

SHALFORD NEWS

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MISSION IS NOW POSSIBLE FOR GARRY



In 1971 as an eleven year old, Garry Mills was diagnosed a diabetic, quickly adjusting to insulin injections to control blood sugar levels. Married, living in Barryfields and in his early thirties the diabetes affected Garry's eyes; periodic laser treatment followed over the next fifteen years, keeping serious problems in check. Renal failure necessitated eye surgery, the vitreous (jellylike fluid making up most of the eyeball) was replaced with synthetic material. Further kidney deterioration resulted in home dialysis, four times daily. Despite this the family booked a holiday abroad, the worldwide fluid delivery network guarantees that dialysis is available for patients anywhere. Three bouts of peritonitis later, the future looked very bleak.

The consultant considered Garry a potential organ transplant patient if he could fulfil the operation's required exacting criteria. After two years' exhaustive and constant tests 45 year old Garry, was ascertained as fit and healthy as he could be, he was a suitable patient for a complex transplant; to date few of these transplants have been carried out. January 2006 Garry and Jane, his wife were told he was on the replacement pancreas and kidney list, but warned it could be sometime before matching organs might be available. Amazingly, a month later a call came, the transplant op was on, immediately they drove to Addenbrookes where Garry was prepared for surgery. Several hours later they returned home, as the organs were unsuitable. Did a long wait for an op lie ahead? No, three days later a further call summoned them again, this time the nine-hour operation took place.

"What's the score?" were Garry's first words on coming round. Colchester FC had played Chelsea earlier in the FA Cup. A stay in the High Dependency Unit for only 3 days, then a transfer to a general ward for 9 days and then home. What a recovery. The physiotherapist was amazed at his determination to exercise despite the pain. Garry recalls one of his worst times in recovery was suffering hiccups for forty-eight

hours, abdominal pain every few seconds. Three months later Garry is undertaking most normal daily activities, including driving and cycling with medical checks reduced to once a fortnight. He and Jane are remarkably relaxed about his recent life saving surgery and he is considering his future and the work he might undertake now that he is no longer reliant on injections and dialysis.

ENGINEERS DIG UP THE PAST

by Brian Beard.

In February this year water engineers, laying a new pipe line through the village, alerted the Colchester Archaeological Trust regarding items of historical interest which had come to light at Park End Lane and at two sites along the back road to Bardfield. Earth removed at Park End Lane revealed the footings of some of the twenty-one houses, which fronted the lane from the 17th century including "The Swan" public house and "The Meads" workhouse the remains of the long since vanished community of Park End. The remains of two pottery kilns, dating from the 11th to 13th century, were found in the Petches Bridge (Great Bardfield) area, as well as grave goods in the form of three ceramic bowls from a Roman burial ground. These grave goods will be entrusted eventually to Braintree Museum.

The Colchester Archaeological Trust report will be submitted to the Essex Record Office and a copy forwarded to the Shalford History Association, which has mounted, in its cabinet in the Village Hall an interesting display showing photographs of the sites and artefacts found there. Fortunately the photographs were taken before the heavy rain turned the area into a quagmire.

NOTE: Park End Lane is a "byway", which runs from opposite "Corkers" in Shalford Green to "Hunts Farm", which is near "Ringers" on Hulls Lane, the back road to Great Bardfield. Copies of the large-scale coloured Shalford Parish map, created as a community effort in 1993, are on display in St Andrew's Church and the Village Hall and are still available to purchase. The maps showing the footpaths and many, many other details are obtainable from the Parish Clerk, Anne Tee tel 01371 850975. The map suitable for framing is £5 and the smaller folded walking map is £3.

As it was then...

local history by Dorothy Gardner

625 years ago this was not a peaceful place to live. The population was outraged by new taxes imposed to pay for the increasing cost of raising and maintaining the army.

In 1377 the first ever Poll Tax (tax per head) had been set at 4 pence on everyone over 14, followed by a second Poll Tax the next year on a sliding scale according to status. This led to much corruption and bribery of officials and did not produce enough revenue. So in 1380 a new Poll Tax was imposed at the very high rate of 12 pence (one shilling) on everyone over 15 - at the time considered the age of adulthood.

There was wide scale resistance and evasion especially in Essex and Kent, and Royal Commissioners were sent out to investigate. Many were attacked; so were local officials, and their homes looted. The Treasurer of England, Lord Hales, owned Cressing Temple, and this was set on fire by a crowd which then moved on to Coggeshall and looted the Abbey. Everywhere the main objective was to destroy the documents that showed who was liable to pay tax. There were fires in Wethersfield and Sible Hedingham and in 72 other places in Essex including Great Saling, Rayne, Black Notley, Witham and Maldon. Bocking men were part of the large riotous crowd in Brentwood on 30th May and people from Braintree, Dunmow and Coggeshall attended another large meeting in Bocking on 2nd June.

Although this mass rising against the Poll Tax affected other parts of the country, it was fiercest in Essex and Kent. The crowds converged on London and many Londoners joined them: much destruction and numerous deaths followed. The 14 year-old King Richard II showed remarkable courage in riding out to meet the mob at Mile End on 14th June and promising to agree to their demands, but after they had gone home peacefully the promises were broken and their situation was worse. The leaders Wat Tyler and John Ball had been killed and the poorest peasants had even fewer rights than before.

BUT....600 years later, a Poll Tax was again proposed. The strength of a collective national memory of opposition was enough to defeat the proposal before any attempt was made to implement it

Cricket, lovely cricket

Shalford has fielded a village cricket team for over 80 seasons as have many other local villages throughout the country; sadly over the years some of these clubs have folded, not for ground or financial reasons but because of lack of players. This trend continues today in the league in which Shalford presently play. In the past Shalford was able to run two sides on Sundays and one on Saturday, but more recently with fewer available players it has sometimes been a struggle to put out one team, even including the most unlikely cricketers!

Last year Shalford C.C. fulfilled all its fixtures with a reasonable eleven although several players were long past their youth and at the season's end the team finished in a respectable league position. Sometimes there has been only one Shalford resident in the team although the other players usually have had some connection with Shalford. This year the number of village players has increased to four; most importantly including a 16 year-old, who began playing at just 13 often at short notice, and now has become a regular in the side, relied on for both his batting and bowling

There are several reasons for the decline in youth players, the main one being a lack of playing and coaching

opportunities at school; and so several clubs have initiated youth teams and it is some of these young players who have now become their club's backbone creating a higher standard of play. Shalford C.C. sees that its future will depend on recruiting youngsters, so for the benefit of the club and game locally this year it is setting up youth cricket coaching.

Mark Troster, a qualified ECB coach with necessary child welfare qualifications will, with other keen cricketers be holding coaching and practice sessions every Friday at 6pm at the village hall cricket ground. Initially these sessions are for under 12 year-olds, (year 7 at school) for both girls and boys who are interested in cricket. If there is obvious demand the age range might be extended. Spectators of all ages are most welcome to watch the youth home games' fixtures on Saturday 3rd June at 11am and on Sunday, 18th and 25th June and 16th and 30th July at 10am.

Shalford C.C. men's team will also be pleased to hear from any cricketers who would like to play cricket for the village, this season we have a very full fixture list with at least one game each weekend.

For further details please telephone the Chairman, Steve White, 01371 850829

The Halfway Shop

(aka Oak Cottage, Panfield Road Bocking)

We fell in love with and moved into Oak Cottage in 2003, some 400 years after it was built. Which way to go for entertaining company? Being in the middle of Bocking and Panfield, it had to be Shalford, Jewel of the East. Before long we were drinking good country ale at the George in the company of local raconteurs. Our small world expanded with stories of the Bowls Club's wild parties, St Andrew's harvest supper and the Horticultural Society where large cabbage exhibits were the talk of Braintree market. We had to be part of this world.



But the cottage with its old shop, now the shed in our back garden, we know very little about. Do you, your mum, dad or granny know anything about our cottage/shop? We'd love to learn more about it.

Information welcomed; please contact us, Mary and Graham Brace, tel: 01376 348531, e-mail: angelamarybrace@fsmail.net

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Services are held in the church at the following times

1st Sunday in the month ... Family Service	9.30am
2nd Sunday ... Holy Communion (Sung)	9.30am
3rd Sunday ... Morning Prayer (1662)	9.30am
4th Sunday ... Holy Communion (1662)	8.00am
5th Sunday ... United Benefice Service please see notice board or the Vicar for time and place.	

Anyone unable to attend church but wishing to take Holy Communion should contact Rev Colin Wilson tel 01371 810307. Should you need a lift to church please contact the Vicar or the Church Wardens, Margaret Smith 850488 or Roger Singleton 850918

FOSTAC

The first AGM held in St Andrew's Church in April was well attended and members heard reports of not only the fund raising events since last July, but also of the £4,941 raised by them. Thanks were extended to all those who had supported FOSTAC and it is hoped that all the future social gatherings will attract similar generous patronage.

Good news... FOSTAC's President, Sir Roger Singleton's knighthood was conferred upon him by HRH Prince Charles at a ceremony on Friday 26th May. Further congratulations to Roger and Ann who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 30th July

WEEKEND FESTIVAL OF ART, FLOWERS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd July in St. Andrew's Church and the Village Hall.

FLOWERS for the weekend festival... It has been suggested that families whose relatives have been baptised, married or whose funeral have taken place at St Andrew's Church may like to sponsor a small floral arrangement, or part-sponsor a larger one, to mark that occasion. A simple printed card would be placed next to the flowers giving the name of the sponsor, the event remembered and the date it took place. A relevant photograph, provided by the sponsor could also be displayed. Donations of any size will be welcome.

If you are interested in this scheme, please contact Ann Singleton (01371 850918) before the end of June.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRY REMINDERS

Photography entry forms giving all the details can be obtained from Jo Crow tel 01371 850101. Forms to be returned no later than Saturday 15th July to Sandra Easton The Old Post Office, The Street, Shalford tel 01371 851042

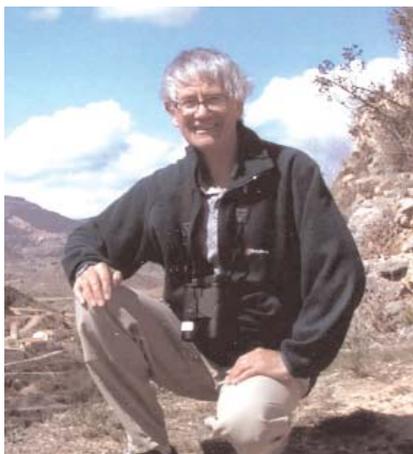
Art entry forms should be returned no later than Friday 7th July to Sue Morton The Old Cottage, Beazley End, Essex tel 01371 850626

PARISH PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Another successful fund raising which with the tabletop sale at the Hort Soc Plant Sale has added just over £300 to the bank account.

New Parish Councillor

John Phipps, who has lived at The Victoria, Shalford Green for the last 13 years, is the latest recruit to the parish council. John works in the oil industry but has an office at home. He is married to Ruth, a teacher at Shalford School and they have four sons between the ages of 16 and 23. His interests include gardening, walking and climbing when he has spare time.



Old Local Families

Shalford still has some residents whose families have lived in the village for several generations, one of these is the Wright family. Arthur Wright and Annie Blanks had five children; there were two older boys, Alfred and Charles, then Mollie, who still lives in Cliffields, later another son Malcolm and finally a daughter Audrey. The Blanks family tree can be traced back to 1753, but it was not until 1845 that one member of it married and came to settle in Shalford; it is from this marriage that the present family is descended. Mollie, Malcolm and Audrey were born at Hazeldene later moving to Brick House, all five children started school in Shalford and had strong connections with St Andrew's Church. Members of the Wright family have contributed much to the village playing active roles in so many ways.

Malcolm, a keen sportsman who worked for Crittalls, in his early 20's became parish clerk. He married Jeanne and after renovating Brick House they retired to Sible Hedingham where he was living until his death earlier this year.

Audrey, always a very cheerful person loved the outdoor life, was sporty and a keen member of the church choir. In 1955 she married Fred a Londoner, having met him at Black Notley Hospital, where she was a telephonist after her service in the WRAF. They lived in Braintree until their return to the village in 1983, here she enjoyed gardening until physical disability confined her to a wheelchair then she developed a passion for indoor plants. Audrey died suddenly shortly after her brother this year.

Mollie, the surviving member of the Wright family until recently sang in the choir and continues to be a supportive member of St Andrew's Church.

TWICE BY CHANCE WE MET THAT DAY

You came with your dog, I with mine,
we met where waters narrow, rush
under the bridge and shadow-ripple,
spoke each of the morning, foresaw the noon,
and what the morrow might bring, and went
on in our own directions, each
silent in his own self again,
towards, as it chanced, by different paths,
the inn, where with uncomplicated grins,
like rooks from the clouds, we met again.

By David Cobb, unpublished; for
Shalford News, Feb 2006

Diary of Events

JUNE

Sat 10thBDC Green Rubbish Collection
Clifffield 11-11.40 am

FOSTAC. Hog Roast, St. Andrew's
Churchyard, Shalford 2.00 to 5.00 pm.
Tickets £10, Children under 12 yrs £5.
From Jo Crow 01371 850101.

FOSTAC. Gala Concert, St. Andrew's
Church, 7.30pm.
Tickets £5. Children free, from Jo Crow
850101.

Tues 20th Friendship Club.
Outing Peter Beale Nursery,
Attleborough, Norfolk. Leave Shalford
11am. Open to non-members £12 pp
Tel. Pauline Rawlinson 01376 321450

JULY

Wed. 5th W.I. Meeting
"Photography from my Prospectus"
Speaker Mr. Chris Fardell. V.H.
7.45pm.

Thurs. 6th-13th Horticultural Summer
Show, see schedule. Entries to No 1
Braintree Road, next door to "Kelele" or
tel Shirley Bedding 01371 850496

Fri 7th FOSTAC Art Entry
forms to Sue Morton tel 01371 850626

Sat 8th BDC Green Rubbish
Collection Clifffield 11-11.40am

Sat 15thHorticultural Summer Show,
V.H. 2.30 pm. Prize giving 4.30 pm.
FOSTAC Photography entry form closing
date.

Mon 17th FOSTAC Art entries
VH 6-8pm

Tues 18th FOSTAC Art entries
VH 10-noon. FOSTAC Photograph
entries to St Andrew's Church 6-8pm

Wed 19th FOSTAC Photograph
entries to St Andrew's Church 10-noon

Sat 22nd FOSTAC Festival Weekend
of Art, Flowers and Photography, at St.
Andrew's Church and the VH, see pro-
gramme.

Mon 24th Village Appraisal VH 8pm

AUGUST

Sat 5th BDC Green Rubbish collec-
tion Clifffield 11-11.40am

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

SLIDE SHOW.... Advance notice;
make a note in your diary now.

A travel-log of slides presented by
Jacqueline Wisby of her recent trip to
"CAMBODIA" on Friday 20th
October at 7.30pm in Village Hall.
There will be no charge for admission
but donations are welcome,
proceeds to be divided between
National Epilepsy Assoc. and the Village
Hall

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION...the
annual dinner was held in May, members
and guests met at the Cock PH, Beasley
End and enjoyed a good meal on this
pleasurable social occasion

A WALK...Nigel Wood, Fritchway
Ranger, led residents on an enjoyable
21/2 hour guided walking tour on the
village footpaths and bridleway through
the woods and across fields. This was
an opportunity for residents to discover
the wildlife, trees and flowers. Nigel
explained the need for woodland man-
agement to ensure that it provides the
best environment for plants and wildlife.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY... The
plant and tabletop sale last month was a
new successful venture, various societies
and individuals sold a variety of goods
and the horticultural society had plants
to sell. In autumn there will be another
plant sale and an opportunity for resi-
dents to take a table.

CREAMER FUND...the Easter Raffle
raised £1,323.43. Wethersfield Parish
Councillor John Finbow has ended his
term as BDC Chairman, and having
nominated the CREAMER Fund as one
of his chosen charities presented it with
£1,875. During the year the target was
reached for maintaining existing and
purchasing new equipment. Recent
additions have included a specialised
couch and light for use at the gynaecolo-
gy clinics, a regulator for the Entonox
cylinder, a spirometer and a body com-
position analyser.

SHALFORD DIRECTORY.... The
second edition advertising local busi-
nesses of all sizes will be published with
Shalford News in September. Previous
advertisers as well as new ones should
now contact Sylvia Lester 01371 850211
for details.

**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE** ...Acting Chairman Ron
Vincent hopes that by the autumn the
hall's exterior walls will have been re-
rendered and painted. The new volun-
teer secretary is Charlotte Lewtas who
has recently moved into the village. If
you have any spare time and enjoy inte-

rior painting please contact Ron, tel.
851576 to volunteer your services for
smartening up the hall's appearance.

SHALFORD PARISH PLAN...27 peo-
ple attended the May meeting where a
sample of the proposed constitution was
discussed. Alan Oates and John Phipps
agreed to read it through and suggest
amendments. The working groups were
established lead by Christine Fowler and
Graham Morris, (Questionnaire) Liz
Warwick, Madeline Eversden and Dean
Harrison (Distribution) David Eversden
and Jenni Harrison (Publicity). The
committee officials have yet to be decid-
ed, Jan Cole agreed to contact those who
had expressed an interest. The
timescale is yet to be decided. Next
meeting is on 24th July at the VH at
which all residents are welcome.
Meanwhile this information is on the
local web site.

Musical Delight

Vivace is a musical term meaning
"in a lively manner" and the
threesome who entertained at the
February Candlemas Supper in
Wethersfield earlier this year played in
just such a way. This very skilled trio
of young, enthusiastic, schoolgirl
musicians are friends who together
enjoy playing a wide selection of
music, from classics to jazz.
The many instruments these talented
girls, Amy Merryweather from
Shalford, Lucy Jerram and Heidi
Pearce from Wethersfield play include
saxophone, flute, piano, clarinet, and
cello. "Vivace" having performed so
successfully in public for the first
time, is now hoping for further
engagements and has printed cards to
publicise its availability, telephone
01371 851354 for further details

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

**Please note that the Autumn copy dead-
line is Monday 21st August.**

**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 han-
ley.millfields@btinternet.com
Writers' names and addresses are
required, but will not be published, with
articles.**