

SHALFORD NEWS

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www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/shalford



Village Hall.... latest news

Following numerous changes to both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) an informal meeting was arranged to help promote and improve many aspects of the village. As a focal point for residents the village hall represents the hub for many activities enjoyed by local clubs and societies as well as those from surrounding areas keen to use the facilities. Upkeep and maintenance of the village hall is therefore of top priority. The VHMC is undergoing major changes and requires further members in the form of village representatives willing to undertake both general and specific tasks.



Photo by Brian Crowe

Are you good at fund raising or perhaps finding and obtaining grants and monies? (these are out there to be grabbed!) Can you offer practical help or advice which would help further enhance the village hall status? Key positions are required now including the election of a chairman and a co-ordinator to organise next year's Village Fete

If you are interested, get involved! Please contact Garry Mills 01371 850390 or any VHMC member.

What do you know?

Four American Presidents have claimed descent from one Shalford family; they are Presidents Taft, Hayes, Nixon and Bush all of whom are descended from Robert Foote, originally from Shalford, who died in 1607.

Robert had nine children and left Hulls Farm to Robert junior, his eldest child who lived in London. A younger brother, Joseph, occupied Hulls Farm. He died in 1639 having had eight children. Nathaniel Foote, Joseph's elder brother and the fourth of the nine children emigrated to America in 1634

It is recorded that today there is an estimated 20/30 million Americans who are descended from the twenty three families who survived passage to America on the "Mayflower". However, it is more likely that the Footes sailed on the "Lion" a model of which can be seen in Braintree museum.

Shalford Local History Association

FOSTAC

The wet weather does not inspire confidence, but we are holding a Hog Roast on Saturday 1st September, all the arrangements are made so fingers crossed for a dry afternoon.

What else is on this autumn? The Mid - Essex Magic Society present "It's Magic" on St. Andrew's Night, 30th November in the VH. Here's an opportunity to watch the show and enjoy a homemade supper at the same time. December's musical event is a very welcome return visit by the versatile and talented "Passing Notes", also known as Peter Mayo and friends. This pre-Christmas concert begins the season's celebrations. Have you some old treasure that you think might be worth a fortune? Come along to an "Antiques Road Show" in the VH on February 22nd when Mark Stacey, of Stacey and Co, Leigh on Sea, Auctioneers and Valuers will be pleased to examine and value your items for a fee.

Fund raising continues but, STOP PRESS the amount raised by FOSTAC now stands at just over £13,000.

It is hoped that the building will be started if everything goes according to plan perhaps before the year's end depending on the weather and other factors.

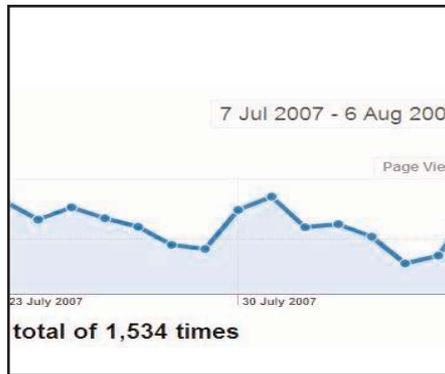


Shalford Web Update

April 2004 saw the launch of a web site for Shalford after the Parish Council adopted The Local Channel as an organisation to manage the system, some might agree that it has nothing to do with me as I have no computer. From February 2007 the Parish Council introduced the procedure of displaying parish minutes on parish notice boards, as a direct answer for those with no access to the Internet. During the past three years The Local Channel has made three major software upgrades to its systems, the last one in March, although another change may shortly take place to improve the diversity of this system.

Locally the system has become accepted with news items flowing to our local administrator David Eversden on 01371 850606 for publication and items to keep the diary up to-date for forthcoming events

Although we are only a small community others in the Internet World do take an interest particularly in the Shalford News section, as we have viewers from



France, Canada and the USA with some 3,500 viewers per month.

The diagram shows the number of viewers in July for our main village web site which can be seen at www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/shalford.

Don't forget that Braintree Library does not only just lend books, but has a large computer section in which staff will show you how to access the Internet so anyone can view Shalford on line.

If you have ideas for news or diary items which benefit the community then please submit directly to David.

Shalford Brewery .. A new venture

Local resident Nigel Lawes has recently started brewing from a five barrel brewing plant at Hyde Farm, Blackmore End. The microbrewery, built and installed during early summer commenced the inaugural brew July 16th 2007. Using the finest malts, hops and yeasts, Nigel plans to brew interesting and different as well as traditional beers to offer to the discerning beer drinker. Casks and the bottling facility will enable distribution to free houses, beer festivals and farm shops with direct sales from the brewery.



Horticultural Society,

61 not out. by Charlotte Lewtas.

A sunny Saturday afternoon helped a good attendance at the 61st Shalford Horticultural Society Summer Show on 28th July. Despite the poor weather over the summer, the number of entries for the horticultural classes was high and the judges praised the quality of the exhibits. Richard Monk won the Bentley, Hayden and John Bahr Cups; Shirley Bedding won the Goodchild Cup and the Byford Cup was awarded jointly to Mary Brace and Sally Prime. Shalford Primary School entered the Children's Sections with enthusiasm and their collages made from seeds were particularly inventive. In the children's classes the Arthur Bright Cup was won by Lucy and Peter Bedding and even the youngest competitor, 2 year old Thomas Vaughan, took 3rd prize for his "Spud in a Bucket"! The Autumn Show will take place on 15th September at the Village Hall. Doors open to the public at 2.30pm.



Photo by Graham Brace

Strong interest was shown in Stoneley Bitter at the Clacton Beer Festival in August, the first three beers produced Hyde Bitter, Stoneley Bitter and Levelly Gold will make an appearance at the Chappel Beer Festival in early September. At the recent well attended launch evening at The George, Hyde Bitter and Stoneley Bitter proved very popular and were completely sold out before the evening's end.

For more information contact: Nigel Lawes 07749 658512,
Or e-mail Nigel@shalfordbrewery.co.uk
and www.shalfordbrewery.co.uk

Written and photo by Garry Mills.

Climate Change

Up on the wall the calendar says May,
figs feed and ripen in late summer rain:
the old Green Man is standing on his head.

Up on the wall the calendar said Jan
and daffodils usurped the Christmas rose;
the old Green Man was skipping with a hose.

And come the day the calendar says Jun,
who'll bet against dead dahlias and deep dews
and the old Green Man juggling bitter sloes?

Or come the day the calendar says Sept
we'll hear the wind chimes clink as winter blows,
and see the Green Man cartwheel in the snows?

By David Cobb 2005

Editors' note, was this a prophesy for summer 2007?

WANTED... Donations for Workaid

Turn out your sheds, cupboards and garages for any surplus tools and equipment you don't use anymore, these are urgently needed by this charity "WORKAID"

They can be used by people trying to make an independent living for themselves in overseas countries, particularly Africa. British Airways supports Workaid by transporting donated items abroad.

Any tools and equipment for the work listed would be very welcome.

*Woodwork and carpentry, *maintenance, electrical and plumbing, *cobbling and leatherwork, *dressmaking and tailoring, *general office work (not computers), and *gardening and horticultural.

PLEASE bring any donations to the VH 10am-noon on Saturday 3rd November.

W.E.A.

by Iris Beard WEA Secretary

What do the initials WEA stand for? The answer is Workers' Educational Association a name adopted in the late 19th century when the association formed to provide basic skills for people who had left school at a young age to earn money. Many of these people were keen to learn and, enthused by their interest, qualified people some famous in their own fields taught. The tutors often travelled long distances as the organisation spread throughout the British Isles.

With prosperity and comprehensive education the WEA gradually evolved into the "liberal studies" groups popular today. The WEA now a world wide organisation, today holding special classes teaching English to immigrants in inner cities,

Hospital Notes

by Valerie Cornhill

Having recently come out of hospital I have had time to think, between exercising and drinking gallons of water, about the number of times I have been in hospital. I cannot recall the first occasion in Westminster Hospital as that was when I was born. The second time I most certainly do. My mother had not explained what would happen when my tonsils were removed; my impression was that I would be in and out in a day, maybe an overnight stay but nothing to worry about. At aged seven I believed her, but as a puny little kid I had to remain in hospital for a week. No sooner home I had a nightmare about the surgeon pulling on his rubber gloves and putting what I thought was a tea strainer over my face. What did the customers in Mum and Dad's public house make of the screaming coming from upstairs? It was reported that silence fell in both bars. Another week's stay in hospital followed for me due to a broken blood vessel in my throat.

The ambulance had difficulty in finding its way one foggy Saturday morning when I was being taken as an emergency into Westminster again, but by now as a young adult I was able to cope with the situation. Later two further visits to the hospital were happier ones for the births of my two children; they coincidentally were born in Arden Ward just as I had been years before. Next experience was an operation in Forest Hospital, our local cottage hospital alas no more, which was so handy for visitors.

The closest to home was Holly House Hospital which was next door to our cottage, my hospital room overlooked our garden so I could see the family comings and goings. I did puzzle one evening when the refrigerator was carried out; apparently it was giving off a most disgusting smell and had to be removed. Released from hospital I was promptly taken by my husband to the local shops to buy a replacement, considering that I was not really with it at the time the machine turned out to be pretty good.

Last October my right knee joint was replaced in Springfield Hospital, as luck would have it a friend had the same operation a month later in London. We were able to compare treatment notes and the accompanying laughter about our experiences was a marvellous tonic. Coming up to date I have just had a replacement hip joint, fingers crossed the last operation! I have had time to wonder about other Shalford folk who perhaps remember similar events in their lives. Some will have tales of courage and endurance, which would help others to come through, for words spiced by laughter are the best medicine of all.

these are a far cry from the village meetings but still fulfilling a need.

In Shalford students choose the subject for the 10 week term which begins in September, weekly meetings are held at the Congregational Church Hall, Shalford Green, (see Dates for your Diary.) Tutors still drive miles to expectant students who enjoy the chance to learn something new in a friendly atmosphere.

Agricultural Changes recalled by Peter Douse

The last war saw the modernisation of most industries in particular farming; at that time it was essential that the land should produce the maximum amount of food. The government appointed local committees of farmers who oversaw and advised on the best way to improve yields. Most farms then had smaller acreage and practised mixed farming producing cereals and root crops, as well as livestock including horses to pull ploughs and other farm machinery. Tractors, with iron wheels but no hydraulic systems were gradually introduced and used to apply artificial fertilisers and chemical sprays; the spray boom measured 3-4 metres compared with today's 24 metres, and seed drills were very narrow too.

During pre-war harvests the corn was cut by binder then carted to the farm for stacking, the stacks were kept dry by thatch. During winter the contractors White Brothers, came with a steam engine, drum and elevator to thresh the stacked corn; later Norman Tanner's Field Marshall tractor replaced the steam engine. Soon combine harvesters imported from America appeared on the fields, the first machines, with 2 metre cutter bars, were towed by a tractor; self-propelled machines followed which needed a driver and a man to fill the four bushel sacks with threshed grain. Four bushel sacks held 18 stones of wheat, 16 stones of barley and 14 stones of oats. More development saw grain holding tanks added to combines, these were emptied into waiting trailers and the grain carried to the farm for storage. Today the large combines have 12 metre cutter tables.

Livestock production also has undergone great changes since the war due to the introduction of electricity and mains water to rural farmyards. The physical labour required to do farm work was drastically reduced by modern machinery, the traditional muck fork being replaced by fore loaders mounted on tractors. One man can now do the work of many; this situation is a far cry from farming in the 1940's.

Peter lives at Spicers Farm Rotten End

Everyone a Winner....

Essex Brewers visit Shalford on Grand National Day

Current Essex breweries were represented at the "2007 Static Essex Brewery Tour: "a beer festival held at the George, whose hosts provided a weekend of fine beers and food in perfect weather.

Runners gathered ready for the off at 6pm. The flag went down, two early leaders galloped on and got a neck ahead downing a Crab and Winkle (Railway Tavern Brewery) and Eco Warrior (Pitfield Brewery). A grey emerged from the chasing pack and quaffed Skipper's Best Bitter (Mersey Island Brewery) and took the lead. Fillies remained cautious at the rear not tempted to chase the leaders. Stayers opted for Essex Boys' Bitter and Boneshaker (Crouch Vale and Nethergate Breweries) and remained patient continuing with Maldon Gold (Mighty Oak). Those going for a one-two finish took the whip and the double on offer, Celebrate Chelmsford and Felstar (Felstar Brewery).

Heavy ground runners found the going too fast but sought solace in Hotel Porter (Farmers' Ale Maldon Brewery). Fearing much ground had been lost the fillies made a move with Henham Honey (Saffron Brewery) but the stayers remained strong gulping large volumes of Skipper's Best. Novices, unsettled from the start, waited

for an opening from Summer Virgin (Brentwood's) and Lighthouse (Harwich Brewing Co) to see their way through. Tee-shirts appeared on those who crossed the line having consumed beer from all breweries and not having pulled up early. RG Meats Sudbury produced a vast selection of tempting sausages to combine with the beer. Saturday drew more entrants to the paddock and a re-run of the previous day's classic, new runners were given advice by those with knowledge of the course. A hog entered but failed to make the start as it was roasted! Owners and trainers (Roasters of Sudbury) prepared it to be in perfect condition for the event, but in a bun not a run! Some runners now carried too much weight, but fitness from years of training proved decisive. More runners on Sunday crowded the grandstand, to consume beer and food, a photo finish was called and a dead heat declared every one was a winner

Editors' note; an edited version of Garry Mills' original piece.

Many thanks to all the contributors.

Please note that the Winter copy deadline is Friday 16th November.

**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**



The George many years ago

Diary of Events

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 5th WI "The Craft of the Potter"
Speaker Peter Harrington
VH 7.45pm, all welcome

Sat 8th Friends of Essex Churches
sponsored "Annual Ride and Stride" Tel:
Alan Oates 01371 850621 for forms and
details

Tues 11th CREAMER "Coffee and
Cakes" Wethersfield Arts Centre 10am-
Noon by kind permission of Mr and Mrs
A Bryant tel; 851054. Admission £2,
bring and buy, cake stall and raffle.
Parking at the centre is very limited but
plenty of parking nearby.

Thurs 13th Entries for the Hort. Soc
"Autumn Show" in box outside 1,
Braintree Road

Sat 15th Horticultural Society
"Autumn Show" VH 2.30pm

Mon 24th W.E.A. "Understanding
Scenery" Tutor Adrian Wright 7.30pm
Congregational Hall, Shalford Green

Fri 28th "The World's Biggest Coffee
Morning" Macmillan's annual fundrais-
ing event, Bring and Buy, Raffle, Cakes
VH 10am-Noon

OCTOBER

Wed 3rd WI "History of Colchester"
Speaker David Austin VH 7.45pm, all
welcome

Sat 6th Friendship Club Rummage
Sale 2pm VH Bric-a-Brac, raffle etc

Sat 20th Hort Soc "Plant and Table
Top Sale" VH 2.30pm

NOVEMBER

Sat 3rd "Workaid" donation of
unwanted tools and equipment for chari-
ty. VH 10am-Noon

Wed 7th WI AGM VH 7.45pm

Fri 30th FOSTAC St Andrew's Night
"It's Magic" plus full supper. VH 7.30pm

DECEMBER

Sat 8th FOSTAC "Passing Notes"
Peter Mayo and Friends in concert
St. Andrew's Church 7.30pm

NEWS IN BRIEF

Village Hall

Having a family celebration, birthday
party or any other event?

Why not use the Village Hall?

Jane Mills is the Village Hall Booking
Secretary tel: 01371 850390

For hiring charges details, special rates
for Shalford Residents, please contact
Jane.

The Benefice Choir

Singers from the four parishes make up
the choir and anyone is very welcome to
join.

If you enjoy singing why not join the
choir which meets at 7-8pm every
Wednesday in Wethersfield Church?

Interested? Please contact Richard Webb
01371 810603

CREAMER Fund

A Fibre Optic set, an Auroscope, an
Ophthalmoscope and a DVT testing kit
have been purchased recently. The
maintenance contract for the
Osteoporosis Scanner has been paid.

**Event on Tuesday 11th September -
See Diary of Events**

Freshwell Health Centre, Finchingfield

Patients, over 16 years of age, can now
*Book appointments *Order repeat pre-
scriptions on-line

*24 hours a day, seven days a week from
home.

Important: please ask at Reception for a
registration form to use this system

Royal British Legion

Secretary Peter Morton thanks all those
who contributed in any way to the suc-
cess of the recent Coffee Morning,
which raised £241 for branch funds.

RBL Poppy Appeal November 2007

Alan Oates, appeals organiser, tel
850621, needs more collectors to raise
money for those who served and those
who are serving in the Armed Forces
today. Would you spare a few hours to
sell poppies around Shalford? Both
young and the not so young are particu-

larly welcome. Volunteer now!

The Bendlowe Trust

The following letter written by a resi-
dent, who wishes to remain anonymous,
was received by the Trustees after the
recent tea party.

*"I have just returned home from a very
pleasant and enjoyable tea party, at
which the Trust and many helpers enter-
tained a large number of the older resi-
dents of the village.*

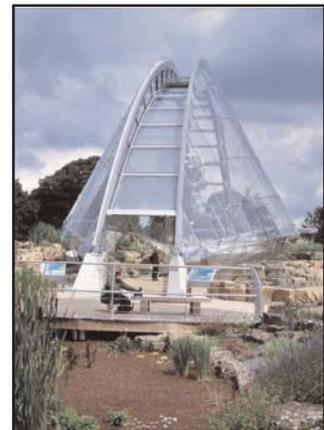
*I should like to express my apprecia-
tion and thanks, in which I am sure all
the other guests would concur, for a
happy afternoon meeting friends and
being waited on - a very pleasant experi-
ence.*

*The village Hall is the perfect venue,
and the community spirit of Shalford is
strongly evident on such an occasion. I
think Sergeant Bendlowe would have
approved!"*

The Bendlowe Trust set up in the 17th
century under Sergeant Bendlowe's will
originally provided coal and boots to a
few older Shalford residents, this 21st
century tea party is an excellent alterna-
tive.

June visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Despite a showery day the successful
trip was enjoyed by everyone who went.
As this was not a fund raising event the
surplus money from the tickets gave a
gratuity to the coach driver and a small
prize to the winner of the lucky ticket
number, which was drawn on the return
journey.



**New Alpine house
Photo by Sally Prime**

The Three Peaks Challenge

by Milanka Novakovic

When the company I joined twelve months ago this year organized three teams in the Three Peak Challenge I jumped at the opportunity to sign on. The Three Peaks Challenge in aid of charity means climbing the three highest UK peaks in 24 hours, Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and Snowdon in Wales. Our teams' chosen charity was Action Medical Research which sponsors research from diabetes to medical scanning equipment development.

Friday 6 July 2007 to Fort William, evening briefing for all 55 teams. An unpromising start; the journey having taken 3 hours longer than anticipated. 4:05 am was our team's scheduled start time, but I was too nervous to sleep. Battling cold and snowy paths near the summit, we completed Ben Nevis in five and a half hours, not a good time. We were behind schedule. After a 6 hour drive to the Lake District one of our team decided to call it a day that left three of us. Teams usually have a minimum of 5, 4 climbers and a driver. Scafell climb and descent took just over three hours; right back on schedule again.

Spirits rose, off to Snowdon but climbing in darkness. After another 5 hour drive we set off just before midnight to conquer the final peak. Initially the weather was kind, the sky full of stars with occasional clouds, but near the summit conditions changed. Foggy, drizzly and cold just the same weather as on the other peaks. In full winter gear we made our final descent to base camp in the early hours of Sunday 8 July. Our brilliant time 23h 28min (the quickest team time was 17h 20min, what were they eating for breakfast?). HOORAY, we'd succeeded!!!!!!

It was a hard exhilarating, adrenalin rushing and amazing experience. Personally I found the drives between the peaks hardest; eating, sleeping and trying to rest in the car following tough climbs was most difficult, climbing in the open air was much better. The scenery was breathtaking, however I really feel these beautiful areas should be enjoyed at a much slower pace.

Self-sufficient Shalford by Dorothy Gardner

Shalford today and Shalford 150 years ago present a dramatic contrast in many ways, not least the fact that nowadays one rarely meets anyone on foot in the village. There is not a single shop to provide for the everyday needs of the population, and it is hard to believe that 150 years ago the village was virtually self sufficient.

In addition to the baking, brewing, vegetable growing, clothes-making and so on that were practised in almost every home, most of the needs of the villagers were catered for by themselves or their neighbours.

Shalford had two blacksmiths, two boot and shoe makers, a wheelwright, a tailor, a builder and joiner, a butcher, a baker, a miller, two grocers, a linen-draper and a woollen-draper, three malsters, a thatcher, a carpenter, a coach-builder, a game keeper and a beer retailer as well as two beer houses and an inn.



The Light It's Fantastic!

If you think we Brits talk about nothing but the weather, you should hear a couple of Aussie farmers yakking. Or perhaps you have. 'We've had 51 points!' one will boast. 'What did you get?' Points, I should explain, is an alternative volume measurement. Back in the good old pre-metric days, one inch of rain equalled 100 points. So 51 is - wow! - just over half an inch.

When I came back to England after 40-odd years in Australia the first thing I noticed (apart from the softly-falling rain, of course) was the light. Here it is soft, golden and beautiful. Over in Oz it's in-yer-face, unyielding and at times distinctly unfriendly.

Back there on business this spring I flew in a small private plane over the mouth of the Murray, the main river to supply South Australia, the driest state in one of the driest continents in the world. From 2000 feet up the river mouth looked to be only about 20 feet wide. Shock horror! Until the recent heavy rainfall the farmland was a dustbowl, sheep were being put out to agistment or even slaughtered, and as for watering the gardens - forget it. Even now in mid-winter Adelaide is suffering an enforceable water restriction.

Yes. Rain is a luxury and stair-roads a term you never hear. Coming from Adelaide to East Anglia, weather-wise and in other ways too (the natives here are very friendly) gave veracity to one old saying. The grass is a helluva lot greener on this side of the fence. No worries, mate!

Robert Burrows, Rotten End