

# Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

FEBRUARY 2021

PRICE 40p

## *Transport proposals*



One of many East West Rail protest signs around the village

## *Local Business Update Covid-19 Vaccinations*

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## GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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## **GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

*greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*

### **SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING ON 9 DECEMBER 2020**

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

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Eighteen members of the public were present at the virtual meeting. At their request, the agenda item on the East-West Railway (EWR) was brought forward to the open session of the meeting for discussion. There were a number of questions from the public concerning route option E for the EWR, which is at present being considered and which may run through Great Shelford.

The Chair stated that a leaflet was being prepared to explain the situation and provide details of individuals who could be contacted by the public to make their views known. The PC would provide details in the leaflet of the CamBedRailRoad petition, requesting evaluation of an alternative Northern route. They will encourage residents to sign the petition and lobby politicians.

Following discussion, it was also agreed that a Village Open Meeting should be held on 18 December 2020 to discuss the EWR.

#### **FINANCE**

The Chair's action was approved on the Playscape tree plan (£1,900) and on the staff Christmas bonus. Twenty cheques to the value of £26,301-84p were approved and signed.

#### **REVIEW OF THE 2021/2022 FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Clerk presented all budget line headings for review, with their status at the end of November 2020, forecast expenditure to the end of March 2021, the Committee proposals for the 2021/22 Budget and the resultant 2021/22 Precept. This resulted in an increased Precept request of £32,673, or 13% increase from the current year.

Three items in the Recreation Ground Budget were then identified which could be delayed to the 2022/23 budget year. This resulted in a zero increase of the Precept for 2021/22, to be presented to the full Parish Council meeting on 13 January 2021 for agreement.

#### **REVIEWS AND UPDATES**

Financial risks, budget achievement and other risks were reviewed by the Committee. The Asset Register, Insurances, Bank Mandates, Standing Orders, Direct Debits and Risk Assessments were reviewed and updated.

**Annual Standard Parish Council Charges** It was agreed that all fees should remain unchanged for 2021–2022.

**Scout Hut Lease** The existing lease is inadequate and outdated and a full review of its use is required. The Clerk recommends immediately serving the six month notice period to ensure a new lease is prepared for the August Finance and General Purposes meeting to approve. The Parish Council requested that Councillor Barrie Ashurst review the situation with the Scout Hut Management Committee and provide a suitable joint solution (including a legal opinion if necessary) that also updates the lease documentation without serving the six month notice period.

**Current Policy Documents** The Clerk reported that many of the Parish Council's Policy documents require updating or new documents needed to be created. Other large Parish Councils display these documents on their websites. The status of Parish Council documents was described and those requiring updating were specified. The possibility of combining policy documents was also discussed.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Financial support for village groups that may struggle with no Feast Grants in 2020** Applications were reviewed and it was agreed to award grants of £300 to the Brownies, £800 to the Cricket Club and £2,500 to the Mobile Warden Scheme, which was considered a key village support network in the current situation. Further awards may be considered if requests are received.

**SSYI** The Lease Document was circulated and approved for signature. Quotes for electrical updates and exterior roof repairs to the SSYI Club Room were agreed.

**Private Street Lighting** It was agreed that a refund should be given to residents of Walden Way, who had already paid their contribution.

Full copies of the minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website [www.greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes](http://www.greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes)

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Planning Committee Meeting	3 February 5.15 pm
Planning Committee Meeting	17 February 5.15 pm
Parish Council Meeting	17 February 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 (see <https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council-agendas/>)

Meetings may be adjourned for 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 after the public session but can still observe the meeting.

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looking forward to opening as soon as we can.

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## PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

20/04614/FUL	Scotsdales Garden Centre	Extension to existing warehouse.
No objections.		
20/04689/LBC	M & H Bickle 24 Church Street	Repair of kitchen windows to prevent damage to clay batt walls.
No objections.		
20/04788/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Philips 22 Mingle Lane	Two storey rear extension.
We believe that this cannot be classified as an extension as it is a two-bedroomed detached house with its own front door linked by a porch to the existing property. Whilst we have no objections to the granny annex, we are concerned that this could be let out in the future as a separate address and request that conditions are imposed to prevent this occurrence.		
20/04944/HFUL	Mr & Mrs A Munoz 3 Halatte Gardens	Single storey rear extension.
We have no planning reasons to object to on this application but we are concerned about the suggestion that a large patio would be built covering the majority of the garden. This appears to be a consideration with regards to water runoff in the future.		
20/04978/FUL (resubmission of 20/03368/FUL)	Shelford Day Nursery 3 High Green	Change of use of former bank and car park (A2) to children's day nursery (D1), external changes and provision of four off-site cycle racks.
This application has the full backing of the Parish Council. We very much need the Day Nursery in the village and would ask that the Planning Committee approve this as soon as possible so that work can begin to open this much needed facility.		
20/05114/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Sillence 20 High Green	Outbuilding to rear garden.
No objections.		

## SHELFORD SCHOOL

At the beginning of Advent, Year 6 led a service which was streamed to all the classrooms explaining the different symbols in the Advent wreath. They then produced beautiful Advent windows to share with the school community and the Great Shelford Free Church project.

As end of term and Christmas drew closer, the traditional celebrations were taking place. The Early Years and KS1 classes performed the Nativity service (was this the first time that aliens have ventured into St Mary's?) and the Carols by Candlelight service was led by KS2 children. Both were available to view in a virtual format at home and a JustGiving page was set up so that everyone could support the fundraising for Save the Children. The school was also able to join the virtual Christingle service from Ely Cathedral and finally, term ended with Shelford School Christmas Day. Everyone in school was delighted to hear that they had received the runner-up award in The Pearson World Changer in Languages category. A very joyful way to end the term!

However, sadly, as I sat down to write this article, just before term started, the announcement of the lockdown was made. This has made a tremendous amount of work in a truly short time for our magnificent staff led by Chris Grey and his Senior Leaders. In less than 24 hours they produced Home Learning plans, risk assessments for pupils attending school together with all the communications necessary for the education to take place. This was amazing and typical of the Shelford School attitude. We as a village and community are fortunate to have them.

As the new school term starts, the two feasts are celebrated: Epiphany on 6 January and Candlemas on 2 February. This year the Epiphany collective worship was pre-recorded so that all the pupils could hear the familiar story even though they could not be together in the School H. In previous years I would have been looking forward to attending the Candlemas Service at St Mary's Church at which Year 5 read passages from the Bible and Year 2 form a tableau of the characters from the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. However, this will not take place as normal; family and governors will not be able to join the children, but I know that the school will celebrate Candlemas together.

Throughout this difficult time all the staff have been very inventive and delivered the curriculum with imagination including collective worship. Two of the themes of Candlemas are light and hope which are surely very appropriate now.

*Gillian Scahill – Foundation Governor*



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## SHELFORD COUNTRY MARKET

We would just love to say ‘it’s business as usual on Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall.’ At the moment who knows when we will be able to hold the first



market of 2021? I know that many customers are missing the market just as much as our producers are missing you. Alas, there’s nothing we can do except to follow all the COVID regulations, take up the offer of the vaccine and look forward to better times.

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*Dorothy Doel*

### EDITORIAL NOTE

#### READERS LETTER – CO-OP STORE

*Great Shelford Village News* has received an anonymous letter putting forward an alternative, and more positive viewpoint on the potential move of the Co-op to the High Green/Granhams Road corner.

We have a policy of not accepting material for inclusion in the magazine without knowing the name of the contributor and therefore are not publishing it this month. However, we will print it, without naming the author, in the March edition if the writer will contact the editors in the usual way.

### 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*

## GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH

[www.stmarysgreatshelford.org](http://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org)

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

### Déjà vu.

We are now nearly four weeks into the current lockdown but I am pleased to say that we are still able to offer public worship and keep our church buildings open for visits and prayer. In continuing to do this we all need to be **highly vigilant**, as the new strain of Covid is very easily transmissible. Keeping at least a 2m distance and staying in your seats until invited to move **is vital**. Also, please ensure that any social interaction after services is kept to a minimum and respect the 2m+ distancing. If we all do our bit, we can help each other in the long run.

There are no changes to the arrangements for funerals and burials; baptisms can continue, but weddings can now only take place in exceptional circumstances. The situation does look bleak, in particular for all those who are hard at work in the NHS, but at least we know that the vaccination programme offers hope for those in vulnerable groups and is well underway.

Please keep those working in the NHS in your prayers, together with all those in the education sector as they work hard to offer on line teaching and care for vulnerable and key workers' children in school.

Do take care and look after yourselves.



### Ash Wednesday – 17 February

We shall mark the start of the season of repentance and renewal with an opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the imposition of ashes at 7.30pm.

### Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral

My collation and installation as an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral, which was due to take place 23 January, was postponed again due to the present lockdown. The Bishop has generously said that I can use the title and the installation will eventually be held later in the year.



### Drive-in Carols Collection

Sincere thanks to those who so generously donated £867.63 at both of the 'Drive-In' events before Christmas. The total is being divided equally between Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative and the village Mobile Warden scheme. The organisers of both schemes are so grateful for your support.

### Christmas Collections

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to the collections at the Christmas services; a total of £240 was raised for the Children's Society at the two churchyard services, and £113 for Christian Aid at Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day.

### Evening Worship Times

We have decided to move our Evening Worship to 4pm for the duration of the winter. Evensong will be in church the first Sunday of the month; 'live' by Zoom on the remaining Sundays.

### St. Mary's Sunday Club

At present, we are restricted on the numbers we can welcome to the Community Room, so regretfully, Sunday Club is not possible at present. 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:	6 January	David Macey
	18 January	Marie Robinson

### Regular Services

Sunday:	8am	Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
	10am	Parish Communion, our main Sunday service
	4pm	Evening Prayer (BCP Evensong in church on the first Sunday of the month; remaining Sundays 'live' by Zoom). (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  
0705 0042616 or email [vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org](mailto:vicar@stmarysgreatshelford.org)

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## GREAT SHELFORD FREE CHURCH

### WHY DON'T WE FOLLOW THE RULES?



Great Shelford  
Free Church

The last nine months have seen unprecedented rules imposed on us, from what we can do in our own homes, to what we wear when we are in shops, how far we can travel and exercise and

when we can exercise. Rules can be seen as a very blunt tool and the assumption is that they should be easy to follow. But they are rarely black and white. Take the face mask rule, you have to wear a face mask in a shop, unless you are under 11 years old, or have a medical reason not to wear one (there can be many, many medical reasons why people cannot wear them). What looks like a simple rule is in fact less black and white and more of a messy grey. I'm sure you can think of other rules that are not quite as straight forward as they first seemed, just ask a parent with some young children!

I have to be honest and say that over the last nine months I may have broken the rules quite a few times, and in fact, then broken the law more times this year than ever before! I'm sure I could explain away why I bent the rules, just like you would be able to if you were ever questioned. Rules then, are not simple but rather complicated. We are also very good at selectively obeying them, choosing how best to bend them, then judging other people for doing the same thing. It is easy to get cross at that person for leaving dog mess on the rec, then accidentally doing the same thing (we don't have a dog so it wasn't me!).

In the Old Testament of the Bible, God gave his people some simple rules, the Ten Commandments. Then God's people started setting out more rules to help everyone stay within the commandments. Many verses in scripture go on to explain in detail how to follow them – that's why the Bible has some strange rules about shellfish, sex and mildew! When Jesus came along he had some strong words about these rules and ended up breaking many of them. He said some famous phrases like, 'You worry about the speck of wood in your friend's eye but ignore the plank in your own'. We can all be guilty of picking on someone for breaking the rules when we ourselves have done similar. The News does it all the time, it's their bread and butter; as I'm writing this there is an online debate raging on whether Boris Johnson broke the rules to go for a cycle ride in the Olympic Park. I wonder how many of those commenting have done similar things?

Jesus' answer was to focus less on the rules and more on the heart. A heart focused on loving others does what is best for other people whatever the rules might say. A heart focused on love thinks of other people through eyes full of compassion rather than being judgemental. Jesus lived this out and ultimately died to prove the point.

I pray that we may follow the rules as best we can, but I also pray that we will have a heart full of love and compassion for our community, showing grace in these strange pandemic days and being honest about the 'planks of wood' we walk around with. God Bless

*Martin Cockerill, Pastor*

## THE SAP IS RISING

I hear a lot of people holding out for spring at the moment. All these lockdown restrictions, post-Christmas blues and fears of what the future holds, I totally get it – we need something good to look forward to. But let's not miss out on life in the meantime, because I'm going to let you into a hidden secret that is happening right now: ***The sap is rising!*** (Well, if not now, very soon).

This February, whatever you do, however restricted you may be, I urge you to get out for your allowance of exercise as much as possible. February isn't quite spring, but it isn't just about daffodils either – it's a mover and a shaker of a month! With the warming earth it is the time of life quickening, energy rising, and the trick is to be outside to tap into it. This works especially if you do something physical for a while, do *anything*: walk; run; rake leaves; sweep the patio; pull some weeds; pick up that litter that's been annoying you in your village all winter... and of course this principle of 'just get out there and do it' breeds positivity at any time of year.

February is the time when it all stirs, the songbirds start singing, courting and making nests – it's no accident that Valentine's Day is in February, in fact, 14 February was known in Sussex as Bird Wedding Day! Rumour has it the first bird seen by a maid on this day indicated the character of her future spouse.

If that's true, then great crested grebes are a good bird to see if you're looking for a slick mover – they put on such a romantic show you might think you are watching an episode of 'Strictly'! The Dernford Farm reservoir\* (near Stapleford) is a good little lockdown walk for bird lovers, you may well see a grebe and certainly many other birds – many sporting their finest feathers around now. Winter aconite, primroses, wood anemones and snowdrops are flowering



Great crested grebes at Dernford Farm reservoir

Frogs and toads may be seen spawning already, if you have ever witnessed this event, you'll know it is not a sight for the prudish!

Butter-yellow Brimstones may flash past at this time. Apparently these are the reason butterflies are called as such. Queen buff-tailed and

early bumblebees may be seen flying slowly about, seemingly defying the laws of aerodynamics as they dozily crash about. Hazel catkins, rich with pollen hang like little yellow lamb's tails – look really closely and you'll see bright red flowers – the male parts – looking like miniature sea anemones!

After the hardship of winter, a bit of February sunshine is meltingly delicious, relished by all. This is the time you might find an unusual animal basking in a south facing spot, occasionally a deer or a snake, more likely a dog or a cat, perhaps even a granny! Whichever it is you can still enjoy the bliss on their face!

In lockdown, luckily for us, walking and gardening count as exercise and moreover, we are allowed to do it alongside one other. The two metre distance is close enough to hear another's voice; we can help, encourage and support each other. During this time, if you find yourself inspired, research your local gardening or wildlife groups in preparation for when restrictions lift a bit, please let me know about other local groups that work outside, including gardening groups with outdoor activities.

If the News makes you despair, move your focus instead to something local, something you can actually affect, even if that is just your garden! Look for opportunities to meet outside, be active and interact with people in your community in a socially distanced way. We've got some healing to do and that has to start locally.

*Sarah Ashworth, [sarahashworth.co.uk](http://sarahashworth.co.uk)  
Garden designer and wildlife specialist, Little Shelford*

*\* Editorial Note: for details of other bird sightings at Dernford Farm see <https://www.waxwingeco.com/birding-hotspot.php?id=L10263725>*

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## SHELFORD SUPPORT GROUP

Our long established community transport service for people in Great Shelford, Little Shelford and Stapleford is carrying on during this lockdown. We have drivers available to take those without their own transport to medical appointments, including vaccination clinics and Addenbrooke's.

There are some changes; in particular passengers must wear face coverings and will be asked to sit in the back seats of our drivers' cars. Also, we currently have fewer drivers available than previously but we'll do our best to cover as many requests as possible so please call us on the usual numbers – see inside back cover for details.

**If anyone would like to become a volunteer driver for SSG we'd love to hear from you too!** Contact us at [shelfordsupport@googlemail.com](mailto:shelfordsupport@googlemail.com)

*Marjorie Smith*

## GRANTA Medical Practices

### COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

At the time of writing, we are about to embark on the mammoth task of vaccinating our 44,000 patients with the Covid-19 vaccinations. Please be assured that everyone will be vaccinated. However, please remember that we have to vaccinate in accordance with Public Health England's priority list. Details of the priority list can be found on the following page or on our website.

Due to the demand for the vaccine around the country we may get deliveries at short notice, which means we may have to contact you at short notice.

**Please note that you will NEVER be asked for payment for a Covid-19 vaccination and any texts, phone calls, or letters requesting payment or bank details should be ignored.**

Please continue to keep yourself and our community safe by adhering to national restrictions, social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene.

We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst you wait for your vaccine during this unprecedented time.

To contact Granta Medical: telephone: 0300 234 5555 (Option 6 for Shelford) or email: [capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net)

*Sandra East, Granta Communications & Patient Liaison*  
[www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

# COVID-19 vaccination

## First phase priority groups



Priority		Risk group
1	80 yrs	Residents in a care home for older adults and Staff working in care homes for older adults
2	75 yrs	All those 80 years of age and over and Health and social care workers
3	70 yrs	All those 75 years of age and over
4	65 yrs	All those 70 years of age and over and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 18 years of age)
5	60 yrs	All those 65 years of age and over
6	55 yrs	Adults aged 18 to 65 years in an at-risk group*
7	50 yrs	All those 60 years of age and over
8		All those 55 years of age and over
9		All those 50 years of age and over
10		Rest of the population (to be determined)

\* Blood cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma); diabetes; dementia; a heart problem; a chest complaint or breathing difficulty, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma; a kidney disease; a liver disease; lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as HIV infection, steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy); rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or psoriasis; have had an organ transplant; had a stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA); a neurological or muscle wasting condition; a severe or profound learning disability; a problem with your spleen, myeloid cell disease; or you have had your spleen removed; are seriously overweight (BMI of 40 and above); are severely mentally ill.



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## COVID 19, LOCKDOWN 3

### LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATE

This information has been extracted, with kind permission, from the Great Shelford Online website. <https://tinyurl.com/y598qpq5>

Details are accurate as at 13 Jan 2021

**Zara Indian restaurant** – takeaway service only.

Open: 5–9:30pm Sunday to Thursday, 5–10pm Friday and Saturday.

Web: <http://www.zarashelford.com> Tel: 01223 846668.

**Pizza@The Plough** – takeaway service only.

Open: 4–9pm Thursday to Saturday.

Free delivery to CB22 postcodes. Early bird discount of 10% for all orders placed between 4 & 5:30pm. Online ordering is preferred.

Web: [www.pizzaattheplough.co.uk](http://www.pizzaattheplough.co.uk) Tel: 01223 491096.

**Forum House Chinese restaurant** is providing takeaways during normal opening hours. Web: <http://www.theforumhouse.com/> Tel: 01223 843089.

**The Square and Compasses** – takeaway service only.

Open: 5–8:30pm Tuesday to Saturday, 12 noon –2.30pm Sunday for both collection and free delivery to the Shelfords, Sawston and Stapleford (minimum order of £10 to qualify for delivery). All Sunday roasts must be booked in advance by 8pm on Saturday.

Web: <https://www.greatshelfordpubs.co.uk/square-and-compasses>

Tel: 01223 843273 or Facebook.

**The Navigator** (Little Shelford) – takeaway service only (collection or delivery).

Open: 5–9pm Wednesday to Sunday.

Web: <https://www.thenavigator-thai.co.uk/> Tel: (from 4pm) 01223 843901.

**The Three Horseshoes** (Stapleford) – takeaway service only.

Open 5.30pm–8.30pm Wednesday to Saturday.

Web: <https://www.threehorseshoes-pub.com> Tel: 01223 503402

**Shelford Deli** – Essential grocery store service (cafe-bistro remains closed).

Open 9am–4.30pm Tuesday to Saturday, for vegetables, bread, milk, cheese, home-cooked takeout dishes and other groceries.

Click & Collect – Stocklist at <https://www.shelforddeli.co.uk/placing-an-order>.

Email: [shelforddeli@outlook.com](mailto:shelforddeli@outlook.com) or Tel: 01223 846129 with 24 hrs notice.

**Alma Clinic** continues to provide osteopathy, physiotherapy and podiatry services. Web: <https://almaclinic.co.uk/> Tel: 01223 840700.

**angliEAR Hearing** is open for audiology services.

Web: <https://angliearhearing.co.uk/> Tel: 661399.

**Shelford Physiotherapy** – Open 8am–3pm on weekdays.

Practitioner wearing a shield and mask; patients need to complete a Covid risk assessment form. Telephone for details: 01223 844488.

**Dave Hatter** – gas specialist is open for existing customers only.

Web: <https://www.david-hatter-gas-service.co.uk/> Tel: 01223 844866.

**Noel Young** – wine bar is shut but shop is open for retail, order and collect, and deliveries.

10am–7pm Monday to Sat 12noon–2pm Sundays.

(may close at 6pm and on Sundays depending on demand).

**Cambridge Building Society** – revised hours, now closed on Saturdays.

Open Monday 9am–2pm, Wednesday– Friday 9am–2pm.

**Great Shelford Dental Surgery** is staying open.

**Lay Electrical** are closed due to the new lockdown but they can still carry out emergency repairs and deliver new appliances. Tel: 07740 543187

**Solutions Hairdressers** is closed while Great Shelford is in lockdown.

**Stapleford Granary** has cancel all events and courses for January.

**Scotsdales** is open. Click and collect is available at the Great Shelford store on selected items online, alternatively please contact your local store for placing orders with local delivery. For full opening times see website:

<https://scotsdalegardencentre.co.uk/opening-times>

**Great Shelford Dry Cleaning** is open.

**The Gog Farmshop** is operating as in previous lockdowns, customer options are:

1) Shop as normal: browse the deli, grocers and butchery with social distancing.

2) Drive-through shopping: simply stay in your car and sound your horn. A member of the team will come out and personally shop for you. Card payment is contactless from the comfort of your car.

3) Click & Collect: use our online shop to browse items at home, pay then collect in your car in the same way as the Drive-through.

Open Mon – Sat 9am–4pm, Sun 10am–4pm.

**Jackson Cox** – opticians. Fully open with all necessary precautions for safety

Open Monday – Friday 9am–5.30pm, Saturday 9am–4.30pm, Sunday closed

**Pillsorted** pharmacy delivering your medicines free to your home – is open.

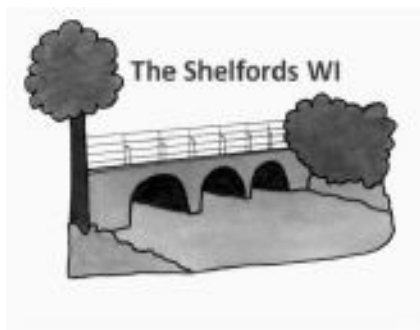
Web: <https://www.pillsorted.com/>, Tel: 01223 643550.

**DLM Autos** Open for MOTs, servicing and repairs.

Open 8am–6pm Monday to Friday, 8am–12 noon Saturday.

Web: <https://www.dlmautos.co.uk/>, Tel: 844828.

## THE SHELFORDS WI



Our Zoom meeting was held on Thursday 7 January. John Flood, a volunteer at the Museum of Cambridge, spoke about the history of the museum and its purpose. His fascinating talk was illustrated with a large number of photographs from the museum's collection showing Cambridge in times past. We enjoyed identifying the views.

Members were particularly interested to learn that Catherine Parsons, the then chair of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes was instrumental in the founding of what was originally called the Cambridge and County Folk Museum. Catherine was a collector and local historian and in 1933 she organised the 'Festival of Bygones' in the Guildhall. It proved to be so popular that there was a demand for the exhibition to become permanent. In 1935 it was housed in the disused White Horse Inn, which was meant to be a temporary home but the museum is still there today.

As Cambridge changes rapidly, the museum's work of collecting and making available glimpses of the past is more important than ever. Many of us admitted that we had never visited this museum and resolved to do so when it is able to re-open.

We are planning to continue to meet by Zoom until we can safely meet again in our normal venue; the next two meetings are as follows:

**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 these Zoom meetings. Please get in touch with our secretary (see local groups 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



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## PLAYSCAPE

### LATEST UPDATES

**Copse** Have you spied the new magposts in the copse yet? These are posts with magnifying glasses set into them so would-be naturalists can study what they've found. The SSYI and Playscape team spent a very soggy Monday just before Christmas installing them, along with the new signs that the SSYI had made, plus sixty bags of mulch. Now it's a case of waiting for spring to see the results of all the sowing and planting we did too!



The SSYI also have enough wood to make signs for the willow den and the bridge. We were thinking along the lines of 'No.1 The Willows' and 'Trip Trap Bridge' but we are open to suggestions! Do drop me a line with any ideas.

**Shelter** We honestly haven't forgotten! The Parish Assistant has kindly got quotes for the laser cut horses and we've donated the funds we had for this project to the Parish Council in readiness. We just need to finalise the CAD drawing of the horses for the metal worker, which has been delayed due to the challenges of home working and home learning!

**Grants** We submitted one full application and one expression of interest to two funding bodies before Christmas. The latter has now invited us to submit a full application, which is very encouraging. We expect to therefore receive the final decisions from both these funding bodies in March.

**Fun Run** Pencil **26 September 2021** in your diary to run the Shelford 5k again! It's a different weekend to our usual one so that we don't clash with the Little Shelford Weekend, or the Chariots of Fire race. Although we hope to have a Playscape by then, we still have plenty to continue fundraising for, namely the wheelscape and Muga Practice hoop and goal (near the shelter).



We are really hoping to bring back the full event this year as it brings the village out in force, but we will keep the virtual option as a back-up. We are contacting our sponsors and watching the progress of this national lockdown closely and will make a call in March.

*Eleanor McCrone*  
*info@shelfordplayscape.org*



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## DIARY FEBRUARY

### PLEASE NOTE

Both the Memorial Hall and the St Mary's Community Room are again closed.



### BIN COLLECTIONS

**Black bins** Tuesday 9 and 23 February

**Blue bins** Tuesday 2 and 16 February

**Green bins** Tuesday 2 February



### POST BOXES

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

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



### POST OFFICE

The Post Office is at Kash Stores, 35 Hinton Way.

Open Monday – Friday 9am–4pm, Saturday 9am–12 noon.



Items that 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 only – see back cover for details

Current opening hours are:

Tuesdays 10am–2pm, Fridays 2–6pm.

## MARCH ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

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

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## TRANSPORT-RELATED ISSUES IN SHELFORD

*There are two major regional transport projects underway which may affect Great Shelford – a new guided busway and a new railway line. On the following pages are four transport related items:*

- *The text of an EWR Action Group leaflet on the rail proposals*
- *Edited notes from EWR group discussions*
- *A response from the East-West Rail Company Ltd*
- *An imagined dialogue about the proposed new busway*

## THE EAST WEST RAIL (EWR) PROJECT POSES A SERIOUS RISK TO OUR HOMES AND OUR VILLAGE AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT

### SHELFORD RESIDENTS: IT IS TIME TO JOIN FORCES AND GET INVOLVED, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

We are in serious danger of having a major new railway line built right through our village.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced in January 2020 the Preferred Route Option E (pictured below) for a new railway line connecting Bedford and Cambridge. East West Railway Co (EWR) is currently conducting work to identify a series of specific routes *within* the Preferred Route Option – what the Company calls the ‘Route Alignment Options’.

EWR expects to conduct a non-statutory public consultation exercise on the proposed Route Alignment Options around January/February 2021. One of the options will be selected as its ‘Preferred Route Alignment’. There will then be a statutory public consultation exercise on that preferred alignment. Following that consultation, EWR will finalise its route proposal and seek the necessary planning consents. Construction is planned to start in 2025. You can find more details here: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project/central-section>



**Any chosen Route Alignment is likely to have a significant adverse impact on our local area as the railway seems destined to merge with existing rail lines in or near the Shelfords.**

### **What's the alternative? A Northern Route.**

Alternative route proposals have been developed and advocated for several years by the CamBedRailRoad (CBRR) group: <http://www.cambedrailroad.org> who have invested a considerable amount of time, effort and expertise in developing an alternative route proposal for EWR's rail line to approach Cambridge from the north, rather than the south. CBRR present a very powerful case for the adoption of a northern Cambridge approach that would serve the needs of the region and local communities better than Option E.

EWR have only consulted on southern routes. They have never consulted on the relative merits of northern and southern approaches. This is unacceptable.

It is vital that we lobby immediately, urgently and widely for the postponement of EWR's impending non-statutory consultation on route alignments within the route option E area, in order to allow for a proper consideration of CBRR's proposal for a northern approach, and for a public consultation on the relative merits of northern and southern approaches. The non-statutory consultation on the current route option E should **not** take place, unless and until it has been demonstrated by EWR that there are compelling reasons against CBRR's proposals and in favour of EWR's current plans. Those reasons have not yet been provided.

### **What can you do?**

To obtain the best solution for our local community, there are things that we can each do.

#### **1. Join our Great Shelford EWR Action Group**

We are a group of concerned residents in Shelford that are working together to create awareness in our community of the EWR proposals, the alternatives and lobbying for consultation on the merits of northern and southern approaches. This group is for residents and businesses in Great and Little Shelford. To join please email

*[gt-shelford-ewr-action@googlegroups.com](mailto:gt-shelford-ewr-action@googlegroups.com) stating your name and address.*

#### **2. Sign CamBedRailRoad's petition for a fair evaluation of a northern approach to Cambridge**

CBRR launched a petition, on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org), demanding that the proposal for a northern Cambridge approach be fairly evaluated alongside alternative routes proposed by EWR. As yet, this demand remains unsatisfied. This demand deserves our strong support. All residents of Shelford should sign the petition without delay. **You can find it by googling 'CBRR petition'.**

### 3. Write to your MP, District and County Councillors and Mayor

EWB is a public body so every email and letter to a politician will count. An original letter has more impact than a template letter. If you send an e-mail send it to Anthony Browne MP and copy the others listed in the 'cc' line. Please consider writing to:

Anthony Browne, South Cambridgeshire MP. Address: Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Road, Hardwick CB23 7QJ [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk)

Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport: [shappsg@parliament.uk](mailto:shappsg@parliament.uk)

Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government: [robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk)

Mayor James Palmer [james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

County Councillor Kevin Cuffley [kevin.cuffley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.cuffley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

County Councillor Roger Hickford [roger.hickford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:roger.hickford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

District Councillor Peter Fane [cllr.fane@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.fane@scambs.gov.uk)

District Councillor Nick Sample [cllr.sample@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.sample@scambs.gov.uk)

### 4. You can also write to East West Railway to express your opinion

E-mail [contact@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:contact@eastwestrail.co.uk) or send a letter to FREEPOST East West Rail. There is also online contact form on the company website <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/>

## EWB ACTION GROUP

### NOTES OF DISCUSSION GROUP

**Two level crossings** The Station Road one is particularly problematic as it has a high pedestrian usage. For example, all the school pupils from Hinton Way/Orchard Road/Macaulay Avenue and beyond have to go over the level crossing to get to Shelford primary school or to catch the bus for Sawston Village College. It also has a habit of marooning you on the opposite side to the train you thought you were about to catch.

**A flaky bus service** Timekeeping on the Citi 7 is better than when it was routed through Trumpington, but people still don't trust it. It used to have a ten-minute frequency; it's now every twenty minutes and goes down to one bus per hour in the evening (except on Sunday evenings when there are none at all).

**Only one train per hour** serving Shelford station off-peak. Foxton, with less than half the footfall, has successfully campaigned to get two per hour throughout the day.

**No east-west infrastructure** for either private or public transport. Everything is built around spokes radiating from the centre of Cambridge, which is decreasing in importance as an employment focus while the Biomedical Campus, Granta Park, Babraham and so on, are growing.

Thus Church St, High St, Woollards Lane, Hinton Way and so on have, by default, become through routes: the people driving through don't particularly want to be here, and we'd probably rather not have them here.

**Poor cycle routes** Once off the DNA path coming from Addenbrooke's, everything goes to pieces. The Tunwells Lane – High St – High Green – Granhams Road pair of junctions are a nightmare, and High Street, with its permanently parked cars, is the most hazardous part of a cycle journey into Cambridge.

Additionally, and tangentially related to transport, the village lacks a proper centre. We have a village hall, a library, a medical centre, dentist, opticians, and a railway station, but they are all in separate buildings owned and run by separate organisations, with little or no synergy or pooling of resources.

There is no concept of a village hub or community centre, and the relation to transport is that such a hub could also be a transport hub.

**Transport-related projects likely to have an impact on the village:**

- East-West Rail. Even if it follows the northern route, it may impact Great Shelford if some of its trains continue to Cambridge South – and where do they go after that? Some residents will want also to be users of the new route.
- Cambridge South station.
- Busway, whether across the fields or along the former railway route.
- Sawston Greenway.
- Rail Haverhill.

These projects also have knock-on effects on each other.

Can there be adaptations of any of the projects, or trade-offs from them, which will ameliorate or remove the issues listed above for the benefit of the village as a whole, as well as minimising any damage to the village or its surroundings?

*Jim Rickard*

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## EAST-WEST RAIL

*EWG Action Group member, Colin Astin, wrote to the East West Rail Company to express his concerns about their proposals. Mr Astin has asked the Village News to publish the letter he received in response.*

Thank you for your email, we appreciate you taking the time to write to us. We do understand the depth of feeling around important issues such as community facilities.

Properly integrating East West Rail with both existing and future transport networks in the area is something the team is passionate about and we understand this is top of mind for communities across the area too. We are keen to explore the efficiencies which could be realised from more than one infrastructure project being built in the same area: both, whether this would help long-term to create a better transport network, and if in the shorter term, coordinating construction work would be better for local communities.

We are working closely with the teams at Highways England, Network Rail and the relevant local authorities to ensure that the planning and delivery of East West Rail and these other transformative projects is coordinated for the benefit of the local communities they will serve. We are mindful that it is not as straightforward as it might seem at first - railways do not like hills or bends and the station stops might not fit well with the needs of road users. However, as mentioned, we will keep talking to our counterparts across the area to create not just the best rail system, but the best transport system we can.

In addition, our customer experience team is working to ensure that our stations serve all members of the community. We are committed to ensuring that East West Rail can be used easily and enjoyably by everyone, and we will be listening to local communities and accessibility groups and asking for their ideas to help us design stations that work for everyone. We aim for our services, stations and facilities to be fully accessible.

We are committed to listening to feedback and suggestions from communities and their representatives, to help us make decisions as we design route alignment options. Once options for the preferred route alignment are sufficiently advanced, we will present them to you and the communities along the route as part of a second round of non-statutory consultation. We are aiming to hold this consultation in early 2021.

I hope this information is useful, but if you have any further questions please contact us, many thanks.

Kind regards,  
East West Rail Co. Team

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## A LOCKDOWN CONFERENCE CALL

*An imagined dialogue about the Busway between concerned residents!*

**Jim:** Hi Ann and Nat, hope you are both well.

**Ann:** Yes, thanks, I'm sticking to all the rules and playing it safe.

**Nat:** Yes, me too.

**Jim:** So what have you guys been up to?

**Ann:** I've been puzzling on what to do about the card from the Shelford and Stapleford Parish Councils (PCs) – the one that was popped through my letter box just before Christmas - asking me for money!

**Jim:** That's the one about the **Greater Cambridge Partnership's** (GCP's) plan to build a new pollution-free busway and a walk/jogging/cycling lane between Cambridge and Babraham?

**Ann:** Yes, the GCP have chosen the route just outside and to the east of our villages, but some of us, including the PCs, wanted to save some greenbelt land, better share the busway, and thought a better route might be alongside the railway line through the centre of our villages.

**Nat:** Yes, **Mott MacDonald** (MM) assessed that route. The MM report (May 2020) estimated it would cost an extra £29m and require the demolition of 13 homes and 3 commercial buildings.

**Jim:** Yes, but the PCs disputed that, and committed at least £30k to get **i-Transport** to assess the MM report and suggest improvements.

**Ann:** Yes, they did (24 November 2020), but their solution requires the demolition of almost all the Shelford railway station building, including Zara, and four homes. With the increasing demand for homes, we reluctantly give up greenbelt land (like that near More's Meadow), but I'm totally against destroying people's homes and lives to protect the greenbelt.

**Nat:** I agree, and I am also very worried about the increasing dangers and congestion at the Hinton Way and Granhams Road railway crossings. People and vehicles negotiating these would have to avoid crossing trains, buses, walkers, joggers, cyclists, and any other non-motorised users (NMUs) – plus, close to the rail station crossing, residents trying to exit and enter Leeway Avenue! Local resident, Lisa Freeman has been quoted as saying delays at the crossings for trains alone are roughly 22 minutes of every hour, so add to that 16 buses per hour, and we are approaching gridlock! It would also mean more vehicles using Mingle Lane, Stapleford and the A1301 to avoid the blockage! The intention of the new busways and NMUs is to decrease, not increase congestion, pollution and danger in our villages.

**Jim:** So, Ann, a big ‘No’ to the PC’s cards and the ‘blue route’ they show? Perhaps we could go for the ‘red route’ if the busway and NMU lanes were in a cutting, and under-passed Haverhill Road, Hinton Way and Granhams Road?

**Ann:** I am going to use my money to save for an electric car. What are you going to do Nat?

**Nat:** I’m going to think some more about having the busway and MNU beside the A1307, but meanwhile I am going to make a pot of tea. Bye you two. *Click!*

**Jim and Ann:** Bye, bye. *Click! Click!*

*Mike Dawes*

## 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*

#### 18 February 1854

ENGINE DISABLED – On Monday last, as the up passenger train, which is due at Shelford at 2pm, was proceeding from Shelford, one of the cylinders suddenly burst, which allowed the steam to escape in such a manner that the train was unable to reach Shelford Station. The Norwich train soon afterwards became due, and the carriages and passengers belonging to the disabled engine, were conveyed to their destination after a delay of about an hour.

#### 15 February 1833

FIRES AT SHELFORD – Mr Wilkinson’s Farm, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Mr Headly’s Stacks. A reward of Three Hundred pounds is offered for such information as shall lead to the Conviction of the incendiaries. AND HIS MAJESTY’S PARDON will be granted to any Accomplice who having himself set fire to any of the above property, shall be the means of the Principal Offender or Offenders being brought to Justice.

#### 5 February 1842

ROBBERY AT GREAT SHELFORD – At an early hour last Saturday morning the hen-house of Mr Henry Grain, was robbed of a quantity of fowls. A reward of £5 has been offered on conviction of the offender.

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*Zeinab Ardeshir, Superintendent Pharmacist*

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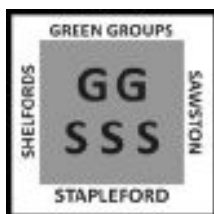
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## 2G3S

### FOR YOUR DIARIES

Here are our proposed dates for 2021 with a mixture of planning meetings and events or activities. It's likely that all will be virtual for a while. Check our Facebook page for information nearer the time.

Monday 8 February	Monday 7 June	Monday 11 October
Thursday 11 March	Thursday 8 July	Thursday 4 November
Thursday 8 April	Thursday 12 August	Thursday 2 December
Monday 10 May	Monday 6 September	

Events we hope to arrange this year include: finding out about local water supply, the Local Plan, holding a litter pick, running a fruit and veg swap and arranging something in November around the COP26 (the international environmental conference that the UK is hosting in Glasgow). We may also add in repair cafés or outdoor events when it is safe to do so. Watch this space!

The supply of water will be a limiting factor in the development of this area. It is discussed in the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Our aquifers suffer from over-extraction for agriculture and to supply all the houses in the area, and it is important that we protect the quality of our chalk streams. There is a newly formed group, Friends of the River Cam, which has a very good video on YouTube called 'Saving the River Cam', narrated by Feargal Sharkey.

We hope to arrange a date for the collection of old computer equipment for reuse or recycling, through a local contact. So, please don't throw out your old laptops and cables, they can be useful to others – not least the children who are staying at home during the pandemic but haven't the means to study online.

#### **A few things to do while you're locked in again:**

- Shop locally; you'll save petrol and packaging, and boost local shops.
- Our MP will hold his next Environmental Forum in February (date tba). If you are interested in attending do check his Facebook page or his website <https://www.anthonybrowne.org/> so that you can register.
- Chris Packham has launched a petition to stop HS2. The case for it has weakened as many people will surely continue to work more from home. For more information about the damage to nature from HS2 see the Woodland Trust's website. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) to sign up for our newsletter, to ask a question, or to join in any of our meetings. Also see our Facebook page.

*Helen Hale*



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## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

**1 December** A cold, frosty night. At 7am I open the window and stare out to the west. A full moon rides high in the sky, silvering all around it. A robin is singing. The filigree outlines of the tree are silhouetted against the moon's light. As I drink my morning tea, the light grows in the east. More tall trees show their delicate network of branch and twig in the growing light. There's a jay on our nut basket. He's not one of our usual visitors, but I'm pleased to see him. I've a sneaking fondness for all the crow family – jay, rook, carrion crow, raven and chough. A crowd of jackdaws hangs around the Memorial Green, a rackety bunch. I think one pair nest in our chimney. They stand guard there through much of the year, and stare down with frank curiosity at the human in the garden. In winter they stand on the chimney pot, and warm their feet in the air which flows up from our centrally heated room.

My birthday was cancelled. But in the end it didn't matter. I had a great day. It's about having a loving family, not about where you go or what you get.

**2 December.** We are out of lockdown. The first Pfizer vaccine shots have arrived in the UK. The Oxford vaccine – hopefully – will be approved soon. But, the Prime Minister tells us, not to get too excited, it's not over yet; it will take time. Now the thrust is to get people to agree to be vaccinated – an issue of trust.

**4 December.** I woke to snow. What a shock! But by 8.30am it's turning to slush, and clearly won't last the morning. Life is OK, but it feels monotonous. We do the same things every week. It would be nice to launch out a bit, socialise, go places, do things. More seeing of friends, more laughter. I miss it.

The November lockdown was so different to the first. Then it was spring and everyone embraced it, discovered nature, discovered growing. We found inventive ways to make life interesting and to keep in touch. This time it was November, and dark. You hardly saw anyone – we've all gone to ground. There wasn't the same sense of energy. Nor was it the same near-total shutdown. More shops stayed open. More people travelled to work. Most of the structures which support reduced contact are in place, so there wasn't the same sense of disruption. It was just dull. And even with the lockdown ended, nothing much has changed. It's still dull.

**8 December.** In the news, a change of headline. Brexit jeopardy. I am thoroughly enraged about EU demands for fishing rights in our waters. No wonder the seas are emptying.

The first vaccination took place today – a 90 year old woman in a care home was vaccinated at 6.31am this morning. The first in the world.

We went to Hayley Wood. It had been a very cold night. There were icicles on the trees, and they sparkled in the sunshine. A thousand stars fell – not drops of water

but the icicles, some an inch long. They littered the ground beneath the trees. Out in the open, the air was cold, but the sun was warm.

**15 December.** We decided we'd go into town – to central Cambridge, first time I've been into the city centre this year. It's nice to go in about 4 o'clock, when it's getting dark. The sky's a deep velvet blue, the street and shop lights all look golden, and there's an atmosphere of Christmas. But shops we remembered, and which have been there for years - the Belgian chocolate shop, Sundaes, the shoe shop, and others, have disappeared, victim to the rise in internet shopping which was taking its toll even before Covid, and to which coronavirus has given the *coup de grace*. It's not busy and we go to Heffers and then to Waterstones. An hour and a half of endless hand sanitising and wearing a mask, which in heated shops makes me feel hot and bothered, and anxious, as if I can't breathe properly. I long to rip off the mask and gasp for air. So, in the end, shopping done, we are pleased to head back home and find refuge there.

**19 December.** The news just keeps getting worse. The number of cases keeps growing. Vast swathes of the country are in Tier 3, under stringent restrictions. But Christmas has been declared a brief relaxation of the rules, when 3 households can meet for 5 days. You can travel from anywhere to anywhere. NHS and public health professionals are screaming, 'Don't do this: we are walking into disaster'. And one in particular points out that people will die because of it, and that those are people who, within another couple of months, could be vaccinated and protected. All of this means that our approach to Christmas is not one of carefree anticipation. Those who have it in them to be careful are doing so. Others are being as thoughtless as they always are, and will no doubt go mad over Christmas. We're in little doubt that there'll be another lockdown straight afterwards. This is the darkest part of winter, literally and figuratively.

**20 December.** Drama. A Tier 4 is introduced. Christmas is cancelled in London and the South East. A new variant of Covid has been discovered, which is far more infectious. I feel shocked. Effectively it's a new lockdown, at least for them. It starts at midnight, no lead-in period – that's how serious it is.

**21 December.** The shortest day and it's chucking it down. Suits my mood. I feel depressed. Our Christmas has been cancelled and all the preparations are staring at me. I feel as if a rug has been whipped from under my feet. I had my week all mapped out with preparations. Now we are reconsidering our food – how much we need for two, not three? My sister-in-law, who was coming to stay, lives in London, and though we're in a support bubble, she feels that she should abide by the spirit of the rules and stay at home. That's tough for her because she lives alone. But others are in the same boat, and I suspect they'll rally around, and something good will happen. As for us, there's still Will and I, so we'll have a good time. But it won't be what we planned.

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The news is awful. With the new variant, cases are soaring and hospitals struggling. Is it better to be depressed or just frightened? Fear certainly drives away the depression.

**22 December.** I took my daily walk down the garden and walked into a confetti of birch seeds. It was almost like snow. And when I looked up, I saw the reason for it. In the silver birch was a flock of goldfinches. They clung to slender twigs and pecked at the catkins. They are gorgeous little birds, with their red heads and flash of yellow. A restless flock, they darted around the tree. Eventually, a jackdaw came to see what they were eating, and whether it was anything a jackdaw should be interested in. It soon decided not. Goldfinches eat the tiniest of seeds - birch, teasel, thistle. Then one flew to another tree, more followed and soon the first tree was empty. What a sight to gladden the morning!

**23 December.** Pitch dark at 7.15am - surely the most depressing time of the year. It's so dank that I find a slug and a snail on my doorstep milk bottles.

9.15am. A queue of 46 stretches from Barkers' door right round to the Chinese restaurant. In normal times, everyone would be shoulder to shoulder in the shop, with all the staff, past or retired, busy serving. But not today. At the Country Market, another long and enthusiastic queue.

11.30am. I go to see my dentist. Going to the Arbury is like a Cambridge reality check, leaving behind the affluence of Shelford for contact with life more ordinary. At the church of the Good Shepherd is the queue for the foodbank. Ordinary people, who can't put food on the table. In Arbury Court is Foodbite, a café which directs food donated by the supermarkets to those same people. I can't help but feel disgust for this terrible inequality. What went wrong with the 20th century? This is not what we wanted in the 1940s, the 1950s and 1960s. We thought the world was getting better; we thought we were *making* it better. It isn't.

**24 December Christmas Eve.** The torrential rain has finally stopped and the world is washed clean: the sky blue, the air cold. We've done all the Christmas shopping, and now we've stopped. I'm looking forward to a rest. It's been a stressful week. Shopping at Christmas is always beset by queues, and coronavirus doesn't help. The daily news has been awful - rising numbers of infection and deaths, ICUs groaning under the influx of cases, a new more infectious strain of Covid running amok in Britain. 3,000 lorries are stacked up in Kent after France (and just about everyone else) closed their borders with us because of the new variant, and mutterings about food shortages (oh dear, there go all the toilet rolls again!). Now we've been told that we in Cambridgeshire will follow all our neighbours into Tier 4 - effectively another lockdown - from Boxing Day. So the urge to shut the doors, turn off the news and have a warm and loving home Christmas is enormous. Mine starts today.

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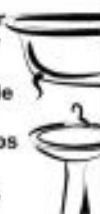
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**25 December Christmas Day.** Last night I put out my wildlife camera, to see what's about at the end of the garden. It was a cold night and a lone fox pauses in its nightly round, then passes on by. When I go to dig parsnips and carrots for our Christmas dinner, it's really cold. In the wet soil my fingers are so cold I want to cry. 'Be careful or you'll get chilblains'. That's what my Mum would have said. It's quiet in the village. On Christmas Day we all turn inward. Not many cars pass. Even the motorway is pretty quiet (though it never stops). As the day goes on, a few people go out for a stroll. Even the Co-op is closed. We have a lovely Christmas Day. And then that's it, over, Christmas 2020.

**26 December.** Boxing Day. Today we are in Tier 4 – effectively back in lockdown. I'm getting so used to all the rules, I just assume that, whatever it is, we won't be able to do it. It's depressing.

We walked on Rectory Farm. So did everyone else. It's quite sociable really. But not without jeopardy. The river is very full. The water meadows have flooded. So has the tunnel under the railway. All those who weren't wearing wellies had no option but to go across the level crossing. Fortunately, there were no trains. The



tunnel under the motorway was flooded too. On the fields were a crowd of white egrets, standing white and humped in gaggles, or stepping daintily around the field, pecking in the watery grass.

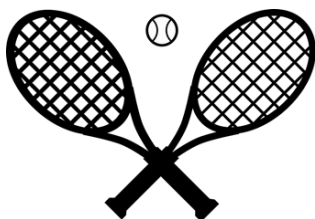
**30 December.** Full moon, white frost. The Oxford vaccine was approved today. Just as well, cases are rocketing, hospitals are becoming overwhelmed.

**31 December.** The last day of 2020 and it's bitterly cold. At 7am, I lie tucked up in my nice warm bed, just my nose sticking out. The light is growing and I'd like a cup of tea. But it's cold out there and there's no incentive at all to move, so I stay in bed and just think. For a long time. But eventually the call of that cup of tea is just too strong. I heave myself out and it's every bit as cold as I thought it would be. I hate winter!

Well, it's the end of 2020, and it's not been the year we expected. But, I would not, like many, say, 'Good riddance'. Every year of our lives is precious, and far too valuable to waste. There has been a lot of suffering this year, some of it to do with coronavirus, and some of it not. We just have to survive as best we can. Let's hope for a brighter 2021!

*Helen Harwood*

## TENNIS CLUB



Another year, another lockdown. The courts are closed again and will remain so until the government begins to ease restrictions and allow us to return to grassroots sport.

Members should expect to receive details of the AGM, which will be held virtually, soon.

In the meantime, here's a quick quiz! Can you match the tennis stroke to its description? (Answers next month)

Used to start off a point, most often overarm.

Lob

After the ball has bounced, hitting with the palm of your dominant hand facing your opponent.

Drive volley

Full groundstroke swing, but hitting the ball before it has bounced.

Serve

At the net, hitting the ball before it has bounced.

Backhand

Hitting the ball up, aiming to get it over your opponent's head.

Volley

After the ball has bounced, hitting with the back of your dominant hand facing your opponent.

Smash

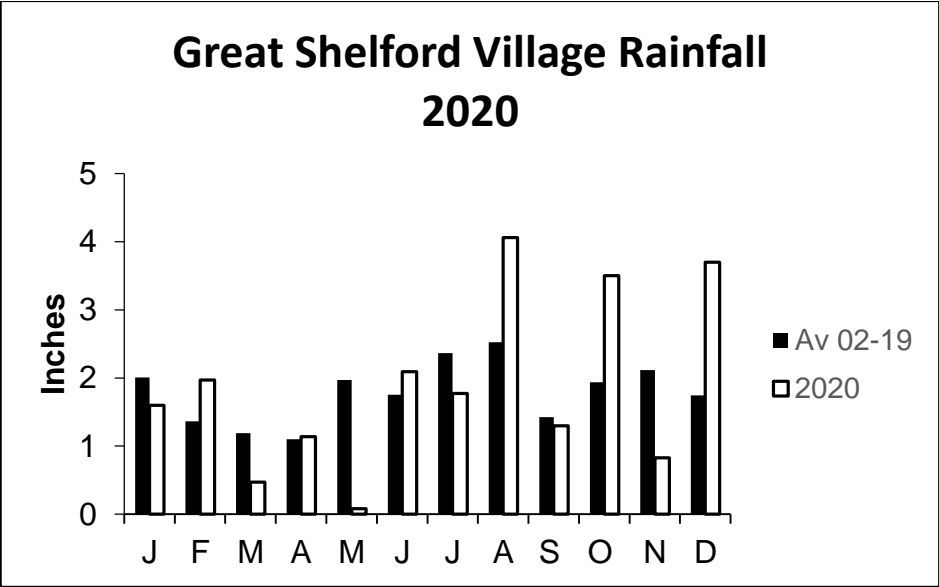
Hitting the ball from above your head before it has bounced, driving it away to win the point.

Forehand

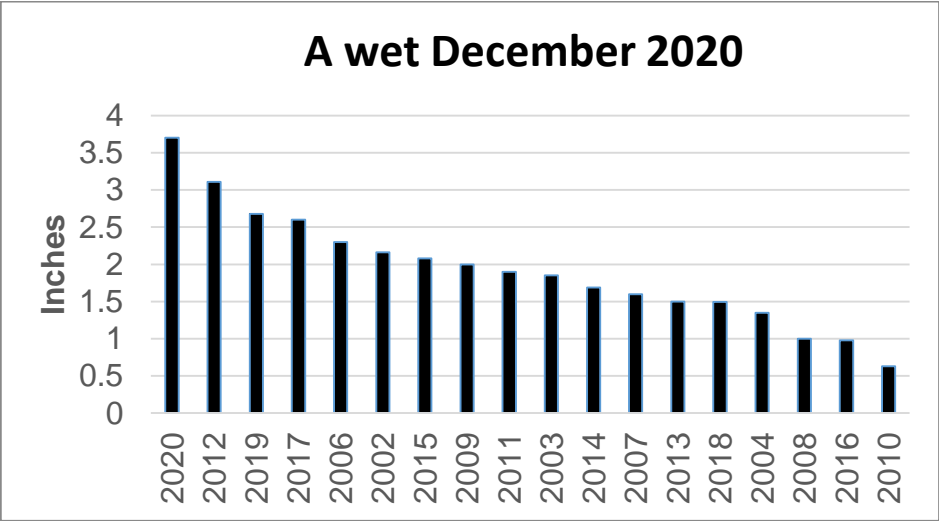


RAINFALL CHARTS

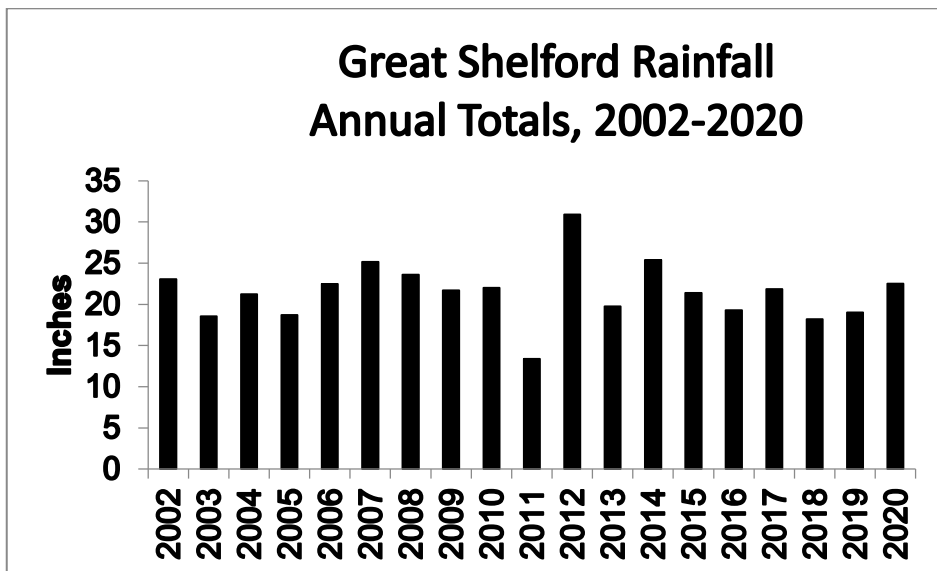
MONTHLY TOTALS 2020



THE WETTEST DECEMBER SINCE 2002 (when our records began)



## THE LONG VIEW



*From data supplied by Angus Campbell*

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

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

General enquiries and articles for publication: [gsvneditorial@gmail.com](mailto:gsvneditorial@gmail.com)

**Commercial advertisements** are for a 12-month period, renewed in August. There is usually a waiting list, so if you would like to advertise please email [gsvnadverts@gmail.com](mailto:gsvnadverts@gmail.com)

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

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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
Football Club	Terry Rider	footybeast63@sky.com	01354 680661
Free Church	Iris Considine	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.pett29@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		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
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts		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
Shelfords Covid-19 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		
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	Rosie Cranmer	513572	Marjorie Smith 564922
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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	07599 024210

## LIBRARY SERVICE UPDATE



### Love reading and not a computer user?

The Library Service's online access and wide range of digital resources have been a real boon for many during the pandemic. However, if you're not comfortable using a computer, you can still join the library and access the wide range of library stock. At the moment, most routine library enquiries are being dealt with by the Customer Service team, who can be contacted by calling

**0345 045 5225** (8am-6pm Mon-Fri; 9am-1pm Sat)

The team can help you with library membership; account queries; reservations and requesting the free **Select&Collect service** (where staff select books for you according to your tastes and you collect them later from the library). You will initially be offered various recorded options, but simply hold the line and you will then be connected to a member of the team. Please note that owing to current restrictions it may take longer than usual to get through.

At the time of writing, Great Shelford Library is still open from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm to 6pm on Fridays, although browsing is not yet possible.

If you have difficulty getting to a library due to your health or full-time caring responsibilities, the **Library@Home service** can arrange a monthly delivery/collection of books or audiobooks for you (in a Covid-safe manner) at your door. The service is currently also offered to people who are shielding. Please call 07342 700308 or email: [volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

