

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

JANUARY 2021

PRICE 40p

*Goodbye to 2020 and
Happy New Year to all our readers!
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Photo: Ian Hodge

*Possible Co-op Move
Will East West Rail go through our Village?*

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 18 NOVEMBER 2020

This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to Covid-19 meeting restrictions. Four members of the public were present at the virtual meeting, together with representatives of Playscape, CamBedRailRoad and Network Rail.

PUBLIC SESSION

Presentation from CamBedRailRoad on alternatives to the East West Rail potential proposals

Sebastian Kindersley and Brian Bell of CamBedRailRoad indicated that it makes sense to have new developments along a railway line that also serves existing travel routes, rather than destroying undeveloped green land.

Councillors and the public came to the conclusion that this was the best option from all the reviewed proposals.

The best way to support this proposed route is, in conjunction with Cambridge Approaches Group, to lobby our Member of Parliament and Cambridgeshire County Council.

The full presentation is available on the Parish Council website.

<https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Presentation from Network Rail, Cambridge South Infrastructure Enhancements project, on the proposed new station south of Cambridge

Mike Blissett and Sophie Moeng focused on the works in Great Shelford near Shepreth Branch Junction.

There were objections from the public and from Councillors on the necessity for this site and on the implications for local disruptions during its construction. It was felt that the general consultation process was inadequate and was not taking place with relevant stakeholders.

A public consultation brochure with a tear-out reply section was mailed to all Great Shelford residents but was not received by many residents. Sophie Moeng is to investigate and respond to the Parish Council.

The public, and the Parish Council, are encouraged to respond on hard copy via the posted brochure or online at *<https://consultations.networkrail.co.uk/communications/cambridge-south-phase-2-a-new-station-in-the-south/>*

FINANCE

Sixteen cheques to the value of £11,385.16p for the period up to 16 September were presented.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**District Councillors**

Councillor Nick Sample was in attendance. A report was circulated.

County Councillors

None in attendance. No report was circulated.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**Highways Committee**

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 11 November were circulated and are on the website.

Planning Committee

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 4 November were circulated and are on the website.

Major problems continue to exist on the SCDC Planning Portal. It was suggested that a user group should be established and that Julie Ayre at SCDC should be contacted about this.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 9 November were circulated and are on the website.

Cemetery and Allotment Committee

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 28 October were circulated and are on the website. The Stonehill Road allotment hedges are being cut in late November/early December.

Finance and General Purposes

The precept will be agreed at a Parish Council meeting on 13 January (not 20 January as previously planned).|

REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS

Playscape Representative Eleanor McCrone gave an update on the current status of Playscape. A grant application to the FCC Communities Foundation is to be authorised by the Clerk. In the Copse, new sturdy dens have been successfully installed and new planting is in progress. The willow dome has been pruned and the meadow area is to be extended.

Police Any reduction of Police Community Support Officers will be opposed.

Website Administration Low levels of Covid-19 infections have been recorded at Sawston Village College and Great Shelford Primary School.

OTHER BUSINESS

Private Street Lighting An official Parish Council letter is to be sent to SCDC.

Improvements to SSYI Club Room A quote for electrical improvements is still to be decided on. The exterior flat roof is in poor condition and thermally insecure. It was agreed that it would be replaced with a warm roof, including gutters and nesting boxes, at a cost of £25,000.

SSYI Lease A draft was circulated and approved subject to minor amendments.

Tennis Club Lease A request from the tennis club for a ten-year extension to the current lease was approved.

External Correspondence Colin Coulson has offered to maintain the Memorial Hall flower beds free of charge as the Brownies cannot continue to do this. His offer was accepted with thanks by the Parish Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

20/04340/HFUL	Mr R Stratford 2A High Green	Erection of a conservatory to the side of the property.
No objections.		
20/04396/HFUL	J Foeglein 57 Macaulay Avenue	Part single storey, part two storey side extension and front porch.
It is not possible that application 20/04012/FUL (which we discussed and objected to on 21 October) and this application can be on the same piece of land. We are also concerned that this application seems to show a change in the boundary line to accommodate it, but makes no mention of Land Registry. We believe there is a large mature tree which would need to be felled to build this extension. We believe some conflicts and conditions need to be addressed before a decision is made on this application.		
20/04510/HFUL	Mr and Mrs Ian Law 224 Cambridge Road	Demolition of rear conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension, two storey side and single storey front extensions and additional

		first floor window to staircase.
No objections, but a party wall agreement is needed.		

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POSSIBLE CO-OP MOVE

PLANNING COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

At the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 December 2020, a presentation was given by the Co-op on their new plans to move from their current location in the High Street to the location they had previously considered in High Green. A planning application had not yet been made, but was imminent and they believed the new application had overcome many of the previous objections. The full presentation is available on the Parish Council website.

The Planning Committee Chair, Councillor Barbara Kettel, stated that the Parish Council had been in favour of the previous application and asked if the objections regarding deliveries and parking were to be addressed in the new planning application. Representatives stated both issues were fully addressed, with ample parking spaces, and specific times and types of vehicle specified for deliveries.

Councillor Paula Arnold stated that some seating on the perimeter pavement could deter vehicles from pavement parking. The Co-op representatives stated that the area was not within their control and suggested the Parish Council could propose seating to SCDC as part of its planning response.

A member of the public raised a concern over the increased walking distance from the centre of the village to the new store site. Co-op representatives stated that alternative stores were available in the village centre if necessary but that they considered the greater range of products with a better shopping experience would encourage shoppers to undertake the additional travel involved.

From the summary of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 December (Public Session). See also the Reader's Letter on page 23.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Planning Committee Meeting	6 January 5.15 pm
Planning Committee Meeting	20 January 5.15 pm
Parish Council Meeting	13 January 6.30 pm

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.

EAST WEST RAIL

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

I know that a lot of the members of the public are concerned about the East West Rail route, its impact on the village and what we as a Parish Council are doing about it.

Prior to last Wednesday's Cambridge Approaches webinar, we had taken the view that we would wait until East West Rail consulted on their proposed routes in the New Year at their Non-Statutory Public Consultation, when we would know their actual proposals rather than a number of rumoured routes that have been circulating.

From the reaction that we have had both at that meeting and since the meeting, it would seem that residents would like us to take a more proactive stance.

We are putting together a leaflet explaining what has happened to date and providing email addresses for the local MP, County Councillors, District Councillors and the Mayor of the combined authority who can be written to listing your concerns.

We will also provide details in the leaflet of the CamBedRailRoad petition which states that 'We, the undersigned, request that the Department of Transport ensures that the proposal for a Northern route for the Central Section of the East West Rail, such as that proposed by CamBedRailRoad with widespread support amongst residents of South Cambridgeshire, is fairly evaluated at the same time and to the same degree as alternative routes proposed by East West Rail Company.'

We will also be encouraging and supporting residents to form cluster groups to make sure people are lobbying the politicians and to sign up to the CamBedRailRoad petition.

We will need volunteers from the village: are any of you prepared to help us?

Malcolm Watson, Chair, Great Shelford Parish Council

FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is **Friday 15 January** and it should be available on Saturday 30 January 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

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EAST WEST RAIL: POTENTIAL RAIL ROUTE THROUGH SHELFORD CAMBRIDGE APPROACHES

Cambridge Approaches is an action group whose aim is to make local people aware of the impending threat to the 'Option E' area and to seek means to reduce or ideally eliminate the impact of the railway on residents and the environment. It endorses CamBedRailRoad's petition calling for a fair assessment of all EWR routes into Cambridge.

The petition, which is at <https://tinyurl.com/y2ou343m> reads:

We, the undersigned, request that the Department for Transport ensures that the proposal for a Northern route for the Central Section of the East West Rail, such as that proposed by CamBedRailRoad with widespread support amongst residents of South Cambridgeshire, is fairly evaluated at the same time and to the same degree as alternative routes proposed by East West Rail Company.

EAST WEST RAIL

Work on the new Oxford-Cambridge railway line is to start within five years. East West Rail (EWR) is considering a route option that may run through Great Shelford. This could potentially mean the demolition of homes and the line crossing Cambridge Road, Great Shelford.

WHAT IS PLANNED?

The line will carry passengers and freight with several trains per hour. EWR have announced a preferred corridor from Bedford via Caxton, past Haslingfield, Harston and Hauxton, before joining one of the existing railways in or near Great Shelford and onwards north to Cambridge.

The proposed line is at <https://tinyurl.com/y6okm7fq>

EWR will soon publish their proposed actual route options before selecting one and producing a suitable line map, followed by statutory public consultation. Currently EWR believe residents of Great Shelford are happy with their route passing through our area **because they have not heard sufficient voices against it.**

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

YES – The corridor is still only a 'preferred route' and EWR must consider local and political opinion.

IS IT ALL DECIDED?

NO – Nothing has been finalised but EWR are planning to start work by 2025.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Talk to your parish councillors and email anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

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A Very Happy New Year to You All!

A Janus moment: looking back and looking forward ...

January, the first month of the year, is named after the Roman god Janus who was guardian of the threshold of homes. The image of the deity had two faces – one looking in and one looking out. This is why I think the start of a New Year is a chance to look back and to look forward. What a year it has been!

When the first lockdown was announced, I was at Westminster Abbey on my annual Duty Chaplain week. I vividly recall celebrating Holy Communion at 12.30pm on Tuesday 17 March, then attending a most moving Choral Evensong with the full choir later that day. Little did we know that these would be the last public services in the Abbey for nearly four months.

As I got back to the village on the Wednesday, moves were already afoot to organise volunteers to cover every road in the community and ensure the elderly and vulnerable were offered help. Thus in a few days the Shelford Covid Support Group was formed and over 70 people came forward to offer their time and commitment. This was truly a great expression of the community strength in our village and each of the volunteers and coordinators deserve our thanks. They are still hard at work and will be ensuring no one misses out as the winter stretches out.

All those things that give shape to our year had to be cancelled or postponed – among them The Feast, sport, school, going to work and all those social contacts that make life easier. It became a time when life seemed to be focused in our homes and many of us spent lots of time in the outdoors. Never has our garden looked so tidy and Jenny's Path became a pedestrian M25 with so many people taking their daily walk!

So what of 2021? Well, we have seen the start of the massive vaccination programme and heroic efforts by researchers and the wonderful NHS to help those most at risk to get their jabs. There certainly seems to be hope that later in the year things will slowly start to return to something like 'normality'.

However, my guess is that the whole Covid experience will have so changed us that we will carry forward the best of what has seen us through in 2020. Two things stand out for me – the triumph of community volunteers and how valuable the NHS is and all those who work in it.



A Happy New Year to them all!

Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral

My collation and installation as an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral, due to take place in November just after the recent lockdown started, has been rearranged for Saturday 23 January during Choral Evensong at 5.30pm in the Cathedral. I would very much welcome support on the day – please do come.

Annual Toy Collection – Thank you

Sincere thanks for the splendid annual toy collection in aid of the Salvation Army which took place on 6 December.

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

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion service is currently still suspended.

From the Registers

Baptism	6 December	Francesco Somoza
Funerals	13 November	Mary Marr
	11 December	Gwen Gresham

Regular Services

Sunday: 8am	Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10am	Parish Communion, our main Sunday service
4pm & 6.30pm	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

Vicar: The Revd Canon Simon Talbott 01223 847068 or
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When you read this, we will be at the beginning of a New Year, and although it may be that for most of us our usual Christmas celebrations were heavily

curtailed, I hope that you were able to identify afresh with the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus which was in many ways a very simple and humble affair, and through that will be inspired by hope for what may be to come.

As we welcome in a New Year it is inevitable that we look back on the year that has passed. 2020 is perhaps not a year we would want to look back on with fond memories, although there will have been those very special moments amidst all the upheaval and uncertainty, but 2020 will no doubt be one we don't forget, and will be talked of for many years to come. However, as we look forward our hope is that better times will arise, and as I consider the difficulties we have endured, both individually and nationally, I am reminded of St Paul's words in his letter to the church at Rome:

'... we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.'
(Romans 5:3-5)

What a blessing it is to know the love of God surrounding and sustaining us!

'Good things come to those who wait' is an old 16th-century proverb and our prayer at GSFC is that good things will come for each one of us and God will pour out his blessings of love, peace and joy in the days ahead.

Diana Parr, Ministerial Assistant

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS

The season of Epiphany is one that follows the Christmas celebrations and is traditionally celebrated on 6 January. It is the time when we remember the wise men who followed the star to Jesus so that they might worship him. In many countries this is the day when presents are exchanged as a reminder of the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that were given to the baby king Jesus.

As you walk around the village keep a look out for stars hanging in the branches: these are gifts to the finder which carry a blessing for the year ahead.

Happy New Year!



SAWSTON FUN RUN CHALLENGE EVENT

Thanks to the success of the Sawston Fun Run Challenge Event in October, extra funds are now available for local charities and good causes. The event generated over £26,000 so it far exceeded early expectations allowing the organisers, the Cambridge Sawston Rotary Club, to make additional funds available now to local organisations. It is expected that this will be good news to those charities and organisations that are facing financial difficulties at this time.

The traditional Fun Run usually held in May had to be cancelled due to the Covid virus but the Rotary Club was eager to show resilience and to honour the commitments made to the chosen beneficiaries. Organising the Challenge Event ensured the community still had a community event on what would have been the Fun Run's thirty-fifth anniversary. A Rotary spokesperson said 'having raised far more than expected that took the cumulative total to £500,000, we are pleased that we can donate up to a further £10,000 to the local community'.

Applications will need to demonstrate that funds received will benefit Cambridgeshire residents, preferably those who live in South Cambridgeshire, and how urgent the need is. To apply for funds from the £10,000 available charities and organisations should complete the application form that is on the Sawston Fun Run website: www.sawstonfunrun.co.uk The closing date for receiving applications will be 28 February.

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CORONAVIRUS DIARY

1 November I saw the Blue Moon setting this morning. Of course, it wasn't really a Blue Moon by then, just the tail end of one.

The month-long lockdown starts on Thursday. Gove says it may not end on 2 December. Gosh, Michael, you really know how to cheer us up.

2 November Rain, endless rain, and in between bursts of blue sky and golden leaves. Today's the day of the American election. I can hardly bear to know what happens.

Wimpole isn't going to close. We can still go and walk there.

I love browsing the BBC news site. Not for the headlines, which are usually unwelcome news, but for the other stuff which throws a light on modern life. So I was most intrigued by an article on cardboard theft. It appears that, with us all doing so much online shopping, cardboard for recycling has become a precious commodity. In Spain the environmental crime division are attempting to catch the mainly Romanian gangs who steal cardboard left out for recycling. Why is this a problem, you might ask. Well, firstly because they are criminal gangs, with fingers in many dirty pies. And secondly because they rob legitimate firms of their living and deprive city authorities of valuable income. The problem, it seems, spans Europe and the United States. I never cease to be amazed at the inventiveness of the criminal mind. They're so bright, they could make a fortune by legitimate means. If only they would!

4 November A friend and I walked on Rectory Farm – glorious skies. Shades of dove grey, palest blue, tinges of pink, clouds of thunderous gunmetal grey lit by the sinking sun. The open sky gives me a sense of freedom, release.

5 November Guy Fawkes Night. Foggy, worst of all weather. We don't see so much fog these days. I remember, aged five, walking home from school in the London smog, one of the last.

The American election drove coronavirus out of our thoughts. It ran on from Tuesday to Saturday. Who would win? Trump's shenanigans were frankly embarrassing, and revealing too. The things you have to do to be rich and powerful – lie, cheat, tell people what they want. But do you like yourself at the end of it?

But on Saturday at 5pm we knew that Trump had lost, and relief surged through us. I feel that the world just got a bit better.

The weather has turned mild. The last wasps still fly. They feed on ivy flowers, or sit on the fence in the sun. They are slow and torpid. Their last days.

This autumn I determined to learn about fungi, and every time we go for a walk, I look carefully at trees, at the soil and at heaps of rotting wood to see what I can see. These months of autumn are their time, and I find there is an

incredibly rich population of them, if only you care to look. They are in our garden too. An old stump sports two bracket fungi: Turkeytail, with its rings of colour, like a turkey's tail, and Lumpy Bracket, which is – a lumpy bracket. And one more, little white spears pointing upwards, the Stag's Horn or Candlesnuff fungus. Of course, these eruptions are only the fruits of the fungi. Unseen but all around us, the threads of mycelium run, doing their necessary work. Some fungi break down waste – leaves, wood, manure; while others live in cooperation with plants, giving them nutrients in return for sugars. The more I know, the more I realise how interesting they are. Learning about them has been the mainstay of my lockdown.

November 8 Remembrance Sunday. A poignant scene – the Queen goes to pay respects at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior. A tiny figure in black, wearing a black mask. She is 94, but her will and her sense of duty are still evident, and sustain her. Just her, the Dean and one soldier, then the royal piper who plays 'Flowers of the Forest', the traditional lament for all the young who have fallen in war. And, of course, a camera crew.

At our war memorial, just a small group – the vicar, the British Legion, the Chair of the Parish Council, and a bugler who plays the Last Post. But the traffic doesn't stop, it never stops.

14 November I spent an hour in the garden. It's grey and everything is dripping. But the air is lovely, mild, it comes from the west. It's refreshing, energising. It clears the head and the thoughts, makes your spirits rise. Always does, the wind from the west.

A long queue outside Barkers, three people only inside at a time.

Builders arrived at the beginning of this week. The house next door to us is being dragged into the 21st century. Our neighbour Pat Legge died a year ago. It's hard watching all the paraphernalia of her life being piled up in the front garden, both my other neighbour and I feel it. But it will soon be home to a new young family, and that's nice. Two other elderly friends died recently, sisters Pam and Ros Dawson. I'll miss seeing Ros. Though well into her eighties, she pushed her shopping trolley along to the Co-op, shopping for her sister and herself right through lockdown. The years turn, and we, who felt so young, are becoming the oldies now.

It's been a grey day. As the rain fell, it was almost dark by quarter to three. While I was washing a jumper at the kitchen sink, I stared out at the now bare ash tree. How stark and stick-y it looks, like a bunch of twigs shoved together, drawn by a child. Quite unlike the gracious form it presents when it's in leaf. I've watched our ash trees anxiously for the last few years, wondering how the dieback will affect them, whether they'll all disappear. Not all of them it seems. The tough ones will survive.



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15 November We are halfway through the month, halfway through the lockdown. The toll of deaths from Covid is now 51,766, the worst in Europe it seems, though I'd draw no easy conclusions from that, neither praise nor blame. The number of cases is still rising: yesterday 26,860 new cases, and who knows how many there really were. So far, the number of daily deaths has not risen to the terrible heights of April/May: yesterday's figure was 462. The government tells us that the next two weeks are crucial in getting the infection rate down, especially if we want a Christmas. The spike over recent days is attributed to all those who thought a last mad night out before lockdown was a good idea. If I miss my birthday and Christmas, I shall be really angry at them – selfish b*****s.

Government scientific adviser Susan Michie tells us that data showed adherence to lockdown rules had been 'pretty steady since the summer'. That's a surprise. Seems the selfish b*****s are a minority after all.

17 November I don't know about Slow Television. This is Slow Life. With all our leisure activities cancelled, we are the possessors of unlimited amounts of time. This is not an unpleasant time of year. In some ways I find myself following the cycle of the year, sinking gratefully into darker days as an opportunity to rest more, sleep a bit more (or at least have a lie-in), follow indoor pursuits. I write up things that I have been meaning to write. Or read up on things. And I'm doing lots more housework. I suppose that's good.

When I get up it's just getting light. From our front window you can watch the bare trees, back-lit by the growing light. They are starkly beautiful. And some days there's a glowing sunrise. Not much of that lately though. Instead, lots of cloud and rain. But I don't mind that either, because it's filling up the aquifers. Perhaps next year will be a good growing year because of it.

Pat's gate fell down last night. It's the gate that leads from my garden into hers (or what used to be hers). It's like a gate into the Secret Garden. It's an old gate, obviously used to be somebody's front door, since it has a slot for a letter box. It's painted olive green, and the paint has faded and cracked and peeled, to the sort of shabby chic look so beloved of *Country Living* magazine. The gate had aged with Pat, and now finally the old rusty hinges have given out. The end of an era.

I'm back working in the garden. In this mild weather it makes good sense to try and do some of the winter work. I'm grappling with my old enemy, the ground elder, which has swamped most of my flowerbeds. It's a dispiriting Sisyphian task, since it will, inevitably, grow back. But I have fruit trees I want to plant, and I want it out of the way. It's good to be out of doors. The air feels good. It's warm, moist, slightly windy.

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22 November We spent the day fixing the garden fence. It was a sunny day, and there were bumble bees flying. One gathered nectar from my neighbour's bush which was in flower. Wasps flew, and ladybirds sunbathed on the fence. From the rose arch a robin supervised the work, and trilled tunefully as we worked. I am pleased – a good job done.

24 November In accordance with David Attenborough's mantra, 'waste nothing', I am mending the wheelbarrow. Or trying to. I bought a Screwfix 'fits-all-wheelbarrows' wheel. All wheelbarrows except this one. My husband resorts to the internet to buy a new axle and accompanying plastic spacers. On my next attempt I find the spacers are too wide, and have to cut them down to size. Eventually, sporting a cut thumb, I tighten the nuts on the wheelbarrow, and declare the job done. Nobody said that saving the planet was easy.



26 November A very frosty morning. The roof is covered in white. The morning sun is low, casting a pale yellow light through the hanging mist. It's cold but not unpleasant. On the bird feeder, peanuts are suddenly in vogue.

27 November I read that the hospitals in one American city, where coronavirus was bad, were turning people away, and I thought how terrifying that must be. And it struck me that really, all the lockdowns, the social distancing and face masks boil down to this one thing. That if we get coronavirus badly, there should be help. We expect it. In the Middle Ages, in the 17th and 19th centuries, when pandemics struck, there was no medical help. When wild animals are sick, they are on their own. But we have built a society where there is help. And if that help is overwhelmed, then we are thrown back into that terrifying reality of sink or swim, of being on our own.

30 November We are nearing the end of lockdown (2 December). The number of cases has fallen by 30%. See, it does work. Now the average number of people that a person with Covid infects is less than one. But the reason the number of cases rose so high was because of all those people who rushed out for one last bash before the lockdown. You can't win really.

Helen Harwood

DIARY JANUARY

PLEASE NOTE

The Memorial Hall is now open again for the Country Market every Wednesday 9.30–11.30am (see page 38), but for all other regular and one-off events, please contact the individual organisers listed inside the back cover of this magazine.

BIN COLLECTIONS



Black bins Wednesday 13, Tuesday 26 January

Blue bins Thursday 7, Tuesday 19 January

Green bins Thursday 7 January

POST BOXES



Coppice Avenue, Mill Court (Hinton Way), Library, Old Vicarage, Church Street, High Green bus stop, Stonehill Road.

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

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The Post Office is at Kash Stores, 35 Hinton Way. Open Monday–Friday 9am–4pm, Saturday 9am–12 noon.

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

LIBRARY



The library is open for limited services including managed browsing. You can return books and collect books subject to social distancing.

Current opening hours are:

Tuesdays 10am–2pm, Fridays 2–6pm.

READER'S LETTER

THE CO-OP STORE

The plan to close the Co-op store in the High Street, Great Shelford and to open a new store in the recently enlarged and refurbished retail premises on the corner of High Green and Granhams Road turned down in 2018 has now been revived. As a member of the Co-op and as a regular customer of the High Street store I feel that the move would be a serious commercial mistake which will also seriously damage the viability and vitality of Great Shelford as a shopping centre.

The High Street store is close to the commercial centre of Great Shelford, with Barkers the butchers almost opposite and other shops and community facilities just around the corner. The new premises in High Green are outside the village centre in an area which is in the course of running down commercially. The Lloyds Bank in High Green has closed and the Great Shelford Post Office has moved into the Kash Stores some way up Hinton Way on the 'wrong' side of the level crossing. There is limited parking in the High Street but virtually none in Cambridge Road. If it is proposed that customers make use of the limited parking space behind the new premises frequent coming and going of customers' cars and the backing and unloading of delivery trucks will be hazardous being close to the busy turning into Granhams Road.

A large number of elderly people live in the centre of Great Shelford for whom the High Street store is within walking distance. The new premises are ten minutes brisk walking away from the centre of the village to which must be added the time to be taken to cross the main road. It is unlikely that slower elderly people are going to push their shopping trolleys all the way to the new premises and back. Moreover people like myself who live in the centre of the village are unlikely to use the new premises for casual purposes, for example I am unlikely to walk 20 minutes to get a pint of milk or a loaf of bread; I will use the Tesco store in Woollards Lane for that purpose and once in that store I am likely to make other purchases. Tesco is the only other supermarket in the centre of the village. As Tesco does not, however, offer quite the same range of merchandise as the Co-op I am likely to drive to the Waitrose store in Trumpington or use the shops in Sawston. Moreover, I know that the Co-op attracts customers from Little Shelford for whom it is within walking or cycling distance. Moving to High Green, the Co-op will lose those customers.

The High Street store is admittedly small and congested but I believe that it is precisely that which contributes to its attractiveness. I urge your readers to object to the proposal when it is submitted for planning permission.

Dr Anthony J Cooper, 8 Old School Court, Great Shelford

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READER'S LETTER

ISSUES WITH GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL (GSPC)

To paraphrase, parish councils' prime responsibilities are to ensure that they deliver good things for their village (things which residents value) and to prevent bad things happening to the village.

By any count GSPC has failed in these basic duties over the last 18 months. I wrote to GSPC in advance of their April meeting, criticising inaction on a number of issues:

- Lack of response to the Covid pandemic, with support for villagers being left to local resident Chris Smith instead of being organised by GSPC (which it had a statutory duty to do).
- No progress being made on what had been identified as key issues for the village, for example:
 - Acquisition of additional land for recreational purposes.
 - Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Parking regulation enforcement.
 - Public toilets.
 - Playscape.
 - Replacement of the Memorial Hall (feasibility study).

In the agenda for the April meeting GSPC had stated '... any members of the Public who wish to represent their views can e-mail them to ... Their views will be taken into account by the online meeting with a response in the minutes'. GSPC failed to deal with these criticisms publicly, simply saying in the minutes 'An e-mail had been received from a village resident ... The e-mail assertions were lengthy and considered by some Councillors to be inaccurate or unfounded'.

These are all important issues, but the most recent failing by GSPC has been on East West Rail (EWR). As currently conceived, this project threatens:

- Compulsory purchase and demolition of dozens of homes in the village.
- Planning blight for years on many more homes.
- Destruction of the Rugby Club.
- Wholesale disruption to local road and rail traffic.

GSPC was a Prescribed Consultee, invited to participate in the consultation. There is a 358-page document containing feedback from the consultation. It does not contain a single comment from GSPC. GSPC has had numerous other opportunities to comment on and shape the plans, but has failed to do so.

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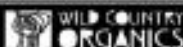
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GSPC's stance appears to be to wait for plans to be finalised and then comment on them. That simply won't work.

Whether GSPC, as currently constituted, is idle, misguided, doesn't understand its responsibilities, etc. is irrelevant. It is plainly not fit for purpose.

Mike Nettleton

PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO MR NETTLETON'S LETTER

The Parish Council is previously aware of Mr Nettleton's views, comments and complaints.

The Parish Council's complaints procedures have been followed.

The Parish Council and South Cambs District Council have previously and recently advised Mr Nettleton if he is not satisfied with the actions and outcome, he is entitled to put in a formal complaint to South Cambs District Council utilising their complaints procedure document, when any complaint will be investigated by an independent body.

Malcolm Watson, Chair, Great Shelford Parish Council

Mike Winter, Clerk and RFO, Great Shelford Parish Council



As I write this, the Covid-19 vaccine delivery has just begun, with the first vaccines being given yesterday. It suddenly feels like there is hope and a light for us all at the end of this very long, dark tunnel.

The vaccine is currently being offered to patients in priority groups first:

- People aged 80 and over who already have a hospital appointment in the next few weeks
- People who work in care homes
- Health care workers at high risk

It will be offered more widely as soon as possible. For further information on priorities and delivery schedules please go to www.nhs.uk

The general public are asked not to contact their GP surgeries regarding the vaccination programme. The NHS will contact everyone direct when it is their turn to have the vaccine.

In the meantime, thank you all for continuing to abide by all the social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene guidance.

We will keep our website and social media channels updated with any developments. Happy New Year!

Sandra East, Granta Communications, www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

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DEADLINES FOR VILLAGE NEWS PUBLICATION

Deadline	Issue
15 January	February
12 February	March
12 March	April
16 April	May
14 May	June
11 June	July

Deadline	Issue
16 July	August
13 August	September
10 September	October
15 October	November
12 November	December
10 December	January

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.

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SHELFORD SCHOOL

So, farewell 2020 (and good riddance I hear some of you say). It has surely been the most extraordinary year in the 177-year life of the school, but despite everything the school is doing very well. It has been a pity to lose some of the things that normally occur jointly between classes, but the children have adapted well to their class bubbles and are making the most of the situation. And we shouldn't forget the extra workload and other pressures on staff from all the changed arrangements; they certainly deserved their Christmas break.

Collective worship has continued to develop within the challenges of the Covid rules, and we were delighted that inputs from the local churches could resume in December. Liz Jenkin, Elder of the Free Church, got the ball rolling.

We were sorry not to have the Christmas Fair and Christmas Lights Switch-on this year, but one popular element of the Fair was retained – the raffle for the Christmas rainbow hampers. Each class was allotted a colour and class members contributed an item in that colour. Some colours lend themselves more easily than others to a Christmas theme, but with some ingenuity seven magnificent hampers were prepared. Tickets of course had to be bought remotely, and the draw undertaken with appropriate Covid protocols. Besides the seasonal joy for the winners (I'm still hoping at the time of writing!) the raising of nearly £1,300 is an important part of this year's PTA fundraising which all goes to supporting school activities. And soon will come another old favourite in new clothes – the famous Shelford School Quiz Night is going virtual!

Peter Ede, School Governor

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Peter for his long service as Chair of Governors and his dedication to the school. He has generously served the school and led the Board with wisdom, insight and commitment as Chair for seven years, having been on the Board prior to that.

We were pleased to be able to thank him with a gift of gardening gift vouchers which we know he will enjoy in some of his newly found free time! Since notifying the Board of his decision not to stand for election again, I have been working alongside Peter to make sure there was a seamless transition and I am grateful for the support of the Board as I take on the role.

As the incoming Chair it is a privilege to lead such a dedicated and skilled team and I am pleased to have the opportunity to support the school in this way.

Anna Caroe, Chair of Governors

PLAYSCAPE

WORKING TO BRING THE PLAYSCAPE TO LIFE IN 2021



The Playscape committee worked very hard over the autumn to prepare two major grant applications and also worked alongside the various professionals to get the tender out for the main contractor. I am delighted to say that we accomplished all these goals before Christmas, a huge step towards realising this vision.

The Playscape Will Definitely Have Trees!

We were very happy to learn that the PC's application to the South Cambs Zero Carbon Grant was successful and part of that money is for the mature multi-stem silver birch trees and an Amelanchier that are part of the scheme. Thank you to Claire Lord from 2G3S group for approaching us and preparing the grant: we are very grateful.

Design Details

Alongside the hours spent writing the grant applications, we did have some fun finalising the design with the architects and specifying certain items to fit our village's needs. We're particularly happy with the huge bespoke central climbing frame and many little design details that will really make the space both challenging and accessible: the sand pit deck for instance has an integrating balance beam that stops wheelchairs rolling into the sand. Genius.

As for the red horse and roundabout (to be retired, but relocated) we can't wait for you to see what we have in store for them!

Now, it is a waiting game to see if we're successful with the funding ... cross all your fingers! Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Eleanor McCrone



Climbing frame elevation

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*

6 January 1844

GROVE COTTAGE SCHOOL – Mrs Turner receives a limited number of Young Ladies, who are treated as Members of the family, and whose comfort, health and general improvement it is her constant care to promote. School recommences on Tuesday the 16th inst.

2 January 1847

TRESPASS – James Powter and Charles Walman, labourers, were charged by Mr Henry Hurrell, farmer, with trespassing on his grounds in pursuit of game. Francis Freeman, a servant of the prosecution's stated that he saw the prisoners in his master's fields with two dogs and that they were beating the hedges and startled a rabbit, which the dogs pursued.

The prisoners stated in their defence that Mr Headley gave them permission to hunt rabbits off his grounds. The prisoners were fined 10s each and expenses. A fortnight allowed to pay the same.

16 January 1847

FOWL STEALING – The hen house of Mr Henry Grain was broken into on Saturday night and 30 fowls stolen therefrom. A reward of £3 is offered by the Cambridge Association, and £2 by Mr Grain.

16 January 1847

EMBEZZLING – William Trudgett (jun), labourer, (25) was charged with embezzling certain monies from his master, Mr Richard Headly, merchant. The jury, after hearing evidence, acquitted the prisoner.

30 January 1847

FALSE PRETENCES – Thomas Reeves was charged by Major Fynmore of the Marines, with obtaining money under false pretences. From the evidence the prisoner went up to one of the sergeants on the Market-Hill and asked him to stand treat. He refused, but offered him a shilling to enlist, but he no sooner got it then off he ran.

He was sentenced to 14 days hard labour.

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2G3S

EAT SUSTAINABLY 2021



On 7 December the group held a meeting to begin to plan for events in 2021 – hopefully some will be real, live meetings! The first conversation evening (by Zoom) will be on Monday 8 February, the topic yet to be finalised – look out for posters nearer the time.

You will recall that at our November meeting we invited Duncan Catchpole to talk to us. One thing he discussed was the setting up of the Cambridge Food Hub which will be a local network of food growers, producers, and people who buy the produce – restaurants, cafés, canteens, and the public. He has run Cambridge Organic Food Company (COFCO) for 20 years and is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about these issues. He cited several examples of how, whilst delivering organic vegetable boxes to the public, the company arranges the collection and recycling of used coffee grounds, the use of ‘wonky vegs’, redirecting surplus produce to community fridges and kitchens, and other activities to boost a local circular food economy.

Here are his top tips for making sustainable choices in 2021 about what food we buy and where we buy it that will cause least harm to the environment:

- 1 Eat less meat and dairy produce – so much agricultural land is taken up with growing animal feed that could be used for growing human food, and this is a major cause of deforestation. Sign up to Veganuary and dip your toe into the water.
- 2 Minimise food waste – it is estimated that a third of the food grown goes to waste along the supply chain or at home. You could buy from Oddbox for your fruit and vegs, they are ‘wonky’ or surplus to supermarket requirements.
- 3 Buy food produced sustainably, which will be organic with a Soil Association or similar certification label. This helps to look after the long-term quality of the soil.
- 4 Eat healthily so you are less of a drain on resources like the NHS – sustainability means economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable.
- 5 Buy food low in food miles, or buy produce that has been carried by sea rather than by air.

- 6 Avoid highly processed foods – processing reduces nutritional value, and long supply chains tend to mean lower environmental standards and more waste.
- 7 Avoid big corporate labels and companies that are profit-driven rather than quality-driven.
- 8 Eat seasonal food.
- 9 If you eat fish, ensure it has a Marine Stewardship Council certification label (MSC).
- 10 Buy food with the minimum packaging, and remember the principles of reusing or recycling. Try a veg box and other produce from COFCO, or try the new shop in Sawston, Green Weigh, for sustainable minimally packaged food and other items.

So, if diet and healthy eating feature in your list of New Year’s resolutions, these are some useful starting points.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter or to get a Zoom invitation for the next conversation evening.

Helen Hale

LIBRARY

We’re delighted to confirm that managed browsing was introduced in our libraries with effect from the second week in December 2020. Our hope and expectation is that this will continue after the festive period and it means that a limited number of people at any one time can browse in the library and borrow items using the self-issue machines. Our previous Select and Collect and reservation offers will also continue as before.

If you’re not already a member of the library, why not join and make use of the many resources we offer? You can join online or by visiting one of our libraries and there’s no charge for membership.

Great Shelford Library’s current opening hours are:

Tuesdays 10am–2pm and Friday 2–6pm.

Please check before visiting, but we expect to reopen at Great Shelford Library after the festive break on **Tuesday 5 January at 10am**.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries> or telephone us on 0345 045 5225.

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THE SHELFORDS WI



Our meeting on Thursday 3 December was a ‘hands on’ Christmas craft evening led by Maureen Weisner. It was great fun and worked quite well by Zoom. Cornelia Ede then gave us a demonstration of Christmas cake decoration with some simple ideas we could all try.

About 20 of us joined in and although it was not as good as actually getting together it was the next best thing.

We have planned the next three meetings by Zoom, they are as follows:

7 January John Flood ‘The Museum of Cambridge and a trip down memory lane’

4 February Ian Cumming ‘From Tibet to Tent’: his story from travel photographer to the Great British Bake Off

4 March AGM and Becky from Cambridge Hedgehogs: ‘The Plight of Hedgehogs’.

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



When you read this, the Christmas season will be almost over. Observing Covid regulations, we were pleased to be open for three markets in December. Our members worked hard to maintain well-filled stalls and offered plenty of choice. To our customers, thank you for supporting us.

Assuming no further Covid restrictions, the next market closure will be our own decision! It has always been our custom to close for a couple of weeks over the Christmas and New Year period and this year will be no exception.

The market will reopen at 9.30am on **Wednesday 13 January**.

We look forward to seeing you then and just hope that it won’t be too far into the new year before we can forget sanitisers, face coverings and so on and once again make the market a place not just for shopping but a social hub: a good place for a browse, chat and a coffee on a Wednesday morning.

**Make the Country Market a date – the Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane
every Wednesday morning from 9.30–11.30 am**

Dorothy Doel

CARPET BOWLS

2020 has been a hard year for everyone and Great Shelford Carpet Bowls Club has not been any different.

Due to all the restrictions I am sorry to say that we have not been able to meet at all, which I know has been hard on all our members. However, we will be looking forward to September 2021 when hopefully we will be able to open our doors to everyone who wants to come down and meet us and have a chat about what we do, take part in some gentle exercise and above all else have some fun.

Take care one and all, and let's hope 2021 is a better year for everyone.

Phil Seekings, Secretary

POTS FOR PoTS



An auction was held online from Cambridge Art Makers studio on 25 October and many pots made by Susannah Bangham in a potting shed in Great Shelford have found new homes all around the UK, including locally.

A big thank you to the generous pot makers, new owners, auctioneers, the studio trustees and participants. We raised a wonderful £2,000 for PoTS UK (PoTS is Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome: an abnormal increase in heart rate that occurs after sitting up or standing).

Cambridge Art Makers studio offers classes and courses in a variety of different media, for example jewellery, glassmaking, drawing robins, etc. See www.cambridgemakers.org

Jenny Bangham

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TENNIS CLUB



Just as for everyone, 2020 has been a very difficult year at the tennis club. The courts have been closed for eleven and a half weeks in total, and our competition and coaching structures have changed beyond recognition. The hope remains that these changes will be temporary but it is inevitable that some will remain with us for some time to come.

It has, however, not all been bad news. Tennis is naturally socially distant and was one of the first grassroots sports that was allowed to resume in May after the first lockdown. There has been an incredible effort by the committee and coaches to enable our club to safely reopen for our members. Special mentions must go to:

- our secretary Victoria, who has kept on top of the ever-changing guidelines from the LTA with superhuman efficiency
- facilities manager John who has removed all superfluous touchpoints from the club and arranged for our new signage detailing our Covid-safe procedures
- membership secretary Colin, who took on the challenge of finding and setting up a booking system that was easy to use and complied with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)
- chair James, who has attended the club almost every day since the reopening in May to complete a cleaning regime to keep the club safe for our coaches and members

We were also inundated with applications from new members, to the extent that a temporary membership freeze was implemented – our four courts were completely oversubscribed. These new members were not always switching from clubs without outdoor facilities, but included people who had never played before and who had not played for a long time. We are delighted that so many people are (re)discovering the sport that we love so much.

As 2020 draws to a close we look forward with hope to 2021. The club has the rescheduled Charity Open Day to look forward to in April, and we hope to be able to resume most of our usual competitions and social play events.

The committee wishes you all a safe and happy Christmas and hopes you will continue to enjoy our news over the coming twelve months.

Angharad Harris

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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

11 December to 3 January	Dame Trott's Panto Palaver
Telephone: 01223 503333 www.cambridgeartstheatre.com	

STAPLEFORD GRANARY

24 January	12 noon & 15.00	Benyounes Quartet & Jeremy Young
29 January	17.00 & 19.30	Lara Melda
A variety of art and craft courses have also been scheduled.		
Telephone: 01223 849004 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/ for details.		
Kettles Yard	Wednesday to Sunday, 11am–5pm	
Botanic Garden	Daily, 10am–5pm: 'Family Activities – at home' gives downloadable, fun family activities for you to try at home with new activities uploaded every week	
Fitzwilliam Museum	Wednesday to Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 12–5pm	
Museum of Zoology	Thursday to Saturday, time slots between 9.30am–3pm	
Department of Engineering	19 January 4–6pm	Plastic Planet with Dr Claire Barlow: the effect of plastic waste on the environment
For information on these and other events see 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	www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Shepreth Wildlife Park	www.sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk
Welney Wetland Centre	www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney
RSPB	www.rspb.org.uk

HOW TO CONTACT GREAT SHELFORD VILLAGE NEWS

We are pleased to receive articles, letters and notices for community events for consideration. Please send by email (preferably as a Word document), or send paper items to Judith Wilson, 11 Elms Avenue, Great Shelford, CB22 5LN. The copy date is usually the second Friday of the month. See the *Next Issue* box for next month's date.

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

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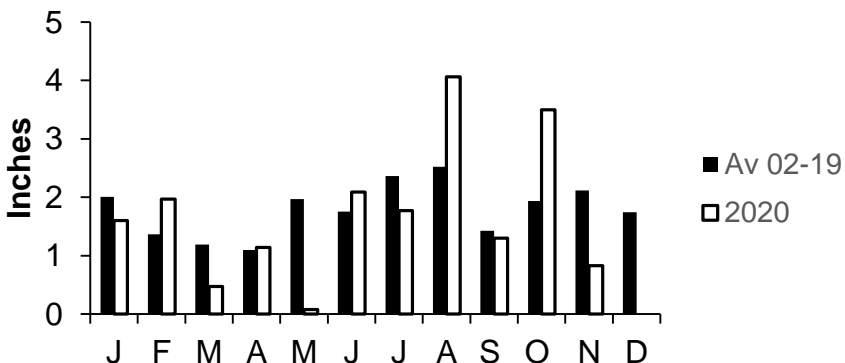
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Great Shelford Village Rainfall 2020



From data supplied by Angus Campbell

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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
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Tennis Club	Victoria Roles	secretary@gstc.org.uk	07747 748891
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