

SHALFORD NEWS

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Winter Edition 2007



Shalford NewsA Short History

It is five years ago this month that the first Shalford News, a single sheet was delivered to all households, which included information about the Christmas church services and the various village clubs and organisations. The idea of a village publication arose from discussions between John Smith and Brenda Hanley who both felt that the village needed a central publication of information. They were soon joined by Jo Crow.

After a year John left to pursue other interests and the Parish Council became involved agreeing to fund the newsheet's quarterly printing. The team grew to five including Richard Clubley, responsible for layout, Shirley Bedding for distribution and Sylvia Lester for the Shalford Directory but many others were involved giving assistance as and when required. Without these volunteers together with the distribution team and the contributors Shalford News could not have been produced. Shalford News has grown larger covering a wide variety of subjects from history to present-day events.

This edition is the last Shalford News as there is a move to produce a combined parish and village magazine on a much more regular basis; to give others the opportunity to experience and produce this it has been decided that the present editorship will be relinquished. Grateful thanks to the Parish Council for its over-all support and financial backing, the distribution team led by Shirley has been second to none, Richard never failed to give superb layouts despite tight timescales, and Sylvia's innovative third directory has been a great success. Finally it is thanks to the contributors whose work has enabled the editors of Shalford News the pleasure of working together.



Brenda and Jo send all readers Season's Greetings and good wishes for a peaceful 2008

FOSTAC

What an exciting year it has been for FOSTAC. Of the 123 paintings hung at the second Art Exhibition a record number of 33 were sold, the commission from these sales, the raffle, and the coffees, lunches and drinks resulted in over £1300 being raised. The mystery painting donated by Sue Morton was won by Jane Mills who was delighted with her prize.

This weekend event would not have been possible without the hard work of so many "volunteers", from those who arranged the stands, made cakes, erected and dismantled marquees, sold the refreshments to the final sweeping up of the hall.

The Family Hog Roast in the churchyard on a perfect summer Saturday was a sell out. The churchyard was transformed into a village picnic site. The hog was delicious, the puddings were fantastic though fattening and the old fashioned games kept the energetic amused. Another successful fund raising which not only gave pleasure to so many people but raised a further £1300.

"It's Magic", supper and entertainment provided by the Mid-Essex Magical Society, on St Andrew's Night was another sell out. A traditional Scottish menu was enjoyed by all and the magical conjuring tricks were a bonus.

In early December Peter Mayo and the popular group "Passing Notes" make a return visit to the church performing a selection of music on a variety of instruments to delight the audience.

Among the forthcoming attractions planned for 2008 are an "Antiques Road Show" in the VH in February, Open Gardens in May and in June "The Braintree Male Voice Choir" present a concert in the church. By the end of the year FOSTAC will have raised almost £16,000 towards the much needed lavatory and tea making area thanks to the very generous support of so many people.

Tickets for all FOSTAC events can be obtained from Jo Crow 01371 850101

Shalford's web Site

With the demise of the Shalford News in its current form, it's time to remind you of the need to update the web site. This way it can be used to keep you abreast of what's going on in the neighbourhood.

Local event organisers.....

Do you realise that the web site has an Events function? Any would-be organiser with a computer can access and place the event directly on to the web for all to see

How can this be done? Organisers can register on the site with an e-mail and password to gain access.

What about those who do not have a computer and cannot access the site? Please send details of the forthcoming event to Site Administrator David Eversden at 7 Barryfields or alternatively telephone 01371 850606

Memorial to a World War II Event

On 4th August 1944 an United States Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed -landed on the far side of the River Pant in Shalford.

The aircraft was one of thirty-six which had left the 381st station at nearby Ridgewell on a mission to bomb the German rocket base at Peenemunde. Nine of the crew bailed out safely, but the tail gunner's parachute became entangled and he was killed.

The bomb load explosion caused shock waves demolishing one end of the original Shalford Hall which was eventually taken down. The perimeter wall, dating back to Tudor times, remains and now surrounds the existing building.

An American historian Dr. Vernon L. Williams has arranged a tour for family members of the aircrew incorporating a commemorative event which will take place in Shalford on 28th May 2008, this will include dedication of a memorial stone, a film show and a walk.

Shalford Green

by Brian Beard

There's nothing much at Shalford Green.
You tend to feel you've seldom seen
a duller place, with little there
to make the stranger stop and stare.

The road meanders up the hill
past Alder Carr, where once a mill
stood catching wind within its arms
to grind the corn from neighbouring farms.
Beside the way, the local inn
revived the traveller and would win,
according to the old mens' tales
their full approval of the ales.
There's Little Martins by the mere
and then Bays Farmhouse set foursquare,
where full five hundred years and more
have etched their mark on roof and door.

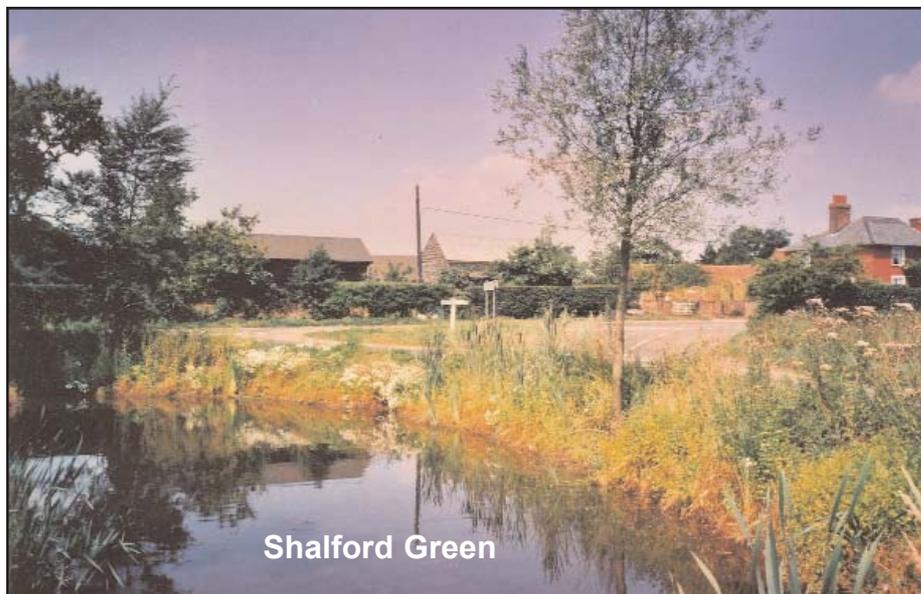
Beyond, for those who care to look
a lane winds down towards Pod's brook,
through Devonshire Dip, past Little's Farm.
Nearby the blacksmith raised his arm
and, in a long forgotten past,
would fashion in the furnace blast
the implements his neighbours needed.
Now Webb's field lies quite unheeded.
The ivy and the bindweed cling
where hammer blows no longer ring

Across the way on Chapel Hill
The swallows may forgather still
On wires besides the roofs of thatch,
when autumn days begin to catch
a hint of winter on the breeze
and leaves turn yellow on the trees.
For years untold, the distant view
remains unchanged and nothing's new.
A chapel stands behind the limes
and people come, as in the times
when all was at a slower pace
and no one felt the need to race
through life at breakneck speed to find
the valued things, they'd left behind.

Can you recall, in your mind's eye
the colours of the evening sky?
Do seagulls still pursue the plough
and would you recognise it now?

Well come again when memories call,
in winter, spring, summer, fall.
You'll find that, in the years between,
you've not forgotten Shalford Green.

Editors' note this poem written in 2000
when there were swallows flying around.
The local inn was "The Victoria", but
now this is a private house.



Stonely Park Improvements?

by John Phipps

Why is Stoneley Park under used?
Possible reasons.... some people
do not know where it is, it is not wel-
coming, the parking is poor and it lacks
diverse wildlife.

To encourage more interest in the
park John Phipps, Parish Councillor met
with Crispin Downes and Andrew
Brown, ECC representatives to discuss
ways of improving this valuable village
asset and make it more attractive to visi-
tors. ECC agreed in principle to make
the entrance more pleasing with less
intimidating gates, installing information
boards and providing better parking
facilities and take measures to encourage
more diverse wildlife.

For professional advice John met on
site with Luke Bristow, EWT's Wildlife
Sites Officer, who thinks that the park
has great potential. Luke agreed to pro-
vide a list of site improvements, includ-
ing ways to increase its biodiversity and
information on grants to fund improve-
ments. These findings will be sent to
ECC and will be used by the Parish
Council when it takes over the site in
2009



The entrance - not welcoming?

What's new at Shalford School?

This autumn term heralded the open-
ing of an extension to the reception
classroom, designed to accommodate 4-
year olds, who are rising five in the
coming school year. This school exten-
sion, despite the set back of having
machinery stolen from the site during
the construction, opened on time in
September fully staffed and equipped .
A beautiful purpose-designed area,
which opens into the existing reception
classroom on one side and a new cover-
ed playground space on the other side
provides plenty of room for this year's
intake of five pupils.

Parent Teacher Association

Chairman Kevin Welsh is enthusiastically
organising the PTA committee into
focusing the fundraising on playground
equipment. The pupils' Halloween Walk,
four times around the school field on
Tuesday 30th October resulted in a mag-
nificent total of over £1000 for the
funds. The Christmas Bazaar in the
school hall on December 1st will hope-
fully raise further money to provide for
the playground venture.

Living in Shalford

1600 years ago

by Dorothy Gardner

At this time the Roman army of
Britain- a mixed blessing. We were no
longer ruled by Rome, but we had to
try to organise our own defences
against Saxon invaders. We were less
successful then than we were against
their descendants in the 20th century
some 1500 years later. Saxon settle-
ments were soon established many of
them still exist, their names ending in -
--wick, ---stead, ---tun, and ---ham,
here in this land of the East Saxons,
Essex.

Showtime with WAP

Wethersfield Amateur Performers formed in 2004 as a musical/dramatic society to bring amateur theatre to Wethersfield and the surrounding local community. Its members, a broad cross section of villagers from 14 year olds to mature persons come from all walks of life.

From September to the March production the group rehearse twice weekly but an equally important reason for being involved in WAP is to enjoy the social side and have a laugh.

New members are most welcome, anyone interested should join the company which needs not only actors but those who can help backstage and front of house. Stage production, finance managing, directing, scene designing and building, costumes, props, make-up, and music are only some of the areas where assistance is required. E-mail: secretary@w-a-p.org or tel. Nicky Pearce tel; 01371 851019 for further information.

Successful past productions at Wethersfield Village Hall include "The Gondoliers" by Gilbert and Sullivan 2005, "Oklahoma" 2006, and "Pirates of Penzance" another Gilbert and Sullivan 2007.

Make a note of the next production "Fiddler on the Roof" 6th-8th March This well-known and uplifting show set in a Jewish community in early 20th century has memorable songs including "Tradition", "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset"

Buy your tickets early! Friday/Saturday nights and Saturday matinees traditionally have been sell-outs. Box Office: Wethersfield Post Office.



Rehearsals under way in Wethersfield Village Hall

Parish Council News

Parish Appraisal

18 months ago this was begun, parishioners were asked for their views on various matters, this information when completed will be used to inform and influence "decision makers" i.e. local and central government. During the summer volunteers delivered and collected questionnaires, 52% of households had filled them in, a very good response.

Since then the questionnaire answers have been sent for analysis and after further analysis by village volunteers they will identify the information to be included in the final document. It is hoped to have this printed early in 2008. Help is still required and if you feel you would like to be involved in the

appraisal's last stages, please contact Parish Clerk Cathryn Carlisle tel 01371 851342

Village Footpath Map, a draft copy of this is now with the Ordnance Survey awaiting a publishing licence. Once this is obtained then a suitable design is needed for the cover before it is printed.

Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP)

the group comprises Finchingfield, Panfield and Wethersfield or the Three Fields. Issues relating to the area and other neighbouring villages were raised at a meeting on Tuesday 27th November in Blackmore End when residents were invited to express their views and comments about matters within the area

A Bicycle Ride for Eight

This Christmas promises to be very different for Tom and Carolyn Murphy of Church End. Tommy their son, born in early November 2006 with a seriously defective heart discovered during pregnancy was very poorly with a respiratory infection despite having had a successful heart operation at only 5 days old. Sadly he died on the 18th January. Both parents knew that his treatment had been second to none in the cardiac hospital and despite their grief wanted to do something as a thank you to the staff for their care and support of Tommy during his short life.

Tom, who had no bicycle or experience at riding at this point, decided he would enter a team in the British Heart Foundation Cycle Ride Oxford to Cambridge and raise £2000 for the charity. Joined by his mother-in-law, two brothers-in-law and friends the group of eight started to train at weekends ready for the actual ride in late September.

Then a perfect day dawned for an 89 mile bike ride, and although this was a little daunting, the team was determined to finish. Tom and his team felt very tired but triumphant at the end of the day when they had all completed the course and been awarded a medal and some decaffeinated teabags! An even more amazing feat was when their sponsorship money was collected it amounted to a fantastic £8000. Does the story end there? No, Tom is already planning on entering one or two events next year to raise further money for the BHF in memory of their son Tommy.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the charity can log on to www.bhf.org.uk or wish to sponsor Tom in 2008 should telephone him 07904 377553.

STOP PRESS---

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Sadly, a vacancy occurs due to the resignation of Councillor Tony Bedding through ill health. Anyone over the age of 18 interested in filling this Parish Council vacancy should apply as soon as possible to the Parish Clerk, Cathryn Carlisle tel 01371 851342 who has all the necessary information and forms. Chairman Alan Oates heads the Shalford Council which is made up of seven councillors, presently five men and one woman plus the vacant seat; the PC meets on the third Wednesday monthly to deal with parish matters and parishioner concerns.

Norfolk Memories

by Peter Morton

An article in the last edition of Shalford News by Peter Douse reminded me of my time 50 years ago when I looked after a Friesian herd. After leaving agricultural college in 1954 I was offered a cowman's job at 10 guineas a week, (in those days a good wage when beer was 1/6d a pint!) how could I refuse? I lodged with the other cowman Fred, in a cottage with outside loo and tin bath which was filled with four to five bucketfuls of water from the kitchen hot tap. After about a year I moved with Fred and his family to a new house with mod cons, sheer luxury.

Willie Crawford, the farmer, had changed from hand to machine milking when I was taken on. A tricky situation, as some cows had to be culled as they would not take to the Alfa Laval milking parlour; some would lie down in protest or kick with serious intent when the milking clusters were put on. A herd of 120 Friesians was built up gradually and some animal "characters" emerged.

Foul tempered Toni was an expert in horizontal kicking but yielded 1200 gallons of milk annually so we tolerated her occasional tantrums. Rita, named after film-star Rita Hayworth, had enormous teats but was the slowest milker of all, but always first in the parlour. Maisie was the herd laggard who on misty summer's mornings seemed to hide in a field corner. Mona enjoyed the attentions of Tugby, our fierce bull, but sadly later she had to be culled because of recurrent mastitis. On my first Christmas Eve Tugby, managed to get his head stuck between his pen railings and we had to saw off his horn to free him, but his ardour was unaffected as he was soon off after Mona. Young male calves were castrated with a Burdizzo, a device which crushed the spermatic cord. All calves were dehorned with an electric dehorning iron.

Our day started early at 5am and finished after the afternoon milking at 6pm. I enjoyed a day off each week when I usually had a long lie-in and generally went to Norwich later. In summer apart from moving the electric fence as the cows strip grazed and milking twice a day the job was less onerous than in winter. Then the yards had to be "strawed up" and Marrow stem kale cut, carted, chopped up and fed with hay to the cows, this was a horrible job particularly at times when icicles hung from the kale. Cycling the mile to work on a cold winter's morning soon got rid of any hangover after a Saturday night's over indulgence in Norwich pubs. Being a cowman was an interesting job, but after 2 years I left to join ICI Agricultural Division. Here for the next thirty years until retirement my interest in farming was less hands-on.

Shalford Village Hall Committee

The good news is that following the appeal for more committee members four new faces have appeared. First, Linda Golding, supported by Colin her husband, agreed to take on the role of Secretary. Nicola Walton, already on the committee, has stepped into the Treasurer's position. Anna Brunshill, an events organiser ably assisted by Sara Hooper are already planning the 2008 Fete.

But, acting chairman Garry Mills is still looking for volunteers, namely a vice chairman and a dedicated fund raiser. Could you help to further strengthen the committee? Please step forward and contact Garry 01371 850390 if you can.

Are you busy around 7.30pm on Thursday 13th December? Volunteer help is needed to put up the decorations at the Village Hall ready for the Christmas season and the first entertainment occasion on Friday 14th December.

The VHMC is presenting "A Festive Evening" with Christmas music provided by Ken Few conducting the Bocking Brass Band. Everyone is invited to this celebratory occasion which includes surprise family fun and raffles. Seasonal refreshments and mulled wine will be available during the evening. Support the Committee's hard work, here is an opportunity to give generously to the

collection for the Village Hall which will enable further improvements to be made. Make a note of the date Friday 14th December at 7pm for 7.30 and come along.

Everyone noticed and commented on how attractive the VH looks now that it has been painted a primrose colour. Who did the painting? Barbara Keen and a team of girl friends took on the job. Painting the VH is not the only thing multi-talented Barbara Keen does, but she finds time for cake making for all occasions and as a Wedding Planner.



First steps in painting!

Obituaries

George Whitehead was born in Shalford 77 years ago, for all his working life he was employed by the village building company Geo Tanner Ltd. In 1969.

George moved to live in Clifffield with his wife Win and son Stephen; he was a keen sportsman belonging to Shalford's football and cricket teams as well as playing tennis and carpet bowls. George's family wishes to thank the Bowls Club for the funeral refreshments and everyone for their support and the generous collection taken at his funeral in October, this amounted to over £800, and is to be divided between Macmillan Nurses and the CREAMER Fund

Charles Baker (known as Jack) although born in Panfield was brought up in Silver End and died in November 84 years of age after a hip replacement operation made necessary by an accident. Employed as an agricultural seed merchant representative Jack had moved to Clifffield in 1954 with his wife Pauline who died in 1990. In 1996 he remarried BABS "a widow" and he continued to enjoy his retirement much of it spent gardening. The cremation took place at Chelmsford.

St Andrew's Church

by John Burrow Churchwarden

At the end of September the Parochial Church Council (PCC) received the go ahead from the Church Authorities and Natural England concerning the well being of the bat colony within the church and necessary repairs to the leaky roof.

Due to the generosity of a parishioner the work on the roof has now been carried out, in addition to the roof being repaired, the bell tower oak grills have been replaced, the tiled chancel roof restored and the gutters and drainpipes painted. The rotten under floor joists in both the north and south aisles have been skilfully replaced with minimum disturbance.

The choir vestry at the base of the bell tower has been cleared and new shelving built to accommodate the music library and flower arranging equipment. The time and energy put in to make the Church weatherproof, floors safe and choir vestry improvements is not immediately apparent to a visitor, save for a few shiny screw heads in the floorboards but the work's importance for the long term life of the Church cannot be overstated.

The extension plans for the provision of tea making area and toilet within the church are now with English Heritage, their agreement to these is necessary before the plans are presented to the BDC. The prescribed public notice and the proposed plans are on view in the Church.

A New Home and Venture for Paul and Kate

We left Bardfield Saling for Church End in April and had the idea of letting a couple of rooms for B and B. Moving was the usual nightmare but once installed we started planning and updating the house. This project involved four months' work, and once the building, plastering, plumbing, decorating and carpeting were complete it was time to register "Lynton House" with the English Tourist Board (ETB) and Braintree District Council. We waded through all the rules, regulations and requirements, contacted other local B and B owners who gave us much needed advice and finally opened on August 1st.

Our first guests arrived and we nervously waited their comments "Lovely house, we'll come again". What a relief, we must have done something right. To our surprise since opening we have had over 100 bookings, taking visitors from all over Europe and America as well as from Scotland and Wales. Our taxi service has proved useful for villagers and some of the guests. We meet some interesting people from all walks of life who make our busy life and hard work worthwhile.



We knew that ETB registration meant a "covert inspector" would book in for a night at some point. Early in November after breakfast a guest announced that she worked for Quality in Tourism and had come to assess us. Following her numerous questions we were delighted that Lynton House was awarded Three Stars and a Silver Accolade for Excellence in guest comfort, care and service. Paul and Kate now look forward to meeting more Shalford residents.

News in Brief

Macmillan Coffee Morning in September was another successful fundraising organised by Sally Prime and her team of willing volunteers. From the homemade cake stall, which was well supported, the raffle, the Bring and Buy and other stalls over £500 was sent to the charity this year.



WORKAID... there was an interesting collection of garden tools, sewing materials, carpentry and DIY tools for Lawrence Brooks the local organiser to take away for this charity. Thanks to everyone who contributed items.

WEA Report by Sue Morton, "By the time you read this report you will have missed out on another excellent course by WEA lecturer Adrian Wright. If you were one of the lucky ones who did come to the Shalford Green Congregational Church Hall on Monday evenings, you will now be far more observant of the surrounding countryside and be able to answer all sorts of questions on the formation of various landmarks in this area. This term's final session, which included a few Christmas items such as mince pies, rounded off a very successful Shalford WEA course. The trip to the London Geological Museum, was part of the course and was well attended"

Benefice Choir meets at 7pm on Wednesday evenings in Wethersfield Church if it's not too cold, otherwise at Richard Webb's, the organist's home. New members are welcome. Tel Richard 01371 810603 if you are interested in joining the choir,

CREAMER FUND reported by Jean Murphy, "Recent fundraising events have included items and donations for a Garage Sale, Tombola and Raffles. As always a big thank-you to all supporters because money raised have enabled the purchase of a MOLEMATE, which analyses moles and skin blemishes and show the results on a screen and a PULSEOXIMETER which measures the amount of oxygen in the blood. The CHRISTMAS RAFFLE will open on Monday 10th at the Freshwell Surgery and will be drawn on Wednesday 19th December. Any donations of prizes can be left at the surgery and will be greatly appreciated."

RBL Poppy Appeal 2007 the amount raised was just under £2500, an increase on last year's collection. This total included two large donations, one from the Shalford Green Congregational Church another from a private individual and the £288 service collection from Wethersfield Church.

Christmas Boxes for Needy Children, Marguerite Sillett and Lil Butcher have managed to collect around 140 boxes this year ready to be dispatched from Chelmsford before Christmas. As organisers they both say a heartfelt "thank you" to all those who filled or part filled a box this year, as usual the response from the village has been enormous.

Bowler Hatters a fund raising group centred on The George in the 1960-70's met together recently to help former licensee Joan Burton celebrate her 90th birthday. She had returned to the pub for the occasion with her extended family and Joan enjoyed seeing old village friends. The excellent buffet lunch laid on by Steve Alderson the present landlord and many helpers was appreciated by all the party goers.



left to right Harold Andrews, Mike Peaston, Dave Biddy, David Eversden and in front Joan Burton

Dates for your Diary

December

Wednesday 5th W.I. Tales of an Antique Dealer - Speaker Pamela Whitfield. VH 7.45pm.

Saturday 8th FOSTAC Concert Peter Mayo and Passing Notes St Andrew's Church. 6:30pm. Tickets £6 - Children free. 01371850101

Monday 10th CREAMER Christmas Raffle opens at Freshwell

Thursday 13th Decorating Village Hall, meet at 7.30pm

Friday 14th Festive Evening VH 7o'clock for 7.30

Wednesday 19th Creamer Raffle Draw at Freshwell

Friday 21st Carol Service Congregational Church, Shalford Green 6:30pm. Light refreshments afterwards.

Monday 24th Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service. St Andrew's Church. 5:00pm.

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day Service Congregational Church, Shalford Green. 10:15am.

Tuesday 25th Parish Communion St Andrew's Church. 9:30am.

January

Wednesday 9th W.I. Social Evening. V.H. 7:45pm

February

Wednesday 6th W.I. Essex Workhouses Speaker John Drury. V.H.7:45pm.

Friday 22nd FOSTAC Antiques Road Show. Village Hall 7:30pm.

March

Wednesday 5th W.I. 'Boating and its Pleasures'. Speaker Brian Darby V.H. 7:45pm.

Thurs - Sat. 6th - 8th. WAP ' Fiddler on the Roof' Wethersfield V.H. 7:30pm plus matinee on Saturday 8th at 2:30pm. Tickets from Wethersfield Post Office..

Friday 14th W.I. Ploughman's Quiz. Details from Hilary Shead. 01376 321783.

May

Wednesday 28th Commemorative World War 2 Event. More details nearer the time on website, press and notice boards.



Shalford Village Hall
presents
A Christmas Concert
with music from *Bocking Brass*
Friday 14th December, 7pm

- * *Free admission & refreshments*
- * *Guest appearance by Father Christmas*
- * *Raffle prizes for kids too*
- * *Christmas sing-along*
- * *Mulled wine & mince pies*

All proceeds will go to the Village Hall fund

WHAT'S BREWING?

By Garry Mills, (occasionally Quality Control!)

Brewer Nigel Lawes has been, since the last Shalford News report, very busy satisfying demand for his beers, and has introduced two more beers, Barnfield Bitter 4% alc. and the stronger Rotten End bitter 6.5%alc. The George, a regular outlet for the range of beers normally has one of the beers "on".

The Farm Shop, Greenstead Green and The Blue Egg, Gt Bardfield also stock bottles of Nigel's beers as does Jimmy's Farm, of TV fame. Nigel is presently engaged in talks with Tesco discussing a possible supply to local stores.

