Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999 DECEMBER 2017 PRICE 40p

The Story of Mistletoe



Choirs, Remembrance Day
Dr Hugh Oliver

CONTENTS			
Parish Council Minutes	1	The Garden Gang	27
Parish Council Tree Survey	2	WI	29
Planning Applications	2	Little Shelford Pantomime	30
Friends of Great Shelford Library	5	Shelford Country Market	30
Book Review	6	Shelford Garden Club	32
Parish Church	8	Granta Flower Club	32
Stapleford History Society	11	Editorial Committee Note	32
Playscape & SSYI Dig	11	Botanic Garden	33
Shelford Health Centre	13	Football Club	35
Free Church	14	Rugby Club	36
Shelford School	17	Arthur Rank Hospice	38
Telephone Box	19	Engage	38
Community Carols	19	Village News Questionnaire	40
Dr Hugh Oliver MBE	21	Subscribe to the Village News	40
Diary	22	What's On	42
Bin and Postal Collections	22	How to Contact the Village News	44
Magog Singers	23	Rainfall	48
Stapleford Choral Society	23	Local Organisations	
Remembrance Day	24	Shelford School Christmas Fair	
Shelford Twinning Association	26		

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL							
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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Summary from the draft minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017

Village Big Issues Presentation

The village consists of around 4,300 residents in 2,000 homes. Finances, outstanding projects, 2018/19 precept implications and Grange Field were discussed.

• The Parish Council's share of SCDC Council Tax, the Parish Precept, is 5.6%. The SCDC increase in Council Tax in 2016/17 was limited to 2%. The Parish Council's Parish Precept in 2016/17 was unchanged from the previous year, although there was no cap. The Parish Council produces a cautious budget for each year that is not always achieved due to many circumstances but most projects are carried forward with their projected expenditure into the following year. The Parish Council budgets and expenditure compare favourably with other surrounding Parish Councils. S106 funds and reserves are needed to increase the recreational space. A number of sites are being considered, including Grange Field.

Reports from representatives

- From 11 December all used paper should be placed directly in the blue wheelie bins.
- Community Chest grant awards have been made to Great Shelford Bowls Club and the Football Club.

Reports from standing committees

Highways

- Station Road work was expected to be completed on 23 October.
- Timescales for outstanding works, the final scheme for two flashing school lights and bus stop real time information displays are still awaited from CCC. Proposals to improve the junction of Granham's Road and Tunwell's Lane have been requested. A second speed indicator device should be in place soon. The Granham's Road level crossing will be closed from 00.30 to 07.30 on 10 December.

Recreation Ground

- Moving the boiler house into the Memorial Hall was discussed.
- The progress of the Masterplan was reviewed.
- Expenditure on the Recreation Ground Utility Services was approved.

Playscape

- The Fun Run final total was £5,500. Woodland plants have been ordered along with a bridge and stepping stones for the copse.
- SSYI are keen to help in any way with implementing the skate area, statistics for grant applications, blogs, fundraising events, etc.

Community Association

• The Parish Council lease with the Community Association is being reviewed and an audit of Health and Safety is underway for the Memorial Hall, Sports Club Room and Scout and Guide HQ. The Community Association Committee continues to provide excellent facilities for the village and to put time and effort into the smooth running of the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council should continue to provide as much support as possible.

Parish Council Tree Survey

A survey by a qualified arboriculturist has recently been undertaken of all the trees growing on land owned by the Parish Council.

Whilst the majority of the trees are healthy we have been advised that a false acacia (Robinia) on Freestone's Corner is infected by fungus with deep-seated decay and should be felled.

Two over-mature red horse chestnuts on the Memorial Green have deep decay with open wounds and are also recommended for felling.

In the cemetery an ash, cherry and horse chestnut, all with significant deepseated decay, are recommended for felling.

On all three sites the existing trees are mature and of a similar age. The Parish Council have taken advice on suitable replacement trees and will ensure locally sourced trees of an adequate size are planted in order to ensure long-term tree cover.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

S/2982/17/FL	Mrs Partridge	Single storey side extension and	
60	Cambridge Road	dormer in roof.	
No objections to single storey side and rear extensions but the proposed dormer is too			
large and will appear dominant and out of character with the existing semi-detached			
property and is therefore contrary to Policy D/P 2 of the approved Local Plan.			

S/3335/17/FL	Mr H Shareef	Masonry boundary wall.		
	184 Cambridge Road			
No objections as long as care is taken not to damage the roots of nearby trees when				
digging the footings of the wall.				

S/3889/17/FL	Mr Smith	Single storey rear extension.		
	30 Cambridge Road			
No objections.				
S/3446/17/FL	Mr and Mrs Fox 16 Elms Avenue	Two storey side extension and single storey front and side extension.		
All the side two storey extensions to properties in Elms Avenue have stepped down				

All the side two storey extensions to properties in Elms Avenue have stepped down roof lines so the extension is read as subservient to the main dwelling. This should also apply to this application so therefore object to the extension as it stands.

S/3631/17/FL	Mr and Mrs Cox 4 Woollards Lane	Alterations and single storey side extension.
No objections.		

		Double storey rear extension.		
	3 Caius Farm Cottages			
In view of a similar two storey extension to No. 2, no objections.				

S/3645/17/FL	Mr E Vallely	Vallely Change of use of shed to dog	
	11 Westfield Road	grooming unit.	
No objections but the working hours should be restricted to those marked on drawing			
PL101.			

S/3742/17/FL	Mr Blay Chandos Farm Cherry Hinton Road	Change of use from agricultural to car repairs.

The LPA did not object to the principle of change of use in the original application but refused it on highway grounds. Therefore we are happy to leave the decision to the Highways Authority.

S/3746/17/FL	Mr Smith	Removal of conservatory and
	9 Woodlands Road	erection of garden room.
No objections.		

S/3885/17/FL	Mrs Chen	Extension, conversion and	
	6 Red Hill Close	alterations.	
Although this is a large extension it is only a small increase on the existing footprint			
and should not adversely impact on neighbours therefore no objections.			

S/3480/17/FL Mr R Dean, Cambridge Road Three bed chalet style dwelling.

No objection in principle to a dwelling on the site but the footprint of the proposed building is too large for the site and will adversely impact on the amenities of 125 Cambridge Road. We would prefer to see a revised design and information that drainage issues can be sorted out. Should there be an ownership certificate relating to the land across which the drive passes which is not in the ownership of the applicant?



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FRIENDS OF GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY

User survey highlights and update

I am delighted to report that the recent user survey received 404 responses, which is a quite exceptional response rate. Thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to respond. Full results will be available at our AGM at the library on **30 January 2018** – please note the date!

As expected most respondents came from (in order) Great Shelford, Stapleford, Harston, Little Shelford, Trumpington, Whittlesford and Hauxton, but also from 11 other villages and from Cambridge.

Most comments were hugely enthusiastic about the library – for example, when asked to state how much they valued the library the average score was 9.35/10. This is a powerful level of support for the library as it is and for having a professional librarian, with much praise for Rosemary. Contrary to many people's opinion of Great Shelford, the largest group of respondents were in the 31–65 age bracket, and not the over 65s!

A number of respondents asked that the library provide more activities for children and adults. The Friends Committee is actively discussing this with Councillors and the Library Service to see how we can make this happen.

At a time when we are facing an uncertain future (how many times I have said that!) it is very reassuring to see that from our survey over 80% of respondents were prepared to pay something extra towards the cost of maintaining the library, if required. This included several respondents who do not use the library themselves but see it as an essential community resource.

The majority of respondents stated that they would support an increase in the Parish Council Precept and many added that this should apply to **all** the surrounding villages too. However a significant proportion stated that they pay enough council taxes already.

Also 64% of respondents were willing to lobby councillors/the local MP to protect the future of the library.

National Libraries Week

We raised £350 from the book sale so thanks very much if you took part. We also had a very interesting and well-attended talk from Helen Harwood entitled "The ties that bind us: a look at the village community past and present".

Finally, we're not yet on 'action stations' to dig deeper into our pockets or to man (person?) the barricades but please keep watching for updates.

BOOK REVIEW The Jack Reacher novels by Lee Child



Jack Reacher is a loner with a capacity for considerable violence and an ability to analyse his world in forensic detail. He's big, broad, strong and calculating. Rather than having a flat and a wardrobe he has no base, buys and discards clothes rather than washing them, moves on

as the whim takes him, stopping only to right the wrongs he sees around him. And he sees a lot of wrongs.

Jack is an ex-army military policeman now using his army talents as a vigilante, having turned his back on army discipline and regularity. He is a combination of Sherlock Holmes sleuth, Superman and Lone Ranger righteousness, and Clint Eastwood drifter, which drives him to solve problems with a combination of intelligence and raw violence – then leave without saying goodbye and without consequences.

Lee Child (surprisingly, an Englishman) writes the US-based Jack Reacher stories and each one of the 22 stories is a page-turner. Sometimes the only way to get unhooked from the narrative is to stop in mid-chapter before the suspense at the end of the chapter is revealed!

The violence is quite graphic and won't appeal to everyone, but it's almost in the style of an action comic – 'Biff! Pow! Crrrack!' – and the perfectly aimed kicks and punches delivered at breathtaking speed owe something to cartoons or video games, though they are effective nonetheless.

On the other hand Jack is gentle with women, kind to children and to anyone who has been unjustly treated, and many will have a sneaking admiration for his effectiveness in disposing of baddies. His skill in analysing evidence and observing behaviour makes him a match for any detective, and as he travels across the USA righting wrongs we learn something of the inward-looking lives and social pressures of people in isolated townships.

Read any one of these thrillers and, like me, you could get unexpectedly hooked. The books might best be read chronologically, which means starting with *Killing Floor* then *Die Trying*, or you could enter his world through the collection of Jack Reacher short stories *No Middle Name*. Lee Child's books are available at Shelford Library and there should be more on their way because he has written a new Jack Reacher book every year since 1997 (two in 2010). *The Midnight Line* was published in November 2017.

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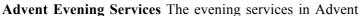
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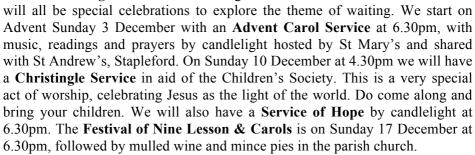
www.stmarysgreatshelford.org

A very warm welcome to your historic parish church – please call in and enjoy the sacred space.

Annual Toy Collection Our annual toy collection for the Salvation Army will be on Sunday 3 December. If toys are wrapped, please label by age group, boy/girl.

Vicarage 'Open House' There will be **Open House** at the Vicarage on Friday 22 December 12noon–2pm and 6–9pm with seasonal refreshments. **Everyone** is welcome.





Christmas Services

You will be very welcome at all our services over the Christmas season and please do encourage friends and visitors to come along.

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 8am – there is no Parish Communion at 10am.

Crib Service 4.30pm – for children and the young at heart, a simple re-telling of the Christmas story with traditional carols.

'Midnight' Parish Communion 11pm – the first service of Christmas, with carols, sermon and Holy Communion.

Christmas Day

Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 8am – a said service in traditional language with a short sermon.

Parish Communion 10am – our main service for Christmas morning with carols, sermon and Holy Communion.

There is no evening service.

Harvest Festival and Gift Day Appeal – Thank You!

A sincere thank you to the many people who offered their pledges during the Gift Day on Sunday 1 October. The **final total raised was £9,469**. The figure includes the anonymous donation of £5,000. This is a most generous boost to our finances.

St Mary's Toddler Group

For children from 0 to 3 years of age with their parents/carers, meeting on Thursday in the Community Room 9.30–11.30am (term time only.) Contact details from Gillian Pett – gillian.pett29@gmail.com

From the Registers

Baptism: 1 November. Stephanie Richards

Nadia Schoenmakers

Confirmation 1 November. Jessica Baker, Stephanie Richards,

Nadia Schoenmakers

Funeral: 20 November. Bob Hennessy

Regular Services

Daily: 9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday: 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) Sunday: 8am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

10am Parish Communion, our main Sunday service

6.30pm Evensong (BCP 1662)

For further information about Great Shelford Parish Church

visit our website: www.stmarysgreatshelford.org
Priest in Charge: The Revd Simon Talbott 01223 847068 or 0705 0042616 or email vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org

Assistant Curate: The Revd Monica Cameron 01223 779780 or 07985 304860 or email curate@stmarysgreatshelford.org

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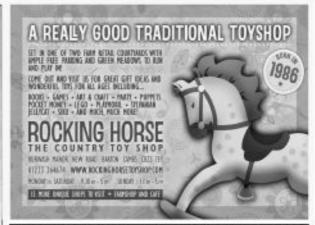
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STAPLEFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Shaken not Stirred: 12 December 2017

For our December meeting, Nick Pett will be talking about cocktails – how the fashion for cocktails has developed, the ingredients and flavours, the paraphernalia for making the preparation and serving into a spectacle. He has promised some 'handling opportunities'.

At Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion at 7.45pm on 12 December. All welcome. Admission is free to History Society members, or £3 on the door.

PLAYSCAPE & SSYI DIG FOR SPRING COLOUR



On the last Saturday of half-term we met to plant 500 bluebell bulbs in the copse and a range of native plants. Primroses, wood sage, hairy St John's wort and wild garlic were planted amongst the bluebells, and hedgerow plants such as betony, red campion and upright hedge parsley went into the long grass under the trees. The bluebells may be shy to flower in their first year, but the splash of blue should be worth the wait!

Thanks to the grants from the Co-op and the SCDC Community Chest we can also introduce new crossing points over the ditch: the bridge and stepping stones have been ordered and will be installed soon.

Drink and Be Merry! We'll be serving mulled wine, mince pies and running a barbecue at the Christmas Lights Switch-On, Saturday 2 December from 6pm, so please do come along to support this festive village event. Merry Christmas!

Eleanor McCrone info@shelfordplayscape.org www.shelfordplayscape.org



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SHELFORD HEALTH CENTRE CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES AND SERVICES

We will be providing care as usual over the holiday period, only shutting for the bank holidays.

Wednesday 20 December Open 8am–6pm (including INR clinic

10am-12.30pm)

Thursday 21 December Open 8am–6pm **Friday 22 December** Open 8am–6pm

Monday 25 DecemberCLOSEDTuesday 26 DecemberCLOSED

Wednesday 27 December Open 8am–6pm (including INR clinic

10am-12.30pm)

Thursday 28 December Open 8am–6pm **Friday 29 December** Open 8am–6pm

Monday 1 January CLOSED

Tuesday 2 January Open 8am–6pm

When the surgery is closed, there are local GPs on call at the local urgent care centre at Addenbrooke's. If you need to be seen by a doctor or nurse, or need advice while the surgery is closed, please call 111. This service operates between 6.30pm and 8am on weekdays and 24 hours at weekends and on bank holidays. It is free to call from mobile phones and landlines. Your condition will be assessed over the phone and if they think you need to be seen by a health professional, they will refer you to the out-of-hours GP service.

Additionally, you can treat minor winter illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home. Make sure you are stocked up with winter health essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cold and cough remedies, a first-aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, and heartburn/indigestion treatment.

Repeat Prescriptions

Please ensure you have enough medication to cover the holiday period: ordering what you need in good time is the most stress-free approach for all, allowing three working days for the practice to process your request and two working days for your nominated pharmacy to dispense it. We are happy to issue two months' supply to cover Christmas and the New Year. Please mark your request 'double' if you would like this.

All that is left to say is that all of us at Shelford Medical Practice wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Sandra East



FREE CHURCH

'Through the son'

During the American Civil War, as a result of a family tragedy, a soldier was granted permission to seek a hearing from the President. He wanted to request exemption from military service. However, when he arrived at the White House, he was refused entry and sent away. He went and sat in a nearby park.

A young boy came across him and remarked how unhappy he looked. The soldier found himself telling the young boy everything. Eventually the boy said, 'Come with me.' He led the dejected soldier back to the White House. They went around the back, none of the guards stopped them. Even the generals and high-ranking government officials stood to attention and let them pass through.

The soldier was amazed. Finally, they came to the presidential office. Without knocking, the young boy opened the door and walked straight in. Abraham Lincoln, standing there, turned from his conversation with the Secretary of State and said, 'What can I do for you, Tad?'

Tad said, 'Dad, this soldier needs to talk to you.'

access to God 'through the son'

The soldier had access to the President 'through the son'.



This is the message of Christmas. Jesus, God's Son, came to give us

Abraham Lincoln and his son. Tad by Anthony Berger, photographer, Brady National Photographic Art Gallery (Washington, D.C.)

From everyone at GSFC, we wish you a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at one of our services sometime soon.

SERVICES AT GREAT SHELFORD FREE CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – SERVICES AT 10.30AM

You are most welcome to join us Refreshments are served in the hall after the service

Christmas activities during December

Friday 1 December 11am-12 noon 'Rejoicing at the Royal Birth' Saturday 2 December At the Christmas Lights Switch-On Celebration at Great Shelford Memorial Hall, we will be hosting 'The Big Picture', a chance to dress up, have your picture taken and be a part of the nativity scene (costumes will be provided).

Sunday 3 December 3.30–5pm 3T Christmas Crafts, a time for family fun, with different Christmas-themed craft activities. There will be seasonal refreshments and an opportunity to pause and reflect on the good news of the birth of Jesus.

Friday 8 December 11am-12 noon Communion Service and Carols Tuesday 12 December 12.15pm Coffee Pot/Call Inn joint Christmas lunch Sunday 17 December 10.30am All Age Carol Service, a nativity service for all the family.

Sunday 24 December 10.30am-12 noon Morning Worship Service **5–6pm Candlelit Carol Service** followed by seasonal refreshments. **Christmas Day Service 10.30am**

CHILDREN'S WEEKLY/TERMLY ACTIVITIES

10 30-11 30am

Children aged 3–10 years in the Main Hall Youth Activities School Year 6 + in the Loft Games, craft activities & Bible stories Have fun and meet new friends

Kids Club on Sunday

Wednesdays Little Steps 10am-12 noon Toddlers aged 0-3 years with carers Tiny Toes 1.30-3.30pm

Babies under 1 year and their carers

Term Time Only - After School Club activities

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SHELFORD SCHOOL

As school opened after half-term we were pleased to welcome Miss Bachewich, who joins us to teach Year 2.

We are also delighted that our School Caterer, Tracey Alderman, has been awarded Cambridgeshire Caterer of the Year. Tracey and her team provide a high standard of lunches every day and throughout the year introduce special menus such as the Bonfire Lunch which was enjoyed recently and the ever popular Christmas Lunch.

A regular highlight, International Day, took place on 1 November. This year the theme was 'Food Around the World'. Mr and Mrs Wilkinson from Shelford Delicatessen came to run a Fairtrade Assembly where they demonstrated how chocolate actually gets to us. The children were surprised to learn that not everyone gets paid fairly; for example a farmer was very poorly paid and could not afford to educate and feed his family. However once Fairtrade was established he and many other farmers around the world received a better deal. Later Reception and KS1 children met Pablo the Super Banana and KS2 did some exciting work about the banana industry.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their day as can be seen from the following comments:

'I liked it when we learned about Pablo the Super Banana and I liked the supply chain in Assembly.' *Oscar, Year 2*

'I really enjoyed Mr and Mrs Wilkinson's assembly and now I take more care with my food after I saw how much work was put in. I now see that it's not always about me, but for the people who are not as fortunate as us. I think that spending 5p extra is worth it because, just think, that 5p could save lives!' *Maisie, Year 5*

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Wilkinson for their contribution and to Mrs Unwin for organising the whole day.

Although the latter part of this term involves practising for the Christmas celebrations, the staff and children still continue their excellent academic work. This makes it a very busy time but everyone really enjoys thinking of the real meaning of Christmas; first we have the Early Years and KS1 Nativity Play; look out for all the traditional characters and perhaps some which are more unexpected. It is then KS2 Carols by Candlelight, which takes place at our local village church. In addition the choir will be singing Christmas carols at the David Rayner Cancer Care Christmas meal.

To get a flavour of these events come along to hear KS2 singing at the Great Shelford Christmas Lights Switch-On on 2 December and the PTA Christmas Fair on 9 December from 2pm to 4.30pm.

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TELEPHONE BOX

The First Christmas

Children: Hello Mum, we are very excited because tomorrow is Christmas

Day.

Mum: You need to get some sleep.

Children: Please can you tell us a story?

Mum: I could tell you the story of The First Christmas.

Children: Yes please.

Mum: A long, long time ago the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to have a special baby. Soon after, she had to go on a long journey to Bethlehem with

Joseph.

When they arrived in Bethlehem it was so busy that there was nowhere for them to stay. A kind innkeeper offered them a stable to stay in. Baby Jesus was born in the stable. Some angels appeared to a group of shepherds and said 'A special baby has been born in a stable, you must go to Bethlehem.' They went to Bethlehem and gave Baby Jesus the gift of a sheep. Three Wise Men saw a bright star in the sky. They followed it to Bethlehem and gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Children: Thank you for telling us the story Mum, good night.

Mum: Good night. Year 1

COMMUNITY CAROLS WITH LOCAL MUSICIANS WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 7–8pm

Outside Great Shelford Memorial Hall, inside if wet. Carol sheets supplied. Free light seasonal refreshments plus tea and coffee to follow in the hall. Contributions to SSYI and Mobile Wardens scheme.

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wishing to play in our 'one off' local band please contact Chris Cooper: 01223 842127 iis.cooper@ntlworld.com

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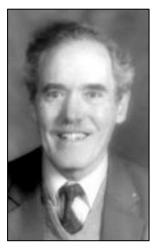
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DR HUGH OLIVER MBE

On 13 October the Free Church was full to the rafters to give thanks for the life of Dr Hugh Walter Latham Oliver, who died on 27 September aged 87. Many residents of Shelford will remember Hugh as their GP for many years, both as a locum in the late 1950s, before his long service as Medical Superintendent at the Mengo Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, and later, after he returned to Shelford in 1976. At Mengo he specialised in obstetrics and dedicated himself to the people there in many other ways, too. On his return from Uganda, he joined Dr Robin Church in partnership at 45 Tunwells Lane and then led the practice with many other colleagues at the new Health Centre. His association with

Mengo Hospital continued throughout his life.

Hugh was born in Wales in 1930, and educated at King's College School and Shrewsbury School before qualifying as a doctor at the London Hospital. His family joked at the thanksgiving service about his dilemma about who to support in Rugby internationals. His compromise was to favour the Welsh on the rugby pitch, but to support the England cricket team to the hilt as well! His Christian faith was the bedrock of his life. His eldest son David characterised his faith by quoting the canticle 'Christ as a light, illumine and guide me. Christ as a shield overshadow me. Christ under me. Christ over me, on my left and on my right.' He was indeed a great man of faith and served as an elder of the Free Church under Rev Jonathan Burrough, who led the service of thanksgiving with Hugh's family.

Hugh's commitment to Jesus Christ was the reason for his lifetime of service to others and his ability to meet all kinds of challenges, trials and personal difficulties with courage and great wisdom. Many people have reason to be grateful for the hospitality he and Gwen showed at their home. Hugh's family was more important to him than anything apart from his faith

Hugh's family was more important to him than anything apart from his faith. He met his wife Gwen at the London Hospital, where she was a nurse. She waited for him during his two years national service in Hong Kong, and they married in 1957. They were blessed with six children, all of whom, with their spouses and children, took part in the thanksgiving service on 13 October and spoke movingly and with great love for their father. Hugh and Gwen celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary about three weeks before Hugh died. 'A good character is the best tombstone ... Carve your name on hearts not on marble' (Charles Spurgeon). That is what Hugh Walter Latham Oliver did, and he will be long and lovingly remembered.

DIARY DECEMBER 2017

Date	Event	Time	Place
2	Stapleford–Nachingwea Christmas Fair	9.30am	Memorial Hall
2	Christmas Lights Switch-On Celebration	6pm	Memorial Hall
2	Magog Singers (page 23)	7.30pm	St Andrew's Stapleford
5	Magog Singers (page 23)	3pm	Stapleford Pavilion
7	Carpet Bowls	7pm	Memorial Hall
7	WI Meeting and Christmas Party (page 29)	7.30pm	All Saints' North Room
9	Shelford School PTA Christmas Fair (back cover)	2pm	Shelford School
12	Granta Flower Club (page 32)	7pm	Memorial Hall
12	Stapleford History Society (page 11)	7.45pm	Stapleford Pavilion
12	Shelford Garden Club talk (page 32)	7.30pm	Shelford School
14	Carpet Bowls	7pm	Memorial Hall
16	Stapleford Choral Society (page 23)	7.30pm	St Andrew's Stapleford
17,19	Rehearsals for Community Carols (page 19)	7.30pm	Free Church
20	Community Carols (page 19)	7pm	Memorial Hall
		12noon	
22	Vicarage 'Open House' (page 8)	& 6pm	St Mary's Vicarage

The Country Market is in the Memorial Hall each Wednesday, 8.30–11.30am except on 27 December and 3 January 2018.



BIN COLLECTIONS (TUESDAYS)

Black bins 5 and 19 December

Green and blue bins 12 December **Blue bins** 28 December *Place paper directly in blue bin. Caddies are not collected.*



POSTAL COLLECTIONS

Collections from most local post boxes are between 4pm and 5pm weekdays, 9am–9.45am Saturdays.



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MAGOG SINGERS



On Friday 3 November the Magog Singers took part in a concert with the French choir, *Le Choeur des Aulnes*, from the Shelford twinned village of Verneuil-en-Halatte. It started with a fine bell-ringing welcome, followed by a very enjoyable selection of pieces, and was very well attended.

The Magog Singers' next performance will

be jointly with the Friends of St Andrews, Stapleford, and will take place on Saturday 2 December at 7.30pm. The programme will include many pieces performed in November, but with some added Christmas pieces.

The final performance for this term will be on Tuesday 5 December at 3pm at the Jubilee Pavilion, Gog Magog Way in Stapleford. There is no entrance fee but there will be a retiring collection for a local charity. You are invited to join us for tea and mince pies afterwards.

Our Musical Director Jacquie McBride has chosen a wide range of music for the term, including music by John Rutter and Thomas Morley, along with songs from *The Lord of the Rings* and Disney's *Pocahontas*. We are very much enjoying the rehearsals and trust that we will provide enjoyable concerts on both occasions. For further information contact:

 $Kathleen. foreman@ntlworld.com\\ graham.bush@ntlworld.com\\$

STAPLEFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor: Adam Pounds



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Photos Duncan Grey

Remembrance Day, Sunday 12 November 2017

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SHELFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Choir visit from Verneuil 3–5 November

Shortly before 4pm on Friday 3 November a huge white coach disgorged its passengers outside the Free Church – 38 members of *Le Choeur des Aulnes* (*aulnes* =alders) including five non-singers, and also of course the coach driver who is now well known to us having brought twinning groups over for the last four or five years. I think they had been singing most of the way as they were in high spirits and this set the tone for the weekend. We collected our guests and took them home for tea and cake before taking them to St Mary's Church, Great Shelford for a pre-concert rehearsal with a local choir, the Magog Singers, followed by the concert at 7pm. It was wonderful to hear the church bells ringing beforehand, thanks to the generous bellringers who offered their services.

Penny Pearl of the Shelford Twinning Association introduced the choirs. speaking in French and English. The programme had been agreed in advance between the two choir leaders. The Magog Singers included works by Michael Praetorius, Thomas Morley, a song from *The Lord of the Rings*, another from Pocahontas, and an amusing French song: Mon Coq est Mort. The two choirs then joined together to sing For the beauty of the earth by John Rutter. The French choir chose Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Offenbach and a hilarious song by Purcell entitled Chœur du peuple du froid for which the singers donned woolly hats, scarves and gloves – and shivered! They had prepared an encore: The Rhythm of Life from the musical Sweet Charity sung very fast and with great aplomb. It was all wonderful and at the end wine and nibbles were served at the back of the church. As I recalled from the previous visit of the French choir, exactly ten years ago to the day, they have a habit of spontaneously breaking into song, encouraged by their enthusiastic leader, Béatrice, and this evening was no exception. Afterwards the French returned to their hosts for a late supper and bed.

By Saturday morning the rain had set in and plans to visit Saffron Walden were abandoned in favour of the Degas exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum. This was a popular decision and everyone happily spent the morning there, by which time the rain had eased up and everyone split into groups to go and find somewhere to have lunch, after which there was time for a short stroll round the city centre to show our visitors a few of the colleges before returning in the coach to Stapleford School for a rehearsal for the evening's performance, this time with the Stapleford Choral Society.

The French choir repeated their programme of the Friday evening but with more élan, no doubt as they were feeling more at home by then. The Stapleford Choral Society, accompanied by a small orchestra, selected pieces by Purcell, Elgar, Bruckner, Brahms and two compositions by the choir's director, Adam

Pounds. The choirs combined for the finale: part of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The applause was stupendous.

After speeches and an exchange of gifts, an extensive buffet supper, provided by the hosts and members of the Stapleford Choral Society, was served by the committee members of the Shelford Twinning Association, followed by more spontaneous singing by the French! The hosts were sad to wave off their friends, some old, some new, on Sunday morning.

It is a special feature of twinning visits that we always stay in homes, not hotels or B&Bs, so we are extremely grateful to our host families for looking after our visitors so well during the weekend. It was especially pleasing that hospitality for this visit was offered by both present and former members of the Twinning Association, and by members of the choirs as well. We thank them all. Congratulations to the Twinning Associations, in Shelford and Verneuil, for organising this treat for all those who took part, hosts, choirs and hangers-on ... and a huge thank you to both the local choirs who enthusiastically entered into the spirit of the occasion.

Judy Boothroyd



THE GARDEN GANG

I would like to thank all the wonderful members of my Garden Gang for turning out month after month to work on the village's flowerbeds. Their patient and careful work has worked wonders everywhere. Together we've laboured through the coldest days of winter (horrible!) and the hottest of summer (much too hot!). The beds we took on in the High Street now look much nicer, and once the plants grow to their full size we should have a lovely display. We've also done work on Freestone's Corner and up at the cemetery. We have now hung up our boots for the winter, and are taking a break till January. We'll back next year working more horticultural magic round the village. Many thanks!

Helen Harwood

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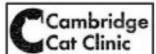
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WI



On Friday 20 October The Shelfords WI hosted a well-attended evening for the local group of WIs in Shelford Memorial Hall. The speaker was Dr Samantha Williams from the Faculty of History at Cambridge University and her talk was entitled 'The Georgian Child Support Agency'. Samantha first explained that she would be using the term

'bastard' a great deal, and that we should not be offended as historically it has been used as a legal term.

She went on to tell us that the first official recognition of the need to assist unmarried mothers began with legislation as early as 1576. Samantha gave a very illuminating talk on a subject about which most of us knew very little. It was obvious that she is passionate about the research she does on the subject and she has combined this into a book about unmarried motherhood in the 18th century which is due to be published next year.

We continued with a historical theme at our regular meeting on Thursday 2 November when Vanessa Mann gave a fascinating talk entitled 'It's on the cards – "tweets" from another era'. Vanessa collects postcards from Edwardian times and uses them as a starting point to research the lives of the senders and recipients. In some cases she has even been able to contact their descendants and give them the postcard from their relative. In a time when there were up to seven postal deliveries per day postcards really were like today's social network exchanges and provide tantalising glimpses of everyday life. Even the angles at which the stamps were fixed had their own, often romantic, messages. We really enjoyed passing the cards around, deciphering the handwriting and hearing what had been discovered about the writers, who could never have imagined that their messages would be studied in this way.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7 December and will be our Christmas Party featuring handbell ringing and simple Christmas flower arranging.

New members and visitors are always very welcome. Do come and join us on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30 p.m. in the North Room behind All Saints' Church in Little Shelford.

For more information see www.theshelfordswi.wordpress.com





Frozen meets Hans Christian Andersen (with occasional interruptions for weather updates) in Little Shelford Pantomime's performance of **The Snow Queen**.

Trolls, ice elves and a robber band try to prevent Gerda from rescuing Kay, while a talking reindeer, a pair of wacky grandparents and lots of friends are on hand to help.

Will the Snow Queen get her wicked way or will LOVE conquer all? Come and find out!

Tickets (£7 adults, £5 concessions) on sale from 1 December 2017 from Gillian Cooke (842616), Sarah Coppendale (842498), Suzanne Donovan (871329) or Laura Moss (846255).

Performances: in Little Shelford Memorial Hall on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 January 2018 at 7 pm, and Friday 12 and Saturday 13 January at 7.30pm.

SHELFORD COUNTRY MARKET



Christmas is creeping up far too quickly. With just three markets in December we are preparing for well-stocked stalls – baking, preserves and free-range eggs, plants and seasonal foliage and crafts. Everything you find will be home-made or home-grown or hand-crafted. With so many varied crafts, the

craft section should not be missed.

It's best to order fast-selling lines like cakes and mince pies – 6 December for Christmas cakes and 13 December for mince pies. Please order either at the market or phone me on 843946.

To all our customers and friends, thank you for supporting us throughout the year. We shall be look forward to seeing you on **10 January** when we re-open after our Christmas and New Year break. We wish you a Happy Christmas!

The Country Market is in the Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane every Wednesday morning from 8.30am to 11.30am, except on 27 December and 3 January 2018.

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SHELFORD GARDEN CLUB FUN WITH HERBACEOUS PLANTS A TALK BY RICHARD AYRES MBE TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER SHELFORD SCHOOL HALL Christmas refreshments and mulled wine from 7.30pm with talk at 8pm There will also be a Christmas Raffle

GRANTA FLOWER CLUB

Granta Flower Club are holding their Christmas demonstration entitled 'Christmas is coming' by Lesley Sturdy on Tuesday 12 December 2017 at Great Shelford Memorial Hall Doors open 7pm. Admission £5 including mulled wine and mince pies. Visitors are very welcome.

NOTE

The Great Shelford Village News is published by the Editorial Committee, whose members are delighted to receive the many regular and occasional contributions that make it all possible. The Committee accepts such contributions in good faith, but cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of information contained therein. The Committee, of necessity, reserves the right to amend or reject items, for a variety of reasons. In these cases (unless the changes are minor), every reasonable effort will be made to contact the contributor to obtain agreement.

Editorial Committee

BOTANIC GARDEN

Fancy a kiss ...?

Viscum album, or mistletoe, really comes to the forefront of our minds when it is brought into our homes for the Christmas tradition of kissing beneath the mistletoe. There is far more though to this curious plant than this muchheralded tradition.

A native of the British Isles, mistletoe occurs in southern England, Wales and the Borders. Viscum album is prevalent in areas with a mild climate and suitable woody hosts, and it is particularly associated with the orchard-growing counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Mistletoe is a hemi-parasitic species meaning that it carries out photosynthesis but also obtains nutrients and water from its host. Frequent hosts include apple, hawthorn, lime, and poplar. It will grow on more unusual hosts such as witch hazel (Hamamelis spp.) and handkerchief tree (Davidia involucrata), as at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Viscum album is a dioecious species. having separate berryless male and fruiting female plants, and requires both male and female plants to produce fruits. It is spread from tree to tree by birds (and especially mistle thrushes). Perceived wisdom suggested that the seed needed to be passed through birds and deposited in bark fissures. It is this aspect of the plant which led to its common name of mistletoe. *Mistel* derives from an Old German word *mist*, meaning dung, and *toe* from the Old English word tan, meaning twig. It is now accepted that neither of these is necessary, and that the seeds are sticky enough to secure themselves to the bark's surface. until its hypocotyl (stem beneath the stalks of the seed leaves) emerges. It is an especially distinct plant, forming a mass of paired, lime-green, veined leaves. Translucent, white berries sit at the union of a pair of leaves.

Mistletoe growing on sacred trees has long been held in high esteem by druids, who believed it warded off evil spirits, and considered that it brought both good luck and fertility. It is this paganistic link which resulted in the banning of mistletoe from many parish churches. Having no roots, nor obvious food source, it was regarded as magical during the Medieval Age. Its ability to remain green-leaved throughout the year, while other plants defoliated, further added to the intrigue. During this period concoctions containing mistletoe were used to treat epilepsy and tumours and the plant was believed to deter witches. It was also widely regarded as a fertility symbol and aphrodisiac, and ladies tied a sprig of mistletoe around their waist or wrist to increase fertility. This association with fertility did not stop at humans, with rituals evolving to improve soil fertility.

In Herefordshire the practice of 'Burning the Bush' was widely adopted. Orbs of mistletoe and hawthorn were constructed, and these were set alight and dragged across fields to purify the ground and increase crop yields.



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VILLAGE NEWS 35

In neighbouring Worcestershire mistletoe was hung with other greenery to decorate doorways and hallways, and it is from this origin that the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe began.

Mistletoe is more obvious during the winter months silhouetted against the sky amongst the leafless limbs of deciduous trees.

Cambridge University Botanic Garden will be closed from 4pm on Saturday 23 December and will re-open on Tuesday 2 January at 10am. For details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and the latest information about upcoming events visit www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 336265.

FOOTBALL CLUB



After what was for them a very mediocre previous month, the first team hit top form again with four straight wins. They kicked off with an impressive 5–1 home win against in-form Cambridge University Press in the first round of the Cambridgeshire Challenge Cup and this was followed by an even more impressive performance in the 8–0 demolition of another previously

in-form team, Comberton United, at home in the league. Games against Linton Granta are usually close encounters and the away league clash was no exception. Linton took a first half lead in what turned out to be a very hard-fought game but two late goals from Mason Newman earned what could turn out to be three very valuable points. The month ended with the team progressing to the third round of the Challenge Cup courtesy of a comfortable 5–1 home against Gamlingay United.

The reserve team maintained their good early season form and kicked off their Cambridgeshire Junior Challenge Cup campaign with a 3–2 away win against Whittlesford United Reserves. They finally had a home fixture the following week, but after opening up a 2-goal lead against Mott Macdonald FC they managed to concede three goals from set pieces to drop their first league points of the season. It was back on the road again for their final fixture of the month and a 4–1 win against Gamlingay United Reserves saw them progress to the third round of the Junior Challenge Cup and continue what has been an impressive campaign so far.

There are home matches on most Saturday afternoons so why not come along and support your local club. Refreshments for Mums, Dads, young and old are on sale in the Pavilion during first team matches, and the clubroom above the Memorial Hall will be open for a drink after games. Everyone is welcome.



RUGBY CLUB

We are almost halfway through the playing season and are still fielding five adult men's squads and the ladies' squad most weeks, plus nearly 400 minis and youth members filling Davey Field every Sunday.

Our aim is to progress players to reach their full potential and with five adult male teams there is room for all. Kieran Hatter made his debut for the 1st XV in the Guernsey game recently. Kieran has been playing his rugby at Shelford since he was five years old and played in all 12 mini and youth age groups, only graduating from the Colts last season – yet another example of the Club's successful mini and youth set-up.

Ladies Rugby

The Shelford Ladies are always looking to strengthen their squad so if you are an experienced player or just fancy giving rugby a go, please contact Lizell Heather (lizellheather@yahoo.co.uk).

Social Events

Saturday 9 December

DJ Pablo Escobud and guests at Shelford Ibiza Nights (Christmas Party) – 7.30pm to midnight. There is more information on the website.

Saturday 20 January

Shelford will be hosting Northampton Saints U18 v Saracens U18 on the 3G pitch at 12 noon. This will be followed by the 1st XV's game against Sidcup.

Touch Judge

We are still looking for someone to run the touchline during 1st XV games. Currently this usually falls to one of the players on the bench when they should be focusing on their part in the game. If you are interested or would like to discuss this further, please contact Greg Hind <code>greghind131@hotmail.co.uk</code>

Bar Staff

We are always looking for people to help behind the bar. This is usually at weekends but can be at other times. Please contact Gemma Renton *gemrenton@gmail.com* for more information.

Anyone interested in joining Shelford's playing teams is always welcome. If you have some free time on a Saturday and want to watch rugby, please check out the fixtures on the website and come along – food is available and the bar is open. For more details on the events and the club in general please look at the website: www.shelfordrugby.co.uk

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ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE

CELEBRATION EVENING AFTER MOMENTOUS YEAR



It has been a milestone year for the Arthur Rank Hospice, which moved from Mill Road in Cambridge into its new home in Shelford Bottom on 11 November 2016. A Celebration Evening was held in the Hospice's Bistro and Education and Conference Centre on 11 October. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the changes made possible by the move, and say thank you to the staff and hundreds of

dedicated volunteers who make very real differences to patients, their loved ones and supporters, every day of the year.

Canapés were served and there was a musical introduction to proceedings from Cloud 9. Dr Lynn Morgan (CEO) spoke, acknowledging that during the last year 'We have asked more of our volunteers than ever' before Liz Webb (Director of Clinical Services) read out poignant letters from family members of patients cared for at the Hospice. The letters illustrated how the personally-tailored care and warmth offered by staff and volunteers have a real impact not only for the individuals cared for, but their entire families.

Special guest Cllr Peter Topping, leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, presented 21 volunteers with long service awards; those applauded help with everything from gardening to day therapy activities, manning the charity shops to driving patients in and out of appointments, marshalling support at fundraising events to assisting on the Inpatient Unit.

If you can help, contact Vipra on 01223 675872 or vipra.jain@arhc.org.uk

ENGAGE AT GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY



There is no talk in December but Engage is back on Wednesday 24 January at 2pm with a talk by Annie James, 'The Life and Times of Madam Geneva – the 18th Century Gin Craze'.

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VILLAGE NEWS QUESTIONNAIRE

Ten years ago, we circulated a questionnaire to collect our readers' views and feedback on the *Village News*. We would like to do this once more and would be grateful if you could complete the enclosed questionnaire. We'd be particularly interested in suggestions for additional content.

You can leave the completed form in the library in the box provided or return it to Clare Ward with your subscription. If you prefer, you may scan the form and send it to <code>gsvneditorial@gmail.com</code> or just email us a summary of your views, using the numbers on the form.

The Editorial Team

SUBSCRIBE TO THE *VILLAGE NEWS* IN 2018 AND GET 2 ISSUES FREE!

If you enjoy reading the magazine every month why not ensure you get your copy by subscribing to the *Village News* and have it delivered to your door? The subscription for 12 issues (January to December) is just £4 for residents in Great Shelford, Little Shelford and Stapleford. The price of the magazine in the shops is 40p so subscribers get 2 issues free.

Maybe you live away from the village but want to keep in touch. For subscribers living outside Great Shelford, Little Shelford and Stapleford please add £9.75 to cover postage and packing (making £13.75 in total).

Please send your payment with the subscription form, inserted with this issue, or just send £4 (or £13.75 if resident outside Great Shelford, Little Shelford or Stapleford) with your name and full address to GSVN, c/o 26 London Rd, Great Shelford, CB22 5DD.

Please make cheques payable to **Great Shelford Village News**.

To ensure you get your January copy promptly please send your form and payment by 21 December. For payments made after this date the January issue will be delivered as soon as possible after receipt of payment.



Do you want more control over your business accounts, or want to organise your personal tax situation more effectively?

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> To arrange an informal chat or a meeting please contact us at:

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

A round-up of what's on at some of the venues near us. For more information, times, ticket prices and bookings, please contact the organisation. Please note that this information can be subject to change and events may already be fully booked.

CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE			
30 Nov–7 Jan	Jack and the Beanstalk with Tony Christie as the King of Amarillo		
Telephone: 01223 503333 Web: www.cambridgeartstheatre.com			

SCOTSDALES					
2	2 10.30am Paint Your Own Ceramic 'Gingerbread House'				
3	3 12.30pm Perse School Band				
6	11am & 2pm	Festive decorations for house and garden			
10	11am & 1.30	'Special Tree' Children's Event			
15	All day	Christmas Jumper Day			
16	10.30am-3pm	Befriend a Hedgehog			
	Telephone: 01223 842777 Web: www.scotsdalegardencentre.co.uk				

SAWSTON CINEMA (MARVEN CENTRE)				
5	6.30pm	Moana Disney animation		
7	7pm	Young Marx National Theatre Live starring Rory Kinnear		
14	14 7pm La La Land starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone			
	Telephone: 01223 712825 Web: www.sawstoncinema.org.uk			

STAPLEFORD GRANARY				
10	12 noon	Reiko Fujisawa – Sunday Coffee Concert		
16	3pm & 5pm	Prime Brass Family Christmas Cushion Concert		
	Telephone: 01223 849004 Web: www.staplefordgranary.org.uk			

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM					
Dec	10am-5pm	Sampled Lives – over 100 samplers			
Dec	10am-5pm	Degas: a Passion for Perfection			
Dec	10am-5pm	Degas, Caricature and Modernity			
Dec	10am–5pm	Codebreakers and Groundbreakers			
Web: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk Closed Mondays, 24–26 & 31 December.					

Open 12 noon-5pm Sundays & 27-28 December.

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HOW TO CONTACT GREAT SHELFORD VILLAGE NEWS

We are pleased to receive articles, letters and notices for community events for consideration. Please send by email (preferably as a Word document), or send paper items to Judith Wilson (see below). The copy date is usually the second Friday of the month. See the *Next Issue* box for next month's date.

General enquiries and articles for publication: gsvneditorial@gmail.com

Non-email contributions should be delivered to Judith Wilson, 11 Elms Avenue, Great Shelford, CB22 5LN.

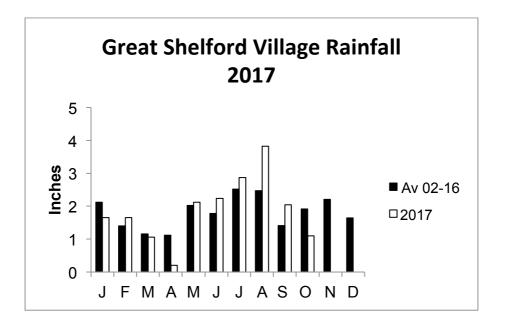
Commercial advertisements are for a 12-month period, renewed in August. There is usually a waiting list so if you would like to advertise please email <code>gsvnadverts@gmail.com</code>

For guidance please note that an article of around 400 words, without a photograph, will fill a full page. Advertisements for events work best as a half page (half A5) in landscape format.

Subscriptions 01223 842993

General Enquiries 01223 842553

Editorial Committee Lorraine Coulson, Duncan Grey, Bridget Hodge, Marjorie Smith, Judith Wilson.



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

2G3S	Linda Whitebread			843438
Badminton (Little Shelford)	Rosie Cranmer			513572
Bowling Club	Jill Whaley			845310
Brownies, Guides, Rainbows	Lisa MacGregor			843021
Bunch – Feast	Duncan Grey			842191
Carpet Bowls	Margaret Kelly			473520
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cambridge			0844 8487979
Community Association	(for booking Memorial H	all) Sheila Tilbı	ury-Davis	844384
Country Market	Dorothy Doel		•	843946
Cricket Club	Mrs M Ellum			842394
Darts League	Mr D Matthews			845287
Football Club	Terry Rider			01354 680661
Free Church	Iris Considine			842181
Friends of Shelford Library	Daphne Sulston			842248
Garden Club	Helen Chubb			845032
Great Shelford Friendship Club	Cheryl Mynott			845435
Health Centre	Ashen Green, Great Shel	ford		843661
Mobile Warden Scheme	Jackie Noble (Warden)	700920	Jenny Morris (Chair)	846332
Parish Church Bellringers	Ann Smith			577980
Parish Church Community Room	Mary Lester			842411
Parish Church Friends	Bob Doel			843946
Parish Church Sunday Club	Joanne Staines			07790 415732
Parish Churchwardens	Dianne Fraser	562731	Stella Nettleton	832290
Parochial Charities	Mary Lester (Clerk to the	Trustees)		842411
Police	Non-emergency number	•		101
Rainbow Pre-School	Alison Tomlin			07985 216603
Royal British Legion	Mark Chennells			891817
Rugby Club	Colin Astin			842154
Sawston Sports Centre	The Village College	The Village College		
Scouts and Cubs	Jillian Hardwick			840066
Scout & Guide HQ	Jenny Grey			842191
Shelford & Stapleford Men's Assoc.	Chris Everitt			846984
Shelford & Stapleford Strikers	Derek White			561753
Shelford Primary School	Alison Evans (Headteach	er)		843107
Shelford Support Group	Biddy Wilkinson	843856	Pat Legge	843275
(transport to hospital, etc.)	Denise Newman	842514	Carol Bard	571380
	Rosie Cranmer	513572		
Sunnyside Preschool Stapleford	Jane Doyle			707817
Stapleford Choral Society	Adam Pounds			843468
Tennis Club	Lydia Seymour			07790 498875
The Arts Society South Cambs	Sheila Tilbury-Davis			844384
Twinning Association	Penny Pearl			842483
U3A (Sawston Branch)	Mr D Cupit			871527
WI	Vanda Butler (Secretary)			561053
Youth Initiative	Ollie Leonard			07768 545915

Websites: greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/ and greatshelford.info



Pre-loved accessories and beads needed for Shelford School's Christmas Fair

Do you have any bags, belts, jewellery, hats, hair accessories or scarves in good condition that you no longer use?

A quirky brooch, fascinator, bow tie, pendant or bangle ready for a new home?

All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Loose wooden, plastic or metal beads to make pretty bracelets and necklaces?

Please bring items to the school office any time before the Fair on **Saturday 9 December** or contact pta@shelfordschool.org.uk

Thanks for your help!

Shelford School PTA

Charity number 1110813