

# Shalford News



*We wish our readers a Happy and Joyous Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.*

## Christmas Boxes



FOURTEEN years ago when Marguerite Sillett was working in Social Services in Colchester, she persuaded her family, friends, and colleagues at work and church to fill shoe boxes with an assortment of Christmas gifts for deprived children, often living in desperately poor conditions. This was an opportunity for people who wished to give a meaningful present to a child whose life was bleak and comfortless through war, disaster, or famine. Since 1996 Marguerite has lived in Shalford and has continued to support the Samaritan's Purse Appeal, a worldwide charity. Earlier this autumn at a coffee morning she encouraged local people to support the scheme and Janet Nicholls joined her by organising members of St Andrew's Church to do likewise. By the end of November many brightly covered filled boxes stacked out Marguerite's conservatory, before being transported to a Chelmsford depot, which is staffed entirely by volunteers. Here the boxes, (checked and sealed, a Custom and Excise requirement,) are ready to be shipped for distribution; 40,000 have already

## Cremer Fund News

from Jean Murphy  
Christmas Raffle at Freshwell Health Centre. Tickets can be purchased at the Centre from 13th until 22nd December, when the prize draw will take place. Prizes for the raffle will be gratefully accepted at the Surgery.  
The new ceiling lights recently purchased for the minor operations surgery are proving very useful. A sphygmomanometer, an instrument for measuring arterial blood pressure, has been ordered and delivery is awaited; Cremer funds are used to service all the surgical equipment, in addition to buying new equipment.

## Contributors.....

to this edition include Iris Beard, Frank and Sandra Easton, Sue and Dave Martin, Sue Morton, Jean Murphy, John Nicholson, Alan Oates, Marguerite Sillett, Roger Singleton, Heather Smith, Anne Tee, Sally Wood.

been sent to Europe. Marguerite's dream is to go to help distribute the boxes, but because of her health problems this has to be put on hold, next Christmas she hopes this ambition will be realised.

Note from Marguerite to all those people from Shalford and surrounding areas who have supported this cause....

"Having just delivered the shoe boxes to Chelmsford for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal for needy children across Eastern Europe, I am so, so pleased. Thank you this would not have been possible without your kind gifts of filled boxes, bags of goodies, knitted items and donations, all of which are so important to the overall result. I have been truly overwhelmed by the number of boxes and shed a few tears for your generosity. As you perhaps know, one day I want to be there to help distribute these gifts, just to see the children's faces. My thanks again and God bless."  
Marguerite.

STOP PRESS.... Marguerite's target of 100 boxes has been exceeded

## The Poppy Appeal 2004

THIS year the recent Poppy Appeal collection in Shalford and Wethersfield, together with Beazley End and Blackmore End amounted to £1,487.59, this is a 12% increase on last year's figure.

Alan Oates, the Appeal's organiser, sincerely thanked all those who helped with the collection, and to all those who gave so generously to this most worthy of causes.

The Royal British Legion, which runs the Appeal, is the UK's leading charity providing financial, social and emotional support to the millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and their dependants. Nearly 13 million people are eligible for support from the Legion, which receives over 300,000 calls for help every year. The Legion spends over £50 million every year on this welfare assistance: over £20 million is raised through the Poppy Appeal, with other income coming from events, legacies, donations, etc.

The Royal British Legion Wethersfield and Shalford Branch organises the Appeal in our villages: this year there were 21 people collecting 'house to house', boxes in the two Schools, the five Pubs, Wethersfield Post Office, Tillbrook's Garage and Wethersfield Mens' Club; the collection at the Remembrance Service in Wethersfield Parish Church raised over £190.

The RBL is always looking for more people to help with the annual collection, membership of the RBL is not necessary and younger people, anyone over 16, would be especially welcome. Would you like to offer help collecting for a short time at the end of October and beginning of November next year? If so do please get in touch with Alan Oates (850621) or any other Royal British Legion member whom you may know.

## WINTER WALK

Put the excesses of Christmas behind you. Bring the family on a village walk on Sunday 27th December. Dave and Sue Martin, tel 850535, who have planned this ramble, will meet walkers at the Village Hall for a 10.30am start. Dogs on leads are very welcome. As it might be a little muddy underfoot boots are recommended. Return to the Hall will be around midday, when a hot drink will be waiting.

### Providing a safer journey to school

The pathway from the car park to the exit on the road to the school under construction.



## School News Sept. Term

Governors, Staff, parents, the LEA and the bus company are being consulted about the proposed lengthening of the school day as from September 2005. It is thought that the present teaching period falls short of the current recommended time. Next term the school will prepare a Travel Plan incorporating "Safer Journeys to School" to encourage children and parents to walk whenever possible to school. See photo below. Christmas events arranged include a carol service to be taken by the Rev Meader, Panfield Vicar, a traditional seasonal lunch followed by parties, and a professional theatre production of "Mother Goose" for the whole school. The PTA organised a successful Christmas Event on Saturday 27th November including the launch of "Pocket-sized Poets", a bumper hamper raffle, a quiz, various stalls and refreshments. In brief... After school clubs from Sports to IT and music run every day... The pond is now cleared ready for the liner to be laid and re-stocking in the spring... An "Umbro" grant enabled two sets of football gear to be purchased, the school bought unisex tracksuit tops to complete the sports' kit... Key Stage 1 pupils are enjoying the government provided "one piece of fruit a day". Spring term opens on Wednesday 5th April.

### Blooming Trees

Shalford Tree Warden, Heather Smith reports "National Tree Week (November 24th to December 5th) heralded a hive of activity of tree care and planting. The Millennium Oak, planted on the verge opposite the village sign is showing strong growth such that the tree stake is no longer required and it will be able to strengthen its trunk and roots when buffeted by the wind."

### Golden Wedding...

Congratulations to Ken and Sheila Rust who celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage on Saturday 28th November. They were married on this date in 1954 at St Andrew's Church, Shalford and began their married life by moving into a brand new bungalow in Cliffields, which is their home to this day.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- \* In October the Harvest Supper was well supported by 70 parishioners who enjoyed the home-cooked meal, which raised over £600 for St Andrew's Church. The many "Cooks" generously donated most of the meals' costs.
- \* Time of Our Lives Music Theatre on its third visit in November presented "Two for the 1/9's" a nostalgic look at the film industry from the 30's to the 60's
- \* An apology to David Leeder whose name was inadvertently omitted from the list of people associated with "Shalford News" in the newsheet's last issue.
- \* A Coffee Morning hosted by Janet Nicholls resulted in over £60 being added to church funds from donations and a percentage of the sales from seasonal cards and beautiful wood turned items.
- \* The Halloween Party was great fun for the many children, most in fancy dress, and parents who attended. Traditional games and refreshments added to the enjoyment.
- \* A Memorial Service for Pannee Cobb, conducted by the Very Rev'd Philip Need was attended by family and many friends. Pannee died in Thailand and her ashes were scattered on the South China Sea.
- \* VHC Newly erected swings proving popular. ECC funded and constructed path through field from car park to road exit

## Letter from.....

57 Kenworthy Road, Braintree, CM7 1JJ  
Tel: 01376 321783

Dear Friends,

Hilary and I were absolutely overwhelmed with the wonderful send-off we were given. Your gifts were exceedingly kind and we are very grateful indeed.

Moving from a large five-bedroomed Vicarage into a much smaller three-bedroomed house has not been without its difficulties; not so much getting a quart into a pint pot but rather getting a gallon into a half-pint pot, but we are managing and are well settled in. A certain amount of re-furnishing has been required and the wonderful cheque we received has been exceedingly helpful in this way and has been used to purchase a very fine wardrobe which fits so well into our bedroom.

We are very grateful indeed for the friendship of so many of you and hope to see you again from time to time. If you are in Braintree and have a little time to spare, you will be most welcome to visit us where, I am sure, a cup of tea or coffee will be provided

With every good wish,  
Yours sincerely, John and Hilary Shead

## Vera Smith of Hubbards

### Farm, Shalford, 1908-2004

MANY people from the village and the surrounding district packed St Andrew's church to pay their last respects to Vera Smith, a pillar of the community, at her funeral on Thursday 19th November. Her two sons David and John warmly thanked everyone for their letters and cards of sympathy and for attending the service, which was conducted by the Rev. John Shead. Grandsons, Philip and William, read the lessons and the congregation sang her favourite hymns.

Printed below are a few of the many tributes paid to Vera by mourners after the service when they gathered at the Village Hall for the tea.

This village will miss her...She was a remarkable person...An example to us all... Vera had a gentle way of persuading people to do things without them realising... Her keen sense of humour enabled her to relate to all age groups...She was an inspiration...Vera loved her garden...Nana liked parties, tabletop fireworks and going to the Keswick Convention... Her door was always open, she was selfless...She was determined, lively and generous and a mine of information... Vera loved life and her family...Her Christian faith was the powerhouse of her life

The funeral collection amounted to over £500 and the family wished this to be donated to the Bendlowe Trust; Mrs Smith was a long serving Trustee of this charity.

## BEWARE... TELEPHONE SCAMS

A COUPLE of telephone frauds currently in operation at home and work, land lines and mobiles. If you receive a call congratulating you that you have won an exotic holiday, all expenses paid, THEN you are asked to press 9 to hear further details HANG UP. If you do press 9 you will be connected to a premium line charged at approx. £20 per minute. Calls originate from outside the UK and BT and other telephone companies are powerless to act DON'T accept any "free offer" calls, just HANG UP.

Another scam on mobile phones only, a Missed Call comes up, the number is 0709 020 3840. The last four numbers may vary, but the first four will remain the same. If you call this number back you will be charged £50 a minute. People have complained when they have received their bills but apparently this is legal. DON'T call back numbers beginning 0709

## St Andrew's Church News

THE Rev'd John Shead has been retired since the summer, but at St Andrew's there is a 9.30am service every Sunday, except the fourth one in the month. The Churchwardens Margaret Smith (850488) and Roger Singleton (850918) arrange clergy or lay readers to take the regular services.

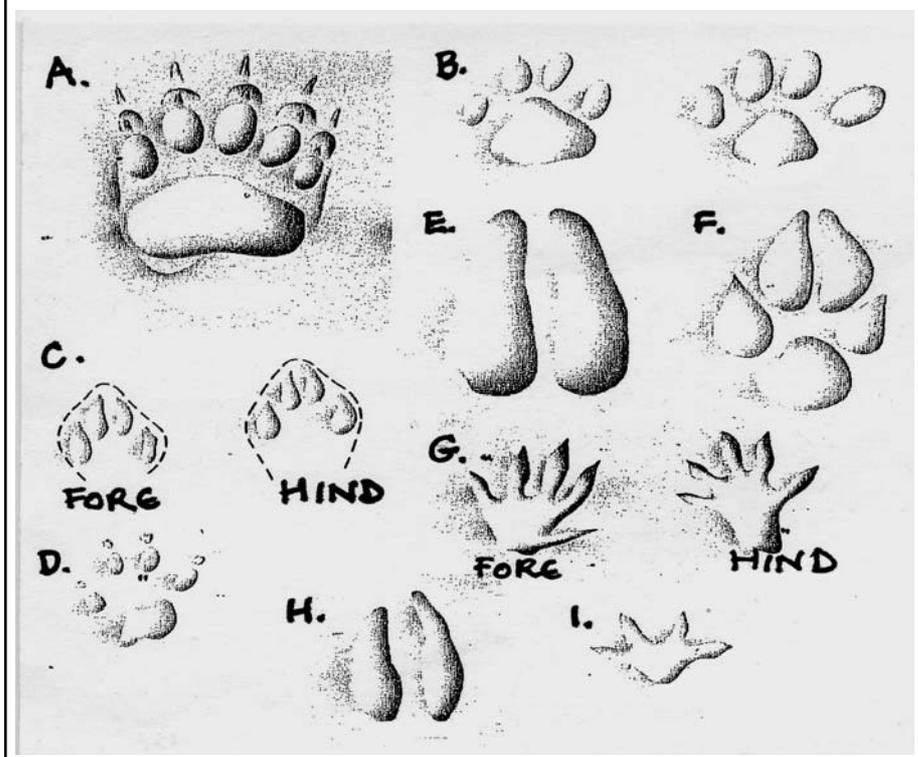
Meanwhile discussions relating to the recruitment of a new priest are taking place with Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End churches and it is hoped that an advertisement for the post will be placed shortly.

Please telephone the churchwardens if you wish to arrange a wedding, baptism or any other special service. Anne Tee, Church Magazine coordinator should be contacted with information to be included in the publication. The deadline is the 15th of each month.

Annual Candlelit Carol Service will be held as usual on Christmas Eve at 5pm STOP PRESS....Thanks to parishioners, the Church Gift week collection has reached £1,000 so far... and the box is still open.

### Paw trail for sharp eyes. (Not to scale)

How observant are you? Look out for these paw prints in mud or snow in the garden or countryside. Can you identify any of them? Answers on the back



## What's going on and where

from now until February 2005

### DECEMBER

**Monday 13th** to Wednesday 22nd  
CREAMER RAFFLE at Freshwell  
Health Centre

**Wednesday 22nd** Grand Raffle Draw at  
the Surgery

### Friday 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service  
5pm St Andrew's Church

### Sunday 27th

Winter Walk 10.30am from the Village  
Hall, ends around Midday with hot drink

in the hall

### January

#### Wednesday 5th

W I Meeting 7.45pm at the Village Hall.  
Speaker Mr Dodgson "Clivenden Hall,  
Kent"

#### Monday 10th

AGM Shalford Horticultural Society at  
the Village Hall 7.30pm, everyone inter-  
ested in gardening is very welcome to  
attend.

### February

#### Saturday 19th

Barn Dance ... yet to be confirmed,  
more details from John Nicholson  
850784

# Shalford's WEA Casts Pearls of Wisdom

This year the Shalford WEA branch reached its 30th anniversary. Although only thirteen people attended the inaugural meeting, chaired by the Chairman of the Essex Federation of the Workers' Educational Association, the branch was formed. The first course, 6 weeks on archaeology, included a tutor lead walk to the site of old Shalford village resulting in several "finds".

Jack Wilson was the branch's first Chairman, Chris Saunter, the Treasurer and Iris Beard, the Secretary. Classes met at Shalford School initially free of charge, but when the LEA introduced a substantial rental the WEA moved to the Shalford Green Congregational Church Hall. In 1978 Jack Wilson retired, Ken James became Chairman and the following year the first social evening was organised; a river trip. Two years later Chris Saunter died and Dennis Morcom became Treasurer. In 1995 after 17 years as Chairman, Ken James died and Sue Morton, Vice-Chairman took over the role, which she still holds.

The WEA is an international organisation; Shalford, one of Essex's many branches maintains close contact with the Thaxted branch. During a lecture to celebrate its 20th anniversary a thunderstorm caused a power failure; despite this, members and friends enjoyed a successful buffet supper lit by borrowed oil lamps.

The loyalty of the members has kept the Shalford branch going over the last 30 years. The subjects chosen to study have varied enormously and many have included a field trip. The Essex Federation organises One Day Schools and Study Weeks for branch members. The branch with many others, celebrated when the Association became 100 years old in 2003. The reason that Shalford reached its 30th anniversary is due solely to its members.

## Plane Speaking - 80 million passengers?

BAA Stansted has supplied a briefing on the development of the airport for the information of our readers. This briefing is extensive and therefore is summarised below. A copy of the full text can be obtained from the editor. The opinions expressed below are not necessarily those of the Newsletter.

Stansted is working on plans for a second runway and a planning application to increase the current 20 million passengers annually to 35 million. It already has permission to handle 25 million. The application is expected to be submitted early in 2005.

It has an obligation to consider the implications of this development and help individuals and organisation who may suffer blight because of the development or noise as a result of it. Consultations on these issues are expected to be concluded this autumn.

The 35 million passenger level is expected to be containable within the existing boundaries of the airport and the authority aims to secure planning permission by 2006. The second runway is also subject to planning permission and the application for this will be submitted late in 2005. A public enquiry is expected but subject to planning permission being given the construction work on the new runway could start in 2008 with a government set target date for opening in 2012. This of course would see a substantial enlargement of the Airport site and further compensation would be on offer for those additional properties affected.

A large architectural practice has been commissioned to begin design work on the master plan for terminal facilities and other buildings needed to support the expansion.

Options are being developed for road and rail access and other matters such as how the runways will be used. There will also be full environmental impact studies. Stansted is committed to consulting local communities.

The total cost of the second runway project and growing the airport to between 70 and 80 million passengers annually is estimated to be £4 billion although this will be phased.

Beyond the hard facts of the development as set out in the briefing and summarised above, the enlargement of Stansted can be expected to generate jobs to have positive implications for the economy and boost local house prices. However if

it is to grow to 4 times its present size it seems inevitable that it will bring substantial pressure on infrastructure and environment with quality of life issues even locally where hopefully we should escape the worst of the noise pollution. Any upward change in the pricing structure for flights could seriously undermine passenger number forecasts but it is difficult to believe that we will be able to fly to Faro for £15 in the longer term. The cost of £4 billion will no doubt prove to be substantially short of the eventual cost as is commonly the case with major construction projects and another slab of the countryside will be concreted over.

Since we received BAA's briefing we have learnt that they are in dispute with the UK Charter Airlines Group over the way the development is to be funded. The Group has refused to be involved in preparatory work for the runway until it knows how it is to be funded and in particular the levels of charges believing that the runway should go ahead only if Stansted users were willing to pay for it. It has obvious concerns that the cost of construction could only be met through massive charge increases. The other possibility is for cross subsidy from other airports which would mean that airlines operating from Gatwick and Heathrow would face higher charges, an outcome hardly likely to be popular. Stansted's major operator is Ryanair which has said that it will not pay for a "gold-plated runway". BAA clearly has much to do to persuade its users of the merits of the development and to identify the funding. It already appears to have run into some criticism over the application of its compensation scheme.

### Answers to the Paw Prints

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| a. Badger.      | b. Domestic cat.  |
| c. Rabbit.      | d. Grey Squirrel. |
| e. Fallow deer. | f. Fox.           |
| g. Hedgehog     | h. Muntjac        |

**Please note that the March copy deadline is Monday 21st February**

**The Editors welcome articles of village happenings/events, ideas and photos.**

**Please contact Jo Crow tel: 850101 or e-mail pinelodger20@hotmail.com**

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