



# Shalford Parish Council

Parish Clerk:

Cathryn Carlisle

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Annual Parish Assembly Minutes held on Thursday 15th May 2014

Present Cllr Golding, Cllr Eves, Cllr Askew, Cllr Oates, Cllr Eversden

DC Tattersley CC Walters 22 Members of the public Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

Cllr Birks, Cllr Ottley, The Vicar, Mrs Grove Smith

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2013 were approved and signed

4 **British Legion**

Of the service people who survived the 1914/ 18 war, 1.75 million had suffered injury; unemployment stood at 2 million and there was little government support.

Lance Bombardier Tom Lister formed a group which, in 1921 became the British Legion, fifty years later becoming the Royal British Legion.

Wethersfield & Shalford branch was formed in 1930 and has continued until this day. Most of us are now in our seventies and late eighties and our numbers down to twenty five. Financially we survive by holding a jumble sale at Shalford each spring and coffee morning at Wethersfield in early August. We have lunch for members in early summer at one of the local hostelrys; this doesn't come out of branch funds which are used for administration & welfare.

Essex County is made up of groups of branches. We are part of "B" group. The few remaining branches in "B" group are :- Braintree, Halstead, Heddingham, Coggeshall and Kelevedon, We meet as a group about every three months so our turn as host isn't too frequent, We also join others in their social activities.

Sadly, we have recently lost our secretary, Peter Morton at the age of 85. It seems unlikely that we can recruit from within especially as we have been without a President since David Brown died.

We elect a committee at the A G M each year comprising of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Poppy Appeal organiser and two others, we therefore, need a Secretary to volunteer to keep the branch alive, Members of the R B L do not have to be ex - service. If anyone feels like taking the job on now is the time to hold your hand up. It is possible that, failure to appoint a secretary could well be the end of the branch. The current membership subscription is £14 rising by one pound each year until it becomes £16.

5 **Shalford School Cathy Brown**

Kate Ward sends her apologies her husband was rushed into hospital this morning. Kate is retiring from the school in July.

The School currently has 81 pupils in July 6 leave and in September they have 15 new pupils starting.

The School has a great team of teachers, PTA, and Governors.

In June the school took part in a Cluster Road to Rio event, which carried on from the Olympics.

The School wanted to thank the Parish Council for the grant for the outdoor play equipment. One of the pieces of equipment is some outdoor musical instruments, children can play music, and some sing and put on shows which is very entertaining.

September the circus came to school and couple of parents belong to a circus they brought their skill in to school.

Oct was the Sponsored wellie walk which links into the healthy living which is part of the school policy. The PTA held a fashion show in Oct a company brings in the cloths and the children put on a show at the end parents can buy the clothing.

Harvest Festival saw the children bring in food which was then taken by Kate and some of the children to the food bank in Braintree. There was a strong focus on Maths with Arty Maths every class took part.

The Christmas Productions where Hey Ewe KS1 KS2 was Magical Christmas Jigsaw

February was Literacy week the school uses the mobile library, reading, looking after books, they then have to write about the book.

Year 5/6 took their residential trip in March the weather wasn't the best but the children really enjoyed it 22 children attended this trip.

The whole school went to the Science Museum this was funded by the PTA.

Kate would like to say a big thank you to every one for the support the village has given the school while she's been head. The new head is a deputy head from Great Bradford School in Braintree, who's got some forward thinking ideas.

Even though the school won't be open for the Tour De France, the week before the event the children will be making Banners, flags and bringing their bikes into school and riding on the field.

## **6 Village Hall Management Committee Colin Golding**

The Village Hall Management Committee had their AGM two weeks ago, the one big issue for the VHMC was there Trustee Deed was written in 1942 and the main representatives from the village were no longer around. A Solicitor has now updated the Trustee Deed, which now lets any organisation that uses the village hall have a representative on the committee Vic Goody on behalf of the bowls club and Football Club. Before anyone living outside the village wasn't allowed on the committee this has now been taken out, which now allows Dougie Turner how cuts the grass to be on the committee.

The Cricket Festival last year raised a profit of £1900 the Car Boot sale £150, this year we're holding another Cricket Festival on the first weekend in July. The Field will be used as a Pop up Campsite for the Tour De France. As the Entrance to the field is on the main route for the race vehicles will be unable to access the entrance. The intention is to keep the tents up from the cricket match and have a Beer Tent and BBQ through to the Monday.

The toilets have been refurbished by a grant from CIF, the flat roof was leaking and that has been repaired with a grant. The next step is to get the Kitchen refurbished. A new fence will be erected all the way round the front of the village hall to the footpath with section 106 money, for open spaces which has approximately £7,500.

We still need to raise money for the roof and ceiling.

## **7 PCC John Burrow and Janet Nichols**

The PCC appreciate the opportunity to tell the Parish Council how the village's parish church is processing.

The pattern of regular Sunday services is well established. A new service 'Farmer's Sunday' was introduced in 2013 to celebrate farming and thank those who work on the land.

A monthly coffee morning, the third Thursday each month, was started during the year. Coffee and cakes are free but those attending can make a contribution to a charity in 2013 Macmillan Nurses. The mornings provide an opportunity not only to socialise but also to hear of problems in the village and where the church may be able to help.

The Parish Magazine continues to be published monthly and distributed free to over a hundred homes in the village.

The church was founded in the 14C. Major changes to the interior were made in the Victorian era and extensive repairs carried out after the Second World War. In more recent years, and resulting from the generous legacy of the late Frank Jennings, a heating system was installed, and with further help from FOSTAC an extension was built, providing toilet and kitchen facilities.

Following completion of the extension FOSTAC proposed the glazing of the bell tower arch to prevent draughts, but following protracted negotiations the proposal was abandoned on cost grounds. Alternatives are now being explored and FOSTAC continue to hold events to raise money for this project and future developments.

A major overhaul of the church organ is necessary to keep it in good working order. The cost is likely to be in the excess of £10,000.

Conservation of the eroded stone work of the porch and windows on the south elevation of the church was carried out at a cost of £4,428.

The winter weather badly affected the already crumbling stone work of the west window; repairs could prove costly as scaffolding may be required to undertake the work. Estimates will be sought later this year.

Fortunately the autumn storms only damaged one tree in the church yard. This spring, following a mild winter, the snow drops and daffodils were exceptional. The churchyard is frequented by those

tending graves, and by virtue of the two public paths by walkers and those attending services. We are most grateful for the grant made by the Parish Council for the maintenance of the churchyard. In the guide book "Essex Churches and Chapels" it states that St Andrews is located "in its lush leafy churchyard on the fringe of the village" The Church is greatly enhanced by its well-maintained surroundings.

The Church finances for the past year showed only a small shortfall of income over expenditure some £350. The income from collections at services, donations and from the gift day envelopes have held up well despite the financial difficulties in recent years. That said the repairs to the organ and the west window will loom large in future budgets. We are seeking grants from various bodies to offset the cost of these two major works.

It's the Centenary year of Chelmsford Diocese the Church is holding a events on the 24/25 May on the Saturday the church will be open with lots of displays from numerous displays from groups from the village. There will be entertainment music, poetry. On the Sunday there will be a Big Thank you service in the church where the oldest resident in the village will speak. Everyone is welcome.

#### 8 **Fostac Report from Sylvia Lester**

FOSTAC has a very varied programme of events for 2014, beginning with Valentine's Day Cream Tea on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

For the past three years, FOSTAC have been raising money with the intention of glazing the Bell Tower Arch. Due to the conflicting requirements of English Heritage and the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and the escalating costs of such a project, we have now decided to put the plan aside for a future date.

We do, however, have an alternative proposal. We would like still to keep the draughts at bay and think that two curtains, which would hang inside the archway, to be used as and when considered necessary, would be a good idea. This has yet to be considered further and approved by the PCC and the other bodies.

In the meantime, we are considering the repair to the Organ which is rather urgent and the hanging of two curtains at the South Door.

#### **In 2013 the following fund raising events took place:**

Thursday 7 March 2013 – Spring Tea  
Saturday 11 May 2013 – Bardfield Community Choir  
Thursday 23 May 2013 – FOSTAC AGM  
Sunday 16 June 2013 – Salmon & Jazz  
Saturday 13 July 2013 – Come & Sing  
Sunday 11 August 2013 – Pimms & Canapes  
Saturday 12 October – Victorian Evening  
Saturday 29 November – Magical St Andrew's Night

#### **The events that have been arranged for 2014 are:**

Friday 14 February 2014 – Valentine's Cream Tea  
Saturday 15 March 2014 – This Way Is Essex  
Friday 25 April 2014 – Coffee Morning  
Thursday 22 May 2014 – FOSTAC AGM  
Friday 11 July 2014 – Its All In The Writing  
Saturday 16 August 2014 – Italian Evening

Saturday 13 September 2014 – Music Old and New  
Friday 17 October 2014 – Gunpowder and Plot  
Saturday 29 November 2014 – Antiques with Michael Bowles  
Friday 12 December 2014 – Christmas Concert

9 **Shalford Local History Association Gillian Askew**

Activities over the last year have included the Group continuing to catalogue and index its artefacts and archives. The display in the glass cabinet in the Village Hall, is now regularly updated by a member of the Group.

Further work has also been carried out to update the plan of St Andrew's graveyard, and a copy of the Headstone applications has also been added to the archives.

The History Group assisted the Shalford Primary School in judging their May Holmes Langford History Project for 2013. The subject for the project was "the Story of the oldest thing, or anything really really old in my home". This was a home based project for the children to start and complete during the 2013 Summer Term. The project was well received by Shalford School Children, and extra points were given for handwritten work.

The History Group will be contributing to the Diocese Centenary Celebrations on Saturday 24 May 2014 by presenting an extract from Syd Harvey's memoirs for the period of his service in 1917-1918.

Looking to the future – 'The group is in the early stages of planning a further local history book, for publication probably in 2015. In the meantime we shall bring out a new edition of the popular postcards of Shalford in past times.'

10 **Horticultural Society Gillian Askew**

Since the last report in May 2013 the SHS has run 2 successful shows and a well- attended quiz in January 2014.

We are a non-profit organisation but need an income to pay for stationery, hall hire and to fund the major prizes still awarded at each show.

Our biggest expense is the printing of 350 schedules which are delivered to every household in the Parish. We try to cover this cost by advertising local businesses but as yet have not achieved this and our funds continue to dwindle.

As with all village societies and clubs our existence is dependent on villagers' participation and while those is interested in the shows we will thrive.

The committee members look forward to successful shows in July and September which can only happen with our support and entries.

11 **Bendeloves Trust Alex Tanner**

Good Evening all and thank you for inviting me to say a few words. As the Chairman of the "Bendlowe" together with Mrs Jo Grove Smith, and the Rev Colin Wilson. The Vicar is a permanent appointment, but the other two are appointed by the parish council.

The Parish Website gives an outline of the trust and how fortunate the villagers were in olden times. The trust all but died twice in the last century. Once when the cottage on

pound hill, near the George was sold circa 1950 and again about 1990. After the cottage sale the trust provided coal for 2 elderly men and 2 elderly women of the parish at Christmas and this went into the 1980's. With funds from the sale of the Parish maps and one or two large donations from concerts etc the Trust has had circa £2500 in its funds for the last twenty years. In that time we have been given wheel-chairs, walking frames, bed tables and other care items. We can now offer these items to anyone in the Parish who may be disabled. We have our "regulars" with some items on long term. If anyone needs anything please contact Angela.

Over the years we have given out Electric Stamps or Pot plants at Christmas. Our clerk may just deliver a plant to someone ill or recently bereaved.

The August Tea was popular. We have tried coach trips, but several elderly people are no longer keen. They haven't done an event in the last year, only distributed a few plants i.e. Golden Wedding and bereavement. If anyone has any ideas on what we should be doing please let us know.

#### 10 **District Councillor Report**

For the second year the District Council has reduced the Council Tax. Cllr Tattersley thinks that the Braintree Area is heading for exciting times. Recycling is now 60% which is really good, the District Council is working with the County Council to increase this. The Braintree District is in the top 10 of cleanest districts in the country. With the refuse collection we have a 90% satisfaction rate, the district is more flexible than most councils they will pick up if the bins overflowing, they will get the bins from people who are unable to put the bins out.

The Local Development Framework it has come to the district attention that they are needing a lot more houses built in the area this is being looked at.

The Public Health Service the Preventative side has been passed on to districts, which highlights that the district has a large amount of hip fractures and Adult Obesity, it also shows that 81% of people are inactive. The New swimming Pool at Witham will be kitted out with hoist and ramps there is also a moveable floor in the pool. The pool will be used by the Sub aqua club and the canoe club. The pool should be finished at the end of the summer.

#### 11 **County Councillors Report**

BDC are very good at recycling some areas in the district have hardly any recycling, Braintree has a good system that works. County Council is building a new state of the art waste centre in Basildon

Essex favours composting technologies such as anaerobic digestion (AD), for source segregated organic wastes. AD is a form of biotreatment and produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity; Whilst County Council can work on reducing the amount of waste produced and recycling as much of it as possible, there will always be some waste that still needs to be disposed of. For this we propose to introduce new treatment plants using Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). MBT processes any 'black bag' waste and recovers further material for recycling. Part of the remaining material can either be manufactured into a fuel for energy production or can be sent to landfill.

£2 million for flood management across the county to help put in place protective measures at a time of unprecedented and prolonged bad weather. A further £1m of emergency funding has also been released to tackle road flooding across the county.

Work is still continuing around the impact of the new Care Bill, the biggest reform of adult social care since 1948, which is expected to receive Royal Assent in April 2014 with the bulk of changes taking place on 1 April 2015. The aims of the new Bill include:

- Promoting individual wellbeing by offering a wide range of good quality care and support services, giving people more control and choice
- Financial protection so everyone will know what they have to pay towards the cost of meeting their eligible needs for care and support
- People will be protected from having to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for any care home costs.

£500,000 to support young people looking for jobs through helping to provide an additional 260 Apprenticeships through the Essex Apprenticeship Programme – allowing a total of 515 new apprenticeships to be created under the programme during 2014/15 in key areas like engineering, digital technologies and care services.

12 Questions

There was no Questions

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....

Dated.....