



SHALFORD



Village Magazine December 2021

Produced by the People for the People

**We Wish You All A Very Merry
Christmas & Happy New Year**



SHALFORD

**WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
COMMUNITY**

At the heart of our Village
is its People. Our Family,
Friends, Neighbours and
even those we have yet
to meet.

- WHAT'S ON
- ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
- PARISH COUNCIL REPORT
- SHALFORD MEMORIES
- NATURE
- SPORT
- CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



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**WETHERSFIELD CLINIC
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**KNOW WHERE
YOUR NEAREST
DEFIBRILLATOR
IS LOCATED**



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Shalford Village
Hall Church End
CM7 5EZ

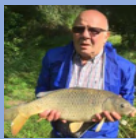


The George Inn The
Street CM7 5HH

FRONT PAGE
*The heart photo is
of Shalford's
Church Bell
Ringers*

WHAT'S ON

SHALFORD ROADSIDE & CHURCH FISHING LAKES



are affiliated to Billericay
& District Angling Club
The river Pant in Shalford
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Fishery Officer: Derrick
Marriott, or
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SHALFORD TENNIS CLUB

(located at the Village Hall)

Membership

Annual Family (of 4)) £40

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At WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.



COFFEE MORNING ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Come along for a friendly chat and meet your
neighbours.

Enjoy a selection of homemade cakes and biscuits.

SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING

EVERY THIRD
WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH
HELD AT SHALFORD
VILLAGE HALL
TIME: 7.30 p.m. to 9.30
p.m.

For more information
<https://shalfordessex.org.uk>

WALKING GROUPS

From SHALFORD George Pub every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

From FINCHINGFIELD Green every Friday at 10 a.m.

From WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 9.30
a.m. for 10 a.m. Tea & Cake available – Run By Wethersfield Community
Activities – Contact 01371 850620

WHAT'S ON

PETANQUE (BOULES) **LOCATED AT SHALFORD** **VILLAGE HALL**



No Need to book

HEDGEHOPPERS **MODEL FLYING CLUB**

Affiliated to the British
Model Flying Ass (BMFA)
For more information visit:
<http://www.hedgehoppers.org.uk>

WEA Shalford **Workers Education** **Association**

For more info visit:
<https://www.shalfordessex.org.uk>
<http://www.wea-essex.org.uk>



SHALFORD **FOOTBALL CLUB** **Located at Shalford** **Village Hall**

For more information visit:
<https://www.shalfordessex.org.uk>
<http://www.cfcshalford.co.uk>

SHALFORD **HORTICULTURAL** **SOCIETY**



For more information
<https://www.shalfordessex.org.uk>

FOSTAC **Friends of St** **Andrew's Church**



Contact:
www.fostac.co.uk
or
<https://www.shalfordessex.org.uk>

JOIN OUR FRIENDLY **GROUP OF BELL** **RINGERS**

WE MEET EVERY
MONDAY at Wethersfield
Church, 7 p.m. &

FRIDAY at Shalford
Church, 7 p.m.

FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT:

ROY THREADGOLD

Tel: 01371 850481



RE-ENGAGE **(Formerly Contact the** **Elderly)**

Arranging monthly get
togethers over a cup of
tea for the elderly



For more details:
Contact:
Sarah Cunningham
Sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk

Or

The Charity Website:
www.reengage.org.uk
Freephone: 0800 716543

SHALFORD **LOCAL** **HISTORY** **ASSOCIATION**



Meetings take
place on **Tuesday**
at 2.00 p.m. until
4.00 p.m.

For date and more
information
contact: Barbara
01371 851519

or visit <https://www.shalfordessex.org.uk>

WHAT'S ON



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

For 3-11 year olds
Meets on the third Saturday of each month
10.00am – 11.00am
in Wethersfield Parish Church

Arts, crafts, stories and songs on a Christian theme

No charge – bring a coin for the collection.



Further details from
Sarah Pilgrim. Tel: 07788411360
Email: pilgrim511@btinternet.com



CRAFTS MEETING

3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

A craft meeting is being held at
Marianna's house - 47
Barryfields, Shalford, CM7 5HJ

Anyone who has an interest in
any form of crafting is welcome.
Please bring anything you are
working on or just come along
for a chat and share what you
enjoy doing. Tea/coffee and
cake will be provided. For future
dates or more information please
ring 07450 251525. Look
forward to seeing you.

Marianna & Caroline



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Wethersfield

Come and join us for coffee and cake at our

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

in Wethersfield Church
11am – 12 noon
on
the 3rd Saturday of each month

Meet up with old friends, make some new.
No charge.
ALL WELCOME



ECC – MOBILE LIBRARY 2021/2

Saturday - 18th Dec – 8th Jan 2022

Wethersfield: 11.20 to 11.50 a.m.

Barryfields: 12.00 to 12.30 p.m.

Jaspers Green: 1.30 to 2.00 p.m.

For further information contact:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk>

FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

1 West Drive, Wethersfield - Anytime

St Andrews Church

Last Friday of the Month - 9 to 11 a.m.

INDOOR CARPET BOWLS EVERY TUESDAY AT SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

FROM 7.30 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.



All ages are welcome to our
friendly club. Come along and
enjoy a game of bowls, a chat,
plus tea, coffee and biscuits

Contact: Vic 07773 707404

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER DANAHER, WETHERSFIELD

1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

TOYS & TREATS DAY!

**Tombola
Santa's Grotto
Christmas Market
Festive Refreshments**

WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER

SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL

7.00 P.M.

We are holding a meeting to discuss ideas for Shalford to celebrate the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2nd – 5th June, 2022

Come along and join us if you would like to be part of the organising committee

TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER

WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE
HALL CM7 4BS

NEW SEWING GROUP

For more information contact:
patsty.stitchingandco@gmail.com

SATURDAY, 4TH DECEMBER

4 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

BLAKE HOUSE CRAFT CENTRE

Late Night Christmas Shopping

DANAHER CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

£1 PER TICKET

FOR DETAILS PHONE 0300 111 4321

PRIZE DRAW

MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER

SATURDAY, 4TH DECEMBER

WETHERSFIELD CHRISTMAS
MARKET IN THE VILLAGE HALL

5 PM – 7 PM

Contact: Wethersfieldca@gmail.com

Or 01371 850620



Essex Bridleways
Association

MEMBERS RIDES

4th December 2021 Epping Forest Christmas ride. Bury Road, Chingford Plain. E4 7QH. Prizes for the best seasonal Fancy Dress, mulled wine and mince pies.

6th May to 9th May 2022. Spring Weekend at Little Lodge. Norfolk.

Contact Alison Craigmile on
ebamemsec@yayoo.co.uk

Thursday 16th Dec 2021

Shalford Village Hall
Bendlowe's welcomes



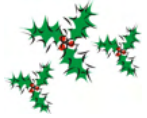
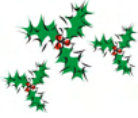
NANCY MAY

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Doors Open 7.30 pm
£5 on the door
Tea/Coffee/Raffle

WHAT'S ON

Christmas Meet and Greet



FRIDAY 3rd December 2021

11 am to 2 pm at Shalford Village Hall

To celebrate – it will be FESTIVE

So join us – all welcome



A free light festive lunch

A free glass of bubbly

Christmas carols

Free raffle



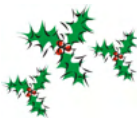
For further information contact:

Alice: Tel. 07850 264518 or 01371 851146

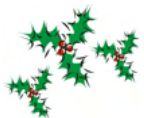
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Important Information

We are introducing a new Mobile Post Office service which will operate from:

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A wide range of services will be available. Customers can still collect benefits in cash using our everyday banking services or Post Office card account.

Access & facilities

There is a step into the Mobile vehicle, however an electronic tailgate is available to facilitate easy access for wheelchair users and those with disabilities.

Parking

Parking available close to the Mobile Van.

**Your new service will start on:
Friday 3
December
2021 at
15:00**

Opening hours

Monday	No Service
Tuesday	No Service
Wednesday	No Service
Thursday	No Service
Friday	15:00 - 16:00
Saturday	No Service
Sunday	No Service

For information in Braille, large print or audio call 03452 66 01 15. Textphone 03457 22 33 55 or to see a copy of our Principles of Community Engagement about changes to the Post Office network, visit our website postofficeviews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON
SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER



**VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ERECTING SHALFORD'S
CHRISTMAS TREE AT SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL**

WHAT'S ON

**TUESDAY, 14th
DECEMBER**

HORSE & GROOM



**Indoor Bowls Club
Members Annual
Evening Meal**

For further information:

**Contact: Vic 07773
707404**



**EARLY DECEMBER
LOOKING FORWARD TO
ANOTHER SHALFORD
MILE**

Rob Short is hoping to run Shalford Mile again early December and will circulate details as soon as they are finalised.

**WETHERSFIELD BIG SWITCH ON
SATURDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2021
WETHERSFIELD GREEN 5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.**

**Father Christmas – Brass Band – Nativity –
Christmas Market – BBQ – Hot Drinks –
Best Dressed House Competition**

**A WCA Event for the Community
Wethersfieldca@gmail.com
01371 850620**

**MEET & GREET
FRIDAY, 7TH JANUARY, 2022
SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL
11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M.**

**BENDLOWE'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH
To be arranged in January
For more details contact:
Alice: 07850 264518**

**SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, 29TH JANUARY 2022
(to be confirmed)
SHALFORD HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
QUIZ EVENING**

**SHALFORD VILLAGE HALL
Doors Open 7 p.m. Start 7.30 p.m.**



Shalford Horticultural Society

AGM

**Monday 10th January 2022
At 7.00pm.
Shalford Village Hall**

All are welcome

**We look forward to meeting you
there.**

WHAT'S ON



The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford

*Please join us and the Thaxted Morris Men
to celebrate Plough Sunday with a special service
to support all those who work with the land*

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2022, 11.00am

THAXTED PARISH CHURCH

plough Sunday

All welcome!

FEAR – A SHORT STORY

BY: MARY BRACE



From the outside, the house looked as quiet as all the others in the street; but inside, it was chaos.

Sarah opened the front door and tried to switch on the table lamp that was no longer there. She preferred the subtle light of the lamp so had not replaced the bulb in the ceiling light. Darkness prevailed.

Her brain struggled to understand why the lamp had disappeared. She stepped forward and tripped over some books that had been on the table when she left for work in the morning. Then there was a scuffling, shuffling sound. Sarah froze and her heart began to pound in her chest. She reached down and picked the books up and took another step forward. How she wished she had turned back to the office when she realised that she had left her mobile phone on her desk. With no landline in the home she had no means of summoning help from her isolated cottage. The torch on the phone would have been so helpful too. Too late now as her heart pounded so hard that she could hear the blood rushing in her ears.

She took another step forward and felt the glass beneath her feet from the broken bulb from the table lamp. A resounding crash came from the kitchen as a saucepan lid fell off the wall. Sarah froze. Paralysed. Another sound came from the kitchen. She feared for her life. If only she could turn and run out the door but her feet were like blocks of lead. Her mind began to play out different scenarios, all with terrifying endings.

A car swept past round the bend and the headlamps scanned the front room like a searchlight. The beam showed ornaments in broken pieces, books and magazines scattered on the sheepskin rug. The fire tools were lying in the hearth. Pictures were hanging askew. She glanced towards the kitchen and then she saw him; illuminated for a split second in the car headlamps. His eyes were piercing and cold. Coldly penetrating. Staring intently. She listened to her heartbeat. It was resounding in her ears like a drum. His silhouette was etched in her brain. Reality dawned. She walked quickly to the back door and unlocked it and threw it wide open and retreated to the living room shutting the door quietly behind her. The squirrel left.



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CONGRATULATIONS



FOOTBALL IN

SHALFORD

BY: VIC GOODEY

**A WELL-DESERVED
AWARD**



It was recently announced that CFC Shalford has won the Essex Playing Field 'Best Kept Football Pitch' award and I decided to go and congratulate the team whilst taking the opportunity to watch a cup game against Finchingfield. The score was 2-2 at the full-time whistle but sadly for Shalford, Finchingfield won 2-3 after extra time.

Shalford has a team squad of some thirty players with an average age of 26, managed by Jake Buckland who is the Player/Manager. The Chairman, Ian Butcher has been associated with the club since his young playing days starting in 1985. The club secretary is Darren Pitt. In previous years the squad had as many as sixty players competing and representing Shalford with three teams.

Ian has been involved with CFC Shalford pretty much from the start in 1985, as a young 14-year-old. He was part of Braintree Cricket Club whose players decided they wanted to keep fit during the winter and formed the club. Ian played until 1993 when he moved to Southend returning in 1998 to play and becoming joint manager in 1999, he then became chairman in 2005. The CFC in the club's name means Cricket Football Club. The team have played at the village hall now for 36 years, they take pride in the pitch in which they have invested a fair amount of money over the last few years in conjunction with the village hall management committee, resulting in the winning of a couple of Essex Playing Field 'Best Kept Football Pitch' awards over the past few years along with three runner-up awards.

CFC Shalford play in the Braintree & North Essex Sunday League Premier Division, travelling as far as Writtle in Chelmsford with the majority of the games being played in Braintree or Witham although there are the local derbies against Panfield Bell and Finchingfield Rovers this season. The club also enters the Essex Premier Cup meaning they can travel anywhere in Essex in the competition. The Division is made up of the following teams:

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Braintree Iron; CFC Shalford; Drum Inn; Finchingfield Rovers; Halstead Town Sunday; Nags Head Braintree; Panfield Bell and Swan Athletic.

Organising and running a team to compete is hard work and can be expensive and it is thanks to the team Sponsors Redrow Homes (Eastern) for the past eleven years that shirts and a website containing much information about the team and current sponsors Avant Southeast Hire who are based in Dunmow, who purchased a new kit and warm up tops for us, also The Orange Tree in Braintree who purchased tracksuit tops for the squad. Ian explained that the club is always happy to talk to potential new sponsors, especially local businesses. Success in the form of trophies has been with CFC Shalford in the past; being three times Premier Division Champions and four-time winners of the Premier Division Cup.

Why not take a look at the website to find out more about our local team or better yet pop down to the playing field on a Sunday morning when they're playing at home and give them your support? You can find their website at www.cfcshalford.co.uk, also on Facebook and Instagram, the club are also members of Shalford Facebook group page. When I asked Ian if he was looking forward to the new season he replied "we always look forward to the football season, win, lose or draw, we just enjoy playing". Sadly none of the current squad live in Shalford and Ian would dearly love to have local players in the squad, however our thanks go to the players who give their time to represent Shalford and keep the club so vibrant.

As Ian observed "commitment seems to be waning in all sports nowadays which makes it difficult to keep the club going but we always do keep going with hard work and dedication". When I asked Ian how new players might join he told me anybody over the age of 16 is welcome to come along and get involved and play. I might have taken him up on the offer but after watching the skills, stamina and athleticism of his players; I think I'll stick with carpet bowls and petanque! Thanks to Ian and the team for an enjoyable game and I look forward to seeing the team go on to the successes they deserve. Why not go along one Sunday morning to find out more and give them a cheer.



More contact details are available on the Website

Website: cfcshalford.co.uk

Email: info@cfcshalford.co.uk

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GRAHAM & MARY'S TALK

The Wildlife of Brazil – the Land of the Jaguar

BY: ALICE COX

Thursday, 21st October 2021 – the doors opened at 7.00 p.m. Shalford Village Hall and we warmly welcomed those coming to enjoy our talk booked with

Mary & Graham Brace - two passionate wildlife photographers and conservationists.

I think it is safe to say that no-one was disappointed – what a thoroughly interesting, enlightening, entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable 2 hours. In fact, within, 12 hours of the talk finishing I received an email asking if Graham and Mary would consider coming back again – shortly!!!

So now, I guess, you would like a little idea of the evening's events.

Firstly, Mary introduced themselves giving a little history of their shared passion of all wild life and holidays they had enjoyed including the subject of tonight's talk. Graham then introduced us to The Pantanal, the primary place of their holiday. The Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world approximately 75,000 square miles – 1.5 times the size of England. He then took us on a visual journey with excellent slides starting from London Heathrow a 10-hour flight to Sao Paulo, followed by a 3-hour internal flight to Cuiaba, then a further 4 hours by road along the Transpantaneira (the dusty old road which is 90 miles long); finally reaching Porto Joffre the start of the wetlands and the transfer to a flat boat.



Graham's natural and enthralling description of the journey and wildlife encountered; complemented by sharpe and engaging photographs ensured he held everybody's attention from start to finish. All too soon we were looking at the last slide. Graham and Mary, left us hungry for more! Answering a question regarding poaching and hunting Graham encouraged all present to google Change.org and sign a petition against Trophy Hunting and I do hope several of you do so as this would be the best way of saying "thank you" to these two very special individuals.

We then drew the raffle and served tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits, leaving people to chat about the evening and the slides they had enjoyed.



**THANK YOU SO MUCH MARY & GRAHAM –
WHEN DID YOU SAY YOU WERE COMING BACK?**



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SHALFORD LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

BY: VIC GOODEY

I am pleased to report that, in September 2021, we had our first meeting since the start of the Covid19 pandemic and it was quite a lively meeting, with a good turnout.

In amongst our discussions was the revival of the May Langford Trophy. This is, usually an annual event in which the children of the Village school are invited to compete for the May Langford Trophy and a prize. The children are encouraged to use their imagination and present a piece of work on a subject that is set by the members of Shalford Local History Association. The children may use any medium they chose for example an essay or a painting, a poem or a drawing a comic strip or sculpture - the choice is theirs and not limited to this list.

The following short biography of May Langford nee Holmes has been penned by Margaret Sparks to whom we are grateful for the amount of work and generous contributions she has made to our archives on behalf of Shalford.

The May Holmes story.

"The May Holmes trophy is presented to a pupil at Shalford School every year for artistic and literary work representing the subject chosen by the Shalford Local History Association. It gets its name from May Holmes who grew up in Shalford and loved it dearly. May's home was in Ironbridge Lane where she lived with her parents and six brothers. May and her friend Beatrice Cowell walked to school daily as did most of the pupils, some walking three miles or more then back again for lunch.

This photo taken perhaps at the turn of the nineteenth century shows the girls in their white pinafores, everyone smartly dressed. Beatrice Cowell sits in the front row fourth from the right. May Holmes probably is in the picture, perhaps the girl the other side of the boy with the board.



My first contact with May was when I got involved in interviewing Shalford residents about thirty years ago. I asked Beatrice if she could suggest anyone else as I seemed to have run out of names. She told me she had a friend, May Holmes, who used to live in Shalford years ago but was now a resident of Kent. She had married rather late in life and moved to where her husband's work was. Beatrice was not sure if May, now May Langford was alive

but gave me her last known address anyway so I wrote to her. Thus began a correspondence over several years during which May paid a visit to look at the collection of photos and offer her own reminiscences; of which there were many. Before her marriage May worked as a domestic help and nanny, the latter for John Strachey, a government minister when he lived at Ironbridge farm. The war artist Eric Ravilious lived there at one time too. She told me that on that fatal day when he left Ironbridge for the last time his little son followed him down the

lane and was only consoled when his father gave him a three penny-bit. With her connections to Shalford houses and their inhabitants May met interesting people. She recalled the hustle and bustle getting ready for the arrival of a guest in Water Lane, finding out later that he was Noel Coward, a well-known West End actor and song writer.

At her death May left a generous gift to the Shalford Local History Society who used it to erect a bench (near the pétanque area) in her memory as well as promoting in May's name a trophy to be awarded to a Shalford school pupil for the best artistic/literary interpretation of a subject to be chosen by SLHA. This year that subject is "How the corona virus lockdown affected us".

Thanks again to Margaret

Talking of times gone by, which is what we do at the SLHA, a topic came up at the meeting that intrigued us all. Water Pumps! When the village had no mains water the residents were obliged to draw water from hand pumps distributed around the village. Some of these pumps still exist in peoples' gardens and if you have one we would love to come along and photograph it. If you have any photographs from the past showing any of the pumps we would like to copy them for the Village archive or if you can remember the location of the pumps we would like to hear from you.

Also if you have any questions about the history of Shalford or if you wish to contribute TO the historical records with pictures or documents, you can contact me at the following email address: historyshalford@gmail.com



Wednesday 13th October 2021 - Alan Oates by Mel Fray

This morning Sally, and then this afternoon Gill and I went to visit Alan Oates and his lovely dog Titus at The Hawthorns in Braintree to say farewell.

As many of you are aware Alan lived for many years in Jaspers Green and was active with the Parish Council. Refer to Article in Bendlowe's Bugle October 2020 - [https://bendlowe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Bendlowes-Bugle-Oct-](https://bendlowe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Bendlowes-Bugle-Oct-2020.pdf)

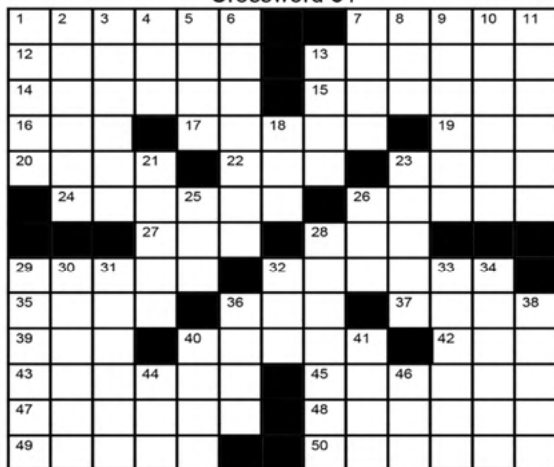
[2020.pdf](https://bendlowe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Bendlowes-Bugle-Oct-2020.pdf) He is now about to move on to a new home nearer to where his son lives, so although we will keep in touch with his family for updates, we are unlikely to see him. We wish him and Titus well in their new home.

SHALFORD VILLAGE MAGAZINE

Shalford Village Magazine is a non-profit-making community organisation, run by local volunteers and funded by advertising, The Parochial Church Council, Shalford Parish Council, fundraising activities and donations. It is hosted on website www.bendlowe.co.uk by kind permission of William Bendlowe Charity and can be downloaded from there. We are grateful to our team including all advertisers, fund raisers, contributors, artwork, printing, distributors, Bendlowe's, website designers and, of course, our readers. We have issued a 2022 Calendar, All Creatures Great & Small, to help raise funds in order to pay for the printing of the magazine and would like to say thank you to everyone who supports the magazine by purchasing a calendar.

CROSSWORD BY ROBERT BURROWS

Crossword 51



Across

- 1 Eye membranes (6)
 7 Musical work (5)
 12 Musical composition (6)
 13 In same passage (6)
 14 Physiology term (6)
 15 Village: sounds like a fever (6)
 16 Previously (3)
 17 Cabbage (5)
 19 Public house (3)
 20 Food list (4)
 22 Awn of barley (3)
 23 Children's author Blyton (4)
 24 African plant (6)
 26 Signals (5)
 27 Part of O.H.M.S. (3)
 28 Unhappy (3)
 29 Located (5)
 32 Ill (6)
 35 Arab prince (4)
 36 In favor (3)
 37 Public disorder (4)
 39 Mimic (3)
 40 Ecclesiastical decree (5)
 42 Post office order (3)
 43 Village: near Sudbury (6)
 45 Japanese robe (6)
 47 Get away (6)
 48 Glassy opaque coating (6)
 49 Documents (5)
 50 Recompenses (6)

Down

- 1 Religion (5)
 2 Cosmetics (6)
 3 Recite in singing voice (6)
 4 Initials: returning letter (3)
 5 Estimated times of arrival (4)
 6 Arab greetings (7)
 7 Heed (4)
 8 Small sharp fastener (3)
 9 Trimming (6)
 10 Hold back (4,2)
 11 Reparation or compensation (6)
 13 A false God (4)
 18 Contest (3)
 21 Doorkeeper (5)
 23 Type of duck (5)
 25 Help (3)
 26 Carpenter's tool (3)
 28 Table ball game (7)
 29 Ocean floor (6)
 30 Inflict obligation (6)
 31 Fencing position (6)
 32 Vessel (3)
 33 Tumour (6)
 34 Silly (6)
 36 Tax type (4)
 38 Garden implements (5)
 40 Mushrooms (4)
 41 Cardinal number (4)
 44 Youth (3)
 46 Atlas (3)

Cryptic Across

- 1 Sire is out for flowers (6)
 7 Ring for example (5)
 12 O Santa, it's a musical piece (6)
 13 See, it's here (6)
 14 Part of her cycle (6)
 15 Civil place (6)
 16 A try before (3)
 17 Hotel veg (5)
 19 Pub in the North (3)

- 20 Choice fare? (4)

- 22 Be 32ac (3)
 23 Girl could dine out (4)
 24 Open the plant (6)
 26 12 in zodiac (5)
 27 Not hers (3)
 28 Poor ads make unhappy (3)
 29 Tides out when placed (5)
 32 Peacekeeper's water supply (6)
 35 Ruler in the mire (4)
 36 Not amateur (3)
 37 Trio in disarray (4)
 39 Copy the animal (3)
 40 No can make decree (5)
 42 Short bear (3)
 43 Find place by lore (6)
 45 Robe of mink and two rings (6)
 47 Paces East (6)
 48 Hard on the nails (6)
 49 Written or performed (5)
 50 Prays East (6)

Cryptic Down

- 1 I hit religion (5)
 2 Bad rogues make-up (6)
 3 Popular sound (6)
 4 South Africa – East (3)
 5 Coming times (4)
 6 Greetings, SA lama's here (7)
 7 Do as you're told (4)
 8 Nip badly with it (3)
 9 Outer trim (6)
 10 In check? (4,2)
 11 Mend as compensation (6)
 13 Broken Lido (4)
 18 Six east compete (3)
 21 Doorkeeper (5)
 23 One deer or duck (5)
 25 First treatment (3)
 26 Watched the tool (3)
 28 Game fish for queen (7)
 29 Watery place to sleep (6)
 30 Poems I order (6)
 31 Organ stop (6)
 32 Used for late remains (3)
 33 Benign growth (6)
 34 Affected by the moon (6)
 36 Gives money to Papa yes (4)
 38 Loots the implements (5)
 40 Bad spec veggies (4)
 41 IX (4)
 44 Boy left notice (3)
 46 It shows where to go (3)



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NATURE NOTES

By: Mac Beanland



According to the nursery rhyme Slugs and snails and puppy dogs' tails that's what little boys are made off, insinuates that little boys are not very nice! Well, I wouldn't put slugs and snails in the same league as puppy dogs' tails, I like puppy dogs' tails but loath slugs and snails especially after this year which has seen my worst ever year for slug damage in my veg garden. I can honestly say I have never known a year like it; 50% of my potatoes were unfit for use and those that I could use had at least one slug hole in them. Some even had slugs

still inside the potato, most of my carrots had holes in them and even a few beetroot had been attacked and most of courgettes had been nibbled. As much as I detest slugs, I don't like using slug pellets in fear of my dog and birds eating them but I do set slug traps with some success. All God's creatures were put on this earth for a reason so they must have a purpose, but what is it? Well, they do provide food for a lot of birds especially thrushes and blackbirds, rooks, and crows, ducks, slow worms earth worms and several mammals also eat slugs, it's a sham, wood pigeons don't eat slugs but they are vegetarians. We have so many pigeons they would help to control the slugs; hedgehogs eat slugs but there are not many hedgehogs about these days. It's very interesting watching a thrush bashing a snail against a stone to smash the snail shell so that they can eat the contents. Slugs can and do transmit rat lung worms to human beings so it is very important that we wash things like lettuce, even the Queen found a slug in the lettuce on her plate recently so the little devils get everywhere. There are lots of different types of slug and snails both on the land and in water and even in the sea, and of course there are several types of snails which are edible and even considered a delicacy I know of one farmer not very far away who makes a living growing edible snails for top London restaurants.

Slugs are hermaphrodite, so each individual can lay eggs-up to 300 each. Slug eggs are laid in batches, usually 10 to 15, in moist but not waterlogged soil. Most species found in our gardens have an annual life cycle lasting less than a year, and can lay eggs in any month providing conditions are suitable. The different strains of slugs have different life expectancies between 1 to 5 years. The ones that are the smallest in size are the ones which do the most damage to our plants and are the constant pests on farms. Some slugs are cannibalistic and eat other slugs and snails but others can co-exist. There are lots of ways to control slugs in our gardens but the most environmentally friendly is to encourage the carnivorous predators such as toads hedgehogs and thrushes into our gardens but that is easier said than done. Another way is to use a slug trap which is something which has worked very well for me in the past. To do this you need a piece of black polyethene sheet. You spread slug pellets on the ground where slugs are active and cover them over with the polyethene sheet which you then peg down the slugs go under the sheet where it is dark and damp and consume the slug pellets and die under, the sheet. After a few days you can peel back the sheet, dig a hole in the ground scrape all the dead slugs and leftover pellets into the hole and bury them that way. Birds and other creatures can't eat dead slugs or slug pellets and therefore don't get poisoned.



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St Andrew**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

..... from the Vicarage

What is at the heart of Christmas? It's a question we might have found ourselves pondering last year, as restrictions meant that many of the things we would usually have done to celebrate were simply not possible. I remember vividly spending an evening alone in church on 23rd December, doing take after take of my sermon (not a luxury I usually have!) as I recorded a service which I knew, for many, would be the closest they could get to their church that Christmas. Although I did it with a heavy heart, knowing what a serious situation was making this necessary, there was no sense in which I minded going through this strange experience. For at the heart of my Christmas, last year, this year, and every year, is the desire to bring people close to God.

After all, Christmas is about God coming close to us. The mystery we celebrate, is that of God the Son coming to share the experience of being human – to demonstrate God's love through closeness to us. For many people, coming to church, at Christmas or any other time, is a way of responding in kind – a way of drawing close to God. Of course, we don't just find God in church, but churches have that special quality of being places where the distractions and business of everyday life can be set aside. Their whole purpose is to be places dedicated to being with God, and so it was important last Christmas to help people reach out, even if only virtually, to bring that sacred space into their own homes.

It is our hope, in all the churches of our new group (which, you might notice, has a new name, coming from the River Pant which joins the six parishes together), that they will once again this Christmas be places where many people can come and draw close to God, as they hear the story of how God came to live among us. Amidst all the frantic preparations that December inevitably brings, do take a moment, or as many moments as you can (!), to ponder these things, and to reflect on how the message of Christmas is, quite simply, how much each one of us is loved.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT



**Shalford
St Andrew**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
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**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
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In her Churchwarden's Report that featured in November's magazine, Dawn mentioned the Quinquennial Inspection of the church which was carried out in October. Well, the report is now in; it runs to 31 pages (although some of that describes the building and its environs) and is divided up into maintenance jobs and/or repairs that need to be carried out within the next 12 months and further works that may be spread over the following four years. We will have quite a programme ahead of us, Covid permitting.

Thankfully, the repairs to the roof of the south aisle seem to have been successful in keeping water out and the new LED light bulbs inside and outside the church are illuminating bits of the interior that have been shrouded in mystery for many a day. So, the church is dry and newly-lit and warm, for the moment. However, the oil boiler is 20 years old and at the end of its useful life! With luck it will see us through this winter but then we will have to think of an eco-friendly replacement heating system that won't *a)* break the bank or *b)* increase our carbon footprint. These are certainly challenging times but you may be sure of a warm welcome to St Andrew's whatever the state of the heating system! As I write, our appeal to the village for maintenance funds has taken place, and although we do not have a final total yet I would like to thank all of you who responded so generously. It makes such a difference to know that the community values the church and its presence in Shalford.

As you probably know, the parishes of Great and Little Bardfield have now been added to the four parishes of our existing "benefice", which is the name for a group of parishes under the care of one vicar. We have already enjoyed some joint services and the 12 churchwardens of the new benefice will be co-operating with the Revd Alex to make sure that every church will be able to hold on to its regular pattern of worship as far as possible, with the opportunity to combine forces for special events.

We are now in the beautiful season of Advent during which we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. It is customary for the church to be peaceful and contemplative in the four weeks of Advent, with no floral decoration, so that when Christmas finally arrives, the contrasted joy and exuberance of candles, tree and flowers is plain for all to see. I do hope you will be able to join our celebrations.

Dawn and I both wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and optimistic New Year!

Hilary Penney

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES



Shalford
St Andrew



Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene



Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist



Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin



Little
Bardfield
St Katharine



Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist

Thursday 2 December

10am Prayer Group – Shalford

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Sunday 5 December – Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Shalford

9.30am Café Church – Cornish Hall End

10.30am All Age Eucharist – Finchingfield

4pm Time to Be – Wethersfield

Thursday 9 December

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Sunday 12 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am All Age Morning Worship (Toy Service) – Wethersfield

4pm Carol Service – Blackmore End Village Hall

6pm Carol Service – Finchingfield

Thursday 16 December

10am Prayer Group – Shalford

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Saturday 18 December

10am Children's Church – Wethersfield

3pm Christingle Service – Great Bardfield

Sunday 19 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

10.30am All Age Morning Worship – Finchingfield

4pm Carol Service – Cornish Hall End

6pm Carol Service – Wethersfield

Thursday 23 December

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES



**Shalford
St Andrew**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

Friday 24 December – Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service – Finchingfield

5pm Carols by Candlelight – Shalford

11.30pm Midnight Mass – Wethersfield & Little Bardfield

Saturday 25 December – Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion – Shalford & Cornish Hall End

10am Sung Eucharist – Finchingfield & Great Bardfield

Sunday 26 December – St Stephen's Day

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Shalford

Services in the week following Christmas:

Monday 27 December – St John the Evangelist

10am Said Eucharist – Cornish Hall End

Tuesday 28 December – Holy Innocents

10am Said Eucharist – Great Bardfield

Wednesday 29 December – St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Said Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Sunday 2 January

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Shalford

9.30am Café Church – Cornish Hall End

10.30am All Age Eucharist – Finchingfield

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells Farm

Thursday 6 January – The Epiphany

10am Prayer Group – Shalford

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Sunday 9 January – The Baptism of Christ

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am All Age Morning Worship – Wethersfield

Thursday 13 January

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES



**Shalford
St Andrew**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
Bardfield
St Katharine**



**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
Evangelist**

Sunday 16 January – Second Sunday after Epiphany
8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
10.30am All Age Morning Worship – Finchingfield
4pm Words and Music for Epiphany – Cornish Hall End

Thursday 20 January
10am Prayer Group – Shalford
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Sunday 23 January – Third Sunday after Epiphany
8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
9.30am Sung Eucharist – Little Bardfield
11am All Age Eucharist – Wethersfield

Tuesday 25 January – The Conversion of St Paul
9.30am Eucharist – Great Bardfield

Thursday 27 January
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Sunday 30 January – Candlemas
10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Wethersfield
3pm Christingle Service – Finchingfield

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THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Church of St Andrew	Shalford
St Mary Magdalene	Wethersfield
St John the Baptist	Finchingfield
St Mary The Virgin	Gt Bardfield
St Katharine	Little Bardfield
St John The Evangelist	Cornish Hall End

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021 IN THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

Carol Services

Sunday 12 December

4pm Blackmore End
Village Hall
6pm St John the Baptist,
Finchingfield



Sunday 19 December

4pm St John the Evangelist,
Cornish Hall End
6pm St Mary Magdalene,
Wethersfield

Christingle Service Saturday 18 December

3pm St Mary the Virgin, Great Bardfield

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service, St John the Baptist, Finchingfield

5pm Carols by Candlelight, St Andrew, Shalford

Midnight Mass

11.30pm St Katharine, Little Bardfield

11.30pm St Mary Magdalene, Wethersfield

Christmas Morning

9.30am St Andrew, Shalford

9.30am St John the Evangelist, Cornish Hall End

10am St John the Baptist, Finchingfield

10am St Mary the Virgin, Great Bardfield

Sunday 2 January

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed
at Boydells Farm

THE PANT VALLEY CHURCHES

SHALFORD CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

CONTACTS



**Shalford
St Andrew**



**Wethersfield
St Mary
Magdalene**



**Finchingfield
St John the
Baptist**



**Gt Bardfield
St Mary The
Virgin**



**Little
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**Cornish Hall
End
St John the
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December/January 2021/2

FOSTAC NEWS

FOSTAC has been slightly dormant over the year due to circumstances but were so pleased to be able to hold their first event in September – a Picnic in the Churchyard – and we welcomed everyone who joined us on that lovely sunny day. Many new faces joined us then.

The next event was the talk by Mac Beanland of his exciting trip to the Arctic which many people enjoyed followed by John Jemison and Neil Richardson – our own doppelgangers who have been featured nationally and internationally!

FOSTAC committee are meeting very soon to begin planning for 2022 – we have lots of ideas as well as the familiar ones – such as Tea in the Afternoon, Musical Events both vocal and instrumental and other interesting speakers to entertain us.

As FOSTAC is a group of willing helpers whose main aim is to raise funds to assist St Andrew's Church keep the building in good repair where possible – as everyone knows, our church is a valued building in the village and it is our remit to not only assist there but to bring the community together. We always welcome new members to help and if you have not as yet renewed your subscription please do - £5 for individual members and £8 for a family – see Madeline Eversden for a membership form and there are some already in the church.

Also, if you have any thoughts on events we could hold please get in touch with the Committee

As we are now nearing Christmas and the New Year the Committee of FOSTAC would like to wish you all the best for the coming season.



Sincerely from the Committee
www.fostac.co.uk

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St Andrew's Coffee Mornings



Greetings to all our regular Coffee 'drinkers' and welcome to our Coffee Mornings. We look forward to welcoming new visitors

These have been very popular Coffee Mornings and since we have resumed after the long pandemic period they have been welcomed by everyone

This is a great opportunity to meet up and chat with old friends and make new ones and we had a lovely Coffee Morning in the summer with a visit from Nancy May who sang for us – many familiar songs!

We also have a library of books which can be borrowed or bought

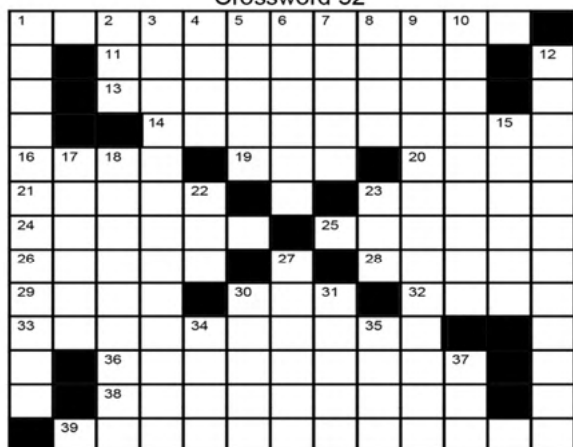
The next Coffee Morning will be Thursday 9th December when we may well be including some Christmas Mince Pies!!! come and enjoy coffee and delicious cakes and biscuits and of course, good company.

We wish all our Coffee Drinkers and friends a very Happy Christmas and New Year

For more details contact Diana Forrow on 01371 850110 or Sylvia Lester 01371 850211



Crossword 52



Across

1 Village: Ecclesiastical sward (7,5)

11 Gets news first (9)

13 Processional hymn verse (9)

14 Person who reduces (10)

16 Wild sheep (4)

19 Corrosion measuring criteria (3)

20 English politician (4)

21 Hungarian equivalent of Denis (5)

23 A storm of wind (5)

24 Male name (6)

25 American Publisher (6)

26 Female figure in posture of prayer (5)

28 Greek mythology princess (5)

29 Compass direction (4)

30 Mobile phone element (3)

32 Mushrooms (4)

33 Explosive (10)

36 Rising to a higher position (9)

38 Perverse (9)

39 Replace cells in fluid (12)

Down

1 Old song writer (12)

2 Bread dipped in gravy (3)

3 Being often too quick (13)

4 Indian tribe (4)

5 Text stop sending (5)

6 To trade or exchange (6)

7 Garment (5)

8 Scab (4)

9 Not comparable (13)

10 Like or pertaining to type of coral (9)

12 Village: North East Essex (5,2,5)

15 Keep an ear warm (6)

17 One who nurtures children (6)

18 (Anag.) laubanite (9)

22 Stiffen (3)

23 Forbidden for athletes (3)

27 Old term for a five pound note (6)

30 Legal term (5)

31 Roman 1000 (5)

34 Army course (4)

35 Suffix indicating state (4)

37 Government agency (3)

Cryptic Across

1 Chessman's garden village (7,5)

11 Oops, scout gets in first (9)

13 Poor acids sadly make verse (9)

14 Sacker who digs again (10)

16 North African sheep (4)

19 Scotland summer time (3)

20 Could be a bar for MP (4)

21 Who needs valleys? (5)

23 Wind storm could rip railway (5)

24 Two names or one (6)

25 US journo school (6)

26 Nora T could be praying figure (5)

28 Fabled princess (5)

29 North by north-east (4)

30 Phone part for us I mean (3)

32 Vegies grown in the dark (4)

33 This blows up our gin site (10)

36 Rising heavenly (9)

38 Perverse (9)

39 Re-hanging process (12)

Cryptic Down

1 Lyricist - all mob in danger (12)

2 Standard operating procedures (3)

3 State of haste (13)

4 Tribe lacking digit (4)

5 Initially, stop sending (5)

6 Trade scores? (6)

7 Do get skirt style (5)

8 Iron out the scab (4)

9 Not comparable (13)

10 Like a shallow brazier (9)

12 Silk broken - yen needed in village (5,2,5)

15 Real Pa keeps ear warm (6)

17 Backer who raises children (6)

18 Not lip-shaped (9)

22 Become firm (3)

23 Banned way to improve (3)

27 Old term for a five pound note (6)

30 Ruses found in court (5)

31 M is certain to be roman number (5)

34 Officer training course (4)

35 Suffix could be into state (4)

37 Terrible sin in office (3)

THE NIGHTMARE... BY GRAHAM BRACE

Water dripped and splashed all over the steering wheel, on her lap and over her new Levi's. Jane knew that taking a quick gulp from one of the six-pack of mineral waters she kept on the front seat, spilling it, then hastily trying to mop it up with the *one* tissue left in the box, was not going to be a good start to the day. The boys thought it all quite hilarious!

Tim had already finished the first game and was elated that he'd moved on to the next level. Billy was on to his latest superhero's adventure, saving the world yet again. Apart from the normal squabbling in the back of the big Nissan, the two-mile journey was uneventful, the traffic was a bit worse than normal, making things a little tight for time. The small compensation was that she had more time to dry out!

Although parking was always a problem, the long straight tree-lined drive off the main road gave her confidence and assurance. There was a certain orderliness as the seemingly never-ending to-and-fro of the big SUVs crunched slowly along the gravel drive.

The School, itself, was set in idyllic surroundings of woodland and pasture, not ideal in terms of security but enough ground staff around for safely. There was a little more 'frowning' this morning, as Jane was a little late. She had managed to fit in her normal ablutions that morning, shower, hair wash, just minimal make-up, etc., so apart from the obvious, she looked pretty good as she off-loaded the boys down to ground level. Nearly all of her chums had gone, but she knew where her main cronies, as James called them, would be. The new coffee shop on the edge of town baked the most delightful Danish pastries, but how did Emily manage to have them baked fresh every morning, Jane thought. She couldn't have any children, or maybe just a husband who didn't work in the City.

Whilst the normal chaotic parking area was nearly empty, the School was coming to life already.... teachers scurrying from their own accommodation on site, with bags, cases, folders hastily tucked under arms, dropping-off at the staff room. Assembly first, registration: would young Mr Brown the new maths teacher make it? Not if he paused too long to smile at Jane. She reciprocated of course; a complementary smile always helped to ease the day. There had been a few new teachers this term and of course she only knew the ones pertaining to her sons' classes.

Having just managed to avoid the daily trial of the peck-on-the-cheek, the boys disappeared in different directions, filtering in to the ever-decreasing throng of bodies, large and small, all with their own agendas. The final wave was always one-sided.

By the time Jane reached '*Emily's*', the girls had just been served their lattes. The morning coffee get-together was fairly regular, but not every day. They were all busy, busy.... Jane shared classes in the afternoon with one of them, whilst her closest buddy was holding down a job with the local solicitor's office. Unlike Jane's two boys, hers were almost self-reliant now. However, Jane's main distraction was her Mother.

Most days now, she would go straight there from dropping off the boys. Her Mother had had one new hip, preceded by the more complicated knee replacement, and various surgical interventions in the plumbing regions, as James irreverently referred to them. This had left Jane with some cross to bear. Her Mother, now a widow, did seem to wallow just a little bit too much in self-pity. Whilst not a great distance away, she was sort of cut off from the rest of the world for those few hours and not reaching home 'till almost lunchtime. Today was a particular bind; she had her own chores to do, including getting a new battery for the mobile phone, fitting in her yoga class and getting back to pick up the boys.

The school had been trying to contact her all morning. After catching her breathe and putting on the kettle, she finally noticed the red light flashing on the land line: four times. She could tell the agitation in the deputy head's voice. Normally very articulate, precise, to the point, she explained hesitantly that Tim was not registered and certainly didn't turn up for the first period of maths. Was he sick? Had he gone home? She had tracked down Brother Billy who had told her that Tim wasn't feeling too well in the car coming to school.... *why hadn't Jane noticed!*

It had been reported to the Deputy Head that the new maths teacher had been seen taking Tim in the general direction of the medical centre...before assembly. Apparently all Mr Brown's morning lessons had had to be covered by the head of the maths department. No Mr Brown.... No Tim.

Jane quickly came to the realisation that not all nightmares begin when you go to sleep.

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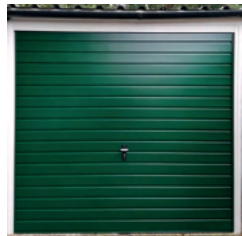
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SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Council meetings continue in person at the Village Hall every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Please look out for the agenda which is published online and on our notice boards. We look forward to seeing you.

Defibrillator training took place at the Village Hall at the end of November. We are incredibly pleased to have 3 of the lifesaving machines across the Parish and now a number of people more confident to use them if needed. But don't worry if you couldn't attend, they are designed to be able to be used without training as full instructions are given over the phone when calling 999.



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**Please only send one issue per email to
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Fix It is live! As previously mentioned our new Fix It service is up and running. Send issues with a photograph and detailed location to fix.it@shalford-esssex-pc.gov.uk. One issue per email please and you will be able to track the progress on our website.

Look out for the Christmas tree going up on 4th December!

Your councillors would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Warmest wishes,

Mandy, Adrian, Sam, Rob, Andrew M, Andrew H, Neil and Michelle



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PROPOSAL FOR 2 MEGA PRISONS AT WETHERSFIELD MOD BASE

Extraordinary Meeting (November 3, 2021)

Following the meeting held at Shalford Village Hall on November 3 to get the views from parishioners on the prison proposal, there was clear direction from those attending that the Village should oppose the proposal. It was also a concern that not enough people knew about or understood the scale of the proposals and the potential impact.

Please read the following to ensure you understand the proposal and potential impact

Huge Scale

- Two mega prisons with accommodation for 3430 prisoners, constituting one of the largest prisons in Europe, with more population than Wethersfield and Finchingfield combined.
- The mega prisons are in two complexes of buildings separated by about 1000 car parking spaces in one site stretching about 1.5 kilometres over 110 acres
- Fourteen proposed X shape blocks four stories high (20m high) – the equivalent of 7 Stansted airport terminal buildings
- Significant visual impact in the area as from all local villages during the day, with huge light pollution at night from 24-hour visibility requirements, across a very wide area.

Increased Traffic

- The MoJ has NOT conducted a full traffic study, which is a major concern in itself, and has demonstrated a lack of understanding of the local infrastructure.
- It fails to take account the remoteness of the site from national road network and public transport nodes and seems to disregard the difficulties of bringing a large volume of vehicles through several historic villages and narrow lanes with several pinch points, blind-spots, and hazardous bends over an extended building phase and beyond.
- There will be a PERMANENT increase in the volume of cars and HGVs passing through our local area, including Shalford, Church End & Shalford Green
- The only routes available for construction and ongoing prison/visitor traffic are through Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Great Bardfield, Sible Hedingham and Shalford.
- NO other prisons in the UK are located on a B-road with access through small villages and schools.

Lengthy Construction

- The MoJ has not provided timelines, but prison projects on a smaller scale are taking 3 – 5 years, so this could take up to 10 years
- Whilst no information is available, high volume of construction traffic including considerable numbers of daily HGVs will be travelling on our country lanes and through our villages for many years.

More Housing as Well

- The current base buildings would not be touched by the proposed prisons, so it can be assumed that the MOD also remains intent on disposing of that area for housing.

What Can I Do to Help?

- If you oppose this proposal, hopefully you have already made your comment by November 8 on the MoJ consultation site
- Shalford Parish Council in conjunction with ten other local Parish Councils are creating a joint committee to oppose the mega prison proposals – please support actions and requests that come from this committee.
- Display signs and banners in opposition to the proposals at your homes (more details to come)
- Contact your Braintree District and Essex County Councillors to oppose the plans
- Contact your Braintree MP James Cleverly to oppose the plans



THE WAY WE WERE

BY: BILL ASKEW

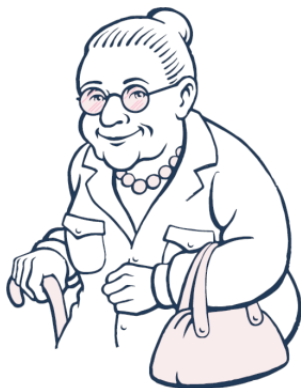
Shalford Families - Abbot

The first appearance of the surname Abbot in the parish annals is the record of the birth of Rycharde Abbot to parents Rycharde Abbot senior and Agnes Smith in 1586 . Unfortunately it appears that Rycharde junior died a single man at the age of twenty in 1606. No further mention is made of Rycharde senior, presumably he lived and died in another parish. The surname is then lost to Shalford for nearly a century before becoming re-established with the marriage of Francis Abbot to Susan Rice in 1703. The couple made their home in the parish and went on to produce seven children, John, James, Susan, Ann, Elizabeth, William and Ruth between 1704 and 1721. Sadly, William died at a month old and Ruth survived for only a few days. Their mother, Susan died in 1723, leaving Francis with five children to raise on his own. This growing family obviously made finding a new wife a matter of great urgency for Francis, because he married his second wife, Susan Boreham, barely a month after he had buried his first wife. The couple added another girl, Mary, to the family, bringing the number of children in the home to six.

The years rolled by and in 1732 Francis' daughter, Susan married Joseph Revell. The newlyweds made their home in a neighbouring parish. Ann, the second daughter of Francis married Joseph Holmes in 1739, leaving just Elizabeth on the shelf. It is likely that she remained single and devoted her life to helping with the running of the busy household, certainly there is no record of her being married in the parish. Son, John married a girl named Mary in another parish but the couple made their home in Shalford and went on to have eight children between 1730 and 1748, James, Mary, Robert, Ruth, John, Thomas, Rose and Judith. John senior died in 1748 but there is no death record for his wife Mary. Their first born, James had died in infancy but Mary was still left with seven children to raise on her own. It is a matter of conjecture how the family survived this tragedy, the most likely scenario being a life of destitution lived out in an alms-house or worse, with the younger sons being apprenticed at a tender age. I like to believe that Mary found a suitor in her parish of origin, moved the family there and made a good life, which would account for their disappearance from the records. In the meantime, John's father, Francis and stepmother Susan (nee Boreham) must have also moved away as there is no record of their deaths but his daughter Mary is recorded as marrying Phillip Cant of Panfield in 1750. Nothing further is known of this particular dynasty but the surname crops up again briefly when Esther Johnson, spinster of Shalford married Richard Abbot from another parish in 1776. As far as I know, the only other Abbots to have lived in the parish up to the present day were Edgar and his wife Agnes who occupied the property called Fairmead in Garrets Lane between March 1915 and May 1919. Their son Allan attended Shalford School during this time. In the Spring of 1918, Agnes is listed at Fairmead on the electoral roll which states she is entitled to vote "through her husband's occupation."

No, I haven't forgotten about Abbots Hall, the home of Shalford's squire for hundreds of years and the jewel in crown of the parish, but to the best of my knowledge, no member of the Abbotclan has ever lived there. The fact is that the nearest thing we have to a stately home came by its title because in the dim and distant it was owned by the Abbot and Convent of St Osyth.

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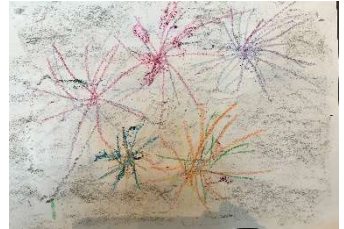
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BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB WETHERSFIELD HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE



By: Deborah Brignull-Harvey



The children were very excited about Bonfire night and enthusiastic learning about Guy Fawkes. We wanted to share some of their pictures with you. We have also been talking about Remembrance Day and the children have shared their stories about their relatives that fought for our country. Again we would like to share their artwork. We hope you enjoy their creations.

UNSUNG HEROES

I have received a nomination this month for our Unsung Hero acknowledgement and thank you for his continued hard work on behalf of the Community and especially his heroic efforts regarding taking on the task of rectifying the acoustics in Shalford Village Hall. His name is Andrew Hull.

**ANDREW – THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO ON
BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY. YOU ARE AN UNSUNG HERO.**

Send your nominations to me, Alice, by email to: shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com



DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

BY: ROY THREADGOLD

Around 50 some odd years ago, a story appeared in a national tabloid telling of New Year's revelers at the Shalford George. At midnight, they spilled out of the pub to listen to the church bells ringing in the New Year as they used to every year, and were greeted with silence. It would seem that the ringers had had a disagreement with the vicar and had gone on strike!

Not perhaps the best Christmas bells story, but it does show how we value the bells and, maybe, take them for granted.

I moved to Wethersfield in 1963, about a fortnight after vicar MacGowan. The first time I attended a service, he pounced on me saying "You can join the choir." After receiving a negative reply, he returned with "Well you can learn to ring the bells". Little did I know what I was about to embark on. Now, 58 years on, I'm still learning.

English style bellringing is a unique folk-art form, with its origins in the early 1600s. But despite its age, it is constantly evolving and the top ringers in the country are stretching the limits of what a human mind is capable of. It demands hand/eye/ear co-ordination and an intense level of concentration. It's a long way off of the Mars advert!

And it is what it says on the box – "English". In the whole world there are 6,145 rings of bells suitable for our style of ringing, of which 6,005 are in the British Isles, and 5,752 in England alone. Most of the rest are thinly distributed around the English-speaking world, whilst mainland Europe has but three rings, and two of those are in Anglican churches.

One of the best features of bellringing is the friendliness of ringers everywhere. With the exception of a very few "special" towers such as Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral or Windsor Castle, a visiting ringer will be invited to join in the ringing. This is especially useful to my "hobby" of collecting towers, often known as "tower grabbing", and when on holiday, Cherry and I often drop in on the local practice night. To date I've rung at over 750 towers. We sometimes have ringing outings where a group of ringers visit, maybe, half a dozen towers in a day. On these occasions it is a "relief" to see the increasing number of churches being equipped with toilets. However, this one in Leicestershire really takes the crown, as the toilet cubicle is built around the Tenor rope. It doesn't take much imagination to see there could be a slight problem or two here!

In non-COVID times, our band of ringers mans the three rings of bells in the Benefice – the eight-bell towers at Wethersfield and Finchingfield, and the five at Shalford.

A database known affectionally by ringers as "Dove" has the following listing for Shalford:

Shalford, Essex S Andrew								
Bells Hide Details								
Bell	Weight	Nominal	Note	Diameter	Dated	Founder	Canons	Turning
1	4-1-17	1277.0	Eb	28.25"	1828	Thomas II Mears	Y	
2	4-2-26	1139.0	Db	29.50"	1690	Charles Newman	Y	
3	6-1-15	1075.0	C	32.38"	1601†	Richard Bowler	Y	
4	8-0-16	956.0	Bb	34.63"	1601†	Richard Bowler	Y	
5	9-3-27	853.0	Ab	38.25"	1887	John Warner & Sons	D	
Unused				10.00"		(unidentified)	A	

So, bells 3 and four will reach their quatercentenary next year. This would normally be a good opportunity to celebrate the birthday with special ringing, but in these times, who knows if that will be possible? Their founder, Richard Bowler was based at Colchester. Charles Newman, who cast the second bell, was a bit of a wanderer, but it seems likely that this bell was cast at Bury St. Edmunds. The Treble, number 1, came from the only recently closed Whitechapel Bell foundry, while the Tenor bell was cast by Warners of Cripplegate, who also cast Colchester Town Hall clock bells. The small bell labelled “unused”, and now sitting in the ringing chamber, was originally at the former “Tin Chapel” at Jasper’s Green.

Bell weights are still always expressed in cwt/qtr/lb, so the total weight of Shalford’s ring is a little over 33 cwt. - real “Heavy Metal”.

This is the Tenor bell, strapped to its wooden headstock. The blue stick bolted to the right side of the headstock is the stay, whilst the wheel is on the left, the whole being rotated through 360 degrees by the bell rope.

The first thing a new ringer has to learn is how to keep this mass of swinging bronze under safe control. It’s a bit like riding a high-power motorbike; you have to keep full control to avoid disaster. Fortunately, the learning process is in easy steps, so reducing the likelihood of accidents to near zero.



The stay is one feature that can be a problem; the new ringer has to learn to swing the bell higher and higher until it is mouth up. At this point, one can GENTLY rest the bell on its stay. The problem is the “gently” bit, for the stay is made of ash and is designed to snap if hit too hard, in order to prevent expensive damage to the bell or its fittings. If this should happen (mercifully not too common an occurrence) the rope is wound up onto the wheel at high speed and the wise ringer will let go. I well remember being asked to stand beside a teenage learner at Great Bardfield. He wasn’t managing to swing his bell quite high enough to keep in time with the rest so I asked him to pull a little harder. He took this to heart and with great gusto

gave the rope an almighty heave. Snap went the stay and the lad held on grimly. As his feet passed my face, it seems he had second thoughts about going into orbit and released the rope. I caught him as he fell. It was a lesson for us both, and I do try to use words a little more carefully now.

A ringer has to keep his/her rope under strict control, but just occasionally, as a rope ages, it may break. The break usually occurs right at the top where the rope enters the wheel, and this means that 40ft of rope falls around the ringer's feet or even round their neck! This is quite harmless, but the look of terror the first time this happens to anyone is quite amazing, their first thought being that the rope will be wound upwards again and then with it.

The "music" of the bells is the bit that takes most of the ringer's brain power. It is highly mathematical and is based around producing different permutations. Five bells, as at Shalford, can be arranged in 120 different orders (changes) which take about four minutes to ring. But there are hundreds of different ways, known as Methods, of arranging those changes, some fairly easy, others fiendishly difficult.

On eight bells, the total of possible changes is 40,320 which would take around 24 hours of non-stop ringing. Amazingly, this has been achieved, but on the very light bells at Loughborough Bell Foundry, and it took about 18 hours non-stop. Best not to ask how the physical problems were overcome!

One thing is certain and that is that we are always looking for a new batch of ringers aged 10 to 90? How about putting your name forward?



MEET & GREET BY ALICE COX

FRIDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2021

The Bendlowe's team were absolutely thrilled to see so many people share their time with us last Meet and Greet. We are so grateful to everyone who came along and made all our efforts worthwhile.

Sue brought along a CD which was recorded by Reggie Nelson. Reggie was one of our first Meet & Greeters and regarded as a treasure by all of us. He passed away 23/11/2019 and it was an honour to share the moment with Sue and toast his memory. Rest in peace Reggie, we are still celebrating your life.



We hope to see you all at our next Meet & Greet which is on Friday, 3rd December 2021 and will be *FESTIVE – music, and even more food – so come along hungry!*

Take care everyone and stay safe.

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BY: TRICIA MOXEY, TRUSTEE

As 2021 enters its final month, we anticipate seasonal celebrations to brighten the shortest days of the year. The ancient tradition of decking our houses with garlands of fresh green holly branches reminds us of the continuity of life, bringing us cheer when the days are short.

On reaching the age of 20, female holly trees bear red berries on branches covered with prickly shiny green leaves which can be cut to make decorative wreaths. Such wreaths featured in midwinter Celtic and Roman celebrations as symbols of good fortune, a tradition that continues thanks to the intervention of a local man, William Winstanley (1628 – 1698).

During the Commonwealth which lasted from 1649 to 1660, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell proclaimed that it was illegal to celebrate Christmas, banning frivolities and feasting on mince pies. Winstanley, who lived in Quendon, believed in celebrating Christmas as a time for sharing joy, fun and good fortune with others. After restoration of the monarchy in 1660, using his influence as a writer, he encouraged a return to the seasonal merrymaking which we still enjoy today.

Holly trees were frequently planted near houses to ward off a lightning strike; interestingly scientific research has revealed its spiky leaves can act as miniature lightning conductors! Holly also grows in hedges or as a shrub in woods where its berries provide nourishment for blackbirds, thrushes and wood mice. Its dense branches provide secure nesting sites. Deer and rabbits will eat its nutritious leaves.

Today, many homeowners plant variegated forms of holly to provide interest in their gardens and they can select a mixture of foliage to make seasonal decorations.

Yew is another evergreen with red coloured fruits (loved by birds and squirrels), but as its leaves are poisonous it is less suitable for indoor decorations.



Left – Holly



Right – Yew

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BY: TREVOR BEAL

Prior to the Congregational Church coming into being, a group of non-conformists used to hold services in a barn in Garretts Lane, after a while, this barn was not going to be available and so it was John Stock Legerton of Littles Farm who was approached and he built the new church at his own expense in 1854. It was planned to build the Church about the size of two

cottages so that in the event of the venture not being successful, it could be turned into two dwellings. It was on 3rd December 1854 that the first service was held and from the start, the Church was a big success, a few years later, in 1862, it was lengthened and a gallery built to accommodate the large attendances. The Church was admitted into the Congregational Union in 1882.

Having been licenced for weddings, the first marriage to take place was on 5th March 1912 between Edith Williams of Hubbards Farm and Stanley Wallace of Wethersfield, see newspaper report left.

MARRIAGE OF MISS E. A. WILLIAMS AND MR. S. WALLACE.

The first marriage solemnized at the Shalford Green Mission Chapel took place on Tuesday, when Miss Edith Annie Williams, only daughter of Mr. J. H. Williams, of Hubbard's, Shalford, was married to Mr. Stanley Wallace, of Lealands, Wethersfield, second son of Mr. K. Wallace, of Wrights, Wethersfield. The Mission Chapel at Shalford (which was recently licensed for weddings) was built by the late Mr. Legerton 50 years ago, and was given by him to his son, the Rev. Walter Legerton, Congregational minister, of Brentwood, who still owns it. The bride has been assistant organist for some years. Pastor T. Hunnabell officiated. Miss Wallace presided at the organ, and played the Bridal March from "Lohengrin" and the accompaniment to the hymns "How welcome was the call" and "Saviour, let Thy sanction rest." The bride's father gave her away, and Miss Eva Wallace was bridesmaid, and Mr. Wallace, brother of the bridegroom, best man. The bride wore a dress of cream silk eolienne, with hat to match, and the bridesmaids grey silk eolienne. The honeymoon is being spent at Brighton. The presents numbered about 60, and included a silver tea service from the members of the Shalford Green Chapel.

Left - Cutting taken
from the Essex
Chronicle dated 8th
March 1912



Postcard of the Congregational Church when it was thatched

Moving on a few years to 1954, a lot of work had been carried out to both the interior and exterior of the building, including new thatch, in readiness for the long-awaited centenary of the Church, unfortunately it was during the latter stages of the interior decorating that some old wallpaper was being burned in the grate and this sadly set fire to the chimney and the thatch, destroying the roof completely, see photo below, luckily most of the things inside the Church were able to be saved.

Following this disastrous fire, the Church had to be demolished but miraculously was completely rebuilt within a year and was dedicated and re-opened for worship on 7th December 1954.



Mrs J.A. Holford and Cyril Smith at the commemorative stone laying during the rebuilding.

Photo of the Church in November 1954 just prior to re-opening



Photo of the interior taken in October 1955

Following the death of Pastor Roy Cavinder and along with a dwindling congregation, sadly it was decided to close the Church in 2018.

Following this, in 2020, the Church was put on the market as a commercial property, with potential for a residential conversion, for a price of £200,000. It has currently been sold subject to contract.

Can any of you help me please?

I have been trying to track down the baptism and marriage registers for the Congregational Church for many years without any luck at all. Following the closure in 2018, I contacted the Congregation Federation but they could not find any trace of them when they cleared the Church. Following that, I also contacted the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford but they knew nothing about them. I am sure that they have not been destroyed and feel that they may be tucked away in someone's home locally. It would be marvellous to be able to find them as many of our family were baptised there (including myself, my mother and grandmother) and were also married there (my parents and my grandparents). Contact: Trevor Beal (Email: trevorbeal@googlemail.com)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Braintree Area Foodbank

E: info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

Tel: 01376 330694

www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

Carpet Bowls

Vic Goodey

Tel: 07773 707404

Community 360

Jo Bryant

Tel: 01206 505250

E: jobryant@community360.org.uk

Community Dog Warden

[www.braintree.gov.uk/info/](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200251/animals_and_pests/377/dogs)

[200251/ animals_and_pests/377/dogs](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200251/animals_and_pests/377/dogs)

Tel: 01376 552525

Creamer Fund

Sarah McCarthy

Tel 07906 169085

Danaher Animal Home

E: [reception@](mailto:reception@danaheranimalhome.org.uk)

danaheranimalhome.org.uk

Tel: 0300 111 4321

Essex Lottery

www.essexlottery.co.uk

Fishery Officer Shalford Lakes

Derrick Marriott

Tel: 07463 219567

FOSTAC

Sue Morton

Tel: 01371 850626

E: suebeazleyend@gmail.com

W: www.fostac.co.uk

Freshwell Health Centre

Tel: 01371 810328

Horticultural Society

Heather Smith

Tel: 07821 494464

E: iambblackbelt@hotmail.com

Local History Association

Barbara Mavis

Tel: 01371 851519

Mobile Library

W: [www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/mobile-library-service)
[mobile-library-service](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/mobile-library-service)

Reporting Dead Animals

Highways England

0300 123 5000

Dead Badgers 07751 572175

Shalford Website

Shalford Parish Clerk

Michele Baker

E: Shalford.pc@outlook.com

Shalford Primary School

Jen Penney

Tel: 01371 850336

E: admin@shalford.essex.sch.uk

Shalford Village Magazine

Alice Cox

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[btinternet.com](mailto:shalford_village_magazine@btinternet.com)

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Ken McDonald

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W: www.hundredparishes.org.uk

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Village Hall Booking

Nicola

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Village Hall Secretary

Linda Golding

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E: linda.golding50@gmail.com

Wethersfield Before & After School

Debbie Brignull-Harvey

Tel: 01371 851100

Wethersfield Community Activities

Tel: 01371 850620

E: wethersfieldca@gmail.com

William Bendlowe Charity

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Tel: 07850 264518

Website: www.bendlowe.co.uk

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Sunday - 8.00am til 6.00pm

Telephone: 01371 850944

1	I	2	R	3	I	4	S	5	E	6	S			7	O	8	P	9	E	10		11	A
12	S	O	N	A	T	A				13	I	B	I	D	E	M							
14	L	U	T	E	A	L				15	D	E	N	G	I	E							
16	A	G	O			17	S	A	V	O	Y			19	I	N	N						
20	M	E	N	21	U			22	A	I	L			23	E	N	I	D					
		24	S	E	S	25	A	M	E			26	S	I	G	N	S						
				27	H	I	S			28	S	A	D										
29	S	30	I	T	E	D				32	U	N	W	E	33		34	L					
35	E	M	I	R				36	P	R	O			37	R	I	O		38	T			
39	A	P	E			40	C	A	N	O	41			42	P	O	O						
43	B	O	R	44	L	E	Y			45	K	I	M	O	N	O							
47	E	S	C	A	P	E				48	E	N	A	M	E	L							
49	D	E	E	D	S					50	R	E	P	A	Y	S							

CROSSWORD 51
SOLUTION BY
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1	B	I	2	S	3	H	4	O	5	P	6	S	7	G	8	R	9	E	10	E	N	
A			11	O	U	T	S	C	O	O	P	S								12	K	
L			13	P	R	O	S	O	D	I	A	C										I
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16	A	17	R	18	U	I		19	S	S	T			20	R	A	A	B				
21	D	E	N	E	22	S				E			23	P	I	R	R	Y				
24	M	A	L	D	E	N				25	M	E	D	I	L	L						
26	O	R	A	N	T			27	F			28	D	A	N	A	E					
29	N	E	B	E			30	S	I	M			32	C	E	P	S					
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CROSSWORD 52
SOLUTION BY
ROBERT BURROWS

Just to remind you that there will not be
a magazine in January 2022
so we would like to take this opportunity
of wishing you
A Very Happy
and
Prosperous New Year.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

2022 CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE AT SHALFORD SHOP
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