

# Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

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EST 1999

DECEMBER 2020

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*Photo: Mark Farrington*

*Coronavirus Diary  
Covid Support Group*

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## **GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

*greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*

### **SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 21 OCTOBER 2020**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to Covid-19 meeting restrictions. Two members of the public were present at the virtual meeting.

#### **Private Street Lighting**

Invoices have been received for £1,361.33 from Eon Energy Supplier since the transfer of the power supply in November 2019. No contract has been signed with Eon but quotations have been received from Eon and two other suppliers. Eon claims that they have been instructed by UK Power Networks and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to transfer the power supply to Great Shelford Parish Council (GSPC).

Private street lighting users groups have been approached and one group has refused to make any contribution. The SCDC is investigating those sections which are on SCDC land. It was agreed to refuse to pay Eon and to refer the matter to SCDC for a solution.

#### **FINANCE**

Twenty-one cheques to the value of £17,314.14 for the period up to 16 September were presented. A cheque to Eon of £1,361.33 was removed and twenty cheques were approved and signed.

#### **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **District Councillors**

Councillor Peter Fane was in attendance. A report was circulated.

##### **County Councillors**

None in attendance. A report was circulated.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

##### **Highways Committee**

Concerns were expressed regarding Church Street and general village traffic.

##### **Planning Committee**

Major problems continue to exist on the SCDC Planning Portal.

##### **Cemetery and Allotment Committee**

Some allotment plots are still available and further new applications have been received. A Cemetery and Allotment Committee meeting was scheduled for 28 October.

## REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS

**Playscape** A working group has been set up between Playscape and the Parish Council meeting weekly to keep momentum going and oversee the timeline and actions (creating PC policies, instructing professionals, discharging planning conditions, etc.). Architects are still waiting for confirmation from the Civil Engineer that the sewer outside the fence presents no problems to the design. The timeline now is even tighter to get professional work done and tenders out and back for grant deadlines in early December. £750 was transferred from GSPC to Playscape towards the renovation of the Shelter on the Recreation Ground. About 80 people registered for the Virtual Fun Run and about £500 was raised.

**Parochial Charities** The tender selection progress is underway with work on the More's Meadow development expected to start in January.

**Community Association** The SSYI and Scout Hut leases are to be reviewed. At present the fire alarm system is not linked across separate venues – Councillor Barrie Ashurst will investigate optimal systems.

**Fest** Tentative arrangements are being considered for a 2021 event.

**Website Administration** Councillor Lyn Disley reported that the website has all the required documentation and is intuitive and easy to operate. The Parish Council may like to consider some additions and updates to make it more visual and she suggests an upgrade to the Privacy Policy, to ensure GDPR compliance and envisage a time when we have more interactive functions enabled.

**Schools** Sawston Village College and Great Shelford Primary School staff are working very hard in the current difficult conditions and this is taking its toll on all staff. The Parish Council expressed their appreciation for all the hard work undertaken at both schools.

**Health Centre, Dentist and Pharmacy** Recent thefts at the chemist are not traceable, due to lack of CCTV evidence.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Equality and Diversity Policy** A draft policy will be prepared by the Clerk in line with recommendations of the National Association of Local Councils.

**Remembrance Sunday** (8 November) A maximum of six people will be present, observing social distancing. Church events will be live streamed and the public are advised to observe the event from home if possible.

**Bridleway Agreement** A permissive bridleway agreement to give better security to the route from Church Street, Great Shelford via Jenny's Path, alongside the river, under the railway line and the motorway to the A10 at Hauxton Mill was given full Parish Council support.

**Drive-in Carol Concert** Various options were discussed, including a Memorial Hall concert, or an event at Scotsdales or at the Rugby Club.

**Christmas Street Lighting** The Switch-on date will be Sunday 29 November. There will be no major event for the Switch-on.

**East West Rail (EWR) / Cambridge Approaches** The Chair attended a meeting for South Cambridgeshire with EWR and numerous Councils. A preferred route will be produced by EWR. A non-statutory consultation is planned for early 2021 and a statutory consultation by end of 2021. EWR will undertake meetings with Parishes and Cambridge Approaches. Preferred communication is via the EWR website. EWR plans to have four high-speed passenger trains per hour, with no freight trains.

Councillor Greg Price will produce an Information and Implications leaflet for the village. The Chair's statement on Cambridge Approaches is on the Parish Council website together with the Cambridge South Station public consultation document.

**External Correspondence** A request has been received for Bon.Crepe&Coffee sales to take place in the Memorial Hall car park. It was agreed that a three-month trial should take place; this should not clash with any Memorial Hall activities.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Planning Committee Meeting                      2 December 6.30pm

Finance & General Purposes Meeting 9 December 7.30pm

Planning Committee Meeting                      16 December 6.30pm

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 APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

20/04012/FUL	Mr Leigh Murphy 56 Macaulay Avenue	Erection of a detached dwelling.
<p>We feel that the new house is sited too close to the neighbour's fence as it appears to have no rear garden, all garden being on the front corner of the site. The new house also dominates the corner and we believe there is loss of amenity land due to the proposal. We recommend refusal.</p>		

20/04108/FUL	Mr Reza Razmjoo Land at the rear of 33 Westfield Road	Demolition of the existing workshop and pool-house, partial demolition of an existing single storey side extension and the erection of one dwelling together with a new access.
<p>Whilst we can see that a precedent has been set for such a back-sited dwelling, we are concerned about land drainage as this is the last free area in that neighbourhood and the land around is fairly boggy. We also have concern about removal of trees. We recommend refusal.</p>		

20/04120/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Sillence 20 High Green	Rear part single, part two storey extension.
<p>We recommend acceptance.</p>		

20/04154/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Roberts Medford Kings Mill Lane	Single storey rear extension and first floor side extension, reroof with addition of a false dormer window and replacement windows.
<p>We recommend acceptance.</p>		

20/04194/HFUL	11 Macaulay Avenue	First floor rear extension.
<p>We recommend acceptance.</p>		

20/04412/PRI01A	Ms Prime & Mr Butler 251 Hinton Way	Prior approval for a single storey rear extension.
<p>We believe the position and size of this extension demands a party wall agreement. It also overshadows the neighbouring property. We are concerned about the applicant seeking prior approval and not simply planning permission. This extension is in the Green Belt and therefore we would ordinarily recommend refusal. However, our grounds this time are not over the Green Belt as the footprint of the building is not changed, but over the impact this will have for the neighbouring property.</p>		

## PLANNING DECISIONS BY SCDC

### Approved

20/03624/HFUL 167 Cambridge Road. Outbuilding for gym.

### Refused

20/03368/FUL Shelford Day Nursery, 3 High Green. Change of use of former bank and car park to children's day nursery.

Parish Council Comment: We fail to understand why this has been refused. The property has been empty for several years. There is a great need for nursery facilities within the Parish and we feel it is highly appropriate use on this site. We understand that the problem is parking and CCC (Highways). This property has a rear car park of its own plus a front parking bay owned by CCC. We would ask for the committee to rethink their decision. The applicant should not need to resubmit or revise their application due to CCC delay and opposition.

## GREAT SHELFORD FEAST DONATIONS 2020/21

Sadly, the Great Shelford Feast was unable to be held this summer. In addition to the loss of the village social activity, the Feast Committee are unable this year to support any of the local charities and groups with their well-received financial donations.

Great Shelford Parish Council are concerned that some of these groups may struggle to continue their valued local support and, in some cases, may cease to function at all. To protect and support these valued local groups the Parish Council are prepared to consider a special donation for this year. If your group or activity has previously received a donation from the Feast Committee please contact Andrea, the Assistant Parish Clerk:

*assistant.clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*

with your reasons to be considered for a special grant and it will be considered by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council may not be able to support all the previous Feast Committee supported groups but will endeavour to support as many as possible.

*Malcolm Watson, Chair, Great Shelford Parish Council*

## JANUARY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is **Friday 11 December** and it should be available on Wednesday 30 December with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter.

Free online versions of the *Village News* will now appear one month after publication at [www.shelford.org/news](http://www.shelford.org/news)

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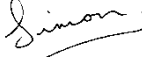
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A very warm welcome to your historic parish church – please call in and enjoy the sacred space.

### Advent Hope and Christmas Joy

As I am writing this, we are in the middle of the month-long second lockdown. Trying to plan for Advent and Christmas services is quite a challenge as we are not sure what will happen at the end of the lockdown. The services below are planned on the basis that we will be able to worship in church as we were allowed to before the present lockdown. However, this may have to change in the light of developments in early December. **Please check our website** for final confirmation of our services and for any ticketing arrangements that may need to be put in place.

My prayer for us all is that we do experience hope and joy in the coming month in challenging times.

Every blessing for the Christmas season, 

### Annual Toy Collection

Our annual toy collection for the Salvation Army will be on Sunday 6 December. If toys are wrapped, please label by age group, boy/girl.

**Village Christmas Drive-in Carols** Come and join us at the Shelford Rugby Club on **Wednesday 16 December 8pm** – refreshments available – contributions to a local charity. For full details see page 11.

### Advent Evening Services

Sunday 6 December 4pm – Evensong for Advent (church).

Sunday 13 December 6.30pm – Advent Hope Service (Zoom).

Sunday 20 December 4pm – Music and Readings for Christmas (church).

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

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Crib Service** The logistics of running our usual Crib Service would be almost impossible in the current circumstances, so we will make available on our website a short service for families to use at home as a preparation for Christmas Day.

**‘Midnight’ Parish Communion 11pm** The first service of Christmas, with music, sermon and Holy Communion.



## CHRISTMAS DAY

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

**Parish Communion 10am** Our main service for Christmas morning with music, sermon and Holy Communion.

There is no evening service.

### Gift Day Appeal – Thank You!

A sincere thank you to the many people who offered their pledges during the Gift Day in October. The **final total raised was just over £4,600** (Gift Aid to be added). The PCC are very grateful for the generous response.

### St Mary's Sunday Club

At present, we are restricted on the numbers we can welcome to the Community Room, so regrettably Sunday Club is not possible for the moment. Please check our website for updates in case this situation changes. We will be offering regular Mary Mouse letters and activities on the website. For details contact Gillian Pett, [gillian.pett29@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.pett29@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion service** is currently still suspended.

### From the Registers

Funerals

4 November

Susan Pryor

27 November

Pauline Pugh

### Regular Services

Sunday: 8am

10am

4pm &

6.30pm

Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

Parish Communion, our main Sunday service

Evening Prayer (BCP Evensong in church on

the first Sunday of the month at **4pm**;

remaining Sundays by Zoom at 6.30pm. A link is circulated before the service.)

### For further information about Great Shelford Parish Church

visit our website: [www.stmarysgreatshelford.org](http://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org)

Vicar: The Revd Canon Simon Talbott 01223 847068 or  
07740 665210 or email [vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org](mailto:vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org)

Parish Administrator: Katharin Page 07710 518220  
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## IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?\*



Great Shelford  
Free Church

Way back in February, 'BC' as we might say, we held an Eco event at the Free Church as part of our ongoing commitment to stewarding God's earth. There was an

opportunity to pledge to do something in 2020 that would improve our environment, and I made a promise to myself that this year I would plant two fruit trees in my garden. What seemed like a simple idea eventually turned into quite an undertaking, involving researching pollination, a wet and windy socially distanced trip to a nursery in the Fens, purchasing of stakes, tree guards, ties, various root strengthening potions and a lot of digging. After several hours of gardening on a warm and sunny Remembrance Sunday afternoon, the deed was done, and my husband and I sat down with a well-earned cup of tea to enjoy our handiwork. However, our handiwork is all we will have to admire for quite some time, as there are no leaves left on the trees, blossom is almost six months away, and apparently the fruit shouldn't be allowed to mature for the first two years. So, bring on September 2023!

**Great Shelford Free Church  
invites you to create an....**

Advent Window



Great Shelford  
Free Church

Create a Christmas-themed window.  
Take a photo and send it to us by Dec 10th  
Each day of advent we will reveal a different  
window on our website.  
For more info visit [shelfordfreechurch.org.uk](http://shelfordfreechurch.org.uk)

This brings us quite neatly to our current situation. It was not lost on me that planting those trees was an act of hope, of belief that although life looks very bleak for many people at the minute, the year will turn, and brighter days will come. Hope is one of the key tenets of our Christian faith. Jeremiah 29:11 states:

*'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'*

It is hard to understand that God has plans for welfare, when all around us we see plenty that is evil. Bad things clearly do happen to good people, and that is often hard to comprehend. There is no guarantee that we, or those we love, will not fall ill

or die; inevitably, we all will, some day. Yet we constantly have to remind ourselves that we don't know the end of the story. Even death is not the end of the story, though; In 1 Corinthians 15:19 we read:

*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

In the recent poignant service commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Unknown Warrior, Archbishop Justin Welby paid tribute to the fact that through loss immeasurable comes hope infallible, because of Jesus Christ's resurrection. He went through death and darkness on our behalf, but its grip could not hold Him. So as we approach what will undoubtedly be a very different kind of Christmas this year, one thing that cannot be taken away is the hope that came to Earth in that tiny baby. Our celebrations won't be the same, but the herald angels will be singing, none the less.

*Liz Jenkin, Elder, Great Shelford Free Church*

\*From 'Ode to the West Wind' by Percy Bysshe Shelley.



**Join us at the Shelford Rugby Club**

**on Wednesday 16 December  
for a drive-in carol concert!**

Sing along to your favourite carols from the comfort of your own car.

A carol concert with a Covid-19 twist!

Visit [www.shelfordfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.shelfordfreechurch.org.uk) for more information.

*This event is in partnership with*

*The Free Church, Parish Council, Rugby Club and St Mary's.*

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## PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

### AFFORDABLE LIVING IN GREAT SHELFORD



And you thought they only used trowels! Archaeologists at work on More's Meadow.

The charity's plans to build a further 21 affordable homes – almshouses – in More's Meadow are nearing reality.

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority awarded the charity a grant of £1 million towards construction costs.
- South Cambs District Council Planning Committee approved the legal framework around our planning permission.
- The archaeological survey of the site – involving a 15-ton digger – was completed. We await the final report and a decision by the County Council's Historic Environment Team as to whether any further investigations are required.
- The charity's allotments were relocated away from the construction site to the field at the bottom of The Hectare.
- As part of their Forest School initiative, children from Shelford School will be planting 30 saplings this month – rowan, wild cherry and silver birch donated by the Woodland Trust – on land adjacent to the new development.
- Tenders were received from three contractors for the construction phase. The winning tender will be announced in December and construction is scheduled to start early in the new year, with completion in mid-2022.

The development will bring the charity's total number of almshouses in the village to 53.

Further information, including drawings of the planned development and site, can be found at <https://gspc.org.uk/our-plans>

### **Grants for Good Causes**

The charity welcomes applications for small grants in support of local organisations, good causes and people in need within the village. Applications are processed by our partner, John Huntingdon's Charity, at their office in Sawston. Applications may be submitted via our website, [gspc.org.uk](https://gspc.org.uk) or you can discuss your needs over the telephone with the John Huntingdon's Charity office on 01223 492492.

### **Donations**

The charity welcomes donations – large and small – from individuals and organisations. Donors may wish to get in touch with the trustees via our website. Alternatively, anyone can donate, anonymously or otherwise, using the DONATE button on the website; all transactions are handled securely by our partner, PayPal.

We are also raising funds by partnering with the Co-op in the village. If you are a Co-op cardholder, please go to [membership.coop.co.uk/causes/](https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/) and nominate Great Shelford Parochial Charities as your local cause. Whenever you buy Co-op products and services, not only will you get the usual 2p back for every £1 spent, but an additional 2p will accrue to the charity. What's not to like?

*Brian Connellan, Trustee, The Parochial Charities, <https://gspc.org.uk>*

### **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*



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## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As we come to the end of another year we reflect back on a very different time for many of us. The Legion has worked hard to ensure members are supported and this has been possible at a local level with our calls to members. Words of comfort can go a long way and this has made a difference to some who have been isolated. With bereavement this is so important and something that we have faced at our Branch.



The scaled-back events of this year have been a challenge with VE Day and VJ Day. Many plans for trips to take Veterans away, including to Burma, had to be cancelled. If like me you were able to see the Festival of Remembrance and the Act of Remembrance from the Cenotaph, the scaled-down size illustrated the challenge faced by organisers. The most important thing is that Remembrance and the

scale of the sacrifices made was recognised. With the technology of Zoom and Facebook many services could be viewed on the internet and this was the case in Sawston and Shelford (see also the photos on the back page).

The Poppy Appeal was greatly affected with no door- to-door collections and all live fundraising having to be stopped on 5 November. I am pleased to report that we did have a stall at Scotsdales in Shelford over the two weekends prior to the lockdown and raised over £2,500 for this important cause. We are extremely grateful for the great support shown by everyone there. Please be assured that we will make every effort to be back with you in Shelford next year with the Poppy Appeal. If you would still like to donate please visit [rbl.org.uk/poppypeal](http://rbl.org.uk/poppypeal)

If you have a military career and need support or advice call 0345 845 1945. The contact team is on 0808 802 8080 where more general advice is available. They are open 8am–8pm.

In January the Cambridgeshire County Legion Conference is very likely to be live streamed. More information next month. I hope that there is more positive news to bring you in the near future and thank you for your patience. It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. Keep well and stay safe.

*Mark Chennells, Chairman*

## SHELFORD SCHOOL

As we approach the festive season, Shelford Primary School continues to deliver a packed autumn term. Despite the second lockdown the school has remained fully operational and engaged with the whole range of new curriculum topics which the children have enthusiastically embraced. Following the success of last half-term's topic thread of 'Identity', this term focuses on 'Our story so far'. This will be explored through the school in various ways including studying 'Superheroes – Inspiration Figures Through History' in Year 2, 'How does Cambridge Compare?' in Year 3, 'The Romans' in Year 4, 'Space' in Year 5 and 'Maya Civilisation' in Year 6.



Remembrance Day

our Year 6 class who attended the war memorial in Great Shelford. Plans are also afoot for a pre-recorded nativity play and also the traditional Key Stage 2 Carols by Candlelight service towards the end of term. Both of these videos will be available for viewing on the school website from 14 December and will be found under the Covid-19 headed section.

When planning your Christmas list, please be aware there is an easy way to donate to the school's PTA charity at AmazonSmile. This website is operated by Amazon and has the same products, prices and services, but when you select Shelford School PTA at AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) it donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the school's PTA charity. There is no extra cost to you; the donation is made by Amazon.

Thank you.

Shelford School has continued to adapt to the challenges of educating in bubbles and has embraced the virtual world to overcome many of these hurdles. Collective Worship has continued to be delivered to each class via video links, along with a virtual Remembrance Service in November led by

*Liz Carrothers, Foundation Governor*

## RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

### THE WILD WALK

A great time was had by all at the recent Wild Walk of Shelford, proudly organised by the Rainbow Pre-school Committee. Fundraising in the current climate is a difficult task but we were delighted with the response we had!



Fantastic displays adorned the village with gardens and windows hosting some wild and wonderful animal creations (see also page 48). Children and families thoroughly enjoyed fact-finding their way around the village at any time of their choosing over the weekend, diligently following the maps which they had received electronically. This event truly did cater for a broad range of ages with trails of two

different lengths. At a time when finding outdoor activities to suit everyone is proving challenging, this event ticked many boxes. Providing a great sense of purpose to a gentle stroll around the village, creating a wonderful sense of achievement by discovering the answers and celebrating the fact that we are all part of a wonderful community, even if at the current time we can't gather together. All these elements combine to support mental wellbeing at a time when parts of normal life can seem a challenge. We have, since, had lots of feedback to say how much people enjoyed it, which is of course what matters!

Prizes were kindly provided by Sharman Quinney, Redmayne Arnold & Harris, Tucker Gardner and The Cambridge Building Society with a generous donation provided by Steak & Honour. The event raised over £400 which will go to help our community pre-school to purchase new play equipment for the children, pay for staff training and add to our new building funding pot.

Rainbow Pre-school, Great Shelford, is a non-profit-making registered charity and we rely heavily on fundraising by our volunteer committee to continue to keep the pre-school running and ensure that we offer our children the best learning environment possible. The funds we raise at community events are essential to fund the purchase of new play equipment for the children, pay for staff training and to provide excellent resources in our educational setting.

If you would like more information on how you can support or donate to our fantastic cause, please email [committee@rainbowshelford.co.uk](mailto:committee@rainbowshelford.co.uk).

*Rainbow Committee*

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## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

**11 October** We're into the dark months, with the light decreasing every day. I find myself with a run of medical and dental appointments. First I have a tooth out. The dentist is swathed in protective gear. When he finds he needs to drill, he has to stop and put on even more protective gear against my saliva splashes. He tells me his visor reduces his capacity to see. It all makes his job harder. I retire with a big hole in my jaw.

And then it's time for a flu jab. Our medical practice has organised drive-in vaccination in the car park of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. You drive in, then a convoy of six cars moves forward and you are given your jab. The convoy moves away. It's beautifully organised, and about 1,500 people are done over the day; another October session does about the same number. This will, we hope, reduce the pressure on the NHS.

And then I have a procedure on my eye. I begin to feel sorry for myself. I've had enough of people sticking needles in me! But at least it's all done, and I'm very grateful for it.

**15 October** Who's your Great British Hero? Well mine, no doubt about it, is David Attenborough. At the age of 94, he is our most active and influential climate change activist. He goes onto Instagram, because he wants to reach the young and he tells us all, 'Don't waste *anything* ... just treat the natural world as though it is precious'. I love his modesty: 'I feel privileged that they [the young] should listen to what an old bloke like me is talking about'. His words stay with me, and I try, I really try not to waste anything.

**17 October** I was thinking about the Black Death. And it struck me that one thing it did, apart from all the dying, was to destroy many of the existing power structures. Shortage of labour meant that the poor, for once, gained the upper hand. Will that happen this time? Well so far it's not looking good. The BBC reports that the world's billionaires have seen fortunes rise by 27% from April to July, notably the tech billionaires – Jeff Bezos of Amazon, for example. In the meantime, extreme poverty looks to rise for the first time in over 20 years. Our move, under coronavirus, to the internet and online shopping is benefitting those who are already spectacularly rich.

**21 October** It's a grey day, raining, not hard, but enough to soak you through. My woolly hat is dripping quietly in the hall. Yes, we've entered the Woolly Hat Season, which will take us through probably to March. There's something about this weather that saps your energy. I am elaborating the spirit of *mañana* into an art form. The urge to be busy has deserted me. I just quietly go about necessary chores.

Monday, however, was a bright day. Sunny day, sunnier outlook. I went out and painted my shed, transforming it from that particular shade of unpleasing ginger which is routinely applied to fences, to a delicate green which fades into the background. I am absurdly proud of it, and keep walking down to admire it. You have to take your pleasures where you can!

**22 October** The leaves are falling fast. Outside our house the cherry tree has gracefully shed its yellow leaves which lie in a glorious circle round it. The hanging baskets are dead as a doornail. With the schools back, the normal daily traffic of small children with parents and young people going to school ebbs and flows. There is always a moment of perfect stillness at 9am when the traffic goes quiet, as everyone arrives where they're going.

A lady I chat to when we meet on the Health Centre path complains she is suffering from Compliance Fatigue, from observing the string of rules and restrictions which now dictate our daily life. We over-60s are used to rules and manners and all that stuff – we were drilled in them. But even we are flagging.

Lately, programmes portraying life under lockdown have started to come on stream. We watched 'Inside the Tower of the London'. The governor, his deputy and the beefeaters all live on site. It was eerily quiet in a place which usually sees thousands of visitors every day. They are completely disorientated. The ravens are unhappy too. No crisps or leftover sandwiches from the tourists. The Ravenmaster has to turn all the bins upside down, because they keep on looking for scraps. The Tower foxes, meanwhile, are starving and need feeding. The bins in the streets of the City are empty of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Big Macs.

**23 October** One of the rituals of the lockdown was the weekly 'clap for carers' described in a BBC News article as 'that moment of national unity that took place on doorsteps at 20:00 every Thursday night'. But now it appears it wasn't quite the gift we thought it was. Yes, it was nice to say thank you, and everyone felt good doing it. There was even the bonus that you could wave and shout to your neighbours. But what about the workers themselves? Well, a psychologist from the Covid Trauma Response Working Group says: 'the narrative of health care workers being heroes or angels has largely been really unhelpful'. The BBC article explains that this narrative 'painted a picture that people do this because they're special, not because they're simply doing their job, for which they should be adequately paid and protected'. As the psychologist commented 'It's also been a real barrier to people seeking help with their own problems ... because they feel heroes don't struggle. An angel doesn't get PTSD.' It was a romantic gesture, but what's really needed is practical support.

**24 October** I have reached a point of antagonism with my mask. I'm very grateful to it for protecting me, but as it gets colder, the speed with which my glasses mist up increases. I grope round the Co-op in a fog. And it's harder to hear when people are muffled behind masks. Confusion prevails.

**Sunday 25 October** The hour went back. A gloomy milestone, signalling the dark days of winter. It was midday before we realised we should change the clocks. In these fractured days of coronavirus it's much harder to keep track of the calendar.

**29 October** Red sky at morning, shepherd's warning. That shepherd would *definitely* be warning this morning. The sky at 6.30am has a ghastly red hue. More rain. I was driven in yesterday by a torrential shower which soaked me in two minutes. We're definitely into the rainy season. But I'm still going to go out for walks, even if I have to wear plastic trousers and a cagoule.

Christmas is on the horizon, though I try not to think too much about it, and what the rules will be then. It seems better to keep one's thoughts on the short-term future, and avoid disappointment (which doesn't always materialise, and then you've worried for nothing).

From the family, the perennial question – what do you want for Xmas? Well, I've spent so much time watching wildlife this year that my thoughts run to a bee house for solitary bees and a moth trap. The trap would allow me to catch moths, look at them in the morning when I get up, then set them free. An exciting prospect for next summer.

I've noticed that I've stopped anxiously looking at the figures for the number of cases of coronavirus. You just get used to the fact that it's there. But the news isn't good, and the rate of infection is rising, as we knew it would when winter set in.

Besides, there's other news. The American election is on 3 November, and the campaign is at its high point. Trump's campaign shocks me to the core in its irresponsibility. The BBC tells us that he's cast the election as 'a choice between a Trump super-recovery and a Biden depression'.

Trump says: 'If you vote for Joe Biden it means no kids in school, no graduations, no weddings, no thanksgivings, no Christmas, and no Fourth of July together. Other than that you'll have a wonderful life. Can't see anybody, but that's alright.'

Now I want for a moment to quote George Orwell, who made some very pertinent remarks.



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‘There is one part of you that wishes to be a hero or a saint, but another part of you is a little fat man [or woman] who sees very clearly the advantages of staying alive with a whole skin. He is your unofficial self, the voice of the belly protesting against the soul ...

Society has always to demand a little more from human beings than it will get in practice. It has to demand faultless discipline and self-sacrifice, it must expect its subjects to work hard, pay their taxes and be faithful to their wives ...’

Or observe the rules against coronavirus.

Now why am I quoting George Orwell, you might ask? Well what do you do if you have a president who doesn’t think that he has to personify that society, who tells you that you don’t have to live up to that ideal, that you can be your unofficial self, that you can, for example, just ignore coronavirus because it means unpleasant short-term sacrifice? It is this that appals me – a president who gives you, not what you *need*, but what you want. Will he go on to win? We all await the outcome ...

**30 October** It’s become clear that another lockdown is coming. Our hearts all sank. How to deal with it a second time? Well, I was listening to Bach’s ‘Tocatta and Fugue’, and I remembered how, some years ago, Radio 4 announced a ‘Bach Christmas’. All day every day, throughout December, they played Bach’s music. It was glorious. Well, I thought, why not have a ‘Bach November’? So that’s what I’m going to do. And when this is all over, I want to go into King’s College Chapel, or Canterbury Cathedral, hear the ‘Tocatta and Fugue’ echoing round the cavernous spaces, and feel the resonance of the bass notes through my feet.

**31 October** A second lockdown is announced, to begin on 4 November and lasting a month. We are driving back from Bromley. I stare out into the dark, and mentally say goodbye to the things I was looking forward to – the people I was going to see, the trip we’d booked, all the things, whether large or small. It feels as if, once more, we are cast adrift on a boat in a dark sea.

Oh dear, I’m getting dramatic. Well it *is* Hallowe’en and traditionally it’s a time when thoughts are cast towards those we have lost, and to old sadnesses. We oldies don’t really sign up to Trick or Treat, but regard it as a Nasty American Import. *Our* fire festival was Bonfire Night, when we Protestants ritually burned a Catholic for plotting against the King. And kids went out into the streets with their guys, and sat them on old prams, and demanded ‘Penny for the guy’ from passers-by. But not this year. As for the Hallowe’en generation, the pumpkin lanterns go out at the gate. But that’s all that’s safe.

*Helen Harwood*

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## DIARY DECEMBER

### PLEASE NOTE

The Memorial Hall is now open again for the Country Market every Wednesday 9.30–11.30am (see page 46), but for all other regular and one-off events, please contact the individual organisers listed inside the back cover of this magazine.

	<h3>BIN COLLECTIONS</h3>
	<p><b>Black bins</b> Tuesday 1 and 15 December, Thursday 31 December</p>
	<p><b>Blue bins</b> Tuesday 8 and 22 December</p>
	<p><b>Green bins</b> Tuesday 8 December</p>
	<h3>POST BOXES</h3>
	<p>Coppice Avenue, Mill Court (Hinton Way), Library, Old Vicarage, Church Street, High Green bus stop, Stonehill Road.</p>
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## READER'S LETTER

### OUR VILLAGES NEED BUSES NOT BUSWAYS

When my work moved me to Cambridge some 35 years ago, I used some of my acquired knowledge, from traffic and transport research, to choose a location to live such that we could manage with one car ... and that our children, as they grew up, could learn independence. We could not, even in those days, afford a suitable house within Cambridge. That meant finding somewhere in a 'necklace village' with schools and shops, as well as a bus service that ran frequently and late into the evening. We think we made a good choice.

With the expansion of places such as the Genome Campus and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC), I think that minor and inexpensive changes to routing of the No 7 bus could significantly improve the reliability and performance of this bus service, and hence increasing patronage, so reducing car use, congestion and pollution. The long-proposed bus 'turning point' at the CBC and use of the Guided Bus route to Cambridge station could give those improvements within months!

Yet huge amounts of consultant money have already been spent on proposing some newfangled untried and untested battery-powered self-guided bus on a route which ploughs a tarmac scar across our precious Green Belt, yet would fail to deliver a satisfactory service for the majority of residents in Shelford, Stapleford or Sawston. It is a mile from Woollards Lane, Great Shelford to the proposed stop on this new scheme! Who in our villages would be within even half a mile of a stop for this new service? I'd expect very few, unless of course, many hundreds of new dwellings fill the Green Belt between the existing agreed village envelopes and this new 'facility'. The designs show a few parking spaces at such local stops. How soon until they have a few hundred?

DO NOT be deceived. If that 'Innovative' system were to happen, the existing bus services would then be decimated and cut back to the scale of the No 31. In 'normal' times the No 7 is even profitable. The majority in our villages live within 400 yards of an existing stop, so the young, the old, and all those without car access, can use a bus for work, education, shopping, access to health or leisure. There are currently some half a dozen stops within Shelford and Stapleford and a similar number in Sawston and Pampisford.

With current plans there is no certainty that any chosen innovative vehicles can proceed beyond the CBC until there is a tunnel through Cambridge – if then! Will there be a conflict between the GCP's (Greater Cambridge Partnership) ambitions, and those of the Mayor's very extensive CAM (Cambridge Autonomous Metro) project? Should we not have better buses on existing routes rather than jam now and more jam tomorrow?

*Jim Chisholm*

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## PLAYSCAPE

### THE COPSE



The Copse and meadows were one of the first phases of the master plan to be implemented and they have become a real destination for Rec users, especially during these strange Covid-19 times.

As with all things, it was time to reassess these spaces and see what could be improved. The den building area has certainly suffered from what one might call *too much* interaction – practically all the den building material had been thrown in the river or been used for fires. We needed to reinstate this as a place for play.



Wonderfully, the Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative approached us again to see if they could help and thanks to their fundraising and practical support we have started the remedial works. During the summer and half-term holidays the young people helped us

put in new post and board edging ready for more wood chip, create three fantastic permanent dens and plant some more shrubs and wildflowers. We also took the opportunity to give the willow dome its overdue haircut.

The meadows have done well, with some good patches of tansy, cranesbill, musk mallow, oxeye daisies and more all starting to colonise these areas, but long grass still dominates. So local volunteers came together to sow a mixture of yellow rattle (that is semi-parasitic to grass) and wildflower seeds in some swathes across the meadows to help the wildflowers along. This is probably a process we'll need to repeat over the next few years, but it was good to make a start!

We're sorry we can't serve you mulled wine this year at the Village Lights Switch-on, but we wish you all a Merry Christmas all the same and thank you for your continued support!

*Eleanor McCrone, [info@shelfordplayscape.org](mailto:info@shelfordplayscape.org)*

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## GRANTA Medical Practices

### Holiday Season Opening Times and Repeat Prescription Schedule

Day and date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Wednesday 23 December	Open as usual	Place order today pick up 30 Dec
Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today pick up 31 Dec
Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today pick up 4 Jan
Saturday 26 December (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today pick up 4 Jan
Sunday 27 December	Closed	Place order today pick up 4 Jan
Monday 28 December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today pick up 4 Jan
Tuesday 29 December	Open as usual	Place order today pick up 4 Jan
Wednesday 30 December	Open as usual	Place order today pick up 5 Jan
Thursday 31 December	Open as usual	Place order today pick up 6 Jan
Friday 1 January 2021 (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today pick up 6 Jan
Saturday 2 January	Closed	Place order today pick up 6 Jan
Sunday 3 January	Closed	Place order today pick up 6 Jan
Monday 4 January 2021	Open as usual	Place order today pick up 7 Jan

### Coronavirus

We continue to work hard to keep our patients as safe as possible, along with our staff and our community.

Patient access continues to be by invitation only, following a prior telephone assessment. If the assessing clinician feels it is clinically necessary to see you, they will arrange for you to come in and see them.

Essential care, such as NHS immunisations, blood tests, smear tests, and mother and baby checks, continues to go ahead at selected sites. We carry out temperature checks on both staff and patients to minimise risk. Patients must wear a mask if entering any of our buildings.

Coronavirus information changes rapidly. For the very latest news and guidance, please go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Changes have been made to make sure it's safe for you to have the flu vaccine at GP surgeries and pharmacies. These changes include social distancing, hand washing and wearing protective equipment.

You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home. Make sure you keep stocked up with health care

essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your local pharmacist can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets with many open evenings and weekends.

If you need urgent medical assistance when we are closed please use the NHS 111 service.

If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, ring 999.

For further information on alternative services, please visit:

[www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

### **Repeat Prescriptions**

Please make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in a timely manner to ensure you are not without medication over the Christmas and New Year break.

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

*Sandra East, Granta Communications, [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net)*

## **COVID SUPPORT GROUP**

The Great Shelford COVID Support Group is still here for our community! And we're ready to help anyone and everyone in our community during this second wave of coronavirus.

Our network of 80 volunteers ensures that everyone in Great Shelford has a specific volunteer who they can contact should they need help to access basic amenities (shopping, prescriptions, post or just a phone call), either because of self-isolation or the self-isolation of those who would normally help you.

During the first wave we helped several hundred people in the village, some on a regular basis. We have found such a joy in being able to give and it's been a privilege to help those in need in our community, with many new connections made as a result. Here are a few of the highlights and comments from our team:

- Sharing of flour and yeast between volunteers and neighbours when they were scarce.
- Arranging emergency food parcels for someone without food and helping them towards more regular support through the local Food Bank and Parochial Charities.
- Starting a flat car battery with the help of a volunteer.

- Helping an elderly neighbour scammed by a cleaning company.
- Being welcomed to pick apples, pears and damsons from a neighbour's allotment after collecting medicine.

*Chris Smith*

Getting a smile and a wave from neighbours makes my day.

Volunteering has given me the opportunity to replace some of the other volunteering I was doing pre-lockdown. I've also met some lovely people I wouldn't have known otherwise.

I'd encourage anyone living alone to reach out for support during this second lockdown. Helped me feel much less alone knowing that I had a neighbour who was there for me.

**The Great Shelford COVID Support Group is still here to help if you are self-isolating.**

**A Huge Thank You To All Our Volunteers!**



If you don't know who your local volunteer is, please contact [christopher.i.smith3@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.i.smith3@gmail.com) or on 501406.

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## MAGOG DOWN

Magog Down has been a haven for exercising the body and restoring the mind over these months – the strangest of years. The Down has been open to the public throughout both lockdowns, though the car park itself closed for a few weeks in line with government restrictions in March and April. During that time, for those who were able to access Magog Down by other means, we saw it flourish with glorious birdsong, wildflowers aplenty and a tranquillity not usually encountered. We have to thank our volunteer force for still being prepared to carry out their duties since then, continuing to open and close the gates, morning and night, and more recently to those who take part in the work parties on Magog Down under the supervision of our contracted Rangers, clearing bramble, pulling ragwort and planting hedges. In recent days, changes in autumn colour have been glorious; sheep have been quietly grazing.

Since the first lockdown, the number of visitors coming to enjoy the open spaces of the Down have increased enormously with many becoming Friends of Magog Down, so contributing to the considerable costs of its upkeep. The car park now has both a card or contactless machine and a cash machine making payment easy for those visitors who are not Friends.

Sadly, a couple of events which should have taken place have had to be cancelled due to restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic: the Stapleford Fun Run and the Inter-Varsity Hare and Hounds running event.

The Magog Trust is not a campaigning body, but the proposal of the Greater Cambridge Partnership to run a bus route across arable fields within the landscape viewed from the Down within the Green Belt affects Magog Down so directly that the Trust will continue to work with other bodies to oppose the plans. Please lobby your local representatives and have your say at:

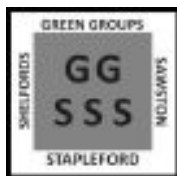
<https://consultcambis.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia>

We look forward to a New Year, whatever it brings, but the guarantee is that spring will again burst forth. A new nature trail is to be established to take us through the woods in which paths have been created. Scrapes on the thin chalk soil will become re-populated, the plant species which grow surveyed to determine their progress. We hope that the chalk grassland, rich with site species flora, will spread into the cleared base of the chalk pit on Little Trees Hill. The clunch from the pit was used in building works, some say in the Cambridge Colleges. The skylarks, nesting in the long grass on North Down, left uncut over alternate years, will rise and delight us with their song.

A visit to Magog Down gives us exercise, delight, enjoyment, solace and hope for the New Year to come. Cherish it when you visit and respect others who are there.

*Kathleen Foreman*

## 2G3S



We held a very successful Conversation Evening on 26 October at which two members of the Cambridge group of Extinction Rebellion talked about the values of the organisation, its ways of operating, relationship to the media, and how to discuss climate issues with doubters. Actions are non-violent, respectful to the public, police and government,

and participants are responsible for themselves and the legal consequences of their actions. Their wish is a world that is fit for future generations – fair, equitable, with a climate that isn't threatening near-extinction of the human race – and they are in it for the long haul. Not everyone demonstrates, people make banners, write press releases, plan actions behind the scenes, and at any action there is always a legal observer recording what happens, conversations with the police and so on.

We had our next Conversation Evening on 23 November, at which Duncan Catchpole talked and answered questions. He talked about sustainable dietary choices, and also the progress he and his company (Cambridge Organic Food) have made towards setting up a sustainable Food Hub in the area, to address food poverty, food waste, and to put growers in touch with consumers. Perhaps this is the year to sign up for Veganuary?

We shortly have our AGM and planning meeting on 7 December at 8pm. Please email our address below if you would like to attend and we can send you the Zoom link.

Various members have contributed to petitions/consultations on several topics, for example encouraging biodiversity in grass verges, proposed changes in planning laws, and of course the Environmental Impact Study for the busway.

Don't forget the government's Green Homes Grant scheme to help with costs of insulating your home, installing solar panels, changing your boiler, etc. If you are interested, South Cambridgeshire District Council have heat cameras available to borrow which you can use to see where your home is losing heat from. There is a new film called 2040, which shows that we can greatly reduce climate change and improve the environment for our children with the technology we have already, if people work together and bring the technology to mainstream quickly. The link is a trailer and invitation to watch the film for a small fee: <https://togetherfilms.org/2040-home>

And if you are interested in green matters and the environment, consider signing up for our newsletter. Our email is [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)

*Helen Hale*

## LIBRARY

### WINTER MINI CHALLENGE

Tuesday 1 December 2020–Friday 15 January 2021



We're delighted to report that the Reading Agency is running its Winter Mini Challenge again this year.

**Everyone is a Hero** encourages children to keep reading through the winter and become a reading hero! The challenge is a partnership between the Reading Agency and Knights Of, the children's publishers.



Children choose a reading goal (three books are recommended), complete the challenge and earn a special certificate.

Resources can be downloaded via the Reading Agency's children's website at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Despite the second lockdown, libraries have been able to stay open with the same service as during the summer, with Great Shelford Library open for returns, collection of pre-ordered books and pre-booked essential computer use, **Tuesdays (10am–2pm) and Fridays (2–6pm).**

Any changes to this from December will be advertised on our website and social media.

For library information, including opening hours over the festive season, please visit: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries> or call us on 0345 045 5225.

*Rosemary Humby*

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## SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

1930–2020



Sawston Village College was founded by Henry Morris, Chief Education Officer for Cambridgeshire for over 30 years. He was a pioneer of community education and the originator of the Village Colleges, of which Sawston was the first.

The college has produced a booklet commemorating the 90th anniversary of its opening, from which the following extract is taken.

Morris's Memorandum of 1924 sets out his ambition for this new kind of school:

'The village college would change the whole face of the problem of rural education. As the community centre of the neighbourhood it would provide for the whole man, and abolish the duality of education and ordinary life. It would not only be the training ground for the art of living, but the place in which life is lived, the environment of a genuine corporate life. ... There would be no 'leaving school'! – the child would enter at three and leave the college only in extreme old age.'

In 1922 Morris arrived in Cambridge to find schools with poor attendance because children were working on the land, and schools in terrible condition. Not only this but education ended when pupils left school at 14. There were no facilities for adults to continue or restart learning.

Morris had a vision for education and he made it happen. In 1930 he invited the Prince of Wales to open a superb new school, Sawston Village College, and students and staff today are rightfully proud that their school was the pioneer of such an important movement. At the opening the Prince of Wales planted a tree commemorating the occasion. Today you can find a plaque next to this tree outside the Edinburgh Wing, opposite Fountains Court.

As Harry Rée wrote is "Educator Extraordinary (Longman 1973):

'Sawston was the first county school of its size to have a separate hall, the first to have an adult wing, specially built and furnished suitably and attractively for adults, the first to have a library for shared use by the school and by the community. The first where the Youth Employment Office was housed in the school, and a mechanics workshop was provided, specially biased towards agricultural engineering. There were playing fields for use by both village and school, a medical services room and a Warden's house. Many of these features are commonplace today. In 1930 they were revolutionary.'

## HOW TO REDUCE WASTE AT HOME

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#### REPAIR

Avoid plastic in general – most irreparable objects involve defective plastic parts. Love things made of real wood, which are easier to fix.

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#### REDUCE WASTE

**Choose products with minimal packaging** Buying in bulk can mean less individual packaging; vegetables sold loose can be cheaper than packaged. For supermarket home deliveries avoid plastic bags.

**Buy reusable containers** They keep food fresher, can be frozen and mean disposable wrappers aren't discarded. Re-use plastic takeaway boxes too.

**Invest in reusable items** Large reusable shopping bags can be kept in the boot of the car and used when needed. Rechargeable batteries save money and avoid poisonous chemicals from disposable batteries leaching into the ground. Jam jars are always needed by the WI.

**Stop buying plastic water bottles** Plastic water bottles are a huge waste material. Purchasing a large reusable water bottle or flask is a much eco-friendlier choice.

**Meal planning** Planning ahead will save food going to waste – and money – in the long run. If you plan a weekly menu and buy everything in advance you'll have exactly what you need and no more.

**Start composting** Composting reduces food waste going to landfill and provides you with natural fertiliser to use for your garden and plants.

**Repurpose materials** Think twice before throwing items away as lots of things around the house can be repurposed. Envelopes for scrap paper, cartons as paint cans ...

**Make the most of bin collections** Minimise the black bin but make the most of your green and blue bins (see page 26). And take large items to the tip at Thriplow (you'll have to book, but it's free).

**And shop locally** It benefits small traders, reduces travel pollution and makes us the community we want to be!

**Refuse** what you do not need, **Reduce** what you do need, **Reuse** what you consume, **Recycle** what you cannot Refuse, Reduce or Reuse, and **Rot** (Compost) the rest.

## OLD NEWS

Extracts from *The Great Shelford Chronicle 1774–1868*

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

### **23 December 1843**

CONSTABLE CHARGED WITH ASSAULT. James Willis, constable of Great Shelford, was charged with assaulting Thomas Kelford, labourer. Dismissed.

### **30 December 1843**

WILLIAM BOWTELL – was charged with having, on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, been riding in a cart without reins on the Trumpington Road. The information was laid at the instigation of H.J.Adeane Esq. The defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs 12s 6d. Allowed a fortnight to pay the money in.

### **11 December 1847**

ROBBERY – On Sunday night last, a number of fowls were stolen from the premises of Mr. Grain.

### **20 December 1850**

FATAL ACCIDENT – As it is intended that the Cambridge and Shepreth branch of the Eastern Counties Railway should cross the Cambridge and London road nearly on a level with the said road, in the Parish of Shelford, the Company, by their contractors, are having an immense embankment, and by a bridge 15 or 16 feet high. To form this embankment, trucks or wagons of earth are drawn to the top of the mound by several horses. From the top, temporary lines of rail are laid leading in the direction it is intended that the wagons should be emptied. A single horse is attached, and being put into a smart trot by the driver, for a few yards, an impetus is given to the wagon down the inclined plane. A jerk of a cord by the driver acts on a spring, which suddenly releases the horse; the wagon rushes on until a beam placed across the temporary line arrests its progress, and the sudden jerk causes the wagon to be emptied of the earth.

A poor fellow, a navy, whilst engaged in this employment on Saturday last, by some means lost his footing and fell with his body across the rails; the iron wheels of the wagon (which contained 2 tons weight of earth) passed over him and so dreadfully crushed him as to cause instant death.

An inquest was held on Monday last, before Mr Phillips, coroner, and a respectable jury, when a verdict of “accidental death” was returned. The body, attended by a number of workmen, was buried in the churchyard of Gt. Shelford, on Christmas Day. The deceased, Samuel Cooper, was only 26 years of age.

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## OBITUARY

### PHYLLIS MARY KING 1933–2020



Phyllis Mary King, née Cage, ‘Mary’ to those who knew and loved her, was born in a cottage behind the old bakery in Little Shelford in November 1933. One of eleven (!), she took great delight in telling people that she had five brothers and five sisters. She attended the village school shared by the Shelfords, where family attendance continued for another six decades culminating with her eldest grandchild Mathew leaving at the turn of the millennium.

At a Bonfire Night party at Little Shelford in the late 1940s, she met a young man named Don King, who lived on a farm in Great Shelford. This was the beginning of their seven-decade love affair.

After marrying in 1954, they lived in one or two farm cottages before moving into the first family home on Macaulay Avenue. After me and my brothers, David and Nigel, appeared over the next six years, we moved to Granham’s Close in the mid-1960s, where the family roots were firmly planted.

Having never learned to drive, Mum was regularly seen pedalling her bicycle around the village; in our younger days, two of us were perched on extra seats fore and aft. Dad was active in the village football and cricket clubs. While he was playing cricket, Mum was busy preparing the teas. For 16 years, our kitchen became a sandwich factory most weekend mornings; keeping small sticky fingers away from the cakes was a full-time job.

Our parents were never shy of hard work, and because of this we were never cold or hungry growing up. Mum had several jobs around the village and in later life she would say she was ‘off to keep an eye on one of my old ladies’, ladies who were invariably younger than her. She eventually stopped when she was diagnosed with cancer in August 2020, at which point she announced that, at the age of 86, she was going to hand her notice in.

By mid-October she was struggling to carry on with the demands of life, and with looking after Dad. As a fiercely independent person, this caused her much frustration. Eventually she had to accept the help of carers.

My son Ollie summed her up the best – ‘quietly dignified and utterly selfless’. Her last words to me were ‘Look after your Dad’.

Phyllis Mary King, my Mum, passed away peacefully two weeks short of her 87th birthday, surrounded by her family. To say she will be missed by us all is a massive understatement.

*Steve King, November 2020*

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## THE SHELFORDS WI



Our seventh Zoom meeting was attended by 19 members on Thursday 5 November. We would much rather meet together in person but one of the advantages of meeting by Zoom is that distance is no object when inviting a speaker.

Our November speaker was Hilary Strong whose talk 'From Dresser to Trainer – 36 Years Making Theatre' was delivered from her home in Bath.

Hilary's career was fascinating, especially as much of it arose from chance opportunities. Having left school at 16 with few qualifications, Hilary Strong has built up over 30 years of experience in the creative sector including managing the Edinburgh Fringe – the world's largest arts festival.

We enjoyed hearing how she began by knocking on the stage door of Chichester Theatre and asking if there were any jobs. She was taken on to assist in the wardrobe department and soon became a dresser, then a stage manager.

Her application to manage the Edinburgh Fringe was initially rejected but she was eventually called for interview and appointed when the panel realised they had been looking for the wrong skill set.

After a period at Greenwich Theatre, where she became interested in training young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, she now runs the 'Making Theatre Gaining Skills' programme based in Bognor Regis. This project provides young people with the transferable skills and confidence to enter employment ([makingtheatre.co.uk](http://makingtheatre.co.uk)).

Our December Zoom meeting will take place on Thursday 3 December and will be a 'hands on' session of making Christmas decorations. Non-members are very welcome to join in.

Please get in touch with our secretary (see Local Organisations page) or any WI member if you are interested.

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*

## COUNTRY MARKET

### BOOK NOW FOR CHRISTMAS!



None of us will forget 2020. The market year started on a high – in fact just what a market should be – a well-supported social enterprise, but now all that is just a distant memory. When we went into lockdown in mid-March none of us could have imagined we would not re-open until 15 July and now, we're hanging on again.

Assuming the current lockdown ends on 2 December, we are so pleased there will be three markets before Christmas – **9, 16 and 23 December**. All the details will be on our Facebook page:

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

Our craft producers are ready for their busiest time of the year, offering a wide range of handcrafted work. Remember, we will still have to observe social distancing. This does reduce time for browsing so perhaps some pre-market craft window shopping on our Facebook pages could be helpful.

Moving round the market, we should have a few seasonal vegetables, apples, plants, seasonal foliage and table arrangements made with natural materials. Best to order table arrangements for collecting on 23 December.

We will have our regular assortment of preserves, sweet and savoury baked items and Christmas Fayre. Disappointing that this year you have not been able to taste any of our chutneys, but there's plenty of choice. Over recent weeks our ordering system has grown and it really does help us to help you! It's easy!

### How to Order

An email to [dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com](mailto:dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com)

or [gscm1976@gmail.com](mailto:gscm1976@gmail.com)

or a phone call to 843946,

and please no later than Monday evening!

If getting to the market is difficult, we would be happy to deliver your order.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and a big thank you to our customers for supporting us throughout 2020.

*Dorothy Doel*

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## READER'S LETTER

### THE BULLNOSE MORRIS

I read with interest Ray Hammond's piece in the GSVN November issue regarding his 1924 Bullnose Morris car. At the time Ray bought the Morris (1968) the garage, on the old school site, would have been owned by local business man Benny Powell, who at around this time also owned another garage in High Street, Sawston, later sold to Steel and Askins.

Mr Powell was a larger than life character and also owned a pony and trap in which he was often seen around the village. He lived in a large white house in Woollards Lane behind the tin shed where Tony's the greengrocer's used to be, I think at one time the hut was used as a garage by Benny Powell.

The garage on the corner later passed to Cowey car sales during which time petrol sales were ceased. I am sure the Morris was Benny Powell's personal car. Interesting that it has survived all these years with Ray Hammond from Cherry Hinton who has a large collection of old cars and lorries. Ray is a character in his own right and a few years ago was regularly seen delivering logs around the Cherry Hinton area with a 1940s Wolseley car towing a large trailer. Ray certainly believes in using his vehicles for the purpose they were intended.

*John Wakefield*



Wildlife on the prowl in the village! (see page 18)



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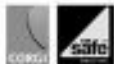


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## FOOTBALL CLUB



Just when things were going so well and the players were getting to full fitness the dreaded lockdown hits us again, although I think most thought this could happen at any time. At least both our teams made excellent starts to the season and sit comfortably near the top of their respective divisions.

The first team had made their best start to a season for many years and continued this with impressive close-fought victories in the two games before lockdown was announced.

Foxton were also unbeaten when they came to Woollards Lane and in an excellent game which could have gone either way, a late second-half goal gave us the points.

Cherry Hinton were last season's form team and probably would have gone on to win their first Premier Division title, so another hard game was anticipated. A below average first-half display saw us trailing 1-0, but the half-time team talk must have done the trick as a much improved performance and some effective substitutions turned the game around. A string of chances were missed but two late goals saw us eclipse last season's two defeats from the Cherries and come away with all three points.

The reserve team also only had two games before lockdown, the first being a 3-1 away win at Barrington. The hosts were runners-up to our reserves last season, having also been promoted the previous two seasons, so it was good to retain our edge over them. Comberton United Reserves came to Woollards Lane on the back of five straight wins and would have been relieved to continue their impressive run after a close hard fought 2-1 win.

The season is scheduled to restart on Saturday 5 December so we can only keep our fingers crossed.

Many followers of the club, particularly those who frequented our old clubroom, will already be aware that Peter Speed has sadly died after a long illness. Peter did not play for the club, having spent most of his adult football years at Ely City in the Eastern Counties League, where he was an exceptional player. Peter became steward of our clubroom many years ago and quickly became part of the furniture with his easygoing nature and personality. He will be greatly missed, and our condolences go to his family and close friends.

*Great Shelford FC*

## WHAT'S ON

Some of the venues that used to be featured in this section are still closed. Others, however, have started opening, offering activities that have been designed to be safe and compliant with current Covid-19 secure legislation. Please check with individual venues to confirm details.

### CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE

Mischief Theatre's *Groan Ups* has been rescheduled for April 2021.

Telephone: 01223 503333 [www.cambridgearththeatre.com](http://www.cambridgearththeatre.com)

### STAPLEFORD GRANARY

9 December	5pm & 7.30pm	Allegrri Quartet
10 December	7.30pm	Megson – A Yuletide Carol
11 December	5pm & 8pm	Jazz at the Movies

A variety of art and craft courses have also been scheduled.

Telephone: 01223 849004 [www.staplefordgranary.org.uk](http://www.staplefordgranary.org.uk)

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Some of the University museums and venues are now open. To visit, ALL will require booking in advance. Visit [www.museums.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/) for details.

Kettles Yard	Wednesday to Sunday, 11am–5pm
Botanic Garden	Daily, 10am–5pm
Fitzwilliam Museum	Tuesday to Saturday, 10am–5pm, Sunday 12–5pm
Museum of Zoology	Thursday to Saturday 11.30am–1pm, 1.30–3pm
Museum of Technology	Sunday and Monday, 10.30am–4pm

For information on these and other events see [www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson)

### OTHERS

Some other organisations have opened again. Please see individual websites for information. Nearly all will need booking in advance.

National Trust	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Shepreth Wildlife Park	<a href="http://www.sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk">www.sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk</a>
Welney Wetland Centre	<a href="http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney">www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney</a>
RSPB	<a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk">www.rspb.org.uk</a>
Scotsdales Extended Opening	<a href="https://scotsdalegardencentre.co.uk">https://scotsdalegardencentre.co.uk</a>

## 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

01223 842553 [gsvneditorial@gmail.com](mailto:gsvneditorial@gmail.com)

### Commercial advertisements

These are for a 12-month period, renewed in August: there is usually a waiting list.

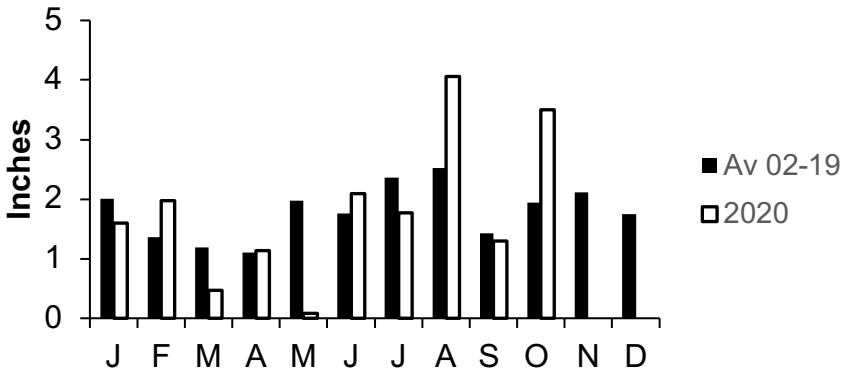
[gsvnadverts@gmail.com](mailto:gsvnadverts@gmail.com)

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<b>Editorial Committee</b>	Lorraine Coulson,	Duncan Grey,
Bridget Hodge,	Marjorie Smith,	Judith Wilson

## Great Shelford Village Rainfall 2020



From data supplied by Angus Campbell

**LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

2G3S Green Group	Linda Whitebread	greengroupssss@gmail.com	843438
Badminton (Little Shelford)	Rosie Cranmer	rosie.cranmer@ntlworld.com	513572
Bowling Club	Alan Edwards	alanedwards505@gmail.com	666965
Brownies, Guides, Rainbows	Lisa MacGregor	shelforddistrict@gmail.com	843021
Bunch – Feast	Duncan Grey	dsg@post.com	842191
Carpet Bowls	Philip Seekings	phil.seekings@yahoo.co.uk	843416
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cambridge		0344 848 7979
Community Association Memorial Hall bookings	Sheila Tilbury-Davis	tilburydavis.sheila@gmail.com	844384
Country Market	Dorothy Doel	dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com	843946
Cricket Club	Brian Higgins	brian_higgins50@hotmail.com	07557 502840
Football Club	Terry Rider	footybeast63@sky.com	01354 680661
Free Church	Maxine Du Plessis	administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk	842181
Friends of Shelford Library	Daphne Sulston	dsulston@googlemail.com	842248
Garden Club	Helen Chubb	heelch6@yahoo.co.uk	845032
Granta Medical Practices		capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net	0300 234 5555
Great Shelford Friendship Club	Cheryl Mynott	cherylmynott@gmail.com	845435
Mobile Warden Scheme	Jackie Noble (Warden)	Home 700920	Mobile 07503 324890
	Jenny David (Chair)	jennykmf@yahoo.co.uk	845367
Parish Church Bell-ringers	Ann Seaman	juliet.a.seaman@outlook.com	504682
Parish Church Community Room	Mary Lester	lestermh_uk@yahoo.co.uk	842411
Parish Church Friends	Richard Davies	richard.davis@daviessolicitors.co.uk	07595 339187
Parish Church Sunday Club	Gillian Pett	gillian.pet29@gmail.com	843278
Parish Churchwarden	Stella Nettleton	stella.nettleton@btinternet.com	07763 887953
Parochial Charities	Mary Lester (Clerk to the Trustees)	lestermh_uk@yahoo.co.uk	842411
Police	Non-emergency number		101
Rainbow Pre-School	Alison Tomlin	admin@rainbowshelford.co.uk	07985 216603
Royal British Legion	Mark Chennells	mdchennells@btinternet.com	891817
Rugby Club	Louis Mann		843357
Sawston Sports Centre	Sawston Village College	info@sawstonsports.com	712555
Scouts, Beavers, Cubs		contact@sandsscouts.org.uk	
Shelford & Stapleford Strikers	Douglas White	douglas.white2@ntlworld.com	561753
Shelford Primary School	Chris Grey (Headteacher)	office@shelford.cambs.sch.uk	843107
Shelford Spokes	Brian Connellan	brian.connellan@eastyoke.com	500277
Shelford COVID Support Group	Chris Smith	christopher.i.smith3@gmail.com	07929 358543
Shelford Support Group (transport to hospital, etc.)	General enquiries: Gillian Northmore		shelfordsupport@googlemail.com 504542
	John Dibnah	842054	Carol Bard 668157
	Rosie Cranmer	513572	Marjorie Smith 564922
Stapleford Choral Society	Adam Pounds	adampounds54@btinternet.com	07804 308042
Tennis Club	Victoria Roles	secretary@gstc.org.uk	07747 748891
The Arts Society South Cambs	Sheila Tilbury-Davis	tilburydavis.sheila@gmail.com	844384
Twinning Association	Penny Pearl	penny.pearl@btinternet.com	842483
U3A (Sawston Branch)	Derek Cupit		871527
WI	Vanda Butler (Secretary)	vanda.butler@googlemail.com	561053
Youth Initiative	Zac Britton	zac.britton@ssyi.club	



Socially distanced Remembrance Sunday at Great Shelford War Memorial  
Photos: Duncan Grey

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