# Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

**EST 1999** 

**JUNE 2020** 

PRICE 40p

#### Helen Harwood's Coronavirus Diary



VE Day Commemoration 8 May 2020 Photo: Mary Talbott

VE Day in Great Shelford 1995, 2005 and 2020

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#### **GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/

#### SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 15 APRIL 2020

This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the Covid-19 meeting restrictions.

#### PUBLIC SESSION

One member of the public was present via Zoom and praised the Parish Council for setting up the virtual meeting.

An email had been received from a village resident which was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and its content noted. The Chair and Clerk will construct a full email reply in due course to the resident.

#### FINANCE

Five cheques to the value of  $\pounds 2,538.17p$  for the period 19–31 March were approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk to minimise physical contact.

Thirteen cheques to the value of  $\pounds 16.176.09p$  for the period up to 15 April were approved and signed.

Unbudgeted expenditure:

- A 15% increase in Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) membership fee from £689 to £793 per year was agreed.
- Repairs to the verges at multiple locations and to the Recreation Ground grass (ranging from £1,500 to £2,000) were agreed. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent stating that future repairs would be charged to the adjacent properties.

#### **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **District Councillors**

Councillor Peter Fane was in attendance and reported that with regard to Covid-19, the District Council and the County Council had a coordinated approach and were in liaison with all other support groups.

Councillors were invited to attend the next District Council meeting on the actions being taken. Councillor Simon Talbott volunteered to attend.

#### **County Councillors**

No County Councillors were in attendance.

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#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

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

The Pavilion is closed and refunds are due to both football clubs, as well as yoga and art hires. The Clerk suggested that a reduced rate or free period should be considered when activities recommence to assist in the restarting process and it was agreed that this would be considered when appropriate.

#### **Cemetery and Allotments**

The gatepost at Stonehill allotments is dislodged and requires attention when a contractor is available.

A longstanding allotment holder on the Stonehill Road allotments has expressed concern about the state of many of the allotments and asked when invoices would be sent out and the empty allotments redistributed. It was agreed that the Clerk and Allotments Committee would try and resolve allocations by May 2020.

#### **REPORTS FROM COORDINATING OFFICERS**

**Police** Cambridgeshire Chief Constable is adamant that Police Community Support Officers would not be allocated to parking enforcement regardless of funding available from Parish Councils, contrary to the District Council statement on this topic. The public reporting link for any observed crimes is https://www.cambs.police.uk /report/REPORT

**Twinning Association** The visit to Verneuil-en-Halatte by Shelford residents 23–26 May has been cancelled, as has the return visit by the Verneuil group to Great Shelford planned for 4–7 July.

**The Feast** The Feast scheduled for 6–12 July has been postponed to 2021. However, a weekend event is being considered for September / October 2020.

**Village News** There would be no distribution of the May issue to subscribers but free copies would be available in village shops and online.

**Website Administration** Video conference facilities have been set up with test meetings to identify issues councillors have in using the facilities. Equipment and software have been sourced to provide video conferencing and lamination of notices. Councillors expressed thanks to WebAdmin for the speed of establishing the virtual meeting facilities and requested the provision of a full 12-month professional facility at the lowest rate available.

**Health Centre, Dentist & Pharmacy** Granta Medical Practices have closed the footpath between the Woollards Lane car park and Ashen Green from Monday 13 April between 8am and 6pm daily, to prevent the risk of any cross infection whilst patients are assessed outside the surgery prior to admission.







#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Annual Parish Meeting 2020 This has been postponed until further notice.

**Plans for VE Day (8 May)** Councillor Simon Talbott will investigate if a virtual Church event could be achieved.

**Ball Protection Netting** To be reviewed at the next physical meeting after any meeting with residents. No cricket is currently planned for the 2020 season.

Web-based lease provider and future policy Progress on a web-based lease provider as an objective test for the new SSYI lease and the future policy on legal services and subsequent lease or agreement documents are to be reviewed at the next physical meeting. However, Councillor Greg Price and the Clerk will attempt to make some progress.

**Riverbank Access Points** Removal of the three access point log steps destroyed by vandalism and riverbank planting is to be considered. The District Council will establish expert contact and progress the work when appropriate.

## CORONAVIRUS AND ADVICE FROM CAPALC & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC)

The legal status of Parish Council Meetings has changed. Virtual remote meetings are permitted, with guidance provided, and Annual Parish Meetings are suspended until further notice.

It is expected that Council positions will remain unchanged until a physical meeting can be held.

External Audits are suspended until further notice with publication of final Audited accounts moved from 30 September to 30 November 2020. This means that draft accounts must be approved by 31 August 2020 at the latest or may be approved earlier where possible. PKF Littlejohn (External Auditors) have stated that instructions for the completion of the 2019/20 AGAR will not be issued until such time as there is more clarity over the implications for smaller authorities.

**Government furlough scheme** Claims can only be made if an employee is 100% without any work. The Village Man continues to clear bins, open facilities for maintenance and will attend to any suitable item raised by the Clerk. However, he is on vastly reduced hours on full pay. The Clerk is working from home on slightly reduced hours on full pay. No claim under the Government Scheme is appropriate and the guidance states that 'the government expects that the scheme will not be used by many public sector organisations.'





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#### Replacement Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Progress on filling these positions is suspended until further notice due to the current situation. The current Clerk will delay his departure / resignation from the end of May to the end of August 2020 (after the August F&GP half year meeting) to assist. The situation will be reviewed again at the August F&GP meeting but continuation to May 2021 is potentially available.

#### EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

Use of the football nets near the Peacocks bungalows has led to concern due to footballs flying over nets into Peacocks grounds. This will be investigated when appropriate.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JUNE

Planning Committee Meeting Planning Committee Meeting

Planning Committee Meetin

Parish Council Meeting

3 June 5.15pm 17 June 5.15pm 17 June 6.00pm

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 at

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.

#### JULY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is Friday 12 June and it should be available on Friday 26 June with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter.

We would like to thank the Shelfords Covid-19 Support Group volunteers for their help this month with distribution.

Free online versions of the *Village News* will now appear one month after publication at <u>https://shelford.org/news.htm</u>

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

20/01349/HFUL	Luke Sikkema	Single storey rear extension	
	144 Hinton Way		
This is a large extension but sight lines indicate it will not negatively impact			
the neighbouring property and we are not aware of the neighbour objecting.			

20/01382/1	HFUL	4 Rectory Farm Barns Church Street	Proposed new windows and roof lights to rear (west) elevation
As all proposed windows look out over open land we have no objections to this plan.			

20/01930/PRI01A	Gareth Morgan	Single storey rear extension	
	26 Leeway Avenue		
The roof height is at permitted height and there is no intrusion for the			
neighbour. We assume a party wall agreement has been put in place. We have			
no objections but would ask that working hours are restricted and vehicles are			
all on site.			

20/01477/HFUL	The Dovecote	Demolition of existing car barn and
20/01478/HFUL	Granhams Farm	replacement with car port

The proposed structure is sitting on the existing footprint and slightly smaller and therefore does not infill the Green Belt. There are no heritage assets and the design is in keeping with the existing properties. Due to the state of the existing property we believe the new work will enhance the space. We have no objections but would ask that a bat survey is undertaken before work commences.

S/3050/19/FL	11 Cambridge Road	Proposed replacement stable block	
Revision 2		and perimeter fencing	
We believe that acoustic fencing has now been withdrawn and are pleased by			
this. We question the need for such high security around this land but,			
assuming there is a need, we are happy with wire mesh fencing but this needs			
to be positioned inside the existing hedge boundary with no hedges removed			
and we would like a hedgehog gap along the bottom of the fencing please.			

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20/01441/LBC	Ms Lyn Disley	Single storey rear extension	
20/02093/HFUL	19 Church Street		
We believe this proposal maps the extension at the other end of the terrace of			
four listed properties and therefore it has the precedent for approval. Due to the			
restricted access along Church Street we would ask that no work begin until the			
other extension is complete and that normal restrictions are placed on vehicles			
on site and working hours.			

20/01604/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Barnes	Single storey rear extension
	38 High Green	
As this extension is slightly deeper than the extensions on both neighbouring		
properties we noted that neither neighbour had raised concerns and therefore		
we are happy for this application to proceed.		

S/4059/19/FL	White Hill Farm	Demolition of the existing barn and	
5, 105 <i>J</i> 1 <i>J</i> 1 <i>L</i>		replacement of an agricultural	
	Dam	replacement of an agricultural	
		building with a new dwelling	
The developer joined our meeting and we discussed the proposal in the light of			
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the answers to our reservations from the previous application. All our points were addressed and we can now accept this proposal.

#### PLANNING DECISIONS BY SCDC

#### Approved

20/01262/HFUL Buristead Corner. Double-glazed windows and cladding.

S/3333/19/FL Hillstead Farm, Hinton Way. Change of use of five former agricultural buildings.

#### A PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

Aren't we lucky in Great Shelford to have fields to walk across for our daily exercise during this period of lockdown? What a pity there is so much dog mess to dodge as we are enjoying a walk in the sunshine.

Do dog owners realise that elderly people, some of whom can't see too well, and children also go on these walks and are not necessarily looking for dog mess which they have to avoid. This is a plea and a reminder that if your dog fouls pathways and general walkways you must clear it up, and that the current pandemic doesn't mean you can ignore the rule.

Anne Ashurst



MUTON + HISTON + INPINCTON + CRITCH + NUDINCLY + COTON + KARTON + CRIMITOHESTER TRUMPTIOTON + THE SHELFORDS + STATEFORD + CHERRY HINTON + RUBOURN EVERSHAM + STOW CLAW OLY + REV DITTON + HORNINGSEA



#### SHELFORD SCHOOL



Rainbow sun hat



Heart rainbow



Football rainbow

At the time of writing this article we are in lockdown, uniting against coronavirus and adapting to fundamental shifts in the way we live, work and communicate. At Shelford School, lockdown has created two sets of pupils - the vast majority of children are home learning, whilst a small group attend 'Home from Home' classes at school. Staff rotate between remote working and school, and several of the team have been isolating but working from home. It's not an easy situation but, as ever, staff and families have risen to the challenge with enthusiasm ... and a huge appreciation for technology.

Email is now key for home learners, who receive daily activities from their teacher and submit one of the tasks for individual feedback before the next task is due.

As our staff team had prepared for a lockdown scenario, the switch to home learning was smooth save for online resources crashing nationally on day 1! Thankfully, the internet recovered quickly, family support with home learning is excellent and teachers are continually adapting to best support their classes. 'Home from Home' pupils cover the same work as their home learning classmates, but with the support of a small daily staff team. Afternoons are more relaxed, with a strong focus on outdoor play and projects where social distancing is easier to incorporate. In the meadow we now have a fantastic 'living classroom', recently planted from willow by Mrs Clarke and Mrs McCrone. It is up to the children to name it, so watch this space!

There is a tremendous effort to maintain mental and physical wellbeing and the strong Shelford School community spirit. Staff have collated resources to help families enjoy time together, with themed activities, web links and in-house competitions across the curriculum areas. To stay visually connected, weekly Celebration Assemblies are filmed from different locations around the school and we have an exciting new vlog filled with staff messages, sketches, storytimes and videos of the Reception class chicks! Staff and governors are using video conferencing for meetings and virtual coffee breaks. The missed Instrumentalists' Concert has gone virtual, with families uploading performances, and a community sing-a-long project has been launched. Even sport has gone virtual, and we were delighted to win the county's first Virtual School Games, after enjoying running, rowing, table tennis and opening and closing ceremony challenges! Well done Team Shelford!

In this time of unrelenting uncertainty and anxiety, we can take heart from the strengthening of communities locally and globally. Between the dark clouds there are uplifting rainbows – figuratively and literally!

Maria Lazarus, Parent Governor

#### THRIPLOW WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

Thriplow Waste Recycling Centre re-opened on 11 May from 8am to 5pm for residents who have essential waste that cannot be stored safely at home. Vans and trailers are not currently accepted.

Note that a one-way system has been introduced at the time of writing so if you are going from Shelford, you need to access the centre by going through Little Shelford and Royston to Thriplow, and then driving down Gravel Pit Hill where you will queue to turn left into the centre. When leaving, you have to turn left and then go back on the A505. There are plenty of staff who are ensuring that appropriate distancing is maintained.

07789 564042

01223 977306



Mon - Thur: 12:00 - 14:30 & 17:00 - 23:00 Fri: 12:00 - 14:30 & 17:00 - 00:30 Set: 12:00 - 00:30 Sun: 12:00 - 22:30

#### THE SHELFORDS WI





The WI have been meeting via Zoom in the recent weeks. Sometimes it has been for coffee (bring your own!) and a chat. This has also been a chance to share ideas on craft projects and to pick up tips from others. One member has crocheted a rainbow for the window. If anyone would like the pattern we can provide it.

At our Zoom meeting on 7 May we tried Zoom Line Dancing – it was great fun even if we didn't keep together and ended up all facing in different directions! Members will be invited to all Zoom meetings by email.

We are still hoping it may be possible to hold an outdoor summer party in July.

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* 



## GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH <u>https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/</u>

The Archbishops have revised their instructions about accessing our church buildings, so we are now able to record or live stream our services within the church, as long as this involves only one designated person and another from their household if needed. The same person is also allowed into church to offer prayer morning and evening, and to ring the church bell. We will also be able to do this every Thursday evening and did so for the recent VE Day 75 celebrations.

We are therefore recording some services in church and also offering prayer daily (as we have been doing at home), ringing the bell morning and evening to remind the village that they are *all* being remembered in prayer.

We have been informed about the government plans for the gradual lifting of the current restrictions. These are phased, so I expect we may need to wait a while until we are able to open the church again. My thanks again for your generous feedback on the online services.

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, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.





#### Services on Video

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



#### **Daily HOPE**

This is an excellent new national Church of England initiative for those who are especially isolated and do not have access to the internet. Launched last month, **Daily HOPE** is a freephone line, available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options updated daily, including

Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled Hymns We Love provides a hymn and reflection.

#### **Cambridge City Foodbank**

The Foodbank still very much needs our support at this difficult time. St Mary's is closed until further notice, but Great Shelford Free Church are offering a collection point outside their front door, so 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: <u>https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/</u>

#### St Mary's Sunday Club

The Sunday Club will not meet until further notice. We will be offering a regular Mary Mouse letters and activities on the St Mary's website. For details contact Gillian Pett: <u>gillian.pet29@gmail.com</u>

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

Funerals:	13 May	Margaret Bliss
	15 May	Douglas Barrett

For further information about Great Shelford Parish Church

visit our website: www.stmarysgreatshelford.org

Vicar: The Revd Simon Talbott 01223 847068 or 0705 0042616 or email *vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org* 

Assistant Curate: The Revd Nicola Bown 07414 595160 or email <u>curate@stmarysgreatshelford.org</u>

Parish Administrator: Katharin Page 07710 518220 or email pagekatharin@gmail.com

St Mary's Great Shelford is a Registered Charity, No. 245456

#### **VE DAY COMMEMORATION 2020**

It was not possible to hold the planned VE Day commemoration in Great Shelford, but the Parish Council Chair and Vice-Chair and The Revd Simon Talbott observed the 11am silence and read the names of the men of Great Shelford who died in World War II. A tribute of garden flowers was placed on the memorial where someone had already placed a poppy cross.

As it was not possible to hold the full commemorative service Simon recorded a five-minute version filmed in various parts of Great Shelford beginning outside Days Bakery. This can be viewed on the parish church website <u>www.stmarysgreatshelford.org</u>

He began 'We're outside Days here in the centre of Great Shelford and looking at their wonderful display in the window to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day. There were lots of events planned – some no doubt you may have



planned in your own homes and with family members, and there were some church services as well planned nationally and locally. We're doing what we can in the present situation and what follows are some of the prayers extracted from those that are offered to people during this extraordinary weekend as we continue to live under lockdown.'

The scene then moved to outside the Vicarage where Simon talked of the need for God's forgiveness for the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people and war between nations. He remembered the soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives and particularly those from our own village community who served and died in the Second World War and whose names are recorded on the village war memorial.

At the war memorial, prayers were held for those who served and died in World War II and for those who serve today, and finally the commemoration ended with prayers and a blessing held in the Parish Church.





MT and JW

#### BLA REHS

#### **Extracts from the Great Shelford Chronicle 1774–1868**

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

14 June 1833

FIRE – On Wednesday afternoon last, about three o'clock, attempted on the premises of Mr. William Dean who saw smoke issuing from a stack; he immediately threw some water upon it and thus prevented further damage. From suspicious circumstances a man named John Stallion has been apprehended; several long examinations have taken place, and the man is committed for further examination.



#### **GREAT SHELFORD FREE CHURCH ONLINE**



Our buildings may be closed, but the Free Church is not – we are still here to meet together, albeit virtually, and serve our community. On our website you will see 'Church At A Distance' where there are details of just how we are doing that. <u>https://www.shelfordfreechurch.org.uk</u>

Our Sunday morning services are being live streamed on Facebook (and are 'attended' by many more people than usual), our after church coffee chat, housegroups and prayer meeting are happening on Zoom and there are videos, activities and chat groups for our children and young people. Behind the scenes we continue to support our more elderly and vulnerable members and neighbours by phone calls, running errands and friendly waves, and also play a very active part in the Village Support Facebook group. Our foodbank collection point is being very well supported too.

Another online activity is our church blog, for which I have been writing a weekly contribution, documenting how it has been for me so far. It has been interesting to note how often what I thought were just my observations have been mirrored in others' perceptions too.

**Week 1 – For Such a Time as This** This was the week when it all 'kicked off' and started to get real and close. Familiar routines had to be abandoned, and it felt that my life was being shaken in ways I'd never known before. I was entering a time that could bring out the worst in people, but also the best. I was feeling a mix of emotions – and yes, I believed that God was in control, but that didn't stop me feeling scared and apprehensive.

Week 2 – Webs / Rhythms and Routines Trying to map out a 'new normal' came next. I know I need a routine, exercise and connection to other people to keep emotionally healthy and am so grateful that as my normal 'web' of interactions rapidly unravelled, the World Wide Web was there to enable me to keep up my gym classes, choir and meetings. The words 'unprecedented' and 'Zoom' appeared in almost every article I read.

Week 3 – Be Careful What You Pray For Wait a minute ... this isn't all bad! I know I'd been praying for a reduction in everyone's carbon footprint, more opportunity to engage with the community, less busyness etc., but I didn't expect an answer like this. A spring lovelier than any I can remember, sunshine, blue skies, a garden full of blossom and so little traffic that I learned to identify different birdsongs – this was truly something to be grateful for.

Week 4 – What's On Your Mind? I'm a classic overthinker, never missing an opportunity to ruminate. As the initial flurry of organising lockdown life subsided, and even two hours spent on the volunteers' prescription run only took up part of the day, I had to give myself permission to slow down and not feel anxious about not doing things all the time. Time to literally re-mind myself of the universal (God-given) capacity for awareness and attention, being present in the here and now and accepting it as it is.

Week 5 – Life's Not Fair Living in a spacious house and garden with plenty of food, lots to purposefully occupy me and no job insecurities or home-schooling to worry about, and a lovely (albeit socially-distanced) coronavirus-

free family, I felt ... guilty. Christians believe they should rejoice and be thankful in all circumstances. That is true, but being thankful is not incompatible with other emotions; God is big enough to hold us through them all, and though the storm may still rage, He can calm His child.

**Week 6 – God Is Not Elsewhere** Easter, and what a strange one it was – Christians locked out of their churches on the most important date in their calendar. And so much to reflect on ... a horrible lonely suffocating death, as so many around the world were suffering; fearful people locked in rooms; sad people mourning what they *had* hoped for ... and then the realisation that He had not gone, but was there after all, but in ways and places they had not expected to see Him.

Week 7 – Empty Wellies Melancholy nostalgia week, looking back over hundreds of photos of grandchildren in May; little fingers planting seeds and slipping the first broad beans out of their pods; seeing if the cow parsley at the bottom of the garden had grown taller than the children's heads; walks in the bluebell woods. And then the awareness that the yearning I felt was what it must be like for God when I don't show up for my prayer time, too socially distant to make space in my day for Him.

Week 8 – Are We Nearly There Yet? How long is this going on for? I'm not sure that I mind really, because actually, I've got quite used to lockdown. I'm comfortable and safe and practically institutionalised. In fact, I'm not sure how I'll cope with deadlines and timetables and even getting dressed at a reasonable hour again. Noah was on his boat for over a year and the children of Israel wandered in the desert for forty years. Christians have been waiting for over two thousand years for Jesus to return. I don't know how long this will go on for, none of us do, but God knows and when the time comes He'll make sure I'm ready.

Week 9 – We'll Meet Again Humbled and so, so grateful – that's how I felt watching the VE Day Anniversary events on the television. Whatever disruptions to everyday life, whatever separation from loved ones I am experiencing, is as nothing compared to what was sacrificed so that I, born a generation after the war, and my children and grandchildren, could live in peace and prosperity.

I don't know what I'll be writing in next week's blog, let alone what I'll be thinking a year from now, but I am so thankful that I live my life in the hands of the one who does.

The full blog posts, and those of the other contributors can be found here: <u>https://churchatadistance.wordpress.com/blog-2/</u>

Liz Jenkin, Elder, Great Shelford Free Church





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Good news! Cambridgeshire County Council has recently launched *The Library Presents ... in your house*, giving you access to high quality arts performances and workshops free of charge from your home. There's something for everyone (children and adults) including music, storytelling, poetry, theatre and animation, radio drama, visual arts, magic extravaganzas, and arts and craft workshops. Listings are updated weekly and can be found at *www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts*. The programme is funded by Arts Council England and run in partnership with Babylon ARTS.

June events include:

- The Quarantine Quilt (online and by post)
- Interactive Story Workshops for Families (book free tickets)
- Discover Florence Nightingale through songwriting
- Stories from the Schvitz (three-part series)
- Crabby: A Snappy Little Tale of Grumpy Feelings\*
- What To Do About Them and Be Not Afeard: A Sensory Telling of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'\*

\*for children and those with complex needs





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#### DIARY JUNE

**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.



### **GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES**

We have not received anything from Granta Medical Practices for this month's issue. However according to their website, patient access to any Granta site continues to be by invitation only following a prior telephone assessment. A telephone service is available 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday (0300 234 5555, then press 6 for Shelford) and there is a non-urgent dedicated email address, *capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net.* 

#### HELEN HARWOOD'S CORONAVIRUS DIARY APRIL 2020

I left you at the end of March, when we had been a week in lockdown, and we were in some disarray. The usual routines and ways of doing things, and all the pillars of normal life – work, school, socialising with family and friends, church, shopping – had all been swept aside. Hardly surprising if we were all a bit panicked.

But another week on, it's 11 April, and everything has got into gear. The Coop's (and presumably Tesco's) shelves may be looking a bit bare, but Barkers has worked to fill the void. They are offering a delivery service (as is the Spar shop in Stapleford). They have a cornucopia of fresh fruit and vegetables outside the store. Inside, meat and fish, cheese and bread. No need to go hungry in Shelford! Though I haven't ventured any further, I know that other village shops are doing similar things. The Square is doing takeaways – something to do for a treat, even if you have to eat it in your own garden. It's Easter weekend, and a very strange Easter, because no one has gone anywhere, and no one has visitors. The sun is pouring down – a perfect Bank Holiday weekend. How often do we get those?

Previously unthinkable numbers have come and gone. The outbreak in Italy was proving devastating. Spain was following an equally grim trajectory. The Spanish death toll hit 1,000 in a day. And here, on 10 April, the total number of deaths in a day rose to almost 1,000. The virus was spreading all round the world. It was officially now a pandemic, a world event.

We don't talk much about fear, though we are all very much afraid. And each set of figures only makes that fear more justified. Instead we set ourselves to cope. Cope with the fear, cope with living in a small space, cope with being parted from families. And above all, as a society, to attempt to impose some control over the spread of the virus. It's inevitable that analogy with the Second World War should occur. We are trying to foster the 'Dunkirk spirit'. In the second week of lockdown, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, began giving daily Coronavirus Updates at 5pm on television. It was important to get us all on board, keep us informed. He made a good job of these conferences, with public health officials explaining in clear and simple terms what was happening and what we were trying to achieve. Then he was obliged to self-isolate after showing symptoms. Abruptly he was taken into intensive care. I felt shocked, and hoped he wouldn't die. He remained there for five days, and was then discharged. Now recuperating, he is not in the public view. In the meantime, nothing stopped working. Other ministers took a turn to speak to us, the public health officials continued to do their work of advising, and the army of civil servants and others who are quietly invisible, but making sure things happen,

all carried on their work. Maybe it's good for us to learn that it's always about teamwork, never just the achievement of the charismatic front man. Prince Charles, too, got the virus. But he seemed to have it lightly, as the majority do, and was none the worse afterwards. And that too seemed to help.

We're lucky, we're now retired. But what of those in work? There's a polarity now between those needed to keep society going and the rest. First and foremost, the staff of the NHS, obviously. Everyone is intensely aware that they are putting their lives on the line, taking care of us. They are overstretched and stressed. And there is a mood of profound gratitude for all they are doing. But others are working too. The army of carers, the bin men, the shop workers, whether in food shops or supermarkets, the delivery drivers, the postmen, the tech companies keeping the broadband going. I could go on and on. And then there are those who are able to work from home, using phone and internet. But there are many thousands who are unable to do what they do. Some are being paid, many are not. Many are self-employed and fear they will have no business left by the end of this. There are mortgages to pay, debts to service, food to be put on the table day after day after day. How is this all being held together? Such a shutdown is unprecedented, and no one knows where we will be at the end of it.

Bizarrely, the mowing of the grass verges around the village continues. Not an essential service, you might think. Yet, in its way, it helps. If everything quietly falls into disorder around us, then our morale suffers. The real reason for this continuance, I suspect, lies in the need of businesses to carry on if at all possible. A lone man with a strimmer, or riding on a mower, and working in the open air is not in a vulnerable position, and can reasonably continue to earn a living. And our village streets look better for it.

It's strange to roll back to 2019, when all our thoughts were of climate change and Brexit, both major sources of worry in their way, and a source of controversy and contention. Now we barely remember either issue. Yet one irony is that the volume of emissions has dropped so significantly with our lockdowns, with the lack of air traffic and reduced car usage, that our  $CO_2$ output across the world has plummeted. Indeed generally, with we humans locked down, the outside world seems so much more peaceful. You can see the M11 when you walk on Rectory Farm, and almost all the car traffic has vanished, with only trucks plying their essential trade. As a result, the roar from the motorway has almost disappeared. There are no planes flying overhead. The roads are a joy for cyclists. One villager told me he'd cycled along the A505, a road he'd normally never even contemplate. It was empty, and you could hear the birds singing. 'It's great,' he said. 'But when you hear the siren



Quiet streets in Great Shelford Photo: Christine Doel

of an ambulance, you pause, and wonder. It brings the coronavirus sharply back into your thoughts.'

Passing the day becomes a creative business. We, in the village, are lucky. Probably most of us have gardens, and we spend hours in them. Fortunately, it is spring, and the weather at least belies the gravity of our circumstances. Day after day of unbroken sunshine and glorious blue skies. The birds are nesting, there are bees to watch. If you have the time to look, and we do, there is much to see in a small space. To counter our isolation, there are many small resources. We shout to our neighbours across the garden fences. You can hear the voices of children playing. Dad kicking a football with the kids. The sounds of watering cans being filled at the tap. A lot of the time it is surprisingly easy to forget about coronavirus. In the quiet of the garden, surrounded by others likewise pottering, and with the birds singing, one can live quite happily.

We have all learnt to do social distancing. When we go out, we take pains to avoid other people. As we approach each other, one of us will describe a great arc, or even cross the road, to ensure that the prescribed six feet of distance is maintained. The staff on the checkout in the Co-op wear latex gloves, and there are plastic shields between us and them. Payment everywhere is by card, not cash, to minimise the risk of transmission. It's not so long since all Shelford's cashpoints disappeared, and we complained how hard it was to get any cash. Now no one wants it – we've become that long-talked-about thing, a cashless society. Indeed, every aspect of modern life which reduces physical contact has suddenly become the norm. We can't go and see people, so we ring, or email. Families are setting up their elderly relations with Zoom. Zoom's 'video, phone, and chat services through a cloud-based and peer-to-peer software platform' – words which mean absolutely nothing to these elderly users – allow them to talk to and see the families who are not allowed to visit them. We are all being dragged into the 21st century.

We have two walks – on Rectory Farm, and up the cycle path to Nine Wells. Both are characterised by not-very-stunning views of arable fields. It's at times like this that you can't help but think longingly of the holiday you won't now get in the West Country, because we're not allowed to travel. Everyone else, of course, walks there too, and the cycle path is pretty busy – on the edge of viable for social distancing. We are allowed to walk, to bike or to run. And I have never seen so many people running around Shelford. Ironically, with so little traffic, the air quality is vastly improved, and the running is correspondingly better for you. Wouldn't it be nice if there were always this little traffic! Empty buses continue to run through the village – the Citi 7 along Tunwells Lane, and the County-Council-funded bus along High Street. When you walk along the cycle path you see trains of 8, 10 or 12 carriages, carrying one or two people. The public transport has to keep going for the workers who still need it. But hardly anyone is using it.

The thing we need now, more than anything else, is patience. The press, and some politicians, keep pushing the question, 'When will the lockdown end and how?' It will end when it's time and when we don't undo what we have already done. It's 17 April. The coronavirus figures for the UK are 861 deaths yesterday, total deaths to date, 13,729. The number of cases in Cambridgeshire is slowly rising -408. We have been told the lockdown is in place for another three weeks.

When the press is not battering the government with awkward questions, they give us feel-good stories, and none was bigger than that of Captain Tom Moore. Tom was a 99-year-old Yorkshireman, now living in Marston Moretaine, who served in the army during the Second World War. He decided to do his bit to raise money for the NHS, and began a sponsored walk of 100 laps round his garden, using his walking-frame, and doing 10 laps a day. His modest goal was £1,000. But his story was rapidly taken up, and became a huge source of interest to everyone. Contributions poured in, and his fund just kept going up and up. His final lap was performed with a guard of honour from the Yorkshire Regiment. The Captain captured everyone's hearts with his



openness and enthusiasm, and seemed to personify all the characteristics of the war generation. Those qualities, embodying personal sacrifice in the cause of the greater good, were exactly what we needed to see and embrace in these taxing times. The fund raised for NHS Charities Together (which supports staff, volunteers and patients affected by coronavirus) now stands at over £32 million. Captain Tom has become a beacon of hope, and on his 100th birthday was marked by a RAF flypast from a Spitfire and Hurricane.

There are other smaller attempts at positivity around the village – rainbow posters, put up to thank the NHS, teddy bears waving from windows to give children something to look out for on walks, painted stones dotted around on walls and on the pavement. Across the country, Thursday at 8pm has been designated as a moment when you should go outside your house, and clap to show your gratitude to the NHS. Gradually, this has become an impromptu social event, when you can shout and chat to your neighbours (from the appropriate 6 feet!).

Passing through Cambridge, on a shopping trip, it's still quiet, but there more people are wearing masks. I suppose it's not surprising. It's an urban environment, and there's more risk of infection.

On 15 April a plane landed in Stansted carrying seasonal workers from Romania to do fruit picking on Cambridgeshire farms. The farm companies had chartered the plane. People viewed this with some consternation, yet they shouldn't have been surprised. Over the last 30 or so years, a quiet revolution has taken place in farming, with the bulk of vegetable and fruit picking done by workers from Eastern Europe. These workers are skilled at what they do, and highly motivated. But it is work that, increasingly, British workers won't sign up for. Suddenly, with borders closed, the agricultural industry was facing a massive shortage of workers. A call was made for Britons to step forward and enrol in place of the imported workers, but it's clear that they will need to learn quickly to work at the pace of those they replace. It remains to be seen how farms will fare over the summer. Our food supply depends on them.

Towards the end of April, the supermarket food shortages and empty shelves had more or less ended. Everything was moving again, the supermarkets had got their social distancing in place, and those who needed them were getting home deliveries. If you used the village shops, you really wouldn't know there'd been a problem. Small is definitely beautiful.

However, all the non-food shops were still closed, and getting other things became a challenge. There was online shopping, but in many cases the fact that everyone was doing it meant that turnaround times were slow. What should we do? Do without? Improvise? We began to rediscover the old wartime 'make do and mend', and resurrect all sorts of stuff from dark corners of the shed and the loft. And if you didn't have it, then chances are, someone you knew did, so we bartered. It was good fun finding ways and means. Sometimes it's good not to have things too easy.

The end of April. On 27 April, the Prime Minister finally returned to his public duties. There's a strong suggestion (from official sources) that the UK hit the peak of the virus on 5 April. The number of cases and the number of deaths seem to be plateauing. But the numbers are still very high, and there's a slow realisation of how long this is going to continue. We are beginning to give up on all the things we'd looked forward to -a slow sad realisation that so many of them just aren't going to happen – not this year anyway. We want the lockdown to end, but we're very scared of getting coronavirus.

On 30 April there were 6,032 new cases and 674 deaths in the UK. There had been a total of 26,771 deaths. A grim tally. Helen Harwood

#### **GREAT SHELFORD COUNTRY MARKET**



Time moves on and we are now entering the third month of closure - and Wednesday mornings just don't feel right. It is still not clear when village halls will re-open.

We just have to wait, but whenever the time comes, we will be ready to go. Follow us on Facebook for news updates.

Our members are keeping in touch with each other via email and now Zoom, which is a new experience for some of us, but we are all missing our customers. On my walks around Shelford, it is so good for the morale to pick up words such as 'We are missing the market,' from customers passing by at least two metres away.

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

#### SCOTSDALES

Scotsdales Great Shelford re-opened on 14 May and is now open from 8.30am to 5pm daily, Monday to Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sunday. They are limiting the numbers of customers in store, and enforcing social distancing. During busy periods parking will be limited and customers will be asked to remain in their vehicle until directed to a free space. The café will remain closed until further notice. They hope soon to have an enhanced web store and phone ordering system for those who wish to remain in isolation. JW



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#### FRANCESS' WAYSIDE PULPIT



Since the coronavirus lockdown began, Francess Richardson has done everything she can to raise the spirits of all her neighbours.

Every single day a simple message is put on a board outside her Orchard Road house. I make sure that I go and see what has been written each morning, and I

know plenty others who do the same. I call it 'Francess' Wayside Pulpit', a version of the Today programme's 'Thought for the Day'.

At the time of writing 60 different messages have been displayed. They are out early in the morning so that those going out to work can see them on their way. The messages range from Christian to secular. If Francess is in the garden there will always be people talking to her and she will be spreading a message of hope.

On Sunday afternoons, local people, socially distanced, sing hymns. The music is led by Sarah Sparrow with her guitar accompanied by her children. There are more people than shown in the photo, but all spread out.



Along with the clapping for the NHS and other outdoor activities, this all adds to the cohesion we all so enjoy in living in such a wonderful village.

Thank you Francess, on behalf of all of us.

Angus Campbell



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# GORDON WHALLEY'S BURST OF COLOUR

My mum and dad got married and settled in Great Shelford after leaving the army. They chose Shelford as my mother Margaret Whalley was evacuated here at the age of five .They initially rented a house on the piece of land on the corner of the crossroads where the traffic lights are now, then managed to get a house in Macauley Avenue. Later, they moved to Cambridge Road and then, about twenty years ago, to Poplar Close.

They had three children. Gordon has worked in Shelford all his working life as a local plumber. He recently lost his dear wife Margaret after 65 years marriage and last April lost his son David (also known as 'Did' or 'Diddy') who played football for Shelford.

Here is dad enjoying his lovely burst of colour.



Diane Graham

## **VE DAY CELEBRATIONS 1995 AND 2005**

The surrender of Germany in May 1945 was certainly a day worth celebrating. But World War II wasn't finished. The surrender of Japan months later in August did see the end of the war and was an event much celebrated, particularly in our region, with East Anglia regiments providing many of the Prisoners of War held by the Japanese, though it was December before the POWs returned home.

Even in the oral history book *Shelford's Wars* there is little detail of our village's celebrations. Peter Amis wrote: 'The end of the war was on a Sunday, and all the local boys, and my father included, they was all celebrating over at the De Freville Arms' [at the corner of High Green and Granhams Road.]

However, May 1995 was the 50th anniversary of VE day. The Shelford Feast had been revived the previous year and the group who organised it agreed to hold a village fete with a pig and lamb roast and a beer tent in the hope that the village would gather together and celebrate. And they did! My diary notes: 'It was a <u>storming</u> success, burning us all to a frazzle as we screamed off to local shops and to Sainsbury's to try to satisfy the insatiable demands of hundreds of people wanting food and drink on the hottest day of the year so far.'



#### VILLAGE NEWS

My photographs of the day are limited to setting up the old army tent that was our hub. Of the hundreds of celebrating villagers I have no photos – and there was no *Village News* to record it; we were all far too busy!

In 2005 the government provided grants to local groups willing to provide commemorative celebrations for the 60th anniversary and The Bunch again came to the rescue. This was a less hectic affair, free to local residents who had experienced the war. There are more photographs of this celebration and there was more time to reflect. Jerry Brown interviewed several villagers for local radio about their wartime experiences There was a splendid cake, high tea provided by caterers and entertainment, including a band and guest singer Sandy Leaton-Grey, followed in the evening by a spectacular firework display.



Many of the people featured in the group photograph are no longer with us. Can you put names to the faces?

Sadly, Covid-19 prevented us from celebrating the 75th anniversary together, but periods of collective hardship deserve an act of remembrance, reminding us that we will come out of this and we will indeed meet again.

Duncan Grey





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### SARA'S EXPERIENCE OF LOCKDOWN

In 2019 a new virus started (Covid-19). At first, I thought it was nothing to worry about but when we came home from Italy and the cases started rising, I knew it wouldn't be pleasant. Soon after that I had to stop going to all my after-school clubs. That is when Covid-19 started affecting my life. A week later school shut down, and in days I started missing my friends.



Camping in the garden

Though during lockdown, I did a few fun things. We learnt how to bake mothering bread and focaccia, we went camping in our garden for Brownies, I still do cello and dance lessons on Zoom! I also did a Zoom party with my friend!

Sara Berri (aged 9)



We're excited to announce that the SUMMER READING CHALLENGE for readers aged 4–11 will still take place this year and this time they can get SILLY and have huge fun reading lots of different funny books! The Challenge will be online, running from June to September, with the official launch expected to be on Friday 5 June. Plenty of FREE resources, book suggestions and encouragement will be available and we hope that lots of children will join in and keep reading even while schools and libraries are closed.

For details visit The Reading Agency website at <u>http://ow.ly/skcU50zDzWW</u>







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# PLAYSCAPE SHELFORD FUN RUN 2020 – WE ARE GOING VIRTUAL!

We had really hoped to bring you a 'live' 5k Fun Run in September, but we are very mindful of the current coronavirus distancing measures, and the possibility that restrictions on mass gatherings may continue for some time. So, if we can't all do it together, we decided now was the time to start planning the best virtual event we can!



This will mean a window of time when you can run and clock your own 5k for Great Shelford Playscape. We will be suggesting some local routes\* and organising the odd surprise, but essentially you will need to register with <u>www.shelfordfunrun.co.uk</u> when registration opens, run your route using your chosen app (free apps are available for fitness trackers and phones) and then send evidence of your 5k to us.

Watch this space and our social media for updates and more details (especially on how to run as a family), but in the meantime please still reserve our original date ...

#### SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

... because, if it seems safe to do so, we'd love to have a little medal distribution event to mark everyone's achievement! (And maybe the odd cake or two ...)

Eleanor McCrone info@shelfordplayscape.org

\*Do you have a favourite off-road 5k in the local area? Send us your recommendations!



# **TED CONEY'S VIRTUAL TOUR**

Do you remember the Coneys of Woollards Lane? Hazel and I lived there for over 30 years with our three children, Yve, Leo and Max. Even if you don't remember us, you may recall my 1931 Morris Minor which I used regularly to take me to Hills Road Sixth Form College, teaching in the Art Department. We left Great Shelford to live in Ely, where I opened a gallery in our house to display the family paintings I have been making for over 50 years. I would normally open in April for a new season to do guided tours. Obviously, I can't do that at the moment but have come up with another cunning plan. I have devised a Virtual Tour which lasts nine minutes, costs 99p and can be accessed from my website <u>www.tedconeysfamilyportraits.co.uk</u> with all proceeds this year going to NHS Charities Together appeal. I hope you can help me support it. And the Morris Minor? This appears in the film when I 'fly' back in time in it to 1930s Hollywood, searching for one of my ancestors, as the starting point for one of the paintings. *Ted Coney* 

## **GREAT SHELFORD FOOTBALL CLUB**



Although we already knew, it has now been officially confirmed that the 2019/20 season is over. The good news is that the club ballot to decide the outcome of leagues below the Kershaw Premier Division came out in favour of an average points per game basis,

which means our reserve team will be promoted next season. Congratulations go to the management team of Eddie New and Chris Gethin, and of course to all the players involved.

Regarding next season, we have no idea at present when it will commence but will update followers as and when we know more.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with yet another enjoyable season for the club, albeit unfortunately curtailed. Thanks go also to our faithful supporters and we look forward to seeing you all again when the new season does get underway. *Terry Rider, Chairman* 

# **GREAT SHELFORD CRICKET CLUB**

At the time of writing, there is a slight easing of restrictions for cricket. Families are allowed to use outdoor nets as long as government rules are observed. However, as I write, no games are possible.

Email me at <u>brian\_higgins50@hotmail.com</u> if you would like to contact the club. Maybe, just maybe, we'll see some cricket before the end of the summer. Brian Higgins





## TENNIS CLUB TENNIS WORDSEARCH

Can you find these tennis-themed words or phrases in our grid? (The answers are on page 47.)

Murray	Hawkeye	S Williams
Konta	US Open	V Williams
Wimbledon	French Open	Osaka
Baseline	Australian Open	Henman Hill
Deuce	Federer	Davis Cup
Tie Break	Djokovic	Strawberries
Love	Nadal	Cream
Serve	Ace	Smash

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Angharad Harris



TENNIS	CLUB	WORDSEARCH	ANSWERS
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#### 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* 

### 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.

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

**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 *gsvnadverts@gmail.com* 

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From data supplied by Angus Campbell

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