

SHALFORD NEWS

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www.the.localchannel.co.uk/Shalford

We wish our readers a joyous Christmas and a healthy, happy 2006

Parish Council News

Shalford Parish Council wish everyone joy and happiness for Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Christine Fowler, Acting Chairman reported that in 2005 Councillors Jack and Nicholson moved away from the village and that Tony Bedding filled one of the vacancies. Local elections will be held in May 2006 when the community elect a new Council. Are you interested in becoming a Councillor? Find out about what is involved and how to apply, contact the Clerk, Anne Tee 01371 850975, for more information.

It was farewell to Margaret Jack and her husband Ian who recently "emigrated" to Kirriemuir, Scotland, although Ian, as a Scot, was actually returning home. During their Shalford life, Margaret was a parish councillor, chairman for some years and represented the council on Shalford School Governors' Board.

Once retired from her Credit Controller's position at Britvic, Chelmsford, she was able to devote more time to her hobbies.

A keen gardener Margaret had a long association with the Horticultural Society as secretary; as a talented needlewoman, she produced many show

entries and a wide variety of saleable craftwork goods. Margaret, a Shalford WI member, one time chairman, loved cooking, and baked cakes and pies for sale supporting Halstead's WI Market. All good wishes went with them for a long, happy and fulfilling life in Scotland.



Essex born Tony Bedding has lived in Shalford for 23 ars. After his Mechanical Engineering degree, experience at Ford's Testing and Development establishment and further educational achievements he was appointed Principle Lecturer at East London University from

where he retired in 1998. As a former member of the VHMC he helped steer the Village Hall's successful Lottery Bid and is keen now to become further involved in community work. Tony, long married with 2 grown up children and 6 grandchildren enjoys DIY projects in the home and garden.

Stop Press David Eversden has just been co-opted onto the Parish Council.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Did you know that the government has decreed that all UK Parish Councils should have means of communicating electronically with its electorate? Do you have a computer in your home or have access to a computer? If so, you can communicate directly with Shalford Parish Council and find out what is happening in the neighbourhood? Here's how? Type in www.thelocalchannel.co.uk. wait 20 seconds whilst your computer is checked to ensure Macromedia software is installed. Next type in "Shalford" as the community name and then click search.

What is the Local Channel?

The Local Channel has set up web space for every UK parish, presently there are some 1200 parish councils including Shalford, Sheering and East Hanningfield in Essex, who manage their own sites. The Local Channel aims to provide sites covering Westminster to rural communities for every M.P. and local councillor.

Since its launch six months ago Shalford's site, set up and managed by David Eversden, has won a Gold Certificate, which will be on show in the village hall; in this competition points were awarded for the number of businesses, organisations, Parish Council minutes and planning applications which were displayed on the site. In October the Shalford site reached the last fourteen in the UK's "Best Web" competition, the result of this and that of the "Most Improved Site" competition will be announced at the "e-Gov Conference" in Manchester at the end of November.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Recently we visited, by invitation, the Ministry of Defence base at Wethersfield where the County Fire and Rescue teams train and saw some of the training, which young physically fit probationary fire fighters of both sexes undergo. Fire fighting theory is studied in the classroom and under strict supervision the practical reality of fire fighting is taught outside. These practice fires are scientifically laid and lit from a variety of measured combustible materials in large room-sized metal boxes, the heat and smoke being carefully monitored. The trainee firemen wear personalised protective clothing, which withstands very high temperatures; the head, face, hands and knees are especially protected. Firemen are trained to work in pairs and go into the burning units on their knees so as to be below the smoke level. This testing training period is very thorough and weeds out unsuitable candidates.

In the classroom we saw films, one that showed the terrifying speed at which fire travels within a house, demonstrating the importance of smoke alarms. In the last issue of Shalford News, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service offered to fit free smoke alarms and give advice/help free of charge to householders on fire safety. SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES. Check that there are batteries in your smoke alarm and that it is working properly. Every home should have this basic protection particularly during this season of Christmas trees and lights, candles, gift wrappings and excitement.

The local Fire Safety Officer can be contacted for advice/help on 01376 345537

Shalford's Young District Councillor, Tim Wilkinson

Born in Essex in 1978 Tim, as a young boy, travelled widely because of his father's career, experiencing the cultures and traditions of South Korea, America and Belgium. Later during boarding school holidays he was able to join his family in other countries. After A-levels he left school to study Art and Design at Westminster University, and in 2000 Tim returned to his Essex home and set up a graphic design company for print and new media. The company has attracted clients from local and national businesses, including the world of politics and public bodies.

Having become involved in the 2001 General Election and finding politics exciting and fascinating, Tim helped lead and plan the 2003 Braintree and Witham Conservative election campaign. At the same time he



stood for a seat on the Braintree District Council in the Panfield Ward and having been elected became Panfield and Shalford's District Councillor. Tim is concerned about both parishes and keeps up to date by attending some of the parish council meetings as well as the many Braintree District ones. As a result of the successful 2012 London Olympic bid BDC initiated its own Olympic Cabinet Workgroup with Tim as chairman. The workgroup will concentrate on possible opportunities, which the Olympics will bring to Braintree, its businesses and residents. Despite his combined working and political life Tim still finds time to deal with constituency problems and rural community issues; he welcomes telephone calls, e-mails or letters from electors on these topics.

Shalford and Braintree's musical connection

Thirty-seven years ago Shalford's church organist John Hurd and the organist from St Michael's Church, Braintree set up the Braintree Choral Society for untrained singers to sing light music; Mollie Wright and the late Arthur Grubb, both Shalford residents were two of the founder members.

Over the years other Shalford singers have joined the choir. Sylvia Lester joined in 1968 as a non-singing volunteer secretary, a post she still holds although she now also arranges concerts, venues, soloists, musicians, publicity and sponsorships. After six months her love of singing encouraged her to become a choir member. Madeline Eversden, as a teenager, sang in her church choir and for the past 25 years has been a BCS member. Sue Morton joined the choir in the early 90's.

The recently elected Chairman of the society Anne Tee, joined the choir when she was widowed. Hilary Shead, is also a member, her husband John who recently retired, has now started singing with the society. Other local members have included, Sandra Easton, Chris Runacres and until she moved from Shalford, Barbara Chinnery and the late Panee Cobb.

There is a Braintree Men's Choir, which prefers to sing lighter music and this appeals more to Brian Bain, who has been with the choir for over 30 years. Cam Evans of Jaspers Green is also a member as was the late Eric Double from Shalford Green.

Royal British Legion Wethersfield and Shalford Branch.

Members paraded before the Remembrance Day Service at St Andrew's Church and enjoyed the social gathering afterwards. The generous church collection raised almost £200, matching the amount in 2004. The house-to-house collection in both villages amounted to £1403, a 7% increase on last year's total.

At the recent branch AGM the newly appointed RBL County President, Col. Dick Shervington presented the branch with a framed certificate to mark the branch's 75th Anniversary, and the Chairman David Brown accepted this.



Living in Shalford , a thousand years ago

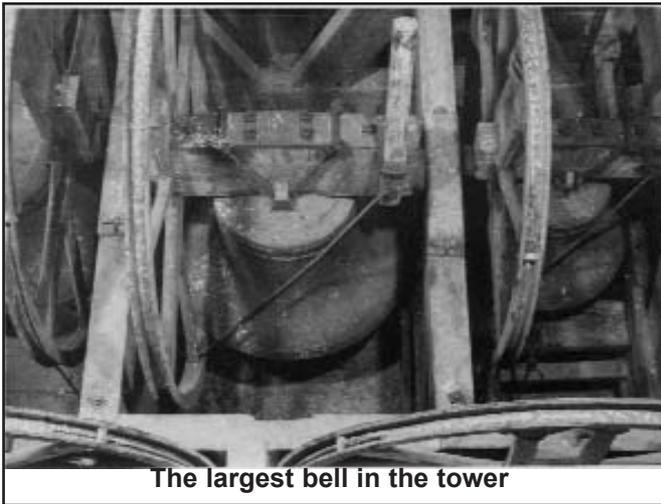
Had we been living in Shalford in 1005; we would be starving. It was a year of famine, and older people would remember two earlier years of severe food shortages in 975 and 976. Some people were so desperate that they killed themselves rather than wait for a slow death by starvation. (researched by Dorothy Gardner)

Ringling the Changes

Looking for a new pastime? Want to try something that's different? Have you considered campanology, or the art of bell-ringing? How does one become a bell-ringer? Anyone can from 10 years old (no upper limit!) with a sense of rhythm and some co-ordination, no musical knowledge or well-developed muscles are necessary. Bell-ringers are normally required on Sundays for services, Wednesday evenings for practise as well as for weddings when requested. If you feel this could be the hobby for you contact Michael Mason, Captain of St Andrew's Tower who will arrange for you to try at a "taster" session. Michael has rung the Shalford bells for over 40 years and warmly welcomes experienced and novice ringers; he explained that the main purpose of ringing church bells is to summon people to church, but many people also associate bells with weddings.

The Shalford tower has five bells, the oldest cast in 1601 and the newest and heaviest one, the tenor weighing 10cwt, was cast in 1887. These five bells can ring a possible 120 changes

or sequences, each bell striking only once in a change. Bell-ringing developed first in England, originally European bells were simply chimed, e.g. ding-dong, but over the years many countries have copied English traditional bell ringing. Ringing a quarter peal involves 1260 changes and takes about three quarters of an hour, three hours is needed



The largest bell in the tower

for a full peal. For the Millennium the United Benefice of Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End, Wethersfield, and Shalford, twenty-five ringers combined to ring twenty-one bells.

Recently the Worshipful Company of Bell Founders awarded a prize of £500 to Wethersfield and Finchingfield for furthering the art of bell ringing. Roy Threadgold is one of this group's organisers and he arranged a special trip to the Loughborough Bell Foundry for the winners.

Prospective ringers please don't hesitate, tel Michael Mason 850125 or Roy Threadgold 850481 for further details of how to become involved in the ancient art of bell-ringing and the enjoyable social atmosphere it creates.



Patient Participation Group at the Freshwell Health Centre

We have had a very successful Freshford Heart Project Patient Group, and now would like to broaden the emphasis. We should like to hear from anybody who would be interested in helping to start a Patient Participation Group, which we anticipate would meet on a quarterly basis.

Ideally the group would represent a profile of the community and could for example be made up of a young mother, a teenager, a carer, someone who is cared for and perhaps people who might like to be considered to represent a particular disease.

It is important for all the practice Staff to gain feedback from patients and also to be able to cascade this information. One idea, in addition to a group meeting would be to produce a newsletter.

We would be pleased to hear your comments about these ideas. If you feel that you would like to be involved in this group please contact our practice manager, Mrs Anita Clapson, at The Freshwell Health Centre, or telephone to discuss this matter further on 01371 810328 .

A Tender Rose

by David Cobb
(A Christmas carol for children)

A tender rose, a leaf, a thorn,
Those little fingers touched them all
In his new world, a humble stall,
The day when he was born.

The smell of incense, dung, and corn,
That little nose, it smell them all,
In his new world, a humble stall,
The day when he was born.

Wise kings in robes, and lambkins shorn,
Those little eyes, they saw them all
In his new world, a humble stall,
The day when he was born.

The pigeons' coo, the cowman's horn
Those little ears, they heard them all
In his new world, a humble stall,
The day when he was born.

Sweet milk, and blood, and bitter gall,
That little mouth did taste them all
In his new world, a humble stall,
The day when he was born.

With nose and tongue and eye and ear
We, everyone, may share the joy
And sadness of that little Boy
When he descended here.

Editor's note; Can you help David to find someone who will set his poem to music? Please telephone him 01371 850097 if you can.

CREAMER Fund

Thanks for all the support given at the various fundraising events the result. This year we have met the service cover on all CREAMER items of equipment, we have also been able to order the following; specialised items for use at Gynaecology Clinics, new regulator for the Entonox cylinder, which is used for pain relief in cases of fractures or wound dressings and a Spirometer which tests air capacity of lungs.

Donations will be warmly accepted of raffle prizes for the Christmas Draw.

See Diary of Events on back page

Diary of Events

December

7th WI meeting "English Songs and Stories" speaker Peter Lawrence VH 7-45pm

10th FOSTAC "Peter Mayo and Friends" Christmas Concert St Andrew's Church 7-30pm Tickets £5 children free from Jo Crow 850101

12th-22nd CREAMER FUND Christmas Raffle at Freshwell Health Centre

16th VHMC Christmas Carol Evening with Bocking Brass Band VH 7-30pm. Free admission and refreshments Tel Sally Prime 850242

18th Christmas Carol Service Congregational Church Shalford Green 6-30 pm Coffee and mince pies afterwards

24th Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service St Andrew's Church 5pm

25th Christmas Day Service, Family Communion St Andrew's Church 9-30am

January

4th WI Social Evening VH 7-45pm

February

1st WI Meeting "A Box of Delights" speaker Gill Phillips VH 7-45pm

14th FOSTAC St. Valentine's Buffet Lunch at Ringers, Hulls Lane 12-30pm for 1pm Tickets £10, numbers strictly limited, from Jo Crow 850101

March

1st WI meeting "Under an African Sun" speaker Susan Walker VH 7-45pm

11th FOSTAC Chelmsford Cathedral Choir Concert St Andrew's Church 7pm Tickets £5 from Jo Crow 850101

PLEASE NOTE FOSTAC regret that it has been necessary due to logistical difficulties to postpone the planned Mini-Marathon on Easter Monday 17th April

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brass Band Carol Evening

Shalford Village Hall Management Committee Acting Chairman, Ron Vincent sends villagers greetings for the Festive Season and invites them to "An Evening of Carols with the Bocking Brass Band" at 7-30pm on Saturday 16th December in the VH. Admission is free; tea/coffee and mince pies will be served during the interval.

Further details from Sally Prime 01371 850242.

News from St Andrew's

FOSTAC, or the Friends of St Andrew's Church

Since September the FOSTAC group has organised a wind trio concert, a slide show, a quiz night, a jazz concert and a sell-out first St Andrew's Day supper. Special thanks are due to all the performers and supporters for their time and efforts on behalf of FOSTAC. More thanks go to the audiences for their support and the hard working committee for arranging the events. What's to come? Peter Mayo and Friends get together for a musical Christmas Concert on December 10th, Tony and Shirley Bedding host a Valentine's Buffet Lunch at their home in February and in March the visit of Chelmsford's Cathedral Choir. What's all this for? To raise further funds to preserve Shalford's beautiful old church building, to provide much needed toilets and a tea/coffee making area so as to extend the church's use and provide a variety of entertainment within the village. Tickets and more information about the forthcoming programme can be obtained from Jo Crow 01371 850101. Friends' membership is open to all at £3 a year (family) £2 (individuals), why not become a "Friend" and help this worthwhile cause? To join now, contact Sue Morton 01371 850626 for

Shoe Box Appeal

Once again Marguerite Sillett has had a very exciting busy Autumn organising the Samaritan's Shoe Box Appeal, she and Lil Butcher have almost developed a cottage industry covering boxes. Some people knitted, others too busy to make up a box handed in bags of goodies or money, this year more villagers and members of Braintree Baptist Church became involved in producing boxes, and local school children encouraged their parents to join in this worthwhile charity project. Marguerite thanks everyone for supporting the scheme and hopes that Christmas will bring as much joy to them as to the children who receive these boxes. The final count this year was a record breaking 164 boxes

Place names

The history of place names is not an exact science but sometimes throws up some unusual or unexpected origins. Shalford which was Celdeforda in the Domesday Book was later Shawford (1563) and I have met people who pronounce the village name that way. As might be guessed it does mean shallow ford. Ironbridge Farm however has nothing to do with iron and was Ewen Bridge in 1368 and means Ewes bridge. Sheep are kept there now and it interesting to conjecture on how many hundred of years before.

Levelly Wood was Leofrices or Leofric's enclosure or enclosed wood. Redfern's Farm now Redfants was Redfan in 1378 and means the Reed Marsh. Sheering Hall was somewhat evocatively Sharnalle (1319) being Dung Hall a nickname. Abbots Hall formerly belonged to the Abbot of St. Osyth. Just over the village boundaries we find that Boydells was Boddle's Farm in 1777 and Codham Hall was known before the Domesday Book as Codanham (c1000). Rotten End was so named in 1777. Why Rotten? I am not sure that this is known. The origin of Rotten Row is similarly uncertain but Rotten may refer to decay/decomposition, extremely friable soil or soft ground. Given the position close to water courses the latter may seem most likely

Most of the derivations above are simplified with the full story to be found in P.H. Reaney's Place names of Essex.

Research by Frank Easton

Children, feed the birds!

Here's an easy recipe for Bird Seed Cake.

Yoghurt pot, 30cms string

Bird seed mixture, raisins or currants, lard or suet

Make a small hole in the base of the pot, thread the string through, knot one end inside the pot. Melt the lard/suet and stir in the seed and dried fruit. Fill the pot and place in the freezer/fridge until the mixture is set. Hang the pot in the garden and watch the birds feast.

Many thanks to all the contributors, who are now too numerous to mention.

Please note that the Spring copy deadline is Monday 20th February.

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.