

# Shalford News

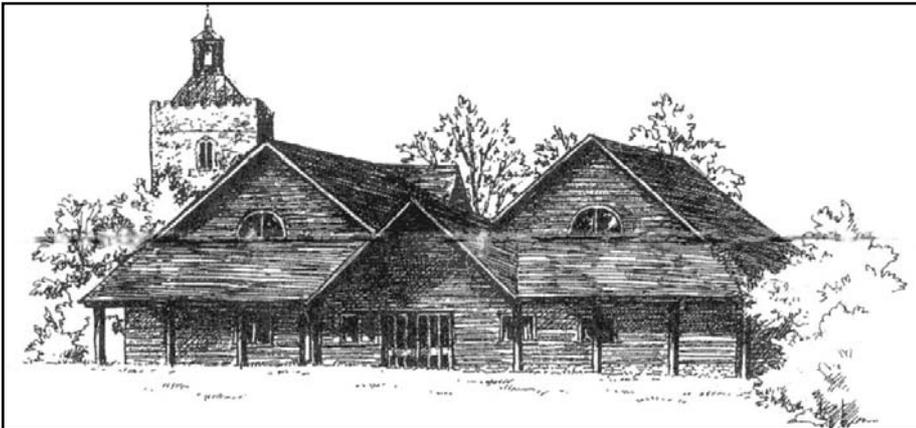
*Incorporating Shalford Village, Church End, Shalford Green and Jaspers Green*  
*Promoting Shalford, its facilities, its events and its people*



## Healthy Centre

### Who Painted The Waiting Room Mural?

Lin Rogers, an artist who specialises in murals and various paint techniques, offered as a present to the local community to brighten up the centre's waiting room. This gift, a light-hearted jungle scene primarily aimed at children visiting the centre, has proved popular with everyone judging by the comments. Anita Clapson, the Practice Manager reports that the doctors and staff are most grateful to Lin for providing a bright and breezy addition to the premises for them, the patients and visitors and for more information Lin can be contacted on 01371 850345.



If you have used the Freshwell Health Centre surgery recently you will have noticed that the car park has been extended, this benefits everyone; this extension was made possible thanks to an anonymous village benefactor. In response Doctors Hildrey, Cutts, Meakin and Salmon and all the team at the Freshwell Health Centre have issued the following statement,

"We never fail to be in awe of this community for its generosity and support to the provision of health care here. The Creamer Fund has grown from strength to strength over the last 12 years and has provided endless equipment for use by needy patients. Another considerable donation from one villager enabled the purchase of the X-Ray unit for the local community by the Creamer Fund; we still believe that this is unique in England. More recently with the support of patients over £900 has been raised for cancer research through the Alan Morement Memorial Fund. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and deep respect to you all in this small community."

#### The Creamer Fund

The Community Resource Equipment and Medical Equipment Reserve Fund is known to most locals as the CREAMER FUND and is a Registered Charity, number 1095414

Since the fund started in the early 1990's with donations from 3 local families in

memory of dear family members, it has continued to grow. Over the years many other families have requested donations to the fund after a bereavement to mark, and provide a lasting memorial to, a life.

A variety of well-supported organised events continue to raise further money for health resources and equipment, which benefit everyone in the local community.

Over the years the list of equipment purchased by the Fund for the Freshwell Centre ranges from an ECG machine to a digital camera, blood pressure monitors to an Osteoporosis Scanner. The last acquisition was a Heart Probe, which will be used with the recently acquired Ultra Sound Scanner; at present there are over 800 patients who may benefit from these.

The June Car Boot Sale on the extended surgery car park added to the Fund

£565. 22. and the Committee wishes to extend its thanks to everyone who supported this event.



Part of Lin's mural

### A SUMMER PARTY INVITATION

- Are you over your ½ century?
- Do you enjoy tea and a chat?
- Are you free at 3 o'clock on Friday, 3rd July?

If your answers are yes, then come and join in the Bendlowe Trust's 5th Annual Tea at the Village Hall.

Do you need transport to the hall? If so this can be arranged, just telephone Angela Tanner 850445 or Vera Smith 850273

# How your money is used

Braintree District Council has recently issued "Making Contact" a summary of the Council's Best Value Performance Plan 2004/5, and includes a breakdown of how your payments of council tax as a householder are used.

For every £ collected the Council Tax helps to pay these Authorities for services provided by Essex County Council (74p), Police (8p) and Fire (5p), BDC (11p) and Parish Council, Shalford (2p).

It is important to ensure that the money spent by the BDC and the Parish Council does benefit the village, and that the services provided by this money are implemented.

Shalford Parish Council has recently entered into an agreement with the Braintree District Council to carry out litter picking including leaf fall using volunteers where appropriate. It will also empty litter bins putting the black bags in a convenient place for collection, monitor fly tipping and street cleaning standards and publicise the Channel Sweeping Programme.

The District Council will help the Parish in this work sweeping the channels four times annually, removing fly tips when asked to do so and generally supporting the process by supplying black bags and back up for community litter picks including a refuse vehicle and driver (rechargeable).

A source at the Parish Council said that the litter picking would be done on a voluntary basis with some incentive for the children.

It is good to see attempts being made to improve our environment and the decentralisation of powers to Local Councils where the Councils have the skills and budgets are delegated to meet the costs of the work.

The District Council will pay the sum of £310.50 to the Parish Council as a contribution to the costs involved.

**Frank Easton**

## Spiderman 2

David Eversden has joined with Jason Daniel in getting the village web site up and running,

[www.shalford-essex.co.uk](http://www.shalford-essex.co.uk)

[jason@mediant-communications.co.uk](mailto:jason@mediant-communications.co.uk)  
[dave@shalford.fslife.co.uk](mailto:dave@shalford.fslife.co.uk)

David Eversden has lived in the village since 1971, he moved here with his wife Madeline and daughter Wendy from Bristol after having worked on the Concorde project. David quickly became involved with Shalford School PTA (much later becoming a Governor of the school). Initially he worked locally as the "Man from the Pru" and in 1985 bought one of the first "proper" computers available to the general public. Having become competent in database use he was invited to join the Prudential's IT team in London. Later David moved into IT training and then



ran his own company for ten years, now retired he provides IT help to local organisations on a voluntary basis including assisting in the running of the Shalford web site. When time permits he enjoys messing about in boats, David has undertaken a number of Tall Ships ventures and cruised using narrow boats.

## Annual Parish Meeting

Although representatives from BAA and "Stop Stansted" were invited to attend the meeting and state their views, BAA did not come, so the argument was one sided. Peter Riding, a member of the Campaign's Executive Committee queried, why the development needed so much land, whether BAA could afford this development, whether the true levels of noise pollution were known, from where the labour force would come and the environmental effects on this part of north-east Essex. Alan Hurst MP outlined his opposition and raised further concerns about BAA's proposed scheme for Stansted airport.

**Update** - A letter has been sent to BAA requesting information on their side of the argument and if/when an answer is received this will be included in the next edition of the Shalford News. An information leaflet from the "Stop Stansted" campaign is enclosed with this issue.

## St Andrew's News

The Rev John Shead will be retiring from his post as Vicar of the United Benefices of Finchingfield with Cornish Hall End, Wethersfield and Shalford at the end of August. He will be conducting his last service at Shalford on Sunday 29th August. John, and his wife Hilary, who are not moving far away have bought a house in Braintree, and will be leaving the Finchingfield Vicarage sometime in September.

Two fundraising events have taken place this summer. In May, despite very wet and indifferent weather "Celebrating Christenings" an exhibition of christening memorabilia was a financial success. So many people helped to make this weekend memorable; the church was transformed by displays of gowns and flowers, the sound of music by local musicians and the number of visitors.

"Open Gardens" in June was arranged to be after the Horticultural Society's "Best Kept Flower Garden" competition and the weather was again disappointing, however a number of intrepid visitors managed to view some if not all of the 10 gardens around the village during the weekend. Cream teas were the attraction at several gardens and a garage museum at another, apart from the show of well-tended lawns, flowers and vegetables by enthusiastic gardeners.

The Fabric Fund has benefited by around £1600 from the two events, the leaking roof during both weekends being evidence of the need for money.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Margaret Jack, Chairman reports on the last quarter**

"The Parish Council business during the last three months has been routine. The May Annual Parish Meeting attracted a surprisingly small audience particularly as the topic was "The Development of Stansted" and the main speaker was from the "Stop Stansted" campaign. Whether you are for or against the proposed development some interesting information was revealed and local MP Alan Hurst added

his opposition to further expansion.

Concerns have been voiced by parishioners about the speed of vehicles travelling through the village's 30mph areas; it is hoped that a speed monitor will be set up for a time to record vehicle numbers and speeds.

The new web site is intended as a village information notice board and any items/events can be submitted to Jason or David for inclusion.

Although it is early days for the site, hopefully in the future interest in it will grow. Remember- it's your web site!!"

## High Flying Night

The Air Ambulance charity is £1400 better off after Ron Vincent, Mick and Carol Barber and John and Yvette Falls arranged the most successful village family fun-night at the Village Hall in late June. Many local businesses had sponsored the event or donated raffle prizes but it was the supporters who generously dug deep into their pockets on the night who were responsible for the amazing amount raised. During the evening refreshments and drinks were available, games were organised, and there was dancing to "Refrain" (3 guitars and a drummer), all contributed to produce a very friendly atmosphere and generate a feeling of community spirit.

## Shalford Shufflers

One perfect summer Saturday morning some Shalford School parents, pupils, and staff with a few energetic friends joined in the 3 mile "Race for Life" at Bury St Edmund's. Whether they walked or ran was not important, they all finished the distance and enjoyed a happy picnic lunch together after the event. Cancer Research will benefit from the group's effort and it's not too late if you want to make a donation to this charity, Angela Ridgewell tel 850 329 can give further details.

## News flash

ECC has issued a notice of intention to impose a 40mph speed limit restriction from the top of Whites Hill to the existing 30mph sign near Tanner's Yard.

Copies of the proposed plan can be seen at Causeway House or Braintree Library.

### URGENT

#### Voluntary Car Drivers needed... NOW

The Health Authority has put pressure on the Freshwell Health Centre not to use ambulance transport unless it is medically necessary. This disadvantages rural patients and Freshwell has set up a Voluntary Car Driver transport service. At present 12 regular volunteers kindly offer their time and petrol to convey patients to and from hospital appointments in Braintree, Chelmsford and Cambridge. Drivers are asked to drive on average only once a month, but as more patients attend hospital arranging transport is difficult.... More volunteer drivers are now needed. Can you, will you help? One day you, or your family, may need this service.

If you have time to spare, would like to help others or want more information, please contact the surgery during office hours...01371 810328

## Glorious Gardens

Chelsea was over for another year, but in late June why did some enthusiastic Shalford gardeners continue to manicure their lawns, weed beds, trim edges and dead head flowers?

This flurry of activity was before Robin Carsberg, (a member of the Essex Guild of Judges) and his wife Janet arrived in the village to judge this year's Horticultural Show's best-kept garden competition.

There were nine entries and with all the gardens looking good judging was no easy job; the judges, thorough and scrupulously fair, marked for colour, quality, permanency, originality and tidiness and also gave positive encouragement and advice to the competitors.

Gordon and Valerie Cornhill, Knighton House were the winners, with Tony and Shirley Bedding, Ringers 2nd and Mike and Helen Willey, Corkers 3rd

The Perpetual Challenge Cup, diplomas/certificates (where appropriate) and the prize money will be awarded at the Summer Show and photographs of all the competing gardens will be on display in the village hall on show day 17th July 2-30pm onwards.

### Horticultural Show Snippings.

\*George Tanner (Shalford) Ltd donated the prize money for the Best kept Flower Garden competition.

\*There are 2 vacancies on the Hort Soc Committee, proven gardening expertise not necessary just an interest in growing plants and a desire to see the shows continue are important.

\*A couple of new ventures .... This year's show ends with prize giving at 4-30pm, to be followed by a raffle of some exhibits, kindly donated by exhibitors.

To encourage children ... "A Spud in a Bucket" competition was on the schedule. The judges will weigh the yields on show day and the heaviest yield will be the winner.

### TREES NEED TLC TOO!

The Tree Council's Trees Love Care campaign runs until September 2004. A poster giving useful guidance about the aftercare of young trees is on display at the Village Hall notice board. If you have planted young trees in the last 5 years please check them using the Tree Council's advice.

Following Seed Gathering Sunday in October 2003, acorns gathered by the village tree warden Heather Smith, have germinated, been potted on and are now available to parishioners. Those who would like to plant a "local" oak tree on their land are asked to contact Heather directly on 01371 851378 for further information.

## LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

by Shirley Bedding

Twenty-two years ago we drove along a small lane and fell for the thatched cottage, which came into view at the top of the hill. To us the cottage looked like a chocolate box picture and later that year we moved into our dream home knowing nothing about thatched roofs. Following heavy gales the thatch roof was badly damaged and had sunk around the chimneystack, shared by the original pair of cottages; the roof's banding and decoration were sadly in need of repair and at night strange noises could be heard. Wild life had moved in through the rotted wire netting.

We found an expert Thatcher, but he had a two-year waiting list before he could start work. Meanwhile we attacked the garden vigorously and gradually brought it under control. It was at this point the Thatcher arrived with bales of straw, willow stakes and thatching tools we had seen only in museums, and the many weeks of re-thatching began. The garden instantly disappeared under the straw; the lawn became non-existent and the wild life, rats, played in and out of the straw bundles.

Nearing the work's completion I was asked what sort of ridge decoration I would like, I suggested a pheasant or something similar. This was greeted with scorn as the proud Thatcher deemed the only decoration needed was the ridge pattern; he made one concession adding an X at each end of the roof to keep the witches away.

For twenty years this thatch remained in almost perfect condition, then the ridge needed strengthening. Just as spring arrived so did the Thatcher, who had a cancellation and could start work immediately. The garden looking at its best, lush green grass, tulips in profusion and seeds sown in the borders disappeared again under straw and there were signs of rat scratching in the lawn. The ridge re-thatching was completed in a mere five weeks, this time there's a different design at each end of it to ensure the witches continue to stay away.

We are still sweeping up the straw from the paths and removing wisps from the shrubs and sadly the new straw's golden finish is fading and blending in with the rest of the thatch. But, our cottage roof looks like new again and we love it.

# WHAT'S GOING ON AND WHERE?

## JULY

**12th** (week beginning)

Entries for the Horticultural Summer Show to Barbara Chinnery at Kelele, Braintree Road.

**16th**

Shalford School PTA, Annual End of Term Picnic and Disco for pupils and their families. 7pm Village Hall and field.

**17th**

Horticultural Summer Show, Village Hall 2-30pm. Prize giving 4-30pm

**23rd**

Bendlowe Tea Party, Village Hall 3-5pm

## AUGUST

**7th**

Royal British Legion Coffee Morning in aid of branch funds, 10-12 noon United Reform Church, Wethersfield, entrance 50p includes refreshment

**12th -13th**

Fun Soccer Course. Boys and Girls aged 8-12 years 10am-3pm Village Hall. Tel. Scott White (CRB checked) to register. 01376 331403 or mobile no 7977750694

## SEPTEMBER

**1st**

W.I. Meeting 7.45 pm Village Hall. Talk " Send a Cow"

**11th**

VHMC Summer Village Fete, 2pm Village Hall/Field

**13th** (week beginning)

entries for the Hort. Soc. Autumn Show to Barbara Chinnery, Kelele, Braintree Road.

**18th**

Horticultural Society, Autumn Show Village Hall 2-30pm

**20th**

WEA 10 week course begins "History of the East End of London" by Alan Prior at Shalford Green Congregational Church.

Contact Sue Morton 850626 for further information

**24th**

Macmillan's "Biggest Coffee Morning in the World" 10-12 noon Village Hall. Bring and Buy, raffle.

More details from Sally Prime 850242

**26th**

Levelly Wood, 10 am. volunteers interested in tree conservation work required. Please contact tree warden Heather Smith 851378

## OCTOBER

**1st**

Samaritan's Purse, Christmas Shoe Box Appeal Coffee morning 10-30 -12 noon Village Hall. Tel Marguerite Sillett 851535 for further information

### **Samaritan's Purse**

This charity organises the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal annually and is asking for more volunteers to fill a shoe-box with small gifts for deprived children of all ages in Eastern Europe. Marguerite Sillett, who for many years has supported this charity, can give more information about how you can become involved with this scheme. If you would like to help make Christmas a little more cheerful for a needy child do join her at the coffee morning arranged on Friday 1st October.

### **Useful telephone numbers**

Police(Braintree)

01376 551312

Freshwell Health Centre

01371 810328

or if the surgery is closed

TEDS (The Emergency Doctor Service)

01279 461502

The Vicar The Rev John Shead

01371 810309

Shalford Parish Council Clerk

01371 850975

Shalford Village Hall Management Committee 01371 850784

### **Mobile Library**

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

Jaspers Green phone box 11.00am-11.10am.

Broome Close Villas 12.00noon-12.20pm.

Village Hall 1.25pm - 1.50pm.

Barryfields 1.55pm - 2.20pm

## So much has changed.

Today it's hard to imagine the Village Hall as it was when it was built in 1925, just the large room with heating by Tortoise stoves, which had to be lit and stoked and with no indoor lavatories. In its early life the new hall was much used for social, recreation and sporting events, and at this time various clubs flourished catering for all ages.

By the 30's and 40's talent concerts and dances were organised regularly providing entertainment for villagers and the troops stationed nearby. Major Gold, the benefactor, who had had the hall built, gave it to the village in 1945 as a trust and it was registered as a charity. In 1970 after sustained fund raising a much-needed extension was added, this provided the smaller room, the lavatories, changing rooms and showers.

Today, despite its age, 79 years old, the hall is in remarkably good condition following a makeover. This was made possible by a generous Lottery award, fund raising and an annual Parish Council grant (now set at £4000). The hall continues to be the village venue for celebrating special occasions and parties, keep-fit classes, elections, charity events, dances, shows, exhibitions, and meetings of all sorts.

Under the Charitable Trust there are three appointed trustees, The Vicar, a Parish Councillor and a member of the WI, but the Management Committee of 11 appointed people, who represent the different village organisations and groups, are responsible for controlling and running the hall and field.

The present Chairman, John Nicholson, is planning another Fete on September 11th and says, "This year the money raised will assist with the hall and field's upkeep. The plan is to improve the children's play area, an expensive project because of stringent health and safety regulations." He urges everyone to support the fete and spend generously on the day to help achieve these targets.

**Village Hall Hiring Fees** from September 2004,

Shalford Residents, before 6pm-£6-50 an hour, after 6pm-£7-50 an hour.

Shalford Residents, Wedding receptions-£110 per day + £100 deposit.

Rummage Sales-£20, Tennis court-Family membership £20, Individual- £5.

Booking Secretary Zoe Daniels 850333

### **PLEASE NOTE THAT OCTOBER COPY DEADLINE IS 23rd SEPTEMBER**

We are always looking for ideas for articles or photos. Correspondents and editorial volunteers most welcome. [hanley.millfields@btinternet.com](mailto:hanley.millfields@btinternet.com) or [pinelodger20@hotmail.com](mailto:pinelodger20@hotmail.com)

Letters and comments are welcome, but please note that they will not be used unless name and address is supplied. This information will not be published unless the writer wishes.