

SHALFORD NEWS

Published Quarterly

Issue 14

Spring Edition 2006

www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/shalford



Website Award

IN FEBRUARY Parish Councillor David Eversden, Shalford's website wizard administrator was presented with a cheque for £500 by Brooks Newmark, local MP at Causeway House. He had won first prize in The Local Channel's (TLC) competition for the "most improved website" out of a total entry of 1300 sites. Present at the ceremony were David's wife Madeline, Parish Council Chairman Christine Fowler, Councillors Tony Bedding and Alan Oates, Shirley Bedding and Sylvia Lester, both local society administrators, Brenda Hanley, Shalford News and Keith Cooper TLC.

How should this windfall to be spent? Ideas/suggestions are needed on how the money could be used to benefit the village and its residents in some way/ways. Please let David, other Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk have your thoughts as soon as possible.



David receives the cheque

ANOTHER SUCCESS

SEVEN north Essex photographic clubs competed in a recent competition in which the Halstead Camera Club, whose members include four from Shalford, was once again the winning team, this time by just one point. The club's chairman, Jacqueline Wisby was presented with the trophy, which the club won for the fourth time in five years.

Beaten, but not downhearted!

AFTER WINNING the 2004 Best New Magazine award in the Rural Community Council of Essex's Village Magazines Competition, Shalford News re-entered last year. Unsurprisingly, competing against larger villages, some of which produce very glossy monthly magazines, Shalford News did not carry off a prize. The judges made useful comments about the newsheet, "within its four pages there was a good range of information", "attractive, clear layout", and with "such an able editorial board it seems a pity not to expand the magazine further". These observations were appreciated and extra pages have been considered, but rejected, mainly because it takes considerable time to produce a quarterly Shalford News, even in its present form. Shalford News will be re-entered, with enthusiasm, in 2006.

NOTE Copies of the judge's report available on request.

SHALFORD'S VILLAGE APPRAISAL

JAN COLE, from the Rural Communities Council of Essex, who led the introductory appraisal workshop, outlined the opportunities Shalford could gain from having a published plan produced with reference to the entire community.

From the start this whole process should take between 12-18 months; it is part-funded by the BDC with the PC sourcing available grants to cover the cost. Initially a volunteer steering committee is needed, to include people from village organisations and interest groups, long term and new residents, the under 16 youngsters with their parents being especially welcome. All will be encouraged to join in, to make an input, and so ensure everyone's ideas and suggestions/opinions are heard. PC Acting Chairman, Christine Fowler, hopes a published Shalford Plan, the result of many skilful parishioners' efforts, will eventually benefit the whole community. Log on to The Local Channel. Watch the village notice boards. Check your home letterboxes. This is only the beginning, there's more information to come.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN, John Smith, at the AGM, welcomed four new members Miranda Forsey, Sue Martin, Graham Sherris and Margaret Sparks, who will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the existing committee.

A trip to the RHS garden at Wisley has been organised for Saturday 3rd June. See Diary of Events. The Summer Show is on Saturday 15th July and the Autumn Show will be on 16th September. Keen gardeners will be eager to know that the Best Kept Garden competition is to be judged on Friday 16th June. The society celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year, and will be marked by extra special show classes; details in the schedule due out shortly. Annually the society has held Plant and Produce sales, combined with rummage sales, in future at these events the rummage will be replaced by tabletop sales, similar to an indoor boot sale. Individuals/groups can hire tabletops to sell their own goods at both events, Saturday 20th May and Saturday 21st October. More details concerning these changes and bookings from Shirley Bedding tel: 01371 850496

Where There's Brass there's Rubbing!

IN THE 50's Kevin Herring, aged 7, made his first brass rubbing, his father interested in brass rubbing introduced Kevin to the craft and this marked the beginning of Kevin's lifelong, all absorbing hobby. His day job as a Planning Officer in East London is a far cry from the "work" he carries out in his spare time.



1375 Schwerin Friederich Von Bulow

Brasses are found throughout Europe, although by far the greatest numbers are in England, particularly in the southeast. These are mostly figure brasses, the earliest ones dating from the fourteenth century; local examples are in Finchingfield, Great Bardfield, Gosfield and Halstead churches. Sadly, Oliver Cromwell's men destroyed Shalford's ones. The brasses, usually commissioned to commemorate the lives and achievements of notable people are invaluable to historians, the earlier ones providing a wealth of detail. In Victorian times monumental brasses enjoyed a revival and the 1960's was the hey day for rubbings: the clergy are normally happy to give permission, for a modest fee, for rubbings provided due care and respect is shown for both memorials and church. Worldwide The Monumental Brass Society web site www.mbs-brasses.co.uk provides comprehensive information on all aspects of brass rubbing.

Through brass rubbing Kevin has visited many parts of the UK and Europe where there are well-preserved examples, he is keen on the Flemish brasses. In Lubeck Cathedral, Germany, the wall mounted quadrangular plate to Bishops Serken and Mul, which survived the bombing in WW2 are of particular interest. In the last couple of years through contacts, Kevin has obtained special permission to make rubbings of these enormous wall plates. Later this year from 18th June to 30th September in Lubeck's St Katherinen Church Museum, Kevin is helping to stage an exhibition of English and German brasses. To produce magnificent results he has to spend the first day putting the paper in place, then a further three days' rubbing, much from a high ladder. Kevin has a large collection of his brass rubbings, which hopefully will be exhibited in St Andrew's Church in the future.

Details can be obtained from Kevin 01371 850484

Golden Days for George and Win Whitehead

GEORGE WHITEHEAD was born in a Shalford cottage, next door to what was the Fox pub in Church End; these buildings were demolished and later the pair of Fox Cottages was built. On 24th March 1956 George and Win, a Suffolk girl, were married quietly in Braintree and went to live in Stone Cottages, Beazley End. In 1969 when Stephen, their son was five, the family moved into a bungalow in Clifffield where they still live.

When George left school he started working for local builder George Tanner, now known as Geo Tanner Ltd; after 50 years' service with the firm George retired. For two years Win was employed as kitchen assistant at Shalford School, subsequently becoming a classroom Learning Support Assistant until she retired eleven years ago. The Whiteheads have played an active role in village life, George was a member of both Shalford's football and cricket teams, and together they belonged to the tennis club and now enjoy the carpet bowls. Win served as a member of the VHMC and as a Parish Councillor where she was instrumental in the researching and setting up of the Chiropody Clinic, which she helped to run. Warmest congratulations to them both on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Village Hall News

Ron Vincent, acting Chairman, will be standing down at the VHMC AGM at 8pm on Wednesday 12th April. He urges all parishioners to attend this important meeting as several long serving committee members are retiring this year and new willing people interested in helping to manage the hall are urgently needed to fill the vacancies. The hard working committee has ensured the hall is in a good state of

repair; the soffits and guttering now replaced allow rainwater to run into the drains rather than down the walls. In 2006 plans can be implemented for the hall's exterior walls and other outside buildings, to be re-rendered and decorated. Estimates already obtained for this work, will be further considered when the Parish Council 2006/7 grant has been received. Other future projects include re-decoration of kitchen and hall, new lined curtains for the hall, and tennis hut repair.

SITUATIONS VACANT IN SHALFORD

SECRETARY: male/female urgently required to take minutes at monthly meeting, plus typing minutes, agendas and occasional letters; shorthand an advantage, but not necessary. Hours: maximum 6 a month. No salary, but real job satisfaction.

Apply now to Ron tel: 01371 851576

Take a step in the right direction... become a VHMC Member -

- No previous experience necessary
- Enthusiasm and ideas positively encouraged
- Easy work, 4 hours max at monthly meeting
- No age limit, male/female, all applicants welcome
- Start immediately.
- Salary non-existent and not negotiable

Telephone Ron 01371 851576 soon

SATURDAY JOBS AVAILABLE

Hedging and ditching work. Experience welcome, not essential. Team players required for outside work. Flexible hours. Suit reasonably fit persons seeking occasional spare time, unpaid work! Can you help? Tel Lawrence Rawlinson 01376 321450 for information

Glimpses by Brian Beard

Beyond the lichen-covered wall,
beneath the stones whose words are almost
lost,

so many secret dreams and hopes sleep on.

Through the massive studded door
the silence weighs our thoughts
and sunlight tints the coloured glass
where saints stretch out their arms.

A butterfly attempts escape
where fragrant flowers deck the sills
and mask the musty smell of ancient walls.

The names of notables
are etched on plaques of brass,
stone tablets tell of foreign wars
and those who gave their lives.
No-one is here but timbers creak
and muffled sounds of summer
seem to dwindle in the stillness.

Recumbent figures clasp stone hands
in silent supplication,
unseeing and forever unaware.

Previously published 1998 Poetic
Destinies and 2004 Still Life

Gill Wilson

Gill, wife of Colin, mother of Becky, aged 11 and Ellie, aged 9 has quickly settled into life at The Vicarage in Finchingfield. Voluntary work and Gill's natural empathy towards people have given her experience working as a Hospice ward volunteer and as a bereavement counsellor; her common sense and well-developed sense of humour enable her to cope with most situations from setting up a successful retail business to living and working in France for a couple of years.



Having enjoyed the challenge of an exacting management role in banking prior to the birth of her children, looking to the future she would welcome the challenge of a mentally demanding and fulfilling job, but one, which would have to fit around her first priority, family responsibilities.

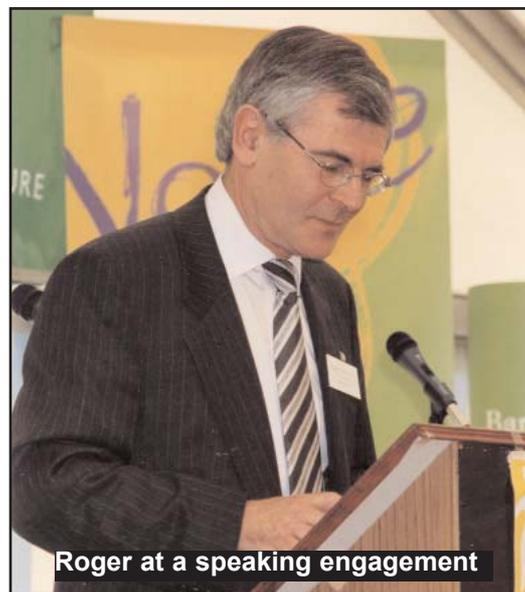
Although her free time is limited, she finds time to read for pleasure, deal on

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWS

ARISE SIR ROGER.....

FOSTAC was delighted to learn that its Honorary President Roger Singleton, Churchwarden of St Andrew's had been knighted for his "services to children" in the latest New Year's Honours List. Roger joined Barnardo's the children's charity, in 1974 and subsequently over the years was promoted to Chief Executive, a position from which he recently retired.

2005, the centenary of the death of Dr Barnardo, the charity's founder, was commemorated. Later this year with his wife Ann, Roger will go to Buckingham Palace for the formal investiture. Roger is reassured that before the ceremony those being knighted are shown how to kneel whilst the Queen's sword touches the recipients' shoulders. Previously Roger received a CBE; he purchased a short twenty-minute descriptive video of the whole ceremony, which is available on loan to anyone interested in seeing an investiture. Roger mentions that he features in the film for at least five seconds!



Roger at a speaking engagement

Valentine's Lunch

The limited tickets for the lunch held on February 14th at Ringers, by kind permission of Tony and Shirley Bedding, were quickly sold out. Guests enjoyed the meal prepared by committee members and the pleasant social occasion raised over £450 for the building project fund.

FOSTAC FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Date: Thursday 18th May
Time: 12noon until 2-30pm
Venue: Village Hall
Price: £5, lunch including coffee
Wine, beer, soft drinks available.

Bring your family and friends, all welcome
Tickets available from Jo Crow 01371 850101

JUNE 10th St Andrew's Church, Hog Roast and Summer Gala Concert
JULY 22/23rd Weekend Festival of "Art, Flowers and Photography"

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

- *Wanted colour photographs for proposed Shalford calendar
- *Shots on any subject taken in Shalford parish
- *Open to Shalford residents and families only
- *Maximum 3 entries per person. No entry fee.
- *Maximum size 7"x 5"or 177 x 127mm, unmounted.

All entries judged by non-resident in July and displayed in church during "Art, Flowers and Photography" weekend festival 22nd and 23rd July.

Cameras at the ready! Get snapping! Entry forms with details available from Saturday 18th March from Jo Crow tel 850101, or on tableat the back of the church.

Ebay, and with Colin, learn to play tennis so that they can enjoy a family activity together with their daughters. Living in a rural environment suits Gill, as she loves village life and finds the local people so friendly; joining WAPs bears this out. Although Gill insists she's not

musical, look out for her in the "Oklahoma" chorus line. Gill is a woman in her own right, unlikely to be pigeon holed by her husband's job. Her positive outlook on life, her strong personal faith and character make her a most attractive person to know.

Diary of Events

MARCH

Saturday 11th FOSTAC. Chelmsford Cathedral Choir. St. Andrew's Church 7.30pm.

Tickets £5 (under 16's free) from Jo Crow 850101

Saturday 18th Royal British Legion Jumble Sale, bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, 2pm VH.

Monday 20th Creamer Fund AGM. 6.30pm Freshwell Health Centre

Saturday 25th Friendship Club. Rummage Sale bric a brac, raffle etc. 2pm VH.

APRIL

Wednesday 5th W.I. Meeting "Get Ahead Hats" 7.45pm. VH

Wednesday 12th VHMC AGM 8pm VH

Tuesday 18th Carpet Bowls Club AGM. 7.30pm VH.

Monday 24th FOSTAC AGM. 7.30pm St. Andrew's Church

MAY

Thursday 18th FOSTAC Ploughman's Lunch, noon-2.30pm. VH

Tickets £5 including coffee, from Jo Crow 850101.

Saturday 20th Guided circular tour, Shalford Woods. Meet 10am VH car park

Saturday 20th Horticultural Society. Spring Plant and Table Top sale. 2.30pm VH.

JUNE

Saturday 3rd Horticultural Society. Wisley Gardens Outing £9.50 plus entrance fee £5.50 (Free to RHS members) Details: Shirley Bedding 850496.

Wednesday 7th W.I. Open Evening. "Seasonal Container Gardening" 7.45pm V.H.

Saturday 10th Hog Roast 2-5pm St Andrew's Church. Tickets £10, under 16's £5 from Jo Crow 850101

Saturday 10th Concert "Music for a Summer's Evening" 7.30pm St Andrew's Church. Tickets £5 under 16's free from Jo Crow 850101

NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION appeals for rummage, bric-a-brac and homemade cakes for the Jumble Sale on Saturday 18th March, in aid of Branch Funds. Donated items to be taken to Shalford Village Hall from 9am on sale day, contact Peter Morton 850626 or David Brown 850743 to arrange for items to be collected

SHALFORD DIRECTORY. The first directory was successful, but information needs updating. The directory will be reprinted for the autumn edition of Shalford News. New advertisers should tel: Sylvia Lester 01371 850211 for details.

VOLUNTEER TEAM

To improve playing field drainage, Mick Barber, Peter Nicholls and Lawrence Rawlinson tackled hedge cutting and ditch clearing, with Peter Rawlinson assisting by burning the brush. Work still remains to be done, more volunteers welcomed. See Advert under VHMC

VENUE FOR HIRE

Shalford Village Hall available for private functions, wedding receptions, birthday parties, other celebrations, or meetings.

Special hourly tariff for Shalford residents - Before 6pm-£6.50. After 6pm-£7.50 Audrey Sapak, Booking Clerk, tel: 01371 850505

SMOKE ALARMS

Following the article in Shalford News, Winter Edition, a householder (name and address received) reported that two firemen called at her cottage to talk about the necessity of home smoke alarms. After checking the firemen's identification, she invited them to survey her home. The result, four alarms, tailored to meet the cottage's requirements were immediately fitted free of charge. The alarms, have no wires and run by long life batteries lasting 10 years. The householder, delighted with this no-mess service, now feels well protected and advises others without smoke alarms, to telephone the Fire Safety Officer on 01376 345537.

BRAINTREE COMMUNITY

TRANSPORT, a partnership between ECC and BDC

"Are you between 25 and 70 years old?" Have you a few hours to spare?

"Want to put something back into the community?"

Why not volunteer to take elderly, disabled and vulnerable people for shopping appointments, social events or day trips etc. in own car or in BDC 12-seater

minibus ?

* Mileage reimbursement 40p a mile, no tax liability

* Extra insurance cover unnecessary

* Benefits unaffected

For an informal chat about volunteering telephone Tracy Corcoran 01376 342107

CREAMER FUND

Grateful thanks to all those who bought tickets for and/or donated prizes for the Christmas Raffle. An amazing £1,738.93 was raised! Easter Raffle tickets will be on sale from Monday, 27th March until Wednesday, 5th April. Meanwhile, raffle donations can be left at the surgery.

AGM Monday 20th March 6.30pm at Freshwell Health Centre, open invitation to members of the public.

SHALFORD WOODS, villagers are invited on Saturday 20th May to take part in a guided circular walk lead by Nigel Wood, Flitchway Ranger. There should be plenty of spring flowers as well as small wild life to see on this walk, lasting approx. 2 to 2 ½ hours. Meet at 10am at the VH car park, sturdy footwear is advisable. Numbers limited, contact Heather Smith, Tree Warden 851378 to secure a place on the walk

BENDLOWE TRUST, following the Trustees' meeting it is proposed that a second coach outing, possibly to Saffron Walden/Audley End, will be arranged this summer providing there is no objections from the Parish Council. This year's gifts of houseplants will be distributed shortly.

CARPET BOWLS CLUB meets every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the VH. Club members are happy to welcome and instruct newcomers if they wish to play. No experience or special equipment needed for this social evening.

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

Please note that the Summer copy deadline is Monday 22nd May.

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.