

SHALFORD NEWS

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PARISH COUNCIL-LATEST REPORT

New Brooms Promise to Sweep Clean

This was an opportunity for the many residents who attended the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) to be introduced to the recently elected Parish Councillors, see photograph.



Standing: Dave Isbell, David Eversden, Andrew Hull, John Phipps, Tony Bedding.
Sitting: Jenni Harrison, Alan Oates (Chairman), Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

Alan Playle, Essex Police Speed Management Unit spoke of speeding problems in many NE Essex villages including Shalford: local "traffic incidents" range from minor infringements to fatalities. A speed watch scheme run by volunteers, but fully trained by the police, has successfully operated in other villages for some time. Councillor Dave Isbell is eager to recruit people interested in helping to run such a scheme in Shalford. More details ON PAGE 4.

In April the Rural Council for Communities of Essex (RCCE) following a housing survey presented a Low Cost Housing proposal for Shalford. This aroused strong feelings within the village. At the APM after some heated discussion, the PC Chairman Alan Oates agreed to arrange an Open Meeting, sometime in mid-June, with RCCE, Circle Anglia Housing Association, and a BDC Planning Officer to inform everyone of the proposal and to allow residents both for and against the idea to express their views before any decision is taken.

Chairman, Alan Oates, anxious to improve dialogue between Councillors and residents will in future devote the first 15 minutes of PC meetings, as a Public Forum. Parishioners are invited to attend to voice their concerns and ask questions on any parish matters.

NOTE PC meetings are held in the Village Hall (VH) every 3rd Wednesday in the month at 8pm.

COMMUNICATION IS A TWO-WAY PROCESS. Use this opportunity to have your say, gripes and compliments. Share the responsibilities of what goes on in your village by attending meetings.

Information concerning Shalford is available via

- 2 PC notice boards and 4 bus shelters
- Shalford News, delivered free to every house
- Braintree and Witham Times and Essex Chronicle under Community/Village News
- Shalford website www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/shalford

A Thank You

From Shirley Bedding

I did so enjoy many happy years on the Society's committee, seven of which as Secretary, when as part of this hard working team organising successful annual plant sales and shows we had a lot of fun and laughs. It is so important to keep the tradition of local horticultural shows alive - it's part of village life and a reflection on the days when many grew all their own vegetables and flowers. Some still do, we have in Shalford not only great fruit, vegetable and flower growers but super cooks and skillful crafts people. As a retired person I am looking forward to competing but meantime I shall treasure and care for the gift and the friendships made over the past years.

I wish Shalford's Hort.Soc. continued success and good luck to the new secretary Charlotte Lewtas



Picture of me with "I can't believe it" look receiving the most delightful leaving gift of a Dicksonia tree fern from my friends at Shalford's Hort.Soc.

Artists in Residence

Shalford seems to attract keen artists, these range from those who have been formally trained at art college to the self taught including those who have progressed from educating others into the art world.



Gladys Williams who lives in Barryfields took up art when she was older, over twenty five years ago. She had always liked drawing but it was not until 1980 that as a raw beginner she bought some paints and began producing pictures. After joining various groups she finally settled for ten years in a class run by Charles "Taffy" Turner in Great Leighs. Gladys has successfully exhibited at different venues and held joint exhibitions at the Guildhall Thaxted.

Gladys working on another interesting lace making project.

Gladys has experimented painting different kinds of subjects ranging from flowers studies to interesting houses in various media, but her favourite "models" are animals and using pastels. Cyril, her late husband, was most supportive of her interest, driving her to exhibitions and giving her encouragement with his positive criticism.

Dennis Morcom is self taught, he cannot remember when he did not draw but was ten when he began painting. Being a Cornishman he is particularly attracted to seascapes and boats although he enjoys flower studies and landscapes, he photographs first and paints from these. He enjoys using both pastels and watercolours, very different techniques and can mount and frame his own work.

Steve Downey after university worked in films, taught, later becoming an educational adviser in London before going freelance in 1990, he now does consultancy work for Essex County Council, taking on commissions and projects working with adults and children. Following the death of Maureen, his wife, Steve has become very involved in voluntary work with Farleigh Hospice and is busy organising a second art auction, last year's raised over three and a half thousand pounds for this charity. His work is circular, abstract, based on nature and he uses a mixture of acrylic paint and photographs in collage. Both his daughters Emily and Jo are also artists.

Sue Morton and Chris Runacres are both productive and keen artists who regularly show their work, they are organising FOSTAC's 2nd Art Exhibition in July (see Dates in your Diary). They would welcome hearing from any artist who would like more details on how to enter this year's exhibition. Tel: Sue 01371 850626

Shalford's Children 160 years ago Part 2 by Dorothy Gardner

Children of farm labourers - the majority of Shalford people - were expected to

work and earn as soon as possible. Girls like their brothers worked on the land especially in harvest time, gleaning with their mothers and helping to get in the hay. Shalford girls were probably not involved in the agricultural gangs notorious in East Anglia, recruited by gang masters who walked them - often many miles - to farms where the gang-master had a contract with the farmer.

Girls worked without pay with their mothers on the domestic chores and baby minding, learning their life-time's work, and they learned other skills which could be practiced at home to earn a little money. One such skill was straw plaiting, introduced about this time as the woollen industry declined and with it spinning at home

Little girls and sometimes very little boys learnt from their mothers or were sent to the plait mistress. In her cottage she might have 40 children aged 1-2 up to 6-7; she was baby-sitting and teaching plaiting and sometimes rudimentary reading and writing. There would be perhaps 40 children in a room less than 4x31/2 metres (11'2"x10'8") from 9.30 to 12.30 and 2-5pm for a few pennies a week. In a day's work a 3-year old child could plait nearly 10 metres (10 yards), an older child might earn 15-20p per week and an adult 35-40p comparable with the farm labourer's wages.

The total family earnings provided enough simple food to sustain them all and buy other basic necessities.

Editors' note: an example of straw plaiting can be seen in the children's corner of St Andrew's Church, Shalford

A Policeman's Lot is (sometimes!) a Happy One

by John Burrow.

The "swinging sixties" are nowadays frequently portrayed as the decade of drugs, promiscuity and flower power, but I must admit that most of it passed me by! Save for one day that is. One Saturday I was the Duty Inspector at Chelsea Police Station when rumours were circulating that something was afoot in the King's Road, which with Carnaby Street vied as the centre of the "hippy culture". There were reports of three film crews in the area following a tip-off there might be a scoop, so I warned the officers about being lured into a confrontation and to keep me informed of any event likely to cause a problem. Sure enough an hour later came a report that a young woman was walking, topless, down the King's Road causing a large crowd to gather. Instructing the officer to keep her in sight I set off immediately to join him. When I arrived the lady in question was in a chemist shop, later described in the tabloids as a perfumery. Accompanied by the officer I went in and looking her straight in the eye, as you would expect, I told her that a number of complaints had been received from parents about her dress, or lack of it! She, defiantly, said that she was doing nothing wrong and that women went topless on Spanish beaches. I pointed out that what was acceptable in Spain was not so in the King's Road. Eventually persuaded by this argument she asked what she should do, I said I would call her a taxi. Immediately regretting this statement knowing the difficulty of hailing a taxi on a busy Saturday afternoon, but having made a decision I went to the shop door, raised my arm and shouted "Taxi!" Like in an American movie a black cab instantaneously swept up to the pavement and to the frustration of the cameramen, I was able, to usher the young lady quickly through the crowd, into the taxi and away. My brief encounter with the "swinging sixties" was over!

Happy Hour

Pull of a plump, curved forearm and the gleam of brass and barmaid's eye, the smell of ease as bitter dries on polish at The George.

The sun is setting. "Usual?" she asks, and draws the evening pint; a bond refreshed between them, server, drinker, happy both, by that habitual first drip on the bar.

They watch the froth rise slowly in the jar.

He smiles and risks, "You'll join me?", but a flick of curling forelock tells him that she won't. They start to talk of children, his and hers, how these have gone their ways, and they have not. The curtains now that nights are closing in, are drawn, but carelessly, and do not lap, A chink is left, so there's the evening star. They watch the froth ebb slowly down the jar.

By David Cobb 2005

The George News....The newly formed Darts Team, if there is no match, can be seen practising in the bar on Monday evenings and this practice has paid off. Recently the team was runner-up in the league and is now promoted to the first division as well as winning the 4's competition. Both cups awarded for these achievements are proudly displayed in the bar. A popular local duo, singer and guitarist, at the request of the pub's regulars are making make a return visit on Saturday 30th June.

Horticultural Society....

The Table-Top and Plant Sale attracted lots of buyers looking for garden bargains which were soon snapped up and the many homemade cakes were quickly sold out. Buyers and sellers please make a note of the next sale 20th October. More entries are required for the "Best Kept Village Garden" competition to be judged on June 15th the results are announced at the Summer Show on 28th July. Gardens of all sizes eligible, telephone now for more details from secretary Charlotte Lewtas 851003



Tabletop and Plant Sale organised by the Horticultural Society (Photo by John Smith)

Essex Wildlife Trust Braintree Group

by John Phipps, Chairman Braintree Group.

The Braintree Group has some 1200 members, who live in the town and surrounding villages. Listed below are numerous functions organised by the committee.

1. Events - Throughout the year it organises outdoor/indoor events at EWT Reserves, wildlife sites and in Braintree and local villages.
2. Fund-Raising- Collect donations at events to provide tools and equipment, i.e. nest-boxes for the EWT Area Reserve Wardens, purchase equipment for the Watch Group,(EWT's children's section), publish the Group's Newsletter, contribute to EWT Head Office running costs.
3. Protecting Wildlife Fauna and Flora-Committee planning officers check any planning applications submitted to BDC identifying those which could affect wildlife habitat or breeding sites, i.e. listed plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Having identified a risk the officers either comment or object on behalf of the EWT Braintree Group to BDC, or if the risk is of major concern refer it to the Planning Officer at EWT Head Office and/or the specialist groups, who in turn contact the statutory organisations dealing with the species.
4. Newsletter- EWT Braintree Group Members are kept up to date with local news and forthcoming events.
5. Raise Awareness for Wildlife Protection -members are kept well-informed of the pressures being put on the Essex countryside Flora and Fauna. Major threats in the Braintree District are Stansted Airport, along the A120 Corridor and housing developments around Braintree and area.

As you can see the Group is very active and if you would like further information on activities or wish to join EWT please contact John Phipps on 01371 850037.

FOSTAC..... Bats and all!

The "Bats in the Belfry" evening attracted a good crowd interested in bats, their habitat and lives, organised by the Essex Bat Group Joint Secretaries Roger and Sylvia Jiggins of Rayne. They gave a short introductory talk illustrated by specimens and photographs. then lead tours inside and out the church to show where the bats enter and exit their roosts. After interval refreshments the group enjoyed the bat hunts in the darkened church and churchyard, particularly around the ponds behind the church. Earlier in the day at the VH, FOSTAC's three tables attracted customers for homemade goodies, bric-a-brac and FOSTAC information including Shalford Calendars which are selling out quickly. All money raised goes towards the proposed Kitchen and Lavatory church extension fund.

What a variety of events have been arranged for the entertainment of all, from the second well attended AGM to Martyn Harrison, who reminded us of musical shows. Our thanks to members, their families and friends and numerous others who have supported FOSTAC in so many ways.

Looking ahead, there is another Art Exhibition in July and a family Hog Roast in September. Work has already begun on next year's programme which will include the Braintree Male Voice Choir, a Tea Dance, an evening of Magic and the welcome return of Peter Mayo and his Young Friends as well as other exciting events.

Role Reversal

by David and Linda Leeder

David

I didn't set out to become a 'new man', it just sort of happened! When the children arrived I was surprised to find, that I was just as passionate about looking after them, as Linda was.

My career in the motor trade had come to a gentle halt, with the closing of the garage in Shalford and Linda's exciting new career in social work was beckoning, so we decided to swap roles. Linda would become the breadwinner and I would be a househusband, "Well" I thought "Only two small children ... How hard can it be"? Silly question! I thought I worked long hours in the garage but nothing prepares you for the 24 hours a day 7 days a week, being a full time parent.

All the tantrums and tempers, the scraped knees and chicken pox are more than compensated for with the laughter and all the good times that we shared, and still share today. I wouldn't change it for the world. It was very satisfying to see the girls' progress from toddlers to independent young women, making their way in life.

Would I do it again? ... Yes, every time.

Linda

Returning to work and study I had to adjust my time with the children from a quantitative to a qualitative approach - which usually meant bathing the girls when they were young and shopping with them as they became teenagers! I also had to step back from how I would do the housework and let David do it his way - which was usually much better! Having a full time parent at home had always been important to us. I was able to enjoy my time at work as I knew the girls were safe and happy with David and now managing a large social work team I am very proud of what I have achieved. Regardless of the roles we have had over the years, we recognise when we are stressed and tired, but remain supportive to the children's needs and most importantly to each other.

Shalford Primary School End of Term Report

By Gillian Disley, Headteacher

Admission Policy change,

This has created a new area building, hopefully complete mid-July ready for September intake, and the appointment of a qualified Nursery Nurse.

Visitors to the school have included

- *Cycler* the Recycling Robot came to explain the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste
- Mr. Roger Walters from ECC joined a School Council Meetings during Citizenship week.
- Electricity Workshops for KS2 pupils on electrical safety
- Nicki Carpenter, school library service, worked with Years 5 and 6 on lending libraries
- The Family Learning Team held a Transition Session to help children move from pre-school to school which was very well supported, the school ran a creche. Jay's Nursery, Wethersfield and Panfield Little School were represented.
- Mr. Daniel Scoggins entertained and informed all pupils with his *Guitar Roadshow*
- Essex Wildlife Trust assisted children and parents in 'taming' the willow dome. Class C children enjoyed the hard work and opportunity to get covered legitimately in mud. The wildlife pond is being refurbished
- Red Cross worker enlightened older pupils about her work in India's poorest parts. Following an Indian drumming workshop some children lunched at a Braintree Indian restaurant.

PTA

As well as a fashion show, autumn shopping event and a Christmas Bazaar the PTA found time to put on an outstanding pantomime, 'The Wizard of Oz', which was enjoyed by all.

Pupil Achievements

Team from Year 3 and 4 children entered a multi-skills tournament against other local schools and won displaying both good sporting and social skills

School visits and journeys

Older pupils enjoyed an adventure activity weekend in March.

Shalford School Web Site

This is up and running but still "under construction", www.shalford.essex.sch.uk is the newly created school website and is rapidly filling with information.

New ideas for school meals

Shalford School meals provider is investigating a new system, called ESTEAM, which cooks by steam pressure. This provides quality healthy meals with emphasis on freshness and taste. Shalford was the first Essex primary school where the Catering Team organised a trial meal on 11th May. Parents joined pupils for lunch and the feedback was positive - "the meal was a success, both in quality and quantity". The School is researching costs and requirements of the system on a permanent basis.

WANTED ...Voluntary Speed Camera Operators

*Help reduce speeding traffic in Shalford

*Full Police training given
*Implement traffic calming scheme

Contact; Councillor Dave Isbell
850816 for further information

Many thanks to all the contributors.

Please note that the Autumn copy deadline is Monday 21st August.

The Editors welcome articles of village happenings/events, ideas and photos. Please contact Jo Crow tel: 850101 or e-mail jo.crow@fsmail.net
Brenda Hanley 850480 or e-mail brenda@ukhanley.co.uk
Writers' names and addresses are required, but will not be published, unless agreed

Diary of Events

JUNE

Wed. 6th. W.I. 'Life as a Child in the Tower of London' Speaker Helen Leonard. V.H. 7.45pm

Fri 8th 'Best Kept Garden' Competition entries to Charlotte Lewtas. Tel. 851003

Fri. 15th Horticultural Society Judging 'Best Kept Garden' Competition.

Sat. 30th 'The George' An evening's entertainment with local singer and guitarist.

JULY

Wed. 4th W.I. 'Light Among the Trees' Speaker Peter Beale. V.H. 7.45pm.

Wed. 4th Friendship Club. Outing to Wisbech Rose Fair. Cost £13. Tel. Pauline Rawlinson on 01376 321450

Fri. 6th Cheese and Wine Evening 7.30pm St. Andrew's Church Cost £5.

Thurs.19-26th Horticultural Summer Show. Entries to No.1. Braintree Road.

Sat 21st-Sun.22nd Second Annual Art Exhibition V.H. Sat.10.30am-5.30pm. Sun.11am-4pm

Sat. 28th Horticultural Summer Show V.H. 2.30pm Prize giving 4.30pm

AUGUST

Sat. 4th Royal British Legion. Coffee morning 10am-12noon U.R.C.Hall, Wethersfield. Entrance 50p includes refreshment.

Tues. 21st Friendship Club. Outing to Dunwich. Cost £15. Tel. Pauline Rawlinson 01376 321450

SEPTEMBER

Sat 1st. FOSTAC Family Hog Roast 12 noon St. Andrew's Churchyard.

Sat. 8th VHMC Fete

NEWS IN BRIEF

BENDLOWES TRUST

The Trust has been very active and has recently given baskets containing a selection of indoor plants to six of the "less young" village residents who were delighted to accept them. The Trustees are looking for an alternative event for this summer, in the past there have been tea parties and outings but they would like to introduce something different. All suggestions considered and welcomed so please contact the Clerk Angela Tanner 850445 if you have a bright idea.

Friendship Club

Pauline Rawlinson, secretary would be pleased to hear from people wishing to go on the two club outings, the first is in July to the Wisbech Rose Fair and the other is on August 1st to Dunwich. More information from Pauline tel 01376 321450

PALS stands for Patient Advice and Liaison Service

Is a free impartial confidential independent service for all who have concerns about the NHS, need advice, information or help with services provided by GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians. If you do not know where to turn for NHS advice contact PALS 01376 333528 or e-mail pals@midessexplc.nhs.uk

Village Hall Management Committee

At the VHMC AGM several committee changes were announced, Sally Prime, (Bowls Club representative) and Marguerite Sillett (Village rep) stepped down. Len Butcher is now Bowls Club rep. and Garry and Jane Mills represent the village. Samantha Curren is now secretary replacing Charlotte Lewtas, who remains on the Committee for the time being. The new members were warmly welcomed and the committee is already planning the VHMC Fete on Saturday 8th September.

Creamer Fund

The CREAMER Fund organisers extend their thanks to everyone for continued support. If you have bought a book or jigsaw puzzle from the surgery waiting room or helped by donating a prize or purchasing tickets for the Easter Raffle which raised £1,234.80, your contribution was very welcome. An amazing £1400 was raised at a "Strictly Novices Come Dancing" event at Wethersfield Men's Club when six couples with no previous experience on the dance floor trained for some weeks before being judged dancing the Cha Cha. A Tombola stall was held at the Finchingfield May Fayre over the Bank Holiday, results next edition.

£5000 has been spent on running costs for the X-ray machine at the centre

Flower Power

Throughout the year there are usually beautiful flower displays decorating the

church, these are a welcome sight much enjoyed by worshippers and visitors. With the exception of Easter the flowers are provided by and paid for by the arrangers. To ensure that flowers continue to enhance St Andrew's Church some fund-raising is now necessary, and to this end a "Cheese and Wine Evening" 7.30pm Friday 6th July is being held in the church. This is an open invitation to everyone who would like to support the dedicated and generous band of flower arrangers. (See Diary Events)

St Andrew's Church

Services are held at the following times:

1st Sunday in the month 9.30am family Service

2nd Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion (sung)

3rd Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer (1662)

4th Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

5th Sunday: United Benefice Service see notice board or Vicar for time and place.

Parishioners unable to attend church but who would like Holy Communion should contact Rev. Colin Wilson on 01371 831309. If a lift to Services is required, please contact the Vicar or Church Wardens, Margaret Smith 850488 or John Burrow on 850577

Useful Telephone Numbers

Shalford Parish Councillors
Parish Clerk Cathryn Carlisle
851342 shalford.pc@vodafoneemail.co.uk

Tony Bedding 850496
tony@ringershalford.wanadoo.co.uk

David Eversden 850606
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Jenni Harrison 851214
jenni.harrison@tulipuk.co.uk

Andrew Hull 850214
andrew@aphworkingsolutions.co.uk

Dave Isbell 850816
sales@pantvalley.travel.fsnet.co.uk

Alan Oates 850621
alankoates@aol.com

John Phipps 850037
jhr.phipps@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meetings 3rd
Wednesday every month 8pm in VH

Freshwell Health Centre 810328

Outside Surgery Hours TEDS

Emergency Doctor Service

01279461502

Brooks Newmark MP 01376

512386

e-mail newmarkb@parliament.uk

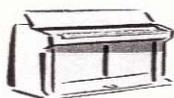
VHMC Booking Clerk Audrey Sapak

850505

POLICE Braintree Station

01376551312

Good Home Wanted



Piano available free
Contact PCC Secretary on
01371 850211