



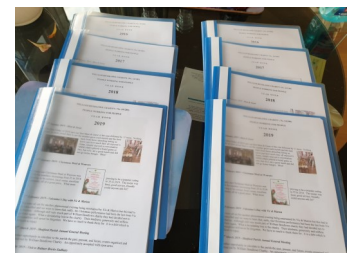
Welcome....

People working for people

...to the fourth issue of the Bendlowe's newsletter of 2020. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this issue. It's always interesting to find out about your hidden talents and your various recollections and memories. We're delighted to be able to introduce a new regular feature, Poetry Corner, where we can showcase the work of the amazing poets of Shalford. Please continue to send your items to the Editor (that's me, Sally Welsh) at smwelsh1@btinternet.com (07785 235000) or call Marianna on 07450251525.

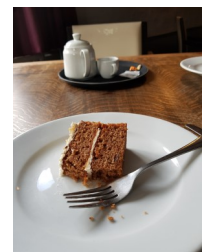
Bendlowe's Yearbook

Alice has been busy putting together yearbooks for Bendlowe's for the last 5 years. She has made one for each year starting in 2016 and has included information about the different activities, outings and events for each year with some photos too. Hard copies will be kept and available to view at future Meet and Greet sessions. Copies have also been given to Barbara Mavis from the Shalford Historical Association for their archive. As part of the record, we would also like to include a photo of each of you (optional of course) so we'll be in touch if we haven't spoken to you about it already.



Coffee and cake at The George *A review by Alan Oates and Sally Welsh*

On Tuesday 18 August, Alan and I visited The George to sample their new 'coffee and cake' offer. The sacrifices I make for this newsletter! We didn't need to book and were given a friendly welcome by new manager, Chris. We were able to choose from a selection of delicious-looking 'sweet treats' including muffins, shortbread, cheesecake and rocky road slices. All the cakes are homemade by local caterers Mange Tout who are based in Barryfields.



I chose a piece of carrot cake which was moist and tasty. Alan had raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake which he described as 'very good, very tasty, very moreish!' Alan had a generous mug of cappuccino and I had a pot of tea. The surroundings were comfortable and there was plenty of room for social distancing indoors with tables outside too.

The pub is currently taking part in the 'Eat out to Help Out' government campaign which subsidises restaurant meals Monday to Wednesday. This meant that we got a very good deal paying just £2.50 each. We would definitely recommend it.

Shalford Memories—Lawrence Rawlinson

Earlier this month, myself , Mel, Marianna and Alan spent a lovely summer's afternoon talking to Lawrence Rawlinson about his memories of Shalford or 'Shufford' as the locals used to pronounce it.

Early days

Lawrence was born in 1934 and first lived at 4 Poplar Cottages in Shalford Green. The cottages, which are no longer there, were rented for half a crown a week, had no electricity, running water, drainage and windows on the front. Lawrence was the sixth child of Oswald and Agnes and the house had just 4 rooms. His Dad was a general farm worker and one of his jobs was to milk the cow at Littles Farm. His Mum would also work in the fields, sometimes starting at 4 am. They were given the opportunity to buy the house for £50 but unfortunately that was a year's wages. The family were recipients of alms from Bendlowe's receiving 100wt of coal.



A young Lawrence wearing a shirt and tie just for the photo!

Lawrence aged 16 in 1950 outside 5 Broome Close where the family later moved to.



Shalford School

Lawrence remembers the School as having lots of children, the average family having about 10! Two of the families were the Reynolds and the Hurds. The Head was Annie Lakes Warrick who lived in the old school house next door, since demolished. Mrs Porter would take the children on nature walks around the school gardens and local area. The toilets were a 'bucket and chuck it' system. Lunch might be a lump of bread and cheese and an onion and children were allowed a penknife for this. The only time Lawrence remembers being told off was when he fell asleep having been in the fields at 4 am with his mum. Lawrence's older sister Freda was one of the first pupils to attend the new Margaret Tabor School in 1938.



Shalford school group photos from the 1940s

Can you spot Lawrence?



During the war...

There was an increase in traffic with the American military using the base at Wethersfield. They would often 'borrow' the locals' bikes being the only suitable transport around. For many in Shalford this was the first time they had seen a black person. He recalls that some of the airmen found it too cold if they had come from places like California whilst those from states like Montana, found it too hot! His mother would take in washing from them to earn extra money. A 'double summer time' system operated providing extra daylight in the evening before the blackout. On 17 September 1944 Sunday School was interrupted when a great armada of aircraft including Halifaxes, Stirlings and Dakotas passed over head on it's way to Arnhem. It was 2 miles by 100 miles long and quite deafening.



A party at the Village Hall in the late 1940s



Clearing snow in 1963

Pubs and shopping



Lawrence volunteering as groundsman—a job he did for almost 50 years

There were 3 pubs in Shalford: The George, the Victoria (on Victoria Hill) and The Fox in Church End. Lawrence frequented The Fox and it was here that he took his future wife Pauline, a local girl who lived in Jubilee Cottage. Pauline's family kept a pig in their back garden in those days! Any minor injuries were dealt with by Nurse Gregory who lived in a bungalow on the road out of Shalford to Wethersfield where the first GP was based.

Shops in the village included Maggie Clarke's that opened at 2 pm to sell sweets and socks! Miss Painton with an ear trumpet also lived there. This was towards the Clifffield end of the village. Further down was the HWB Hornsby Garage (the place to get your radio accumulator charged), a wheelwrights run by Deafy Wrights and opposite The George was a more general store selling food and paraffin. Next to the Congregational Chapel in Shalford Green was a tobacconists run by Maggie Adams and there was also a shop known locally as 'The Halfway Shop' where Keeper's Cottage on the Braintree Road is.

Mike Chumbley has very kindly sent us some very amusing stories form his long career in education. We look forward to hearing more from him in future newsletters.

Tales out of school

I spent most of my working life, in fact 38 years, working in a variety of schools in the local area.

Although I have worked in Secondary and Primary schools, the last nearly 20 was spent as Head Teacher of two primary schools. During this career there were many occasions which have caused me to smile although there were times when I wanted to cry. I have been press ganged into sharing with you some of these occasions, but rather than give you a long essay to go through I will share a few memories each time a Bendlowe's letter goes out, if you enjoy them.



I was working in a local Secondary School one lunch time when the Head Teacher asked one of the pupils if they could find me. When the child returned to tell him that I was in one of the girls' toilets I think he must have moved faster than anyone had ever seen him, to find out what I was up to. The answer was that the toilets had soap dispensers on the wall and one bright fourteen-year-old girl had decided to put her finger in the little hole at the top only to find she could not get it out and I, as the knight in shining armour, was sent for to release her. This was finally achieved after a great deal of effort, ice and soap.

Perhaps one of the funniest episodes was at a local Primary school. The police go into schools to give talks to the children on road safety, not going with strangers and what a policeman does. With the Police Training School at Chelmsford a Sergeant would bring a few trainees to school and then they would go around the school to test their communication skills. One young policeman (about 18 years old) was giving his talk on 'What is a policeman' to a class of 30 infants. He showed them that his tie was a clip on so a criminal could not choke him with it. He then showed his baton (no longer, it is the flick out stick). Doing well so far. He then produced his cuff-links and thought it was a good idea to involve the children. "Does anyone know what these are?" He did not anticipate the answer. "Yes sir, they are what my Dad uses to fix Mum to the bed!" One very embarrassed young policeman, lost for words and at the back of the classroom his sergeant, two colleagues and the class teacher collapsed in hysterics. **From out of the mouths of babes**

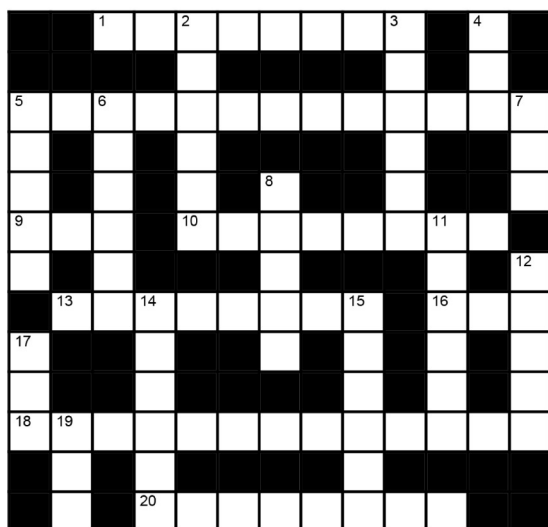


I hope these couple of episodes caused you to smile at this time, if they do I will try and dredge my memory for some more.

Many thanks to Robert for compiling the first of a series of crossword puzzles just for us

Bendlowe Crossword

Bendlowe1



Down

- 2 Detective from Baker Street (6)
- 3 Evergreen Shrub (6)
- 4 Observe (3)
- 5 Nickname for father (5)
- 6 East African country (6)
- 7 Put clothes on (3)
- 8 Elliptical shapes (5)
- 11 Rapid short sharp hard sounds (6)
- 12 A collection of valuable items (5)
- 14 Prayer book (6)
- 15 Bent into a curve (6)
- 17 Once around a track (3)
- 19 The first woman (3)

Across

- 1 A hypothetical outline (8)
- 5 Checked twice (6-7)
- 9 Place to retreat (3)
- 10 Resident at palace with sanctuary (8)
- 13 Evergreen shrub (8)
- 16 In addition (3)
- 18 Shrub (7,6)
- 20 Evergreen Shrub (8)

Hello, I'm **Robert Burrows**, and I've been lucky to live in the local area for almost 17 years, after spending most of my adult life in Australia, which may help you envisage some unusual words in these puzzles. Creating simple crossword puzzles has been a hobby for more years than I care to remember. Working together with **Diana Hulkes** and **Mike Chumbley**, we collectively hope you enjoy these Bendlowe Crosswords to help pass some time.

The Bendlowe1 Solution will be displayed in this section in the following edition.

A history question for you....

Whilst talking to Lawrence about the history of Shalford, it occurred to me that Church End Shalford is not actually the 'end' where the Church is. I've only been here 18 years, bit of a slow thinker! So why is it called Church End? Any answers or suggestions would be gratefully received.

Poetry Corner

Meet and Greet

We all enjoy meet and greet
A place for all the friends to meet,
Cup of coffee—slice of cake
For all those wishing to partake



For the lonely a bit of cheer
Someone to chat to and bend their ear.
Offload some of their worries and woes
For being lonely nobody knows

You may be a stranger when you walk through the door
But when you leave you'll have friends and more.
You're made to feel welcome straight away
And feel sure you will enjoy your stay.

Let's hope we can "meet and greet" very soon
Forget lockdown doom and gloom,
Kick that Covid out the door
So we can smile and meet once more.

Sheila Bush

Angela Canham sent us these photos of her beautiful garden



The People's Friend

A pal gave me some magazines
I'd never read before,
It's been around a long, long time
A hundred years or more.

With stories of all different kinds
and puzzles set to test your mind,
readers letters – tips on health,
advice on how to spend your wealth,
an easy jumper to try and knit
I know it's never going to fit!
There's recipes for Vegans
And other foodie fads
But what I really really like
are all those special ads.....

Trousers with elastic waists
to slip on nice and easy,
And cardigans in shades of beige
in case the weather's breezy,
Loose top socks and comfort bras

A tool to get the lids off jars,
Shoes with easy Velcro straps
soft trays to sit upon your lap.
A chair to take you up the stairs
and then to bring you down,
And a snazzy little scooter
to take you into town,
Armchairs just a little higher
to settle in beside the fire,
ready meals all set to cook
delivered to your door
and a gadget with a special grip
to pick stuff off the floor,
Winter long johns, thermal vests
ideal to beat the cold
but now I need to take a rest
it's made me feel quite OLD !

Carol Hussey

Many of you enjoyed reading about Susan Brunskill's charity work in Nepal and so we were really pleased when she agreed to write a second article

Over the last 20 years, I have been out to see 'my' children eleven times. Sadly, because of Reggie's illness and now the coronavirus, the last time I went was 2015. However, things still move on, and I am now educating the children of the first children I helped. The other good thing is, that the girls have made better marriages and understand the value and importance of education.

Going back, Fulmaya, the little girl whose photo was in my first article, was taken ill at the age of twelve. Keshab e- mailed me to say she had dysentery.

In Nepal that is a killer, as the children and the adults are so thin, they have no reserves to fight such a debilitating illness. Well, I was not prepared to let Fulmaya die, when I knew she could be saved by getting her to hospital in Kathmandu. I quickly e- mailed back and told Keshab to arrange a land rover to get her and her mother to the local airport, fly them to KTM, get a cab to the Canadian hospital there, and I would find the money no matter what.

Well, three weeks later Fulmaya (the name means beautiful flower) was home again and well. I was delighted and of course expected a bill of at least a couple of thousand pounds.

The bill came to £40.00!!! Land rover, there and back to the local airport, flights to KTM and back, taxi to the hospital and back, three weeks in hospital including necessary drugs and bed and board for her mother. Can you believe it??? £40 to save a child's life, which would have been impossible for her parents.

Unfortunately, Fulmaya's father is addicted to Rakshi, a sort of home- made alcohol and what he earned was often spent on that, not on his family, so her mother used to work in the fields for food to feed her family, rather than money, as the tradition is that any money earned by the wife belongs to the husband!

Shoba another of my girls, is now working with her husband as a camel keeper in Sauraha. Here is how that happened.

The fact that I (and others) have been sending money out on a regular basis, the Bank had been noticing that Kashab seemed to be a reliable and honest person. He had been banking with them for some years, even when he had been employed in the hotel business as a teenager. He had an account called C. W. O. (child welfare organisation) of which he was the sole founder and director. All the money he raised was sent to schools for the education of poor children.

The Bank came up with a proposition that if they built a hotel in Sauraha, they would ask him to be Managing Director and he would share in the profits. This actually happened, and if you look on line, you will find the hotel (named the Mona Lisa hotel) and to this day he is there, looking after tourists and being able to support more children with his new life. The last time I was in Sauraha, before his new position had happened, he had bought two camels, and I was privileged to be able to name them. One was Victoria, and the other Cleopatra and to this day, the Chinese tourists who visit his hotel are given rides on the camels which supports the education of needy children and Shoba and her husband are the camel's carers and guides!



The Mona Lisa Hotel, Sauraha

Keshab's wife, Laxmi, still runs the little shop, where they originally lived, which now sells things the local women make and that helps women become more independent too.

I'm sure that's enough for now, but there are lots more stories to tell, if you would like to hear them!