

Shalford News

Wish all our readers a Happy and Joyous Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.



Profile of Vera Smith

VERA was born on May 8th 1908 at Little Hallingbury where her father was employed as farm manager, but at the age of five the family moved to Muchmores Farm Great Saling. As an only child she was never lonely and had a happy childhood, she loved working around the farm and was particularly interested in hatching out chickens and ducklings. Although Vera loved reading and playing the piano she much preferred to be outdoors, so when in 1931 she married Cyril Smith she was well prepared for her new life as a farmer's wife at Hubbard's Farm, Shalford

Once married Vera took over the running of the house and became the "farmer's boy" and whilst farming during the depression was very hard, she and Cyril managed to enjoy a pleasant social life with church friends; entertainment was visiting them after work to chat and play cards. John and David her two sons were born before the outbreak of war, and during that time farming changed dramatically as there was a real need for greater productivity.

As her family grew up, Vera had more time to develop an interest in the community; she served as a Parish Councillor and whilst a long serving member of the Village Hall Management Committee Vera showed her real fund raising talent. She was a Deacon of Shalford Green Congregational Chapel and organist for over fifty years, having played there from the age of fourteen. As a Horticultural Society Committee member, Vera was involved in numerous ways including providing lunch for the judges on show days; she also set up the Girls' Brigade in Shalford and still found time to sing in the then flourishing W.I. choir. Having joined the St John's Ambulance during the war she often cycled to the William Julian Courtauld Hospital in Braintree to work as a volunteer help. Over the years Vera has organised many day trips as well as weeklong holidays which have been enjoyed by everyone. A particularly proud day for Vera was when she accompanied Cyril, who had served as a Parish Councillor for fifty years, to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

Vera is a remarkably modest woman, reluctant to talk about herself, her achievements or how much she has given to the community over the years. She might have liked a nursing career had she not been a farmer's wife, but she has no real regrets about her life except that now Sunday is no longer considered a special non-working day when families meet together. Vera admits that perhaps she is not as robust as she was, but as Chairman of the Friendship Club and a Bendlowe Charity Trustee her organisational skills are still well used. Last year she arranged the visit of the London Emmanuel Choir to Shalford who performed to a packed village church, and recently she planned the Harvest Festival Service in Hubbard's Barn involving the Bocking Brass Band, Shalford School pupils and Boreham Handbell Ringers. The strong interests she has in her family, (8 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, with another expected shortly,) and the village, plus her faith and trust in God which have sustained her throughout life make her contentment apparent to all who meet her.



WANTED..... YOUR WARTIME MEMORIES

This year the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy landing was celebrated and most adults were reminded of the 2nd World War in which many were involved in some way. Now Shalford Local History Association would like to compile Shalford residents' wartime memories and experiences, the reminiscences of their families and friends, wherever they were during this period, would be of interest too

Between 1939 and 1945 were you called up to serve in the Armed Forces?

Perhaps at that time you were young and evacuated to an area away from bombing. Did you or your family have evacuees billeted in your home? Were you in the ARP or WVS whilst working in London, or some other large town? What did you do, where were you living during this period? Do you have any photographs relating to your life at this time?

Would you be willing to help with this proposed project? You could participate by writing your own account and passing it on to the History Group; alternatively you may prefer to have a chat with a group member who would record the memories on your behalf. If you feel you would like to contribute in any way please contact the group's Chairman, Bernard Chambers, 850455, the Secretary, Iris Beard, 850906 or a group member whom you know for further information.

Note - there is WW2 themed coffee morning in Braintree Library on Wednesday 13th October, between 10am and 2pm, with wartime music and projected memories.

See also 'Unexpected Meeting' on page 3

What Do They Have in Common ?



Photo by Brian Crow.

Can you guess what this group of people above have in common? This is the team who produce and deliver the Shalford News four times a year. This photograph was taken on a sunny August afternoon when most of the people associated with Shalford News, including some of their children and a dog, gathered socially.

Back row l to r John Nicholson, Ian Jack, Andrew Overall, Aaron Phipps, Gordon Cornhill, Alan Oates, Richard Clubley

Middle row l to r Margaret Jack with Ralphie, Valerie Cornhill, Nicola Walton, Sandra Easton, Sue Martin, Brenda Hanley, Shirley Bedding, Helen Willey

Seated on ground l to r Zoe Daniel, Matilda Daniel, Kane Walton, Louise Walton, Jo Crow.

Not included in the photo are John and Irene Bahr, Diane Bain, Frank Easton, Ann Hamilton and Win Whitehead, who are also members of the team, but were unfortunately unable to be present for the photograph on the day. It is thanks to all these volunteers that Shalford News is produced and that villagers receive a copy.

To encourage communities to produce magazines, which help to keep people in touch with what is going on in their village, the Rural Community Council of Essex organise an annual Village Magazine Competition. This year the Shalford News has been entered in the Best New Entry class and it is hoped that the judges' comments, which are available after the competition, will give some guidance and a bit more insight into how improvements can be made to future editions of the news sheet. The judges look at the content and the production of magazines; the size of the village is taken into consideration as well as the frequency of production. Shalford Parish Council fund the newsheet, and this means that advertising is not necessary to finance production. It is printed by the Reprographics Department of the Braintree District Council.

Unexpected meeting.

Earlier this year Mal Hanley cycled on a Royal British Legion sponsored group tour through some of the Belgium battlefields. La Roche in the Ardennes was the tour's final destination and it was whilst there in a small war museum that he spotted this photograph of Rex Jackson which had been taken at a Veterans' Reunion. Rex who had fought in Belgium during the war, and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry under fire, lived in Shalford until his death last year.

Photo of Rex Jackson obtained by Bruce Hanley



Shalford School News

New teacher Stacey Mayo joined the staff from a Dunmow school this term, she takes Class B, a mixture of third and fourth year pupils. Andy Johnson, now a full time member of staff is Class C teacher and has pupils in years five and six. Lorraine Copping an LSA/Dinner Lady left early this term. There were three new entrants in reception, two girls and a boy, making the number of children on role 74.

A joint decision by Staff and Governors has led to the introduction of a revised school uniform, now white polo shirts, black skirts/trousers and yellow/black sweat shirts. A gradual change means existing pupils will continue to wear old uniform until it is worn /grown out.

A sudden decision last term by ECC to withdraw providing school meals resulted in all schools being forced to look at how meals could be provided. This term Shalford School has arranged for hot meals to be available again, these are cooked at Finchingfield and transported to Shalford. Elaine Brockis of Scholarest has planned a Healthy Eating Day on October 21st and parents providing a packed lunch for children are invited in at the end of the school day to get ideas for healthier morning snacks and lunch boxes. Shalford School will receive its "Free Fruit and Vegetable" under the government scheme at the beginning of November.

Snippets...David Peake was elected Chair and Margaret Jack, Vice-Chair of the Governors. Mary Double rejoined the Board and takes responsibility for Special Educational Needs and Child Protection.....School netball and football clubs run by the school, a French Club and Strikers, (football club) both independent organisations all restarted this term. A choir and Music club have been formed.....the Recorder Group, 14 children between the ages of 6 and 12 played at the Harvest Service at Hubbards.... Trees are to be planted on the school field.... The School Council Elections took place in September to elect class representatives....The pond is to be refurbished, a new lining will be installed and slabs laid by outside voluntary labour...

"Harvest for the Hungry" gifts of dry goods will be collected for this regional project and a school Harvest Service will take place on October 13th. ...An Open Afternoon on Wednesday 10th November, 3.15-4.30pm, a welcome to any visitors who would like to look around the school

Harvest Festival in the Barn

The beautifully restored barn at Hubbards is an ideal setting for the celebration of a harvest festival and on the perfectly calm evening of Sunday 26th September there was standing room only when this non-denominational service began. The Rev John Shead welcomed the congregation and introduced the Bocking Brass Band, which was conducted by Ken Few, the band played before and after the service as well as during when accompanying the well-known harvest hymns. The Boreham Handbell Ringers, a group of seven ladies, played a selection of music, the tinkling delicate sound produced by the ringers contrasted with the sound made by the brass instruments. Pastor Roy Cavinder chose to read a parable from Luke's gospel. The Shalford School Recorder Group whose ages range from six to twelve introduced themselves then played and sang seasonal songs, the older members of the group are now at The Tabor School but had returned to play with their old group for the evening. John Shead gave a short address, which he directed at the children, based on giving thanks and saying thank you. To the children's amusement he told the adults in the congregation that during this part of the service they could go to sleep, but were warned not to snore. The service ended with a collection being taken during the final hymn, this amounted to £200 and is being donated to the VHMC to fund further play equipment on the field. Light refreshments were served after the service ended courtesy of the Smith family.

Freshwell Health Clinic Flash

The flu campaign starts with two Saturday clinics on 2nd and 9th October. If:-

- * you are a registered patient at Freshwell.
- * Over 65, suffer from asthma, diabetes, or heart disease?
- * Flu vaccination is recommended for you

Telephone the surgery, book an appointment now.

If you know someone who needs a flu jab, but is unable to visit the surgery unaided could you arrange to take them with you on one of these dates?

St Andrew's Church News

by Roger Singleton

The Rev. John Shead retired as Vicar of Shalford on 31st August 2004. The Church of England requires that there is a gap of about a year between one vicar leaving and another being appointed. During that time the Churchwardens are responsible for finding visiting clergy to take the regular services and special occasions such as weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Anyone who wishes or needs to arrange a wedding, funeral or baptism at Shalford Church should contact one of the Churchwardens, Margaret Smith 850488 or Roger Singleton 850918

Shalford News, on behalf of the parishioners, thanks John Shead for his ministry in the village over the past sixteen years and wish he and Hilary, his wife, a happy and healthy retirement in their new home in Braintree

Church Magazine deadline date is 15th of every month

CREAMER Fund Update

by Jean Murphy.

October 2nd and 9th Tombola in the Surgery waiting room (Mass flu jab days)

October 8th

At 3pm View a Local Family's Collection of items ranging from tools to photos, and machinery to household wares. Suggested donation £5, light refreshment will served.

Reservations only, Jean Murphy 01371 851147

November 5th Annual Garage Sale, 8.30-4.30pm Brook House, Great Bardfield

November 6th As above 8.30- noon

November 28th Valuation Day, Finchingfield Antiques Centre, resident expert Peter Curry and Fine Arts Auctioneer James Guyer will be on hand to value items at £1 per piece.

All the above activities are in aid of the CREAMER Fund

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE

No golf practice is allowed on the Village Hall Playing Field for safety reasons.

Irresponsible dog owners whose pets foul the field are reminded that it is an offence not to clear up the mess.

Word Search

L	L	B	H	R	O	W	A	D	H
O	H	T	K	C	A	L	B	C	R
W	C	A	B	I	R	C	H	O	H
O	N	A	W	O	R	E	A	A	K
L	S	K	A	T	S	K	Z	C	W
L	D	U	R	T	H	A	E	R	C
I	L	Z	N	E	L	O	L	I	W
W	A	U	O	R	D	A	R	B	N
H	T	H	A	Z	O	L	S	N	A
N	R	O	H	T	K	C	A	L	B

Find the trees listed below in this word search:- Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Oak, Alder, Rowan Birch
Cornus Willow
Chestnut Hazel

All these trees can be found in Stoneley Park, Shalford. Visit Stoneley Park to see them.

Go through the small entrance gate, which is on the right of the large gate to the Amenity Site, directly ahead is another small gate, go through this to Stoneley Park.

Bird Watch by Barbara and Len Chinnery

It's officially autumn now and most of the summer visitor birds have flown; swallows, martins and swifts have started their long haul flights to warm sunny Africa. Lack of flies, their food, means the spotted flycatcher and whitethroat have joined them. Woodlands are quieter now too, the black caps, chiff-chaffs and warblers have returned to their European homes and many robins, usually the females winter in France. The males remain to defend their territory; in spring these resident birds are the friendly ones. Other all the year round residents are goldfinches, they form large flocks, known as charms, and during autumn and winter can be heard and seen in Stoneley Park feeding on teasel heads and thistle seeds. Winter visitors, fieldfares and redwings join native mistle thrushes, in large flocks, to feed on arable farmland and may even be spotted in the garden eating windfall fruit, much to the annoyance of the blackbirds.

Seed Gathering Sunday

is 10th October and National Tree Week is 24th November to 5th December. See the notices on the Village Hall notice board for further details or contact Heather Smith 851378.

WHAT'S GOING ON AND WHERE THIS AUTUMN.

OCTOBER

Sat. 2nd.

Flu Jabs at Freshwell Health Centre. tel 810328 to make an appointment.

Fri. 8th

Harvest Supper. Village Hall 8.00pm.
£7.50 to include 3 course meal plus glass of wine. For further details Anne Tee tel 850975.

Sat. 9th

Flu Jabs at Freshwell Health Centre. tel. 810328 to make an appointment.

Sat.16th

Plant and Rummage Sale, Shalford Horticultural Society. Village Hall 2.30pm.

Sat. 23rd.

Friendship Club. Rummage Sale. Village Hall 2.00pm.

Sat.23rd

Ploughman's Quiz. Shalford W.I. Village Hall. 7.30pm. Teams of 6. £5.00 per head includes Ploughman's Supper. Please bring your own drinks. Table booking by Oct 16th, contact Anne Tee tel 850975.

Sun. 31st

Halloween Party, Village Hall 5.30pm.
Fancy Dress: Pumpkin Competition:
Games: Soup and Bangers: Bar.

NOVEMBER

Fri. 12th

Memorial Service for Pannee Cobb. St. Andrew's Church, 2.30pm.

Sun.14th

Royal British Legion Remembrance Service. Wethersfield Parish Church 10.45am.

Fri. 26th

Time of Our Lives Music Theatre.
"Two for the 1/9d's."

Village Hall 7.30pm. Tickets £6. from John Nicholson. tel.850784.

Tues.30th

ALERT...BDC Road Sweep. If you know of any obstructions on the roads within the village on this date please advise BDC. Tel. 01376 331616.

DECEMBER

Wed. 1st W.I. Meeting -"History through Essex Town & Village Signs"
Speaker Revd. Keith Lovell. Village Hall 7.45pm. Tel. Anne Tee 850975.

Parish Council - The Chairman's Report by Margaret Jack

The Parish Council does not meet in August and the summer months are traditionally quiet, although there have been some planning applications. Some are resolved, but others are still in the pipeline, one is going through the appeal process. Additional speed limits are now in situ; many drivers still exceed these limits, hopefully not local residents.

During this period I have attended two meetings. The first was a Public Open Meeting on the proposed centre for the treatment of urology cancers; I was surprised to be the sole member of the public there. Despite the enormous amounts of time, resources and highly qualified personnel in mounting such presentations two other earlier meetings had attracted no audience at all. Briefly, major area centres are being created to deal with specific cancers; the current bid is for a urology centre at either Colchester or Ipswich, there is presently a facility at both hospitals, but there is fierce competition to win the bid, although no decision has yet been made. For the patient the diagnosis/treatment route will be via the GP, onto a local hospital, then referral to the specialist centre for surgery, with after care and follow up treatments back at the local hospital.

The second well-attended meeting was an informative exhibition, which focused on the elderly and offered advice on many aspects of care from "footwear to keep-fit". I have further information regarding both the proposed cancer centres and the needs of the elderly, as well as some useful leaflets. Should anyone like a leaflet or further details please do not hesitate to contact me telephone 01371 850086



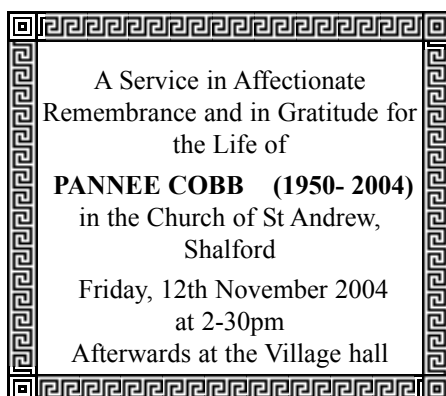
Good News Good News Good News....Good News....

*Sally Prime and her enthusiastic team of helpers welcomed 70 people to the Macmillan Coffee Morning and raised over £525, both new records for this event.

*The July Bendlowe Trust 5th Annual Tea Party was well supported, had an abundance of cakes and was much enjoyed by those who attended. See photo above.

*Horticultural Society 57th Autumn Show was low on entries but high on quality, President Andrew Overall's advice to gardeners for future shows "If you grow it, show it. Competitions need competitors."

*After the VHC Summer Fete Chairman John Nicholson congratulated everyone who helped or supported this event on raising a magnificent £2,600, an excellent result. The money is being used to improve the children's play area.



PLEASE NOTE THAT DECEMBER COPY DEADLINE IS 29th NOVEMBER

We are always looking for ideas for articles or photos. Correspondents and editorial volunteers most welcome. hanley.millfields@btinternet.com or 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.