

# Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

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EST 1999

MAY 2020

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*Great Shelford in Lockdown*

*Helen Harwood's Diary of the Coronavirus Months*

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## VILLAGE NEWS EDITORIAL

This is the first time we've had an editorial in the *Village News*. But the effects of the Covid-19 virus have changed all our lives. Many small local businesses have had to stop work. The tennis courts and children's playground are empty, and there are no games on the Rec. The Memorial Hall is closed and Great Shelford streets are quieter than they have been for decades. But staff in the Health Centre, Chemist, and local food shops are working to support the village, as are all those who provide essential services – caring for the sick and elderly both at home and in care homes and hospitals, delivering mail and goods, collecting rubbish and ensuring we have water, gas and electricity.

Much of the *Village News* is normally about community events that are impossible at present. Sports fixtures have been cancelled, clubs and societies have had to postpone planned events, the Country Market and Farmers' Market will not be taking place until further notice. But new initiatives have sprung up and in this issue you can read how a system of contacts has been established for every street in the village. We also have a special extended article for this issue by Helen Harwood, telling the story of how the Covid-19 virus has affected us all here in Great Shelford over the past months.

After some discussion we decided that to reduce any risk to our readers and distributors, copies of this issue will not be delivered to subscribers' homes. Instead this issue is available online free of charge on the Great Shelford website <https://shelford.org/news.htm>. For those unable to access the issue online, there are also some free printed issues available in Barkers, Days, Kash, Boots, Tesco and the Deli. We realise that those of our subscribers who aren't online may not be shopping in the village, but we'll see how it works this month.

If you know someone who is self-isolating, can you let them know about the online link, or if they're not online, pick up a copy for them if you're shopping for them? Of course, if you want to let family or friends living elsewhere know about what's happening in Great Shelford, you can forward the link to them.

As in so many areas of life just now, it's impossible to make longer-term decisions. We may be able to go back to our usual distribution system next month, or we may still feel this is too big a risk. We'd welcome any feedback on how this has worked this month.

Finally we send our very best wishes to all our readers during this difficult time. Our 'Old News' tells us that we have faced and overcome challenges in the past. The rainbows from village windows in this issue show that our village continues to be a strong and supportive community and give us hope for the future.

*The Editors*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

‘May you live in interesting times’ purports to be the English translation of a Chinese curse. I’m not sure that ‘interesting’ is the right word to describe the current situation that we find ourselves in, ‘unprecedented’ is probably a more accurate description of the impact of Covid-19 on our community.

The virus has caused a lot of normal life to be put on hold but in a strange way it has I think brought the community closer together. We somehow seem to have a little more time, we are not rushing around quite so much but have other issues to juggle with now like home schooling and making sure that we are following the government’s guidelines on social distancing and exercise.

People are looking out for each other and there is a great support group, set up by Chris Smith, Mary Regnier-Wilson and Angela Mutty, with its own Facebook page: Great/Little Shelford/Stapleford COVID-19 Support/Help. They have been able to find a volunteer to look after every road in the village, which is a fantastic achievement. There are also a number of WhatsApp groups in the village with neighbours looking after others who are self-isolating, over 70 or being shielded for medical reasons, by collecting prescriptions from Boots, shopping or any number of other little tasks.

A lot of information is coming down from the government and the District Council has a very useful web page <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/coronavirus/> with up-to-date details. As a Parish Council we will pull out the information directly affecting village residents and put that on our website <https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk>.

Unfortunately we had to postpone last month’s Annual Parish Meeting but hope to hold the meeting later in the year. Parish Council meetings are still taking place, albeit ‘virtually’, and for details of how to join in the meetings or to ask a question of the Parish Council please either see our website or look at the notices displayed on the Parish Council noticeboards as you go out for your daily exercise stroll.

We had hoped by now to have started work on the first phases of the Playscape project but that has sadly been delayed. Seamus, our village man, is still out each day making sure that the village is as neat and tidy as is possible in the current circumstances.

We have no idea how long the current lockdown will last but you can console yourself with the fact that you can now drive to the village and find a parking space and that Great Shelford, according to *The Sunday Times*, is one of the best places to live in the UK.

Keep safe and well.

*Malcolm Watson, Chair*

**GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
*greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*  
**SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING ON 18 MARCH 2020**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Six Councillors sent in apologies for coronavirus issues and two for other reasons.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**NEW COUNCILLOR**

John Stanton was elected as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

**FINANCE**

Fourteen cheques to the value of £4,342.74p were approved and signed.

Quotations for replacement doors to the SSYI Room in the Memorial Hall (ranging up to £12,000) were reviewed and the contract awarded to EDS.

Quotations for replacement windows to the Scout Hut and Memorial Hall (ranging up to £8,000) were reviewed and the contract awarded to the lowest bidders.

**REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

**District Councillors**

Councillor Peter Fane was in attendance and reported that the District Council had issued a generic pack of information on Covid-19 and was supporting local schemes and businesses. The District Council was defending the Green Belt in the East West Rail Link proposals.

**County Councillors**

No councillors were in attendance.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

**Highways**

The March report was circulated and is on the website. The hedge adjacent to Bridge Cottage on the Stapleford–Sawston Cycleway has been removed and replaced with a fence to improve cycle safety; the final tarmac is now completed. A meeting took place with Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss the wearing away of lines on roads after six months, with a view to replacing these in the next financial year. Woollards Lane, High Street and

Station Road will have extensive work undertaken during 2020–21 using the Rhino strip system.

### **Planning**

The Planning meeting on 18 March was conducted by phone due to the Covid-19 meeting restrictions.

### **Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee**

Kompan have completed additional work on safety repairs in the children's playground as authorised.

### **Cemetery and Allotments Committee**

Allotment annual invoices are outstanding. It is planned to issue the previous year's and current year's invoices after the end of the financial year in March 2020.

Available plots will be allocated after a Committee Meeting and a decision on the future of allotments.

There are 10 plots available with about 14 applicants, some from the Parochial Charities site. Some applicants are not village residents. In view of the allotments being subsidised by the Precept, the Committee may consider new applications from village residents only. Currently any applicant is considered.

## **REPORTS FROM COORDINATING OFFICERS**

**Community Association** The Memorial Hall is closed until further notice from Friday 20 March 2020.

**Twinning Association** The visit to Verneuil-en-Halatte by Shelford residents is planned for 23 to 26 May, and the return visit by French visitors from 4 to 7 July. (NB Both these visits have been subsequently cancelled.)

**Feast** The cancellation is under review with the insurers.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **2020 Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22 April**

Pending further advice from NALC the Parish Council have no choice but to suspend the Annual Parish Meeting until further notice.

### **Plans for VE Day (Friday 8 March)**

The Parish Council awaits official advice on holding this event but it is likely to be cancelled.

### **Action necessary in connection with coronavirus**

The Clerk provided an update on the current legal status for the Parish Council. This was changing each day with dramatic process changes forecast.

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The meeting reviewed the actions already started by a local Facebook Group and that of the Mobile Warden Scheme. It was agreed to support these established local help groups

Pavilion use to end of June 2020:

- Art and Yoga Classes have been cancelled by the organisers.
- Football: all grassroots matches to the end of the season have been cancelled by the FA.
- CGM intend to continue with grass cutting and all other tasks but the Clerk has stopped football pitch line marking.
- The Vintage Car Display in the Memorial Hall Car Park on Saturday 21 March will not take place.
- The GSFC AGM on Wednesday 25 March has been cancelled by the organiser.
- The Easter Egg hunt on Sunday 29 March has been cancelled by the organiser .
- The children's party on Sunday 19 April is to be cancelled.
- Cricket: a directive from ECB states that all forms of recreational cricket are for now suspended. This extends to training, pre-season friendlies and any associated cricket activity.

### **Progress on replacement Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

The Clerk has sent out 10 job descriptions and application forms. None have been returned to date. The closing date was Friday 27 March. In the current situation it is unlikely that interviews could take place in early April as originally intended, so extension of the closing date for applications to the end of June 2020 was recommended.

Note: The current Clerk will delay his departure / resignation from the end of May to the end August 2020 (after the August F&GP half-year meeting) to assist. The situation will be reviewed again at the August F&GP meeting.

As he is over 70, the Clerk will be working from home and will not be attending meetings after the PC meeting of 18 March 2020. All documents for meetings will be provided along with accounts progressed as necessary.



Great Shelford windows April 2020



Photos: Mark Farrington



## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY

Planning Committee Meeting	Wednesday 6 May	5pm
Planning Committee Meeting	Monday 18 May	5pm
Annual Meeting of Parish Council	Monday 18 May	6pm

While Covid-19 restrictions continue, these meetings will be conducted online via Zoom and are open to the public via a separate ID as shown on the agenda (available on <https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council-agendas/>)

Meetings may be adjourned for a period of up to 10 minutes when members of the public will be able to ask questions of the Parish Council and put forward points of view in respect of the business on the agenda.

Members of the public will be muted when the public session is completed but will still be able to observe the meeting.

## PLANNING APPLICATION PARISH COUNCIL COMMENT

20/01109/FUL	De Freville House Unit 7 56 High Green	Conversion of retail unit 7 into four one-bedroom flats and one retail unit.
The Planning Committee felt that this is a good use of what has been an empty side of the property for some time. We are concerned that it may generate some extra traffic at what is a very busy junction and trust that sufficient parking is provided for the flats. We would also prefer the final unit to become residential. We would support this application.		

## JUNE ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is Friday 15 May and it should be available on Friday 29 May. We don't know at present when the delivery of subscribed copies will recommence but will let you know as soon as possible.

## SHELFORD SCHOOL

The government lockdown for the coronavirus pandemic happened on March 23rd after the previous *Village News* article for Shelford School had appeared – and with two weeks still to run until the end of term. So inevitably this report is covering a very different situation than might have been expected: for example, there was no instrumentalist concert for me to report on and no Easter Service.

However, the school community has made lightning-quick adjustments and all sorts of new initiatives have come into play. Each year group has had their learning assignments posted online – with work for one subject due in each day. In some ways a wider agenda of learning has been pursued because of the extra possibilities of what could be done at home: for instance with Mrs Scott's nesting box camera revealing what the blue tits in her garden have been doing.

Some adventurous learning opportunities have been thought up in virtual form, with banana bread baking and basketball coaching, and a First Prize in the Cambridgeshire areas Virtual Games where the school had to enter for an opening ceremony, an extemporised rowing competition, a mile run (laps in the garden at home), table tennis and then a closing medals ceremony. And a video even captured Mrs Ward working on her first aid (but managing within the requirements of social distancing): Mr Grey had an imaginary playground injury, which Mrs Ward attended to by using a litter-picking grabber to pass the bandage, tape and (mandatory!) ice pack. I hope some antibac spray had been applied to the grabber before use!

We've also had some of the staples of school life as well. As Rector of the church in Little Shelford, I was delighted that collective worship has been maintained by the provision of lots of Bible stories and additional word games from GenR8 on the school website. There have been celebration assemblies as well, filmed both at school and at Mr Grey's home – conclusive proof, if some of the children needed it, that the headteacher doesn't actually live on site at school. The newsletters continue to be produced, with Mr Grey doing a 60 second summary on video – usually with two or three seconds to spare. There was even a quorum of governors 'present' for a virtual meeting.

Meanwhile, key workers have been sending a few children in for school onsite and this has continued with the 'Home from home' class planting a willow outdoor classroom which will be enjoyed by others when better times return.

All the signs are that the school will remain closed for some time yet. But there has been plentiful evidence already of staff and teaching assistants working brilliantly to deliver a great curriculum – which gives hope for the challenges of the future. In fact I want to give the last word to cheer on the parents and carers doing so well to support pupils at home. For lots of them there is no

let-up from their day-job and its demands. And they need to multitask well enough, alongside their own work, to dredge up from the past forgotten information about isosceles triangles or chemical reactions. So three cheers for the parents and carers!

*Simon Scott*

## **GREAT SHELFORD COVID-19 VOLUNTEER SUPPORT NETWORK**

You may be aware of the volunteer support network that has been developed within the village to help those in need during the Covid-19 period. This has been a grassroots initiative, driven by the village Facebook groups.

The initial and primary aim is to ensure every street in Great Shelford (plus Little Shelford and Stapleford) has a key contact who can support those in need with basic tasks such as essential grocery shopping, collecting prescriptions, delivering post, etc. What started as a single post one Thursday night has mushroomed into a support network of over 60 volunteers.

The initial aim has been achieved with huge thanks to every volunteer resident who is giving up their time and resources to help our community. This is no small feat given our village has 64 streets, 1,853 houses and 4,000 people. The group has also been given the backing of the Parish Council, District Council, the local churches and our local MP.

Every resident should be aware of their key contact, mostly by the delivery of a leaflet which provides the address and phone number of their assigned volunteer. If you are unaware who your key contact is then either ask a neighbour or contact Chris Smith ([chris@chrissmith.me.uk](mailto:chris@chrissmith.me.uk)).

I have been truly blown away by the positive community atmosphere that has come out of such a tough time. New connections have been made, new friends found. And every day I hear stories of volunteers giving their support and receiving gratitude from those they have helped. I'm sure they would agree with me that there is a real joy in the giving. I can only hope that some of this positive atmosphere can continue once this is all over.

I want to give a special mention to Mary Regnier-Wilson, who is the techy mastermind behind the scenes. But my main thanks go out to every volunteer who is selflessly giving of themselves. If you have benefited from their work, please make sure you thank them, and please know that we are here for you if you need help at this time.

Together we will keep Shelford going.

*Chris Smith*

[chris@chrissmith.me.uk](mailto:chris@chrissmith.me.uk) 07929 35854

## ANTHONY BROWNE MP

We are living through extraordinary and challenging times. None of us ever expected we would live through what can seem like a terrible, fast-moving Hollywood movie. But it is happening. It is – for now – our new reality.

This is the worst public health crisis for a generation, akin to a war, and it will get worse before it gets better. Most of us are worried by events. But remember – we will get through it, and we will bounce back. Generations to come will talk about what we are currently experiencing.

While this may change how I run my office, it does not stop me from effectively representing my constituency. My time is spent on the phone to businesses, in online video conferences with constituents, volunteering with local groups and passing your concerns directly to government ministers.

This has included liaising with local companies providing vital equipment such as PPE or ventilators. It has meant working with our world-leading biomedical institutions to aid the government in achieving its testing targets. And it has seen me holding the government to account for the Chancellor's financial promises to individuals and businesses alike through the first ever virtual Treasury Select Committee evidence session.

Locally, I was delighted to hear that the Great and Little Shelford/Stapleford Covid-19 Support Group has now recruited volunteer helpers to cover every street across the three villages. I had the pleasure of speaking with Chris Smith, who is one of the lead coordinators for this initiative and was so impressed by his commitment and care for local people (around 70 streets in total).

This is exactly the kind of support our local communities need to help get us all through this crisis as safely as possible and I would like to thank everyone who is involved for what they are doing. I was pleased to hear that the District Council had supplied the group with gloves and hand sanitiser and I have offered to lend my support in whatever way I can.

Our challenge now is to get through it with as little harm as possible – conquering this invisible enemy while saving as many lives and as many livelihoods as we can. I urge you to remain indoors and follow the government advice, so we can protect the most vulnerable and ensure our NHS continues to operate to the best of its ability.

If you are organising a community group, worried about the effects of the outbreak or have concerns around your business, more information can be found on my website at [www.anthonybrowne.org/information-coronavirus](http://www.anthonybrowne.org/information-coronavirus).

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you think I can help.

*Anthony Browne MP*

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## GRANTA Medical Practices

**Shelford Health Centre footpath** The footpath from McColl's car park to the Health Centre will be closed from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, to reduce any possible risk of spreading coronavirus whilst patients are assessed outside the surgery prior to admission. The Health Centre can be accessed from Ashen Green.

**Appointments** It is clear that the safest thing for most patients is to stay at home. Unless there is an overwhelming need for face-to-face interaction then we will manage medical care remotely. Therefore, patient access to any Granta site will be by invitation only following a prior telephone assessment.

Essential care, such as baby immunisations and mother and baby checks, will still go ahead, but these will be at selected sites only. We will be carrying out temperature checks on both staff and patients to try and minimise risk. Patients may be asked to wear a mask when entering one of our buildings.

Our enhanced telephone service is running well, as is the non-urgent dedicated email address, [capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net). These services are currently available 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. We continue to work hard to make sure that those who are housebound will continue to receive their medications.

**Repeat prescriptions** The easiest way to manage repeat prescriptions is to use our online services or the NHS App. We are currently accepting applications over the 'phone - please speak to a member of our reception team for further information.

**Up to date information** Please continue to refer regularly to the following websites which provide up to date information about the national situation and plans, and health advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance#guidance-for-the-public>

We may also use SMS messaging to mobile phones to communicate any urgent messages we may have for you, so please let us know if you have changed your mobile number or have one that you haven't yet told us about.

**Community spirit** As a community we can help each other – both by following the advice given and by helping look after those who may need help within our communities. If you are able to volunteer to help out in your immediate area, please email your details to [granta.socialnavigator@nhs.net](mailto:granta.socialnavigator@nhs.net)

Thank you to all of our patients for being so supportive and understanding. Our promise is that we will continue to be here throughout and deliver the best possible care to our patients at these difficult times.

*Sandra East*

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## GREAT SHELFORD COUNTRY MARKET



I am sure I can safely say that since our market opened in 1976, we have closed for just two weeks each year: those immediately after Christmas. Who would have thought when we re-opened in January that such a pandemic would

emerge and by mid-March we would have to close again, this time for many weeks?

Our producers are keeping in touch with each other via email, etc. but we are all missing the social side of the market, from greeting each other at around 7.30am, looking out for that queue of regulars waiting for opening time, and then seeing the flow of customer friends throughout the morning. The market has become quite a social hub on a Wednesday morning.



At the moment it could be said that the cooks and craft members are on extended leave. However, this lockdown is not good for the plant growers and gardeners. Seeds grow into plants – they can't be put into the freezer – so this temporary closure is a big blow for both our growers and the customers who at this time of year would have been making a beeline for the plant section before even casting a glance towards the food tables.

Once the coronavirus pandemic is over and social distancing requirements are relaxed, the Memorial Hall should re-open and then we will be back on the very next Wednesday – sorry, the date not yet known.



Keep safe and come back when we re-open. Meantime you can still enjoy a virtual visit to the market by looking at us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gtshelfordmarket>.

*Dorothy Doel*



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## GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH

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I am writing this as news comes through that the current lockdown is being extended. I'm sure this will be received with mixed emotions by many, with the prospect of being alone at home or in close proximity to our core family members a strange and sometimes troubling experience. We have probably discovered quite a lot about ourselves and our families during the last weeks and this may be either positive or negative; either way, we are undoubtedly being changed, whether we like it or not.



One of the very positive things that has emerged is a greater sense of community and solidarity, two things that before this started we might have considered to be on the wane in recent times. The fact that neighbours are doing some very simple but deeply caring acts is a signal of hope in testing times. We must not be complacent, but the knowledge that just over 60 people have volunteered to take responsibility between them for every street in the village to offer help with shopping or collecting prescriptions is really good news. On Thursday evenings we rightly acknowledge the role of the NHS and others providing our essential services, but maybe we should also celebrate the unsung heroes and heroines who are doing small things every day to help others.

Thank you for your appreciative comments on the worship material that we have been making available on the website and the links to other sources. Like many of our colleagues, Nicola and I have been on a steep learning curve as we have tried to grasp the opportunities that digital communications offer. At times this has caused a few frustrations, but we are getting there, slowly!

Every blessing for the coming weeks,

### **Praying together as a community**

At a time when we are all missing meeting to worship together perhaps there are things that we can do to help us feel that we are still a worshipping community, and that we are all thinking of one another. Here are three simple things that we could all do to pray together for each other and our community.

1 At noon each day we could say the Lord's Prayer. You might like to go to the front door and stand in the doorway because we are praying not just for ourselves but for the whole community.

2 If you have a candle, light it at 7pm on Sunday evenings and put it in your front window. Pray for all those who are ill, all those who are alone, and all those who are caring for others. This looks beautiful and is a sign to other people that we are keeping the light of hope for them.

3 In the evenings before bed we could pray for each other, perhaps by saying the wonderful collect for aid against all perils from the Book of Common Prayer:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Services on video**

Simon and Nicola are continuing to celebrate Holy Communion and other services for the whole community. We hope to produce recordings or videos of the Parish Communion and Evensong each Sunday, and a midweek BCP Communion on Wednesdays. The videos and recordings will be on our website. In addition you can see them on our Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTxJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAyY5UYw> or on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/> You don't need to use Facebook to see our posts.

As you watch you can make a Spiritual Communion. The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

### **Cambridge City Foodbank**

The Foodbank still very much needs our support at this difficult time. As St Mary's is closed until further notice, and Great Shelford Free Church are offering a collection point outside their front door, please can food donations be left there for the time being. You can also donate money directly to the Foodbank; the details of how to do so are on the Cambridge City Foodbank website: <https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

## **Congratulations to Nicola**

It was recently announced that Nicola has been appointed Rector of Cottingham in the Diocese of York (Cottingham is on the edge of Hull and is a single church Benefice).

This is great news for Nicola and the family, but because of the current lockdown they may not be able to move for a number of weeks, which is frustrating to say the least. Nicola will continue to minister here at Great Shelford until the end of June, when her license expires. Thankfully the family are able to remain in the house at Linton until they can arrange to move.

Nicola writes: 'I'm both very glad and very sad. I'm glad that I have a new post to go to and that a long period of uncertainty and waiting is over. But I'm sad at the prospect of saying goodbye to so much – especially to everyone at St Mary's. But we won't be moving quite yet, as we wait for the current situation with the coronavirus to ease, and I hope that we'll have a chance to say goodbye properly. In the meantime, I'm very thankful for your prayers over the past months.'

Please keep Nicola and the family in your prayers as she prepares for this new ministry.

**St Mary's Sunday Club** The Sunday Club will not meet until further notice. We will be offering regular Mary Mouse letters and activities on the St Mary's website. For details contact Gillian Pett: [gillian.pett29@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.pett29@gmail.com)

**Regular services are available on our website – please see above for details of how to access them.**

**Funeral:** 7 April Brian Jeffs

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### **For further information about Great Shelford Parish Church**

visit our website: <https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org>

Vicar: The Revd Simon Talbott 01223 847068 or  
0705 0042616 or email [vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org](mailto:vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org)

Assistant Curate: The Revd Nicola Bown  
07414 595160 or email [curate@stmarysgreatshelford.org](mailto:curate@stmarysgreatshelford.org)

Parish Administrator: Katharin Page 07710 518220  
or email [pagekatharin@gmail.com](mailto:pagekatharin@gmail.com)

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## MORE'S MEADOW WILDLIFE SURVEY



*Zootoca vivipara* at More's Meadow

Visitors to More's Meadow will have noticed low-level fencing stretching for several hundred yards around the allotments and adjacent fields. Some may have even noticed black rubber mats scattered across the meadow. What on earth is going on?

The Parochial Charities – who own the land and adjacent almshouses – have commissioned professional biologists to survey the resident wildlife. The low fencing and black mats are temporary and will be removed once the survey is complete. Footpaths will remain open at all times with access via The Hectare, More's Meadow and Bridge Close, as well as via the railway footbridge.

Having already established the presence of common lizards and grass snakes, the biologists are planning how best to mitigate the impact of any future development. In particular, they will be relocating any reptiles found on the allotments to a safe refuge on the northern edge of the Charities' land.

Further work on the Meadow includes the installation of a new barn owl box – and we are also considering how best to attract swifts, bats and other endangered species.

This initiative, part-funded by Homes England, South Cambridgeshire District Council and other benefactors, is being undertaken in support of our planning application for the development of further almshouses at More's Meadow.

Details of our plans can be found on our website: [gspc.org.uk](https://gspc.org.uk)

Later in the year we will also publish the results of the wildlife survey on the website.

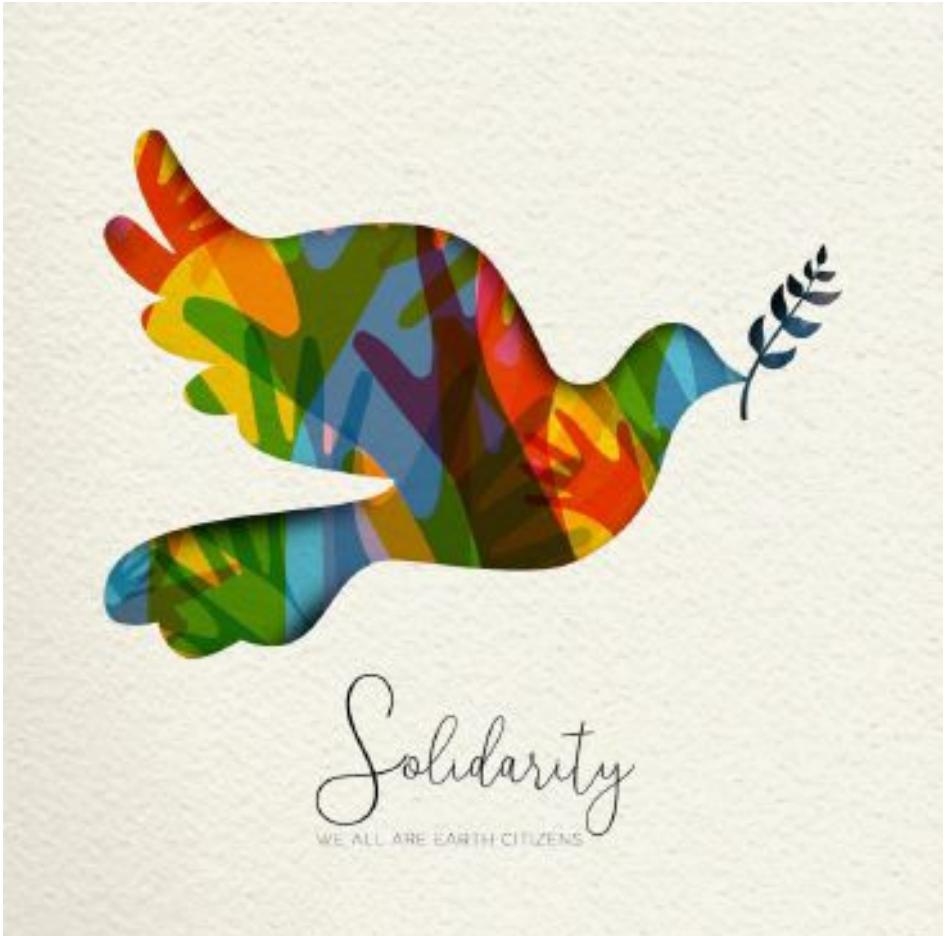
Stop press: Less than one week into the survey, and our ecologists have already counted 25 common lizards.

*Brian Connellan*



Great Shelford  
Free Church

## GREAT SHELFORD FREE CHURCH ONLINE



During these strange times we have moved our services and pastoral support online and over the phone. If you would like to see what we are doing please visit <https://shelfordfreechurch.org.uk> where you will find links to all our activities, including our live-streamed services, daily blogs and children's activities.



Below is a blog post written by Diana Parr, one of our Elders at GSFC.

I've heard several people comment that this seems to be a surreal time. There are those who are struggling to find time for all the tasks they have to do: juggling childcare, home schooling, working from home; while others are finding that self-isolation means they have so much time they find it hard to occupy themselves, but are perhaps learning new skills or taking time to be still and connect more deeply with God.

Then there are those of us who fall somewhere in the middle and are just striving to find a sense of calm and develop workable routines in the midst of all that is unknown, unexpected and very strange.

Over the last few days I have been reading Tozer's *And He Dwelt Among Us* (which I would highly recommend) in which he speaks about time; about God creating time. Tozer says:

*God created everything, and everything has its purpose ... God created all the matter that is around us, but matter cannot stand alone, it needs some space to occupy, so God created what we call space: all matter is stored in some space.*

*Then God created time in which to make room for motion. Motion is dependent upon time, which is really the sequence of motion ... Time is a medium in which change takes place. It is not time that makes a baby grow up; it is change. Things change; and in order to change, there has to be a sequence of change.*

In thinking these things through I find it reassuring to know that God is outside time. God is not governed by time, He created time, which is why to him 'one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as a day' (2 Peter 3:8). We always seem to be fighting time, we either never seem to have enough of it or we agonise over how slowly or quickly it is passing, and we often find it hard to accept change.

Currently we are certainly in a period of change, but we can stand firmly on the premise that God does not change. Instead of focussing on the change and the passing of time we should be focussing on the One who created it.



Photos: Mark Farrington

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## GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY



Although our libraries are closed to the public until further notice, the Library Service has been hard at work developing new and updated online offers to keep everyone going until we can open again.

Please don't worry about accumulating fines on books you borrowed before the closure. Books currently on loan are being renewed automatically and charges have been suspended since 17 March.

We're all missing our hard copy books, but remember that if you have a computer, tablet or smartphone your library card gives you free access (via our website) to many electronic resources, including e-books and e-audiobooks. If you're not a member, it's free to join and you can do this online.

### **Did you know?**

- You can download 50 different magazines such as Gardeners' World, BBC Good Food, National Geographic, Newsweek and BBC Countryfile (see online resources link below).
- Daily newspapers can also be downloaded.
- New: you can access the family history website Ancestry Library Edition from home.

- You have access to Medici.tv, a classical music channel.
  - We have a regular Twitter chat and online Rhymetimes and Storytimes.
- Our Facebook page (see the link below) has details of these and many other new resources and events.

### Useful links

Joining the library:

<https://cambridgeshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/BRWR/EG>

Online resources:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure/culture/libraries?fbclid=IwAR2DrVtvkHFJUz1iKpYol5LRS6a2WZSyOsLFJCf6LmKGCuHa7ghptzSgw1Y>

Library Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireLibraries/>

Take care everyone – we look forward very much to welcoming you back to our library when normal life resumes!

*Rosemary Humby, Great Shelford Library*

## 2G3S EVENTS AND NEWS

### GREEN GROUPS IN THE SHELFORDS, STAPLEFORD AND SAWSTON



Like almost everything else, our public meetings have been brought to a halt for now. We had a planning meeting by Zoom the other evening to make some decisions and share ideas for future events.

So Bill's talk on 27 April on Cooking and Forests in Africa is postponed, as is the Extinction Rebellion evening. If possible we look forward to two guided walks, one on Saturday 27 June at 2pm at the Parish Pit, and one on Sunday 26 July at 2pm at the Challis Garden in Sawston.

If you look at our Facebook page you will hopefully find some positive stories to come out of the Covid-19 crisis. For example, pollution levels over China have dropped enormously since the lockdown there, and the same is becoming true in Europe. More locally, the birdsong is amazing without the traffic to interfere, and it is lovely that the community is helping each other out.

Take care of yourselves.

*Helen Hale*

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## SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE



In these strange and worrying times, we are very proud of our pupils and their response to the crisis. It cannot be easy for one's schooling to be brought to an abrupt end, but this was the reality for our Year 11s. Having spent months studying, revising and preparing for their summer examinations, they now find themselves in an extended period of transition.

We have no doubt, however, that when they begin college or start work for the first time as an apprentice they will be ready and eager to take up the challenge. We wish them well.

Whilst our senior pupils have demonstrated resilience, courage and optimism for their future, other pupils at Sawston Village College have adapted extremely well to a new way of home learning. Many young people and families face significant challenges, but our children have shown determination to overcome adversity and engage with the lessons that have been set for them.

As well as providing online learning to all, we have delivered home packs of work and, through a shared scheme with Cambs Youth Panel, loaned Chromebooks to families. Teachers and Teaching Assistants are supporting pupils remotely and when virtual school opens again on 20 April we look forward to helping the pupils continue to progress in their education.

Above all, our priority has been to support the safety of our community. Throughout Easter, Sawston Village College has remained open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. We have hosted Icknield Primary School on our school site too. Our pastoral team has been providing support to pupils who are finding all of this hard, and we will continue to do our best to support their wellbeing. In doing this, we are encouraging our pupils to follow the government's core message: stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.

We are tremendously grateful to all parents and children of the parish who have supported the school at this difficult time. As Bob Marley taught us, 'you never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice'.

*Jonathan Russell, Principal  
Sawston Village College*

*The photo on the back of this issue shows the Year 11 leavers and was taken on their final day at school on 20 March.*

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## DIARY MAY

### PLEASE NOTE

Unfortunately both the Memorial Hall and St Mary's Community Room have been closed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. All events due to be held in these venues, and many others around the village have been cancelled.

For further information about regular clubs and societies please contact the individual organisers as listed inside the back cover of this magazine.

### BIN COLLECTIONS



#### Black bins

Tuesday 5 May, Tuesday 19 May

#### Blue and green bins

Wednesday 13 May, Wednesday 27 May

**Please put green bins out on the two dates above; they will be collected on at least one of these dates.**



### POST BOXES

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The latest collection from the Post Office is currently 5pm Monday to Friday, 11.55am Saturday.



### POST OFFICE

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Items Royal Mail is unable to deliver (too big, signature required, etc.) will be returned to the Royal Mail Depot in Clifton Road for collection or arrangements made for redelivery.



### LIBRARY

The library is closed. See pages 23 and 24 for details of how you can access material online.

### 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 views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Committee. 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*

## HELEN HARWOOD'S CORONAVIRUS DIARY

### JANUARY–MARCH 2020

The *Village News* team asked me if I would write ‘something on the lines of Defoe’s *A Journal of the Plague Year*’ while we are all confined to home. I’d never read Defoe’s book, so I turned it up on the internet, and read, within the first couple of paragraphs, this pertinent comment:

*We had no such thing as printed newspapers in those days to spread rumours and reports of things, and to improve them by the invention of men, as I have lived to see practised since.*

Obviously, things don’t change much. I decided against reading on, thinking this was probably not the moment to start reading about plague pits and the horrors of the great 1666 plague. I might read it after all this is over.

The writer who has recurred often to my mind of late is Albert Camus, a French writer of the 20th century. One of his books was *La Peste* (The Plague), a fictional account of an outbreak of plague in the Algerian city of Oran. You can see the relevance. But the quote that comes to me most frequently is from his other book, *L’Etranger* (The Outsider). Its anti-hero is imprisoned after stabbing a man. In his cell he comments:

*I realized then that a man who had lived only one day could easily live for a hundred years in prison. He would have enough memories to keep him from being bored.*

Well, fortunately we’re not in prison, though it might come to feel like it: a friend calls her situation ‘house arrest’, though mercifully that’s in a spirit of jocularly. Under lockdown, we are living in a small space, and we have to find what we have and what we’ve had – our ties of family and friendship, our beliefs, the natural world, our memories and our hopes – to carry us through the days. And I find that, as Camus says, I have a thousand small memories, moments of pleasure from the past, to keep me going, even if my life is presently constrained.

But let me go back to the beginning. For a number of years, professionals in public health have been saying that we may be due a pandemic. It’s something you’d read in one of the quality newspapers. You’d pause for thought, then comfortably forget about it. Once or twice, it looked like it might happen – a virus called SARS, an outbreak of Ebola.

### January

In January this year, news reports started to come out of China of a new virus. It was centred in the city of Hubei, in Wuhan province. It was said to have come from a market where wild animals were traded, and the suspicion was that it had come originally from bats, via some unknown animal, and jumped

the species barrier to humans. It proved to be highly infectious, and soon there was an epidemic of very sick people, and many of them died. The disease started with a cough and fever, and, for the unlucky ones, progressed until you had difficulty breathing. Such casualties were taken into hospital and hooked up to a ventilator. The number of deaths began to rise. It was clear that Hubei had a big problem and the city was closed, 'locked down'. No one was to enter or leave, people were confined to their houses. On the news we saw streets being sprayed with disinfectant. Those same streets were deserted, the people very frightened. And people kept dying.

## **February**

It was frightening, but comfortably distant. And then a case showed in Tenerife. People who'd been on holiday there took it home. Northern Italy soon found itself in the midst of an outbreak, and that wasn't comfortably distant. It became clear that our global lifestyle was going to ensure that this new virus – a coronavirus, now officially named Covid-19, was going to spread like wildfire. The Chinese economy meanwhile was beginning to grind to a halt, and that brought to our attention another aspect of our modern lifestyle. For some years now, we've been carping vaguely about how everything is now produced in China. Suddenly supplies of all manner of things started to slow down. And we, who now have so little manufacturing capacity, because it was cheaper to buy from China, began to wonder if that was such a good idea.

The public health authorities began to prepare us for the virus. The advice was to keep washing your hands, or use hand sanitiser, between contacts. Reduce the risk of transmission. Cover your mouth with a tissue or your sleeve if you cough. Try not to touch your face. One consequence of all this hand washing was that my hands became very, very dry and my thumbs cracked. And it is extraordinarily difficult to train yourself not to touch your face – apparently we do it endlessly, and entirely unconsciously. Hospitals and other health agencies were quietly preparing for the virus. It was clear that many people waiting for routine operations would see them cancelled. Routine health screening too was cancelled. The NHS was marshalling its resources.

But February passed as normal for most of us, though we listened to the news, and wondered what was to come.

## **March**

By the middle of March things began to happen, and when it happened it happened very fast.

The number of cases in the UK grew slowly at first, and as each one occurred, the people with whom that person had been in contact were traced. If you suffered from symptoms, you were asked to 'self-isolate' for seven days. In due



course the whole household was required to self-isolate for 14 days. At this time, everyone else was going about their normal business. A sudden burst of panic manifested. People hit the supermarkets, and toilet rolls vanished off the shelves, as did hand sanitiser products, antiseptics and so on. This eruption of toilet roll madness caused me some amusement – after all, it wasn't a diarrhoea bug! But it struck me that somehow all our fear had been channelled into this one bit of behaviour. And here I felt the press were unhelpful – too many shots of increasingly empty supermarket shelves. Pasta, flour, tins of beans and soup, tuna and vegetables all then vanished. If you see constant pictures of empty shelves, then, yes, you panic, and we all felt it to a lesser or greater degree – that primitive fear of not having enough food (and toilet rolls). Luckily here in Shelford, it didn't hit so badly. It was a while before the shelves in the Co-op emptied. Then, for a couple of weeks, the madness prevailed, but by early April, the shelves began to fill up again – though tuna still hasn't returned as I write this!

As the week of 16 March opened, we were aware that things weren't going well, but normal life was still going on. Self-isolation was an issue for some. It suddenly confronted you with the question of how to get your shopping. And shortages caused by panic buying were causing major anxiety for us all. How long would they go on? The doctor's surgery cancelled all routine face-to-face appointments. Where possible, consultations would be held by telephone; where there was clinical need, you would, of course, see a doctor. When I went to Addenbrooke's, my husband was not allowed to wait inside with me. Everything was being done to minimise the risk of infection. Then, mid-week, the government decided that attempts to keep to 'business as usual' were going to spread the disease, overwhelm the NHS and lead to thousands of deaths. And so we followed what Wuhan had done, and what Lombardy had done; we went into lockdown.

Lockdown was not a 'big bang', but came in stages. At first we were enjoined to avoid unnecessary social contact, to restrict our going out to what was strictly necessary. The goal was to slow down the rate of infection. Cafés, restaurants, pubs and bars were still open, with suitable 'social distancing' measures. So you could sit outside, in the open air, and enjoy your coffee at a safe distance from anyone else. On Friday morning in Shelford, the usual steady trail of children and parents passed my window between 8 and 9, heading for Shelford school. It was their last day there. The government ordered all schools shut, except to provide places for the children of key workers, and for those who were considered socially vulnerable. This caused a mood of consternation. It felt, in that hackneyed phrase, like the end of civilisation as we know it. Education, exams, qualifications – they are so important in our society, and in the lives of our children: how could it all just

stop? Of course it hasn't entirely. Communication between teachers and students carries on online, homework packs are sent out. But exams have been cancelled, to be replaced by teacher assessments.

But in spite of all this, it was as if we didn't quite get it. Saturday 22 March was a beautiful day, and people treated it like a holiday. They hit the National Parks, where there were traffic jams and heaving car parks, or the seaside, or National Trust properties. The National Trust had closed all its shops and restaurants, but committed to keeping open places like Wimpole so people could exercise there. The London parks too were heaving with people. It became quite obvious that, in such circumstances, we would just spread the virus by our proximity to others, not contain it, and so lockdown really began. All cafés, pubs and restaurants were closed. We were told not to drive out for exercise. Exercise close to home, and only for about an hour a day. Only go out for exercise and for essential supplies of food or medication (for yourself or someone in need). Contrary to assumption, this did not include going to B&Q to buy a barbecue!

Here in Great Shelford, the deli closed except for essential supplies: the whole Saturday café culture vanished at a stroke. Cara Coffee closed its doors too. I walked along to the Co-op on Sunday lunchtime. The sun was blazing down. It was a glorious day. Normally, all the tables outside the Square would be filled with Sunday lunchtime drinkers, or people happily looking forward to Bill's Sunday lunches. But not that day, or since. The pub door is firmly closed, and the tables piled up inside. It was Mother's Day. The flowers and cards were in the shops, but all the family get-togethers and celebrations had been abruptly cancelled. The best thing you can do for your mother, we were told, was to make sure she was safe – observe the lockdown. All church services were cancelled, which somehow seemed immeasurably shocking. Surely a present help in time of trouble was very much needed? But not at the expense of spreading infection to those being comforted. Other ways had to be found to offer support.

The first time we drove into Cambridge, we were shocked at the emptiness of the streets. Almost no cars, just individuals, heads down, doing whatever it was they needed to do, widely spaced. It felt like the old Protestant Sunday, in the days when we still practised Sunday observance. In Shelford too the streets are extremely quiet. You almost wonder where everyone's gone. We are all in our homes. Here, at least, everyone is doing what they have been asked to do.

It had all happened so fast that it took everybody and everything a while to get organised. For a time we couldn't quite think how life could be managed. We exchanged offers of help and encouragement to people we knew, and there was a great atmosphere of goodwill. But not everyone is so well grounded in the

village. So I was immeasurably cheered to see how Facebook, which had so often seemed to me to be a vehicle for negative comment, became instead the host for a Covid-19 support group. People who were self-isolating, or couldn't for various reasons get things, began asking for help, and help was given. More importantly, a schedule of every village street was put together, and a volunteer found to act as first point of contact for anyone in need in their road. We in the High Street duly received a note with contact details from our rep and I felt how lucky we were to live in a village where people cared about each other.

On Monday 23 March I began recording the daily tally of cases and deaths. 5,863 cases, 281 deaths,. By Friday it had jumped to 11,685 cases and 1,071 deaths and I decided that counting the figures wasn't helping, so I gave it up.

This has been my coronavirus diary for Great Shelford up to the end of March. These are the things I've seen and thought about. There are so many more things I could talk about, and there are far more things going on than I am aware of, especially now when we are all living in such a small space. I hope you are all well, and living through these days as best you can. I know many things are hard. But we are privileged to live in a lovely and caring village, with countryside round us. The sun is pouring down, and we have a lot to be grateful for.

*To be continued next month.*

*Helen Harwood*

## **LITTLE SHELFORD PANTOMIME**

Usually at this time of year we would be advertising auditions for Little Shelford Pantomime. Obviously, we cannot hold auditions but hope by the autumn we may have reached a position where rehearsals can start.

To this end, we have collectively decided to take everyone who was in the cast or chorus of *The Little Mermaid* last year, unless they don't wish to take part or are moving on to 6th form college. We know last year's cast, know their talents and know what they are capable of, so this seems a good compromise. We usually take new children (usually from years 5–7) into the chorus and would hope to audition these younger ones later in the year. We will advertise an audition date when the situation is clearer.

The good news is that Libby is keen to start writing the script while 'confined to barracks'. She has chosen *Babes in the Wood* as the pantomime theme, although this may include anything! We are in touch with last year's cast but if any younger children know they would like to audition, let me know (email [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com) or phone 842498) and I, in turn, will let them know the audition date when it is chosen.

*Sarah Coppendale*

## PLAYSCAPE

We're very fortunate that, as a charity, we can keep the Playscape project functioning even in lockdown. As with most people, we've got to grips with Zoom and have had to adjust plans in light of governmental advice. We're big advocates of outdoor play, but to keep our community safe, it has been vital that we support the measures to protect us from Covid-19, and unfortunately these have included the closure of the playground.

You can read the Parish Council's current rules for the Rec on the Parish Council website. Hopefully everyone has been able to get their daily exercise in other places in the area instead, enjoying the glorious weather. We've shared ideas for incorporating movement in your life, even in lockdown, on our social media feeds – Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Plus we've enlisted the help of dog walkers to help weed the new hedge area at the top of the Rec. If you're passing, please do lend a hand!

One thing we are sure of is that the Fun Run *will* go ahead; we just don't yet know if it will be a live or virtual event. Follow us on any of our social media feeds to hear the latest. *Eleanor McCrone* [info@shelfordplayscape.org](mailto:info@shelfordplayscape.org)

## THE SHELFORDS WI



Our May and June meetings are cancelled but we are still hoping to be able to hold the usual outdoor summer party on Thursday 2 July; this will be announced nearer the time. Meanwhile, some WI members have been filling their time with craft projects. Crochet work is undergoing a revival at the moment and here are two very different examples. One member is creating a 'Sweet Pea' blanket while another has produced a set of crocheted baubles. These have been used to decorate a willow obelisk which she had created at a willow weaving day at Sawston Village College. Stained glass work is another craft that one of our members has been trying.

In normal circumstances we meet on the first Thursday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Community Room behind St Mary's Church in Great Shelford. New members and visitors are always welcome. *Mary Talbott*

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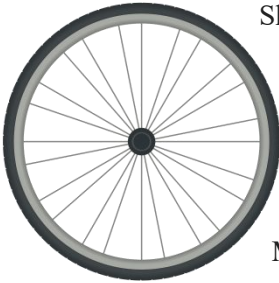
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## SHELFORD SPOKES CYCLING CLUB



Shelford's newest club enjoyed three delightful outings in March before the lockdown brought things to a halt. Clocking up 20 to 25 miles on our Monday morning rides, we visited Newton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Orwell, Barrington, Haslingfield, Whittlesford, Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Harston, Hauxton, Trumpington, Grantchester, Coton, Cambridge and Milton. Not bad for a bunch of (mostly) retirees, eh?

And it wasn't all toil and sweat. Along the way we pulled in for essential refuelling – typically coffee and cake – visiting the Moringa Tree in Haslingfield, Grounds Café in Milton Country Park, and our very own Cara Coffee here in Shelford.

Sadly, the lockdown means the club is now furloughed. One consolation, however, is that we can all still enjoy solo rides on blissfully quiet roads.

Looking ahead, post-lockdown, anyone interested in joining a Monday morning ride should email asking to be added to our mailing list.

Brian Connellan [brian.connellan@eastyoke.com](mailto:brian.connellan@eastyoke.com)



On Garret Hostel Bridge



## ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE CHARITY ISSUES SOS!



**SOS!! Appeal**  
**Support Our Services**



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity  
making every moment count

Cambridgeshire's only adult hospice has issued an urgent 'SOS!! Support Our Services' appeal in response to the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on the charity's ability to fundraise for its vital services this year.

The Arthur Rank Hospice provides care and support services to patients with an advanced serious illness or a life-limiting condition, and provides end-of-life care, typically to people who are in the last two weeks of their life. In response to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Hospice has had to reduce many of its services to protect the safety of its patients whilst simultaneously refocusing on the core healthcare needs of the county.

In just one month (from February to March 2020), demand for the care that the charity provides within people's homes (observing strict infection control procedures) has increased, as seen in the 61% increase in the number of referrals to the Hospice at Home night service. Calls to the Hospice have also increased, as demonstrated in the 27.5% increase in the length of time spent on triage calls by the Arthur Rank Community Team. Despite the difficult circumstances, in March the Inpatient Unit still provided care to 27 patients with complex end-of-life needs, alongside 19 patients in nurse-led beds.

Strict restrictions have had to be introduced for visitors to the Inpatient Unit and care staff across all services are struggling with the harsh reality of not being able to offer a comforting hug, or a hand to hold, to family members and their loved ones, at moments of heart-breaking loss.

The Hospice's Voluntary Services team's newly launched 'Caring Communities' scheme have moved to offering their services over the phone, and have additionally introduced a new telephone befriender role to support



Arthur Rank Hospice patients at risk of loneliness and isolation. Retired staff, GPs and student doctors have volunteered for clinical roles, and administrative and fundraising staff have been redeployed to further support clinical teams. Local businesses have rallied around the Hospice, donating essential items such as PPE for clinical colleagues and iPads for patients enabling them to communicate with loved ones.

The clinical team are working closely with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Commissioning Group (CCG), Addenbrooke's Hospital and social care networks to ensure the Hospice is doing everything it can to support the healthcare needs of the wider Cambridgeshire population.

None of what is happening now would be possible without the dedication, commitment and generosity of the local community, who passionately support the Hospice to fundraise £3.98 million each year, which together with the contracted funding from the CCG enables it to deliver its full range of services.

Initial financial forecasts have identified that the Hospice will lose at least £700,000 of potential income over the next six months. This is due to scores of fundraising events and personal challenges having to be cancelled; the closure of the Hospice's charity shops and Bistro; and the cancellation of training and conference events which were due to take place in its Education and Conference Centre.

Sharon Allen, CEO adds:

*The adverse circumstances in which we find ourselves seem to change hour by hour, whilst the admiration I have for each of my colleagues grows every day, as they constantly adjust, evolve and innovate. We need to ensure that we can carry on delivering essential care and services now, whilst also ensuring that services remain sustainable into the future. We truly hope that the people of Cambridgeshire will answer our SOS!!'*

To find out more about or donate to Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's 'SOS!! Support Our Services' appeal, please visit [arhc.org.uk/sos](http://arhc.org.uk/sos)

Some of the Hospice's front-line care team, from the Inpatient Unit at Shelford Bottom. Vital 24-hour care is still being delivered from the Cambridge Hospice, the Alan Hudson Day Treatment Centre in Wisbech and in people's own homes by the Arthur Rank Community Team.



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## ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE CHARITY WEEKLY VIRTUAL QUIZ

We have your Monday evening sorted with our Virtual Quiz Night.

It only costs £2 per player to enter and the more people that play the bigger the prize pot so please share this around your friends and family, get the snacks in and we'll see you there for some armchair fun! There are cash prizes for first, second and third but it's not about the winning, it's all about the taking part and supporting this local charity at the same time.

You must pre-register to take part. To book a space, visit:

[https://www.virtualquizevents.com/quiz/?quiz\\_fundraiser=arthur+rank+hospice#](https://www.virtualquizevents.com/quiz/?quiz_fundraiser=arthur+rank+hospice#)

Sign up now and once you've paid you will be able to gain access to the quiz two hours before it is due to start. This is an automated quiz and starts promptly at 8pm so we recommend you join the waiting room a few minutes early.

The rounds are: Round 1 – General Knowledge      Round 2 – Film & TV  
Round 3 – General Knowledge      Round 4 – Sport  
Round 5 – General Knowledge      Round 6 – Music

There are five questions in each round, with 20 seconds in which to answer.

The quiz events are won by players that answer the most questions correctly and in the fastest time.

*Marjorie Smith*

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Businesses in and around the village are working hard to support their customers. Here is what some of them are doing.

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## BRIAN CHARLES JEFFS 1940–2020

It is with great sadness that his family would like to announce the death of Brian Charles Jeffs of Great Shelford. He passed away in March in the home he loved, and is survived by daughter Anna, sons Jamie and Ian, and six grandchildren.



Born in Oxtou, Birkenhead, Brian left Merseyside at the age of 15 to become an apprentice jockey in Newmarket. Moving to Cambridge in the 1960s he became one of the top-rated county long-distance runners.

He spent many years in social work as housemaster at two local special schools. Indeed, his love of sport and dedication to helping young people continued throughout his life.

He moved to Great Shelford in 1978 with his wife Nicky. Instantly recognisable in his tartan cap, Brian was a familiar figure to many in the village and was always willing to offer help, a smile and a joke.

He set up a Friday night youth club which ran for over 20 years, alongside numerous Colts sports teams, and gave the same length of service to his beloved Great Shelford FC as a physio. The family were also active members of the parish church and choir for many years.

Widowed in 1991, Brian worked as a gardener into his retirement and beyond.

We will be having a private family funeral for him, but will host a memorial service later in the year.

### **From Anna:**

There's not enough space and time here to say all the things I would wish to say publicly about Brian and the fascinating life he had. Above all, to me, he was just the most wonderful soul, Daddy and Grampa whose love for his children and grandchildren knew no bounds, and will live on in us.

**From Jamie:**

I have always been extremely proud to be Brian's son. From his achievements early in his life to his tireless efforts to provide for his family, he was a remarkable man. His compassion and desire to help others always shone through. I can imagine no better father, role model or friend.

**From Ian:**

As kids he gave us a childhood full of love, support and laughter. As an adult I saw him in his element, both as a skilled gardener and as a friend to everyone. My memory is full of his stories and how he would raise a smile from everybody he met.

*Anna Jeffs Everson*

## VIRTUAL BELLRINGING

Are you missing the church bells ringing? Some of you will be delighted, some will miss the quintessentially English sound. In this area there are three towers with full circle bellringing; Stapleford and Little Shelford with six bells each and Great Shelford with eight. Not since the Second World War have the bells been silent for so long.

Bellringing is a very social activity. Regular practices and Sunday service ringing are an opportunity for us to meet up, enjoy seeing each other and above all indulge in our extremely esoteric hobby.

In order that ringers don't miss the gatherings, at Little Shelford the Ringing Master has organised online conferences for us all to meet up on Fridays, but not just for chatting. We have access to an online ringing simulator.



Bryn Reinstadler and Leland Kusmer (from the USA) created the Ringing Room multi-ringer simulator app

Each person is allocated a bell and makes it strike by clicking with the mouse. A bell has two strokes, handstroke and backstroke, at each stroke the bell sounds; it is very realistic. In the illustration, the first bell has struck its handstroke and waits its turn to strike again. The bells strike in many different patterns.

The system is quite unforgiving; if you activate your bell incorrectly it will clash with the other bells. It is taking some getting used to, but we are certain we will be ringing advanced methods like Cambridge Surprise Minor by the end of the lockdown. Who knows, if the lockdown lasts for months, we may try some 12 bell methods and attempt Belshazzar Delight Maximus!

*Angus Campbell*

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*Compiled and re-published by Anne George, Glynis Trundle,  
Margaret Ward and Alan Bullwinkle, 1993*

23 May 1817 SMALL POX – To The Editor

Sir: About a month ago the small-pox was brought into the parish of Great Shelford. The parishioners were becoming attention endeavoured to prevent it from spreading; they directed that the persons belonging to the family should not be allowed to come into the village until the whole of the parishioners who had not had the small or cow-pox were vaccinated; about 14 years since that time it had not appeared, and only partial vaccination had been resorted to. There are now upwards of 200 belonging to Great Shelford whom it was thought right to vaccinate; this example has been followed by Little Shelford, where upwards of 100 have been vaccinated. I hear that the small-pox has shewn itself in one or two more of the neighbouring villages, and I trust that inoculation for the small-pox will not be permitted, but that it may be remembered that there have been determinations in the Courts of Law that all persons who inoculate for the small-pox and by that means endanger the health of His Majesty's subjects, are liable to prosecution and penalties.

A Constant Reader.

At Great Shelford only one more has sickened of the small-pox and that is one of the family first attacked.

*[We have reproduced the above exactly as in the original but it seems a bit Trampesque! Can any readers explain the apparent contradiction? Eds]*

16 May 1828

INQUEST – William Andrews, a lad aged about 13 years. It appeared that the deceased was feeding a horse, upon which he was seated, by the side of the road leading to Whittlesford, and the horse by some means, slipping into a deep and narrow ditch by which the road was bounded, threw the deceased off, and fell upon him. In this situation he was found by some boys, who ran to the house of the deceased's father. When extricated from under the horse, (in which position it is supposed he remained about 2 hours) the lad was quite dead. Mr Philip, surgeon, of Harston, examined the body, and stated that in his opinion the death of the deceased was evidently occasioned by suffocation. Verdict, accidental death.



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## LOCAL WALKS AND CYCLE RIDES

We are being encouraged to take exercise, yet some local pub walks may be less appealing than usual. Here's one with several variations, including places associated with Rupert Brooke, Lord Byron and Jeffrey Archer, and you can go long or short, walk or cycle, as you prefer.

Starting from Great Shelford Station, go down Station Road to the traffic lights, cross Tunwells Lane and go through the village to the junction with High Street / Church Street. Turn left, go past the church and take the path on the right through Rectory Farm. The track follows the river, a tributary of the Cam or Granta. Bear left on the lower of the two paths through the underpass to avoid the gate over the railway line. Continue along the sometimes rutted track (fine for cyclists when dry, though can get muddy) turning under the M11 and bending around until you reach Hauxton Mill and the A10.

*Now you can choose from three options:*

**A** For a short walk, turn left through the grounds of the Mill, crossing the stream and following the bank. Then the path takes off between the new houses and carries on to Hauxton Road, passing the church.

Follow the road under the M11 and over the railway crossing into Little Shelford, bearing left down the High Street. Turn left after the church and go over the water bridges into Great Shelford again.

**B** For a longer walk, when you get to Hauxton Mill, carefully cross the A10 and take the track directly opposite the Mill. Note the old Trinity Hall milestone. Follow the track past the ditches on your left and cross the bridge over the M11. Bear left and you are now in Trumpington Meadows, which was the Plant Breeding Institute. Take any of the several tracks across the meadows and head diagonally left towards a row of trees. This is the edge of Byron's Pool, which provides a pleasant stroll in woodland and riverside.

From here you can cut across to the new Trumpington estate which was on your right as you came across the meadow. Go through the estate to Cambridge Road and straight back to Shelford on the cycle lane.

**C** For a longer cycle, continue to the right through Byron's Pool car park and turn left onto Grantchester Road. Pass Jeffrey and Mary Archer's house and after The Orchard tea rooms and just before the church (famous for its stopped clock in Rupert Brooke's poem) take a path on your right that opens onto Grantchester Meadows. This is the perfect picnic spot! Follow the path, with the river on your right and skylarks above and you will end up in Newnham.

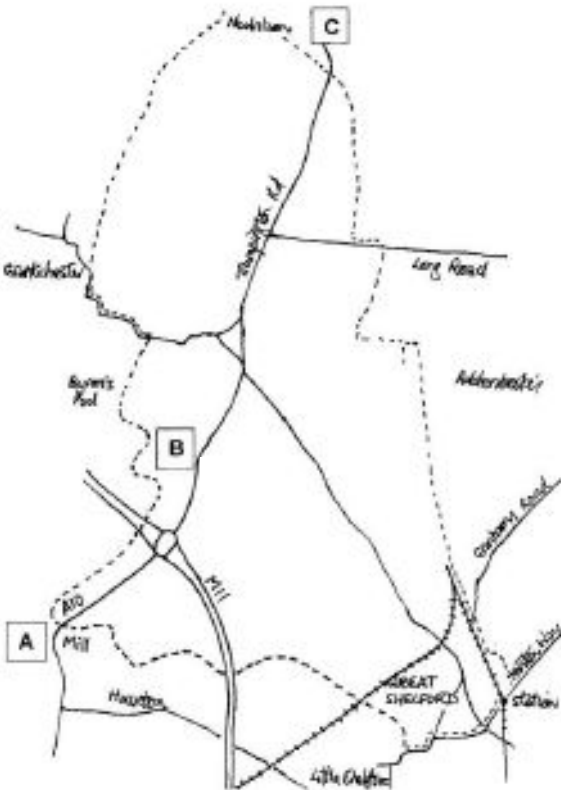
When you reach Barton Road, turn right through Lammas Land car park and park. When you reach the junction of Trumpington Road and Brooklands

Avenue, head diagonally across and follow Vicar's Brook through the allotments.

Just after Clare College Sports Ground you will come out on a field on your left with the railway line beyond. Follow the field edge with the trees on your right until you are nearly at Long Road. At this point turn left towards the guided busway and sharp right under the Long Road bridge.

Follow the guided busway (though not too closely) until you reach the bridge over to Addenbrooke's. Cross the guided busway carefully, go over the bridge, turn right up Francis Crick Avenue and at the roundabout take a track on the right which leads to the DNA cycle path with stripes all the way back to Shelford.

*DSG*



*Not to scale*

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## SKILLS AND TRADE SWAP CAMBS

Paul Lane, a website designer from Great Shelford, has created a Facebook page that introduces local people with different skills and talents that can be swapped. 'The idea came to me in the garden,' said Paul, who owns his own creative design business *Savvy Design*. 'Looking at my old decking that needed replacing, I thought wouldn't it be great if I could offer my website design services to a local carpenter.'

The idea gained further traction when Sue Walden, a freelance business development consultant, contacted him after seeing his idea on social media as she had started to swap her services with friends. She needed a website designed for her business, so the first swap was crystallised, and she is helping Paul build awareness for his new project.

'With the recent dramatic change to everyone's lives, the free time currently being experienced and the loss of earnings affecting many self-employed workers, we can now use our time at home on projects that assist others or planning swaps for when businesses are operational,' says Paul.

The Skills and Trade Swap website is now live and you can find more information or post your need or skill on the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SkillsAndTradeSwapCambs>

## BABRAHAM PARK AND RIDE SMART ENERGY SCHEME: LOCAL FEEDBACK INVITED

At the forefront of renewable energy investment, the Council and Bouygues E&S Solutions Limited are developing a 2.5 MW solar car port scheme at the Babraham Park and Ride, located in Great Shelford Parish just south of Cambridge.

Cambridgeshire County Council is working alongside its partner agency PECT, the environmental charity, to deliver an awareness campaign on social media. The aim is to offer opportunities for local residents, commuters and businesses to feed back on proposals to develop the site into an innovative solar car port canopy with battery storage and electric vehicle charging. The project team will be providing opportunities and online events for the public to learn more about the project ahead of a full planning application being submitted.

Members of the public can join virtual Zoom and Facebook Live events to hear more about the Babraham Park and Ride Smart Energy Scheme on 6 May 2020 at 6pm (join at <https://zoom.us/j/905380356>).

For further details, please email [mlei@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:mlei@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.mlei.co.uk](http://www.mlei.co.uk)

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## GREAT SHELFORD FOOTBALL CLUB



On the playing front, it unfortunately looks like the coronavirus has now definitely ended our season. Even in the very unlikely event that games could have been played at some point in the summer, being a predominantly village league, hardly any club would have a pitch to play on.

As it happens, the English Football Association have decided that the leagues from Step 3 down to Step 7 in the national pyramid should be declared 'null and void'. In effect, no winners, promotions or relegations! Locally this includes leagues at the level of the Southern Premier Division down to the Kershawe Premier Division that our first team play in.

The Cambridgeshire Football Association, however, are able to decide the fate of leagues below Step 7 and we await the result of a club ballot on whether they should be declared 'null and void' or decided on an average points basis on games played so far. As our reserve team sit unbeaten on top of their division we obviously hope for the latter option as it would mean they gain promotion.

On a sad note we regret to announce that David 'Diddy' Whalley has sadly passed away after a battle with cancer. Diddy was a Shelford lad who played as a striker for the club in the late 80s and early 90s, notably as part of the all-conquering Trevor Norton team who won the quadruple of Premier League, Premier League Cup, Challenge Cup and Invitation Cup two years running. Our thoughts go out to Diddy's family and friends, particularly his father Gordon, who still lives in the village.

*Terry Rider, Chairman*

## GREAT SHELFORD CRICKET CLUB



As you will already know, all cricket is suspended for the time being. As soon as we know anything new, we'll let you know through the *Village News* and on our website at [www.greatshelfordcc.com](http://www.greatshelfordcc.com) or you can contact me at [brian\\_higgins50@hotmail.com](mailto:brian_higgins50@hotmail.com)

*Brian Higgins*



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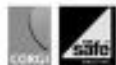


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## GREAT SHELFORD TENNIS CLUB

In these challenging times it will come as no surprise that the upcoming Open Day we wrote about in the previous issue of the *Village News* has sadly been cancelled. We're working to fix another date with Bright Ideas for Tennis so we can bring you this event in better times instead.

The courts have been closed for three weeks now and club members are doing their part to protect our NHS. The committee is thinking of everyone affected by this crisis and looking forward to the day when we can open the courts again.

Stay safe and healthy.

*Angharad Harris*

## GREAT SHELFORD BOWLS CLUB CENTENARY YEAR



Well, what a year to celebrate our centenary. Who would have thought that, one hundred years after the Spanish flu pandemic, we would be in the middle of another.

We got through that one, and I am sure we will get through this one. The only question, of course, is when? No one knows the answer – only that we will be in a lockdown situation for at least another three weeks to May.

What happens after that is anyone's guess. So, until then we cannot make any plans, other than cancel everything we had planned and make a decision about celebrating the longevity of the Great Shelford Bowls Club, which hopefully we can do in 2021.

I will put another article in the *Village News* when we know more.

Stay safe everyone.

*Alan Edwards, Secretary*

07779 834311

## STATION MANAGER ANNIVERSARY

For those still wishing to contribute to the JustGiving page to celebrate the ten years of service of our station manager Angela Milton (see the Reader's Letter on page 35 of our January 2020 issue) the final date for contributions is 31 May.

Messages of support and donation can be added on

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ellen-gokkel-3s>

## 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, 11 Elms Avenue, Great Shelford, CB22 5LN. The copy date is usually the second Friday of the month. See the *Next Issue* box for next month's date.

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

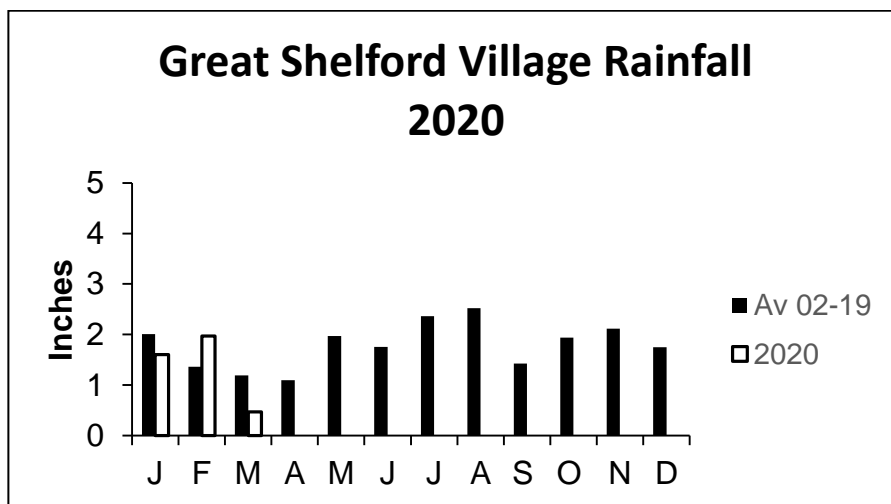
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*From data supplied by Angus Campbell*

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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Badminton (Little Shelford)	Rosie Cranmer	513572
Bowling Club	Alan Edwards	666965
Brownies, Guides, Rainbows	Lisa MacGregor	843021
Bunch – Feast	Duncan Grey	842191
Carpet Bowls	Philip Seekings	843416
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cambridge	0344 848 7979
Community Association	(for booking Memorial Hall) Sheila Tilbury-Davis	844384
Country Market	Dorothy Doel	843946
Cricket Club	Brian Higgins	07557 502840
Football Club	Terry Rider	01354 680661
Free Church	Iris Considine	842181
Friends of Shelford Library	Daphne Sulston	842248
Garden Club	Helen Chubb	845032
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Great Shelford Friendship Club	Cheryll Mynot	845435
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Shelford & Stapleford Strikers	Derek White	561753
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