm gate into grazing pasture.

4 Keep hedge immediately on RH, walk 200 yards approx ahead to pass through gate in corner of field

5.Walk ahead along riverbank until Water Hall Lane.

(TO SHORTEN THE WALK HERE, TL along lane to main road, turn left up hill back to Village Hall).

6 TR across bridge, follow lane for 200 yards approx. TL on signed footpath immediately past the Priest House, walk along farm drive, through farm gate into stable yard

7.Cross stile immediately in front, follow grass track for 100 yards approx. Cross to another stile.

8 Walk ahead in field for 100 yards approx, cross broken stile in hedgerow on right. TL immediately, follow hedge for short way, then keep straight on across field towards Shalford Hall.

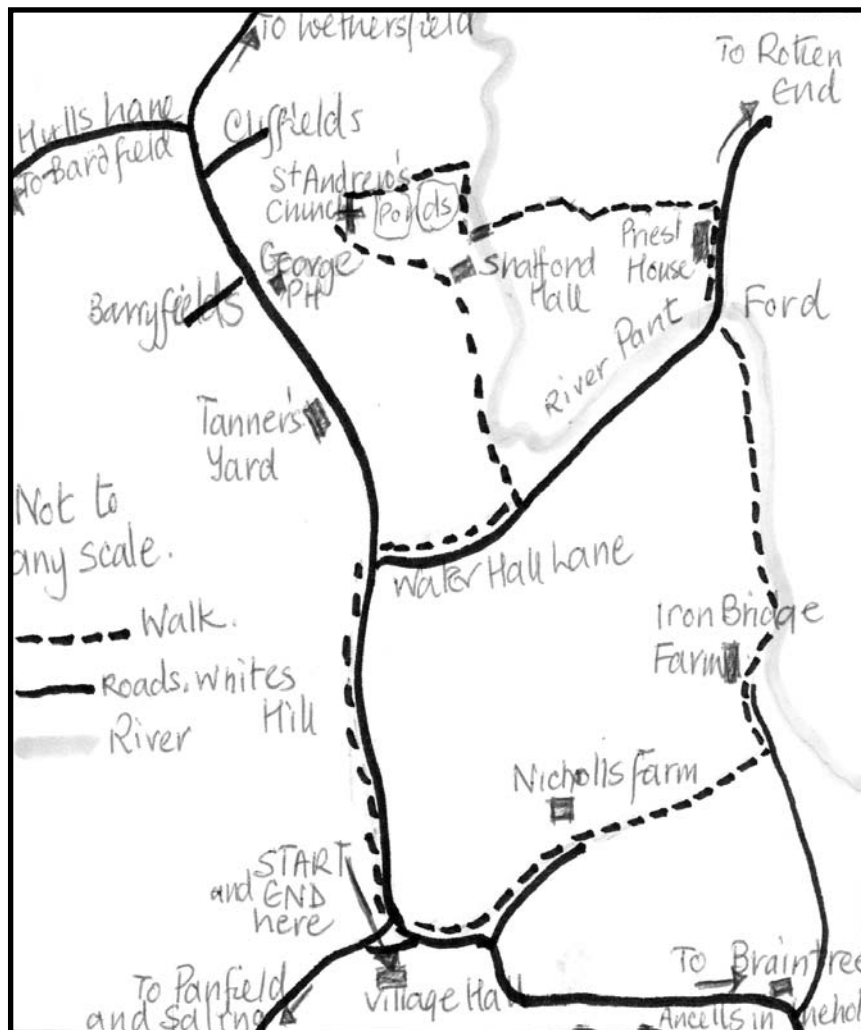
9 Cross stile, over river footbridge, TR immediately along riverbank. Pass fishing ponds on L in 100yards approx. TL immediately alongside new wire fence.

10 Cross stile into rear of churchyard, walk through churchyard, keep church on LH. Go through lychgate in front main church door, into farmyard.

11Cross yard, head towards brick wall (on L) of Shalford Hall. Follow path ahead along wire fence to Water Hall Lane.

12 TR in lane to main road, TL up hill back to the Village Hall, or alternatively TR and visit "The George" for a well earned drink!

*Village maps are available showing all the footpaths, information from Ann Tee Parish Clerk, tel 850975



Tales from the Riverbank

There appears to have been an explosion of the badger population in the area recently. Drivers report seeing them on the roads and lanes at night and many gardeners despair of the nightly damage badgers foraging for food wreak on their lawns and flower beds.



One badger fell into a village garden swimming pool and damaged the liner so badly by its clawing when trying to get out that the unfortunate pool owners had to have the liner replaced. Their insurance policy did not cover a replacement, the incident being deemed an act of God!

Perhaps there are old country remedies to persuade badgers to keep out of gardens (and swimming pools!). If you know of any legal way to keep badgers in the countryside and out of cultivated plots do let us know. We'll publish any ideas on this subject that are received in the spring issue.

Stop Press - ring this hot line number, manned 24hours, 07751 572175 if you have problems with badgers, particularly if you discover a dead or injured one.

Want to...

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- ▶ Regain your confidence?
- ▶ Learn in a local friendly environment?
- ▶ Make new friends?
- ▶ Learn at your own pace?

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Run by Braintree College
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ERIC RAVILIOUS, 1903-1942

Shalford, Great Bardfield and Castle Heddingham all have claims on Eric Ravilious, he is on the War Memorial in Shalford Church, cited as a founder member of the Bardfield Artists and is commemorated on a blue plaque in Castle Heddingham. But, who was Ravilious and for what is he famous? In short he was one of the most important illustrators and painters of the first half of the 20th Century and he was one of only two War artists to be killed on active service. Ravilious was born in Eastbourne and he studied at the Royal College of Art under Paul Nash (amongst others) where he made friends with Edward Bawden, another "future well-known local artist".

Before the War Ravilious and Bawden would come down to Bardfield because it was cheap living and remote from London. How times change! Around them gathered a nucleus of other artists, mostly between 1935 and 1955. In the early 50's the Bardfield artists would have annual Open days, which were always reported in the national press as major events on the British Art Scene.

Ravilious and Bawden were both designers, one of the strengths of the Bardfield Group was its contribution to printmak-

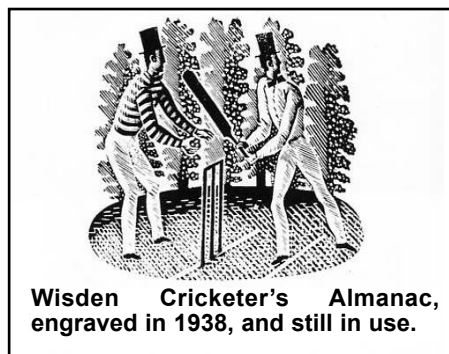


A head piece engraving for a 1933 press notebook.

ing. Cricket fans might be interested to know that Ravilious designed the decorations around the titles on the Wisden Cricket Almanac. He also painted in watercolours and his sparse dry watercolour technique suits his Essex landscapes and those of the South Downs. His

painting of "Hull's Mill" recently sold at auction by Sworders for £30,000, the painting was originally offered for sale at 12 guineas!

In Spring 1941 Ravilious, his wife



Wisden Cricketer's Almanac, engraved in 1938, and still in use.

Tirzah, also an accomplished artist, and their three children moved to Iron Bridge Farm Shalford where he was to spend the last of his brief life when in England. The property was rented from John Stracey, M P, who suggested in a letter that the annual rent should be £70 in cash and £70 worth of paintings! This last home accounts for his name being on the Shalford War Memorial. Ravilious' legacy was an extraordinary collection of work, especially his wartime watercolours that create a haunting, lyrical record of his experiences that are quite devoid of violence. His delicate touch was inspired by the 19th Century watercolorist, Francis Towne, and perhaps in Ravilious' urge to follow in his footsteps to Iceland he requested a posting there. It was from here 1942 that whilst on a rescue mission his plane failed to return and he was, with others, declared, "missing presumed dead"

Note: Bruce Ronaldson, a local artist and teacher, provided the notes for this article and is organising a trip in January to Ravilious' Centenary Exhibition, "Imagined Realities" at The Imperial War Museum London. For further information about this call him 01371 851662

Acknowledgement the engravings reproduced here are taken from a book produced by the Fry Gallery, Saffron Walden.

contractor keeps many other paths mown and Tim Ridgewell, a regular cutter, does the remaining ones. The landowners are responsible for spraying out crops on cross-field paths to allow walkers access. Parish Councillors Alan Oates and John Nicholson, with the aid of volunteers, endeavour to ensure that signposts, way-markers and stiles are maintained. They welcome information on any footpath problems and as well as willing helpers.

Tree Planting

A gift of trees has been given to the village and it is hoped that the planting of

BDC CLEAN UP

When the Amenity Site in Shalford is closed some would-be users of its facilities resort to dropping their rubbish load anywhere nearby, usually a field entrance in a quiet lane. Recently a call was made to the BDC's Clean Team alerting it to a pile of DIY refuse dumped in Water Hall Lane, and within three hours the team had cleaned the area removing the eyesore. If you spot any similar dumping in the village or surrounding area please make a telephone call to the BDC Environmental Services, 01376 552525 requesting that the Clean Team make a pick up. Help Keep Shalford Tidy

CALLING ALL DOG OWNERS

- Do you exercise your dog on the playing field?
- Do you allow your dog to foul this area?
- Do you clear up the mess if it does?
- Do you know that you can be prosecuted if you don't?
- Do you know there are two dog loo bins on the field?
- Do you know that dog mess can put children and adults at risk of becoming blind?

The VHMC is calling on all dog owners who use the playing field to exercise their pets, to clear up the mess should their dogs foul the ground. The BDC Dog Warden has visited the village to give advice on this problem. The field is primarily a sports' and children's recreation area and dog fouling is potentially a health hazard and unpleasant for everyone. To jog the memories of dog owners who have forgotten their public responsibilities the VHMC will display more signs around the area reminding them of the local by-law and the penalties which can be incurred by dog fouling. To help owners dispose of the messes two bright red dog loo bins are in place on the playing field. Another one has been recently sited on White's Hill Braintree Road, all are regularly emptied by the BDC.

Stepping Out?

Within a parish a network of well maintained footpaths is an asset. The responsibility for maintaining these ancient ways is shared by the Parish Council, landowners and ECC. The Parish Paths Partnership scheme, set up by Essex County Council, allows the PC to organise footpath grass cutting, and under this scheme the Parish Council submits an estimate for the season's cutting and when this is completed the cost is reimbursed by ECC. Farmers can choose to cut the paths on their land, and one farmer within this parish does so, Bob Bell, a grass-cutting

these will take place before the end of February 2004. Would you be willing to volunteer your help to plant these ornamental or flowering trees on proposed sites near to homes around the village? Further details will be announced soon, if you feel you could assist please telephone Ann Tee tel; 850975 who has more information.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

The amount raised this year was £ 1324 97p (this was just over £200 more than last year). Grateful thanks are due to all those in both villages who collected and contributed, or gave to the collection taken at The United Reform Church, Wethersfield.

PEOPLE..... The Reverend John Shead

John Shead, who is married to Hilary and has three grown up children, was born in Ilford, and after being educated at the County High School Wanstead, and joining the RAF for National Service, he trained as a teacher.

John taught from 1970 until he resigned from his Headteacher post at Thaxted School in 1985, this was when he was appointed Curate at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, where he served for two years. Following his ordination in 1975 he had managed to combine his teaching job at Thaxted School with that of Honorary Curate at the Parish Church. In 1988 John was inducted as parish priest to Wethersfield and Shalford, and later the parishes of Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End were added.

Have you ever wondered what the Vicar does in between Sundays? If you imagine that all John does is just sit in his book-lined study thinking good thoughts and looking for something to do, you are wrong. He is constantly frustrated by never having quite



enough time to cover all the demands of a parish priest's duties. So much of his life is spent driving around his large rural patch, always having to travel in a rush from one appointment to another. Apart from Sundays when John's day is full, conducting services at his four parish churches, there is no particular pattern to the other weekdays except that he says Daily Offices, (short services of prayer) three times. Every week he takes a

school assembly at Wethersfield and Finchingfield, both Church of England schools, where as a Governor he also attends board meetings. Despite careful forward planning he has often to deal with matters as they arise, his schedules frequently changed at very short notice. Visiting sick parishioners at home and in hospital, answering the telephone, dealing with the four parishes mail and administrative work, seeing parishioners often listening to their problems, arranging baptisms, weddings and funerals, attending Diocesan and Parochial Parish Council meetings, preparing sermons, as well as putting in appearances at the villages' social and other functions leave him with little time for relaxation. Once a month at a group meeting he joins nine other priests, who support each other by worshipping together, talking through their parochial experiences and then later enjoy a pub lunch. Like several other priests John has a Spiritual Director and three or four sessions a year with him help John day-to-day in what can be an isolated rural life.

John finds his parish work very fulfilling, his deep faith sustains him; worship, particularly celebrating the Eucharist, is most important, as is the time he sets aside for prayer and study. Apart from having a deep-rooted Christian belief, he feels that being a good listener and an easy communicator are very necessary qualities for a priest, his wide experience of different types of people and their lives, prior to being ordained, has been of real value. John has a keen sense of humour and an appreciation of living life to the full, and he sums it all up by quoting a former Vicar of Thaxted with whom he worked and who said, "There's no point in religion if you can't enjoy it"

The Reverend John Shead, vicar of Finchingfield with Cornish Hall End, Wethersfield, and Shalford. The Vicarage, Finchingfield, Braintree, Essex, CM7 4JR. Tel: 810309.

Tennis. Subscription/ Membership cards - contact Zoe Daniel. Tel. 851555; court bookings contact Pat Evans, Tel. 850822.

Boxercise Kick. Phil Prele holds two classes on Thursday evenings at the Village Hall. The first class commences at 7.00pm, when mainly teenagers attend. The second class commences at 8.00pm and ends at 9.00pm. These classes are open to both male and female. For more information on what to wear, cost, etc. please Ring Phil on 07941 257425 or E-mail: - villagehallfitness@hotmail.com

Ongoing Events.

'The George'

Every Tuesday night is 'Ladies Night' at 'The George'. Telephone Wendy on 01371-850207 for more details. Note: During the winter months until the end of March 2004 the pub will be closed on Monday evenings.

Shalford Parish Council

meet at 7-30 pm every 3rd Thursday in the month at the Village Hall. Public welcome to attend. Further information from Ann Tee, the Clerk, on 850975

The Friendship Club

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

Women's Institute

Meet in the Village Hall on the 1st Wed. each month at 7.45 pm. Tel. Ann Tee on 850975 or Hilary Shead on 810309 for more details.

Mobile Library

Every Thursday the Mobile Library will be parked at the following venues:-

Jaspers Green telephone box	11.00-11.10.
Broome Close Villas	12.00-12.20.
Village Hall Car park	1.25- 1.50.
Barryfields	1.55- 2.20.

Please note that the next edition is scheduled for April 2004, copy deadline is March 21st. Ideas for future articles most welcome. Letters and comments are welcome but these will not be used unless name and address is supplied. This information will not be published unless the writer wishes

Contributions for December's Shalford News from

David Martin-Post-Christmas Walk and Bruce Ronaldson-Ravillious.
John Nicholson - P. Council and footpaths
Richard Clubley-photographs
John Smith - title design
Brenda Hanley tel 850480 hanley.mill-fields@btinternet.com
Jo Crow tel 850101, pinelodger20@hotmail.com for "Diary/Forthcoming Events"

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Diary - Forthcoming Events.

10th December - Shalford School. - P.T.A. Carol Singing in Barryfields at approx. 6.30pm. Everyone welcome.

13th December - School Hall P.T.A. Event - 'A Taste of Christmas' Time: 3-6pm Sample recipes for tasting, Stalls, Bumper Hamper raffle plus other raffle prizes, Musical interludes. A Quiz.

17th December at 7.00pm. School Production playlets. also on **18th December** at 2.00pm.

26th January Horticultural Society. AGM. Village Hall. 8.00 pm.

5th & 6th February Shalford School closed. Non pupil days. Staff training.

14th February Barn Dance to be

held in Village Hall at 8.00pm. Refreshments and Licensed Bar .Everyone welcome. Please ring Sally Prime on 850242 for more details.

21st February Ploughman's Quiz. Shalford W.I. Village Hall. 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. Teams of 6 @ £3 per head, which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Please bring your own drinks. To book a table telephone Mrs Hilary Shead on 01371 - 810309 by 10 th February.

Sports & Leisure.

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

Line Dancing. Monday evenings. Contact Marion Taylor, tel 850023.

Three Rivers Football Club. Contact - Manager Reese Drann. Tel 851263.