

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

MARCH 2021

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Latest News from the Parochial Charities



Planned area for public garden in More's Meadow

Photo: Brian Connellan

Joy Amis 1927- 2021

Shelford Garden Club to Close

Winter and Spring – Lockdown and Hope

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 January 2021

This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to Covid 19 meeting restrictions. Ten members of the public attended the meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Chair reminded members of the public that vacancies exist on the Parish Council, and that anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

A Hinton Way resident asked about the i-Transport report commissioned by Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils, which mentions demolishing their property.

Reply: The aim of the report is to persuade the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GPC) to consider alternative solutions to transport problems, which do not involve going through Green Belt land. The report only refers to the potential demolition of one property, which is in Chaston Road, not Hinton Way.

The Chair brought forward Agenda Item 12 (Updating status on the three external infrastructure projects that have an impact on Great Shelford) to the public session for open discussion.

The East-West Railway Action Group is concerned at the lack of consideration for the Northern Route and is attempting to arrange a meeting with the East-West Railway (EWR), also to be attended by Parish Council representatives. The Parochial Charities have also requested representation. Cambridge Approaches, who also want EWR to evaluate a northern approach, have requested the pledging of funds to take EWR to a judicial review at a cost of £80,000. Multiple parishes along the EWR route have already pledged support. The Chair has suggested a pledge of £24,000 from Great Shelford Parish Council. It was proposed that the other parish councils involved should be listed and that a £1,000 contribution to an initial legal review should be made before a commitment to a full pledge. This was accepted by unanimous vote.

The Chair stated that transport projects in the village include:

- The East-West Railway
- The Guided Busway
- Cambridge South Station
- Alteration to the curve on the railway line at at Shepreth Branch Junction
- Sawston Greenway
- The potential re-opening of the Haverhill Line.

The Parish Council will create a working group including members of the public. A number of councillors offered to be involved, together with some members of the public. Other residents are invited to participate.

A resident said that the Precept application should be considered with a 10% to 15% increase to cover transport topics and any additional Covid-19 support required within the village.

FINANCE

Twenty-four cheques to the value of £24,081.97p for the period up to 13 January were presented.

The full Finance and General Proposal was re-examined with no significant changes proposed.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

District Councillors

Councillor Peter Fane in attendance; report circulated.

County Councillors

None in attendance; report circulated.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Highways Committee

A report was circulated.

Planning Committee

Minutes of the 6 January meeting were circulated and are on the website.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee

The Pavilion, Tennis Club and Bowls Club are closed. All fixtures for all age levels at the Football Clubs are suspended. The next season for the Cricket Club starts in May 2021. The playground is currently open and twice-weekly fogging of play equipment is to recommence.

Cemetery and Allotment Committee

Stonehill and Cemetery plots on the waiting list will be allocated when viewing is permitted. The cutting of the Stonehill hedges will be completed in January.

REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS

SSYI Club Room A meeting is being arranged with the roofing contractor. An order for the electricity supply has been placed and SSYI will proceed with work on the upgrade after lockdown. A water meter needs to be installed. A bid to the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) for an energy survey of all the building has been successful.

OTHER BUSINESS

Private Street Lighting SCDC is to write to all individuals in private roads with street lighting and advise them of the process necessary to retain lighting.

Church Street and General Traffic Concerns Councillor Lyn Disley made a presentation describing the risks to pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, passengers, and property resulting from increased amounts of commuter, business and commercial traffic and speed of travel on roads that are historically residential, back-road routes. While Church Street is identified as a local pinch point, with Church Street residents, the School, the Church, the local bus company and Little Shelford Parish Council all having expressed high levels of concern, these issues affect the whole village.

Nationally, there are an increasing number of initiatives seeking to empower communities to manage their environment and apply psychological traffic management and community focussed options that we might explore. It is recommended that GSPC agree to engage with local residents via consultation to define village priorities relating to highways, in order to inform the position of GSPC, obviously recognising that GSPC is not the only stakeholder when it comes to traffic management and urban planning.

Anti-social Behaviour The Parish Council has received complaints about a drone being flown on the Recreation Ground, flying over the Tennis Club when in use and landing on the Pavilion roof. The Drone flying code specifies drones must not fly over people, and must be 50m away from buildings or people. Larger drones must keep at least 150m away from residential, recreational, commercial and industrial areas. It was agreed that notices would be placed on the Recreation Ground forbidding the flying of drones..

Full copies of the minutes can be viewed on the Parish Council website www.greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes and at the Library.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MARCH

Planning Committee Meeting	3 March 5.15 pm
Planning Committee Meeting	17 March 5.15 pm
Parish Council Meeting	17 March 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.

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looking forward to opening as soon as we can.
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

20/04975/HFUL	Mr and Mrs Cheung 14 Elms Avenue	Two storey front/side extension and single storey front extension including new dropped kerb.
<p>Whilst we can see that the existing roof has been raised to meet the slope of the new extension, and it appears the chimneys have gone, we are concerned about the roof height from the street. The main issue, due to the narrow road, is parking. The idea of four bays in the front garden means the dropped kerb is tight for negotiation. Also, there needs to be a tight control on contractors' vehicles during the development process. The site is small for such a large extension but we do not believe it causes any problems for neighbours.</p>		

20/04984/FUL	Granta Medical Practices Shelford Health Centre Ashen Green	Installation of a 'Click & Collect' medication dispensing unit.
<p>We believe this proposal is totally unacceptable. The Practice is hidden from the public view and has been subject to inappropriate behaviour overnight in the past. We have a Boots Pharmacy in the village where we can get our medication dispensed. We object to the application on the grounds that no needs assessment seems to have been carried out, there are security-related issues, it detracts from Boots Pharmacy, which is essential to our village. During COVID, home deliveries and courier services are available.</p>		

COUNTRY MARKET



Whether March comes in like a lamb or a lion, who knows when the Country Market will re-open? We continue to miss Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall, but we just have to wait until Covid-19 regulations allow village halls to re-open.

Meantime we are always pleased to receive orders for preserves and enquiries for baked goods, plants and crafts. It takes just a telephone call or email to order and arrange delivery. We'll be pleased to hear from you: telephone 01223 843946 or send an email to dorothy@woodlandroad.plus.com.

Dorothy Doel



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PAROCHIAL CHARITIES NEWS

A COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR GREAT SHELFORD

Would you like to grow flowers, fruit or vegetables but don't have the space, or the know-how, or even a garden of your own? Why not come and help create a garden for all to share – and meet some new friends too.

We are creating a community garden at the bottom of The Hectare alongside our new allotments on land owned by the Parochial Charities (see cover photograph). We have already planted some trees but much remains to be done. We want the garden to be accessible to everyone, regardless of age or mobility; our plans include the provision of wheelchair access. If you'd like to take part – or just find out more – please get in touch via our clerk: clerk@gspc.org.uk or 01223 842411.

SUPPORT FOR ONLINE LEARNING?

With millions of children across the UK now learning from home, every child needs a laptop and internet connection to join online lessons, undertake private study and submit schoolwork. The Parochial Charities exists to provide support to villagers in need, and help is now available to ensure Great Shelford families can get online and their children continue their education at home.

Working with local business, Eagle Analysis Ltd and the Covid Support Group in the village, we have already helped some families by providing refurbished laptops on long term loan. We still have a few more of these laptops available; for further details, please contact mike.nettleton@eagleanalysis.co.uk or 01223 721366.

Applications for further support with online learning may be made via our partner: John Huntingdon's Charity, 189 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3HJ, office@johnhuntingdon.org.uk, 01223 492492. They will provide an application form for you to complete. The form is also available for download from the Parochial Charities website - <https://gspc.org.uk/grants/>

DO YOU HAVE A LAPTOP YOU NO LONGER NEED?

If you have a laptop that you can donate to this worthy cause, please contact either the Covid Support Group: christopher.i.smith3@gmail.com or 01223 501406 or Eagle Analysis: mike.nettleton@eagleanalysis.co.uk or 01223 721366. They will refurbish the machine, wiping any legacy data and installing software appropriate for home study.

Remember you can always support our work by donating money via the DONATE button on our website - <https://gspc.org.uk>

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SHELFORD SCHOOL

Our previous update from school came as Christmas approached, at the end of 2020. The start to the new term in January certainly was not what anyone had been hoping for or expecting, with a return to full lockdown – and despite the increased risk of infection, with many more ‘children of critical workers’ needing to be taught in school this time around.

However, it is heartening to be able to report that once again the school community has demonstrated great creativity and resilience in responding to the situation. Whatever the gaps in the education which has been possible in the last year, perhaps we will look back on the strength of character which has been gained as a positive. The children and teaching staff at Shelford School show plenty of evidence of that.

At the heart of things, of course, is a rich and varied diet of home learning – and in the weekly school newsletter there is always photographic evidence of the different hands-on approaches being taken. Some of the staples of school life adapt well to the online offer, like the read aloud work: Chris Grey, the Headteacher, helping Year 2 with *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl, for instance.

With so much learning on screen, it is a happy coincidence that Safer Internet Day fell in early February. It was marked in school by video footage of an amazing discovery: ***flying penguins which leave the Antarctic every year to bask in the sun in tropical jungles.***

You probably missed that BBC report – because it was ‘fake news’. But what a healthy warning given in a school assembly to be discerning in our use of the internet, given our situation, however many the benefits are. The approaching half-term should provide a welcome break from screens, especially if the weather co-operates.

School has been working hard to promote all-round wellbeing, physically, academically and emotionally. Part of that is achieved by the current ‘healthy selfie month’, with new challenges to stay active each week – and photos being sent in to provide weekly reminders of familiar faces for everyone.

As one of the local clergy, I am always interested to hear about school church services – and on the second day of the second month, Year 2 put together a wonderful Candlemas service, filmed partly in St Mary’s Church, Great Shelford. I have never attended this annual gathering for the school before. But for a church school, the regular events of the Christian calendar gently undergird the curriculum and values of the school. In dark and difficult days I for one appreciated the idea of Jesus Christ being the Light of the World.

Revd Simon Scott

GRANTA Medical Practices

VACCINATIONS

It's amazing to think that the UK has been in an emergency state for a year. We are now in our third national lockdown, and everyday life has changed beyond all recognition.

There is, however, a tiny light at the end of this long, dark tunnel and it is shining just a little brighter day by day with the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

As I write this on 8 February we have vaccinated around 7,000 of our patients in cohorts 1 to 4. We continue to work our way through the priority groups, as instructed by NHS England.

You may be invited by us, or you may receive an NHS England letter inviting you to attend a mass vaccination centre. It is entirely your choice where you would like to go. All vaccinations are recorded on a national database so please be assured that you will not be missed.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes daily, sometimes even hourly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance it is advisable to look at the Government website www.gov.uk and the NHS UK website www.nhs.uk. If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and you do, please help them access the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 01223 627743 or sandra.east@nhs.net.

GRANTA PHARMACY UPDATE

Our new **Automated Prescriptions Collection Point** in Sawston is now open! You can collect your medicines seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, including weekends and bank holidays. You will need a valid mobile telephone number, to which a unique pin number will be sent when your prescription is ready for collection. It's as simple as that.

To sign up to this great new service pick up a leaflet from the Sawston dispensing hatch, ring 01223 727530 or email us on capccg.grantadisensing@nhs.net.

If you can't get out to collect your medicines, why not take advantage of our **free home delivery service**. Please ring 01223 727530 for further information and to sign up.

*Sandra East, Granta Communications,
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2G3S

At our meeting on 8 February, we had a short talk about the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan from Brian Milnes, the District Councillor for Sawston and the Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). The Local Plan sets out the planning policies and land allocations to guide the future development of the district. You probably know that District Councils have to formulate such a plan well ahead of when it's to be enacted, and that it has to fit into government housebuilding targets. Within that, the Council has control of what kind of development takes place and where it happens.

SCDC is very aware both of the need to be as near to net zero carbon as possible, and also of the pressure on our chalk aquifer for water, so these will probably be the two main determinants of the pattern of development. However, there is a substantial amount of housebuilding already in the pipeline from the previous local plan. More details can be seen at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local_plan – something to get engaged with during the long days of lockdown. There has previously been consultation around the villages, and there will be a further public consultation later in the year, at which you will be able to influence the future of our area. Other topics discussed at the meeting included the East-West Railway, tree planting in the UK and the busway.

You may recall that some of us attended *The Time Is Now* lobby of MPs, two years ago, organised by the Climate Coalition, which is formed of a wide variety of groups (e.g. WWF, National Trust, Woodland Trust, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Cafod, WI, RSPB, and CPRE). I managed to speak to Heidi Allen about climate change. The lobby went online in 2020 and resulted in our MP holding the first of his Environmental Forums with constituents.

The Coalition also organises a campaign each February called *Show the Love*, and it invites people to make green hearts and send them on a postcard to their MP to show their love for the planet/nature. You can also wear a heart as a badge or display some in your window. Find out more about the actions taken this year on the Climate Coalition's website – or search for *Show the Love* in your search engine. This is a kind of soft activism called Craftivism, and some of you may have watched Jenny Eclair's excellent programme about it on BBC4 at the end of January, available on iPlayer.



Our next event, at 8pm on Thursday 11 March, is a talk by James Littlewood, = the Chief Executive of Cambridge Past, Present & Future. He will be talking about the Cambridge Nature Network, through which they hope to increase biodiversity in the area. Biodiversity is important to keep a balanced ecology which mitigates climate change. For a Zoom link please email the address below:

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

Helen Hale

THE SHELFORDS WI



Our speaker at the meeting on Thursday 4 February was Ian Cummings, whose talk *From Tibet to Tent* told his story from travel photographer to the Great British Bake Off, where he was a finalist. Ian, who lives in Cambridgeshire, began by showing us some beautiful photographs from his time as a photographer in various

exotic locations. He explained how he applied to be a Bake Off contestant without much previous experience and was very surprised to be selected.

It was fascinating to hear how his progress through the various rounds to the final involved 30 bakes, with many trial and error bakes at home in preparation for the next round. Many of Ian's creations were unusual designs and he had to create his own baking tins using engineering skills he had learned from his father. He came first in a number of rounds but did not win the final. Ian has since used his experience in a variety of ways, including advertising and events. We detained him for some time with many questions. It was the first time he had given a talk by Zoom and he was speaking to us from the kitchen where he had experimented and designed his cakes

We are planning to continue to meet by Zoom until we can safely meet again in our normal venue. Our next meeting on Thursday 4 March is our AGM, and the speaker is Becky from Cambridge Hedgehogs on *The Plight of Hedgehogs*.

Nonmembers are very welcome to join these Zoom meetings. 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 Talbot

JOY AMIS 1927 - 2021



It is with sadness that we report the death of Joy Amis on 27 January in Hilton Park Care Home, Bottisham.

Joy came to Great Shelford at the age of one month. Her family had longstanding links with the village – her uncle was born in the Railway Tavern. By the time Joy was 15, her parents had both died of tuberculosis and Joy went to live with her grandmother in the cottage behind the Square and Compasses which was her home for very many years.

Joy was an active member of the village community. She was a regular worshipper at St Mary's and her special role in the Church was as Chair of the Children's Society Committee. She was a member of the Parish Council and

served on the Memorial Hall Committee. She was also a keen bowls player. In 1972 the ladies were not allowed to play bowls, so a group including Joy decided to set up their own section. Later, she served as Treasurer of the Bowls Club and for many years she and her husband Peter were joint Secretaries. She loved bowls, and when she couldn't play she still insisted on preparing the teas. She was really missed when she could no longer come down to the club.

A trustee of the Parochial Charities for over 40 years, Joy served as Treasurer and, together with Peter, she was hugely influential in the development of the charity's 32 homes in More's Meadow. Indeed, in the early days she used to walk around More's Meadow addressing tenants' needs and collecting rents. She was involved in the production of the *Village News* from the time it was first set up, and continued to act as collector of paper-based articles and notices for seventeen years.

Given the current circumstances, a brief funeral service was held on 10 February but there will be an opportunity to remember Joy at a later date when restrictions allow. If you would like to be kept informed, please contact Sue Johnson – phone 07936 52387, email suej1949@hotmail.com.

From information provided by Sue Johnson, Brian Connellan, Revd Simon Talbott, Wendy Seekings and 'Some Shelford Lives'

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

Lockdown continues ...

Thank you for continuing to be **highly vigilant** so that we can still offer 'live' worship in church. A reminder that keeping at least a two metre distance and staying in your seats until invited to move **is vital**. Also, please ensure that any social interaction after the service is kept to a minimum and respects the two metre plus distancing. You are all doing very well thus far – thank you for complying.

The situation appears to look less serious as we begin to see the current lockdown being lifted. The vaccination programme is making excellent progress and many of those in the priority groups will by now have received both their doses. Please keep those working in the NHS in your prayers, together with all those in the education sector, as they work hard to offer online teaching and prepare to reopen again.

Do take care and look after yourselves.

Simon

Mothering Sunday – 22 March Posies will be available at all services in church - do come along!

Holy Week & Easter services

Here are our services for Holy Week and Easter (full details on our website). The usual programme has had to be adapted to take account of Covid restrictions, but we are offering services in church and by Zoom so that we provide opportunities for everyone to worship during this special week. Please do join us as we follow Jesus to the cross and experience the joy of Easter Day.

Palm Sunday – 28 March

8am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

10am Parish Communion (main Sunday service) with blessing of Palms

4pm Evening Worship by Zoom

Monday in Holy Week – 29 March

7 pm Compline by Zoom

Tuesday in Holy Week – 30 March

7pm Stations of the Cross by Zoom

Wednesday in Holy Week – 31 March

7pm Compline by Zoom

Maundy Thursday – 1 April

7.30pm Eucharist of Maundy Thursday, followed by Watch of prayer

9pm Compline by Zoom

Good Friday – 2 April

2pm Liturgy of the Passion (marking Jesus's last hour and death)

Easter Saturday – 3 April

8pm Easter Vigil (first celebration of Easter – Blessing of new fire)

Easter Day - 4 April

6.30am Joint Dawn Service (Magog Down) - *to be confirmed...*

8am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

10am Parish Communion (Main Sunday service)

4pm Evensong (BCP 1662)

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 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.

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion service is currently still suspended

From the Registers

Funerals:	1 February	Avril Povey
	2 February	Professor Richard West

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

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

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

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WINTER AND SPRING

Jill Nicholas from Granta Terrace, who tells us she was born on London Road in 1931 and planted hundreds of bulbs last year, has written about her experience of spending 2020 in lockdown and her hopes for this year.



The grass was covered with primroses, then cowslips followed by forget-me-nots and yes, the daisies. I collected seeds in spring hoping that in 2021 the grass would be covered in flowers. Enough to pick and put in a vase. So lockdown came – ‘What do I do?’ No-one to chat to, can’t go out or have anyone in my house – even the wardens can’t come in ...



‘OK, look after yourself.’ Pain or not – if it’s bad, stay in bed, there’s no-one to tell.

I found I could do so much more for myself. I tried to walk down the garden each day and sit and listen. It was quiet, the wind blowing gently in the trees. It made me think of long ago when the world was slow, when people were not rushing and there were not many cars. I just hope people are learning something from

all this but, looking back 88 years, what did we learn from our mistakes?

I had to think about how little food Mum had in the wartime. How did she manage? The food came from the Co-op in a small box, now it’s bags and bags full but it still gets eaten.

Lockdown and me. I can unblock the sink, empty the bins and put them outside the door. I can’t walk over the gravel so I do need help with that. The bed needs clean sheets but I need to rest, I lie on the bed, done. I need vegetables, money and things from the shop. I’ll have to ask my family. I can’t quite manage by myself.

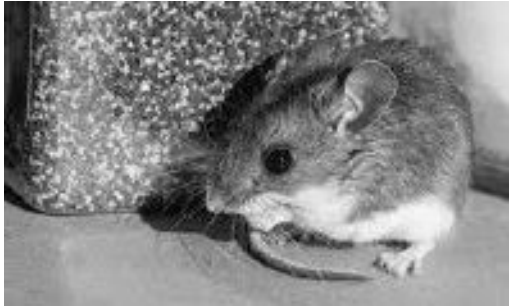
‘Can I?’

The garden needs tidying so why not try to weed? Once I start I do not want to stop, so many bags of weeds.

The weather has turned so hot I need to water. Gardens are coming alive with people – I can hear voices, splashes from children with a pool. A nice sound. The neighbours arrive, I am so lucky to be able to chat over the fence.

I weed-killed the gravel, it dried so quickly. I feed the birds, and a small mouse who lives nearby. After all these years I don't know all the birds' names.

I cleaned the shed and found an iron vice. Was it my Dad's? Memories, they float back. A bird stand? Sun umbrella? A bag



to grow potatoes? Good, I have found them new homes. But my treasure has been ... a tablet. Yes, the internet. At first it's how to use it, I started learning about something I thought was a waste of time. It has been a life saver, I am so lucky.

Well, lockdown is bad, but we do know what we have to do, so do as we are told and hope the virus soon goes.

Jill Nicholas

SHELFORD GARDEN CLUB TO CLOSE

The Shelford Garden Club held a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 2 February to discuss the finances and future of the Club.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided that it was not safe or feasible to run the club for the 2021-2022 season due to the unpredictability of the virus situation in the coming year and the difficulty of booking speakers in the current uncertain times.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of starting up the Club again for the 2022-2023 season. Having looked carefully at the available sources of income, it became apparent that this would not be financially viable.

The committee therefore decided with much sadness and regret that they see no alternative but to close Shelford Garden Club at the end of March 2021.

May I say a big thank you to the present Committee and to all those members who have served on the Committee in the past. An extra special thank you must go to Helen Chubb who has been Secretary for over 20 years. Besides her secretarial duties, she organised all our visits and wrote all the reports of our talks for the *Village News*.

Rosie Cranmer



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LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW

Like many others, my primary school was a Victorian building, with deliberately high windows so that children couldn't look out and daydream. Yet time spent doing 'nothing' is not time wasted, and as we turn to look metaphorically and literally through different windows in these long days, we can come closer to God.

The west window, the dying of the light ... one where we tend to feel melancholy and sad. While it's not good to spend too much time dwelling on the past and what might have been, there is a time for lament. It's OK to not be OK.

'Cheer up! Don't worry – be happy!' people may say to us. Yet if we are grieving over loss, we should acknowledge it. Maybe a person you loved, a job that fulfilled you, your health, a longed-for holiday, a special birthday, a new baby?

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

If I turn to the south, I see my garden. Gardens that face south are favoured because they receive many hours of warm sunshine. Even in these dark, cold days there are people who warm our hearts by their love. They may be family members, people from church, other friends or neighbours. They may even be people we've never met before who say 'hello' as we pass on our daily walk, or people who make a doctor's appointment or a shop visit more pleasant with a cheerful word or smile. Who has brightened your days with a phone call, a letter, a good deed or a smile?

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Turn east next, to where the sun rises to herald each new day. We are living through a crisis, but that may not be all bad. It can be defined as a crucial stage or turning point in the course of something, when things can get worse – or better. For some, losing a job has given them the impetus to leave a field of work in which they had never been happy and follow a different path. Each day has twenty-four hours – what will you do with yours today? The snowdrops remind us of a new season of hope, a time of rebirth where everything looked dead.

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

Polaris – the North Star – is not the biggest or brightest star in the sky, and yet for centuries travellers have used it to set their course. I went out looking for it the other night and although I couldn't see it, I was sure it was there. Clouds had obscured it and sometimes, especially now, we have to 'hang out in the fog'. There are many unanswered questions in my life and even when I can't see the way ahead I am learning – often painfully slowly – to trust in God. There are many things in the Bible that I don't understand, but I understand enough to know that God loves me so, so much and that come what may, he wants the best for me.

Liz Jenkin, Elder

Based on an idea by Rev. Shaun Lambert in 'A Book of Sparks'

READERS' LETTERS

Two readers have contacted us this month with letters appreciating our local services.

This is a difficult period for most of us and being elderly and without transport I have been really grateful for the help and kindness of the Shelford Support Group – taking me to Addenbrooke's etc. We are lucky to live in Shelford!

The visit to Granta Sawston for the vaccination was most efficient – thank you for that.

Enid Turner

I want to write to tell of the wonderful care I have received from our Granta Medical staff and the wider NHS team. Despite self-isolating over Christmas, social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing, I was diagnosed with Covid-19 earlier this month. Within 24 hours of my diagnosis, I received help in the way of an online consultation from the out-of-hours service. Then, the next day, to my surprise, one of the local GPs phoned to check on me – he decided I needed a home visit and it happened within two hours. The care and thoroughness of the GPs was amazing. I had a follow-up visit to the surgery for more tests and all seemed OK, but I was then called by the out-of-hours team and admitted to Addenbrooke's as my blood tests were very worrying.

I spent a very anxious 72 hours undergoing a battery of tests carried out by amazingly caring professionals. On the day after my discharge, I received a call from the hospital just to check that everything was in order.

This is my story, but I am certain that it is by no means unique. Thank you, NHS.

John Anstead



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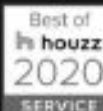
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NEW LOCAL BUSINESSES

D.L.M. AUTOS



Hello readers. I'm David McKinney and I'd like to introduce myself and D.L.M. Autos.

I've been told I'm a little crazy so I thought I'd prove the point by starting a new business during a pandemic lockdown just before Christmas! I've taken on the garage which many of you will know in

Orchard Road. I have lots of history at the garage, having worked there for the original business, N.F.Clark Motor Engineer and more recently for Shelford Autos Ltd. I'm offering MOT tests, servicing and repairs to a high standard. Friendly, efficient service, quality workmanship and value for money are D.L.M. Autos main qualities.

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DIARY MARCH

PLEASE NOTE

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



BIN COLLECTIONS

Black bins Tuesday 9 and 23 March

Blue bins Tuesday 2, 16 and 30 March

Green bins Tuesday 2, 16 and 30 March



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.

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

KINGS AND QUEENS OF OUR LITTLE KINGDOMS

Many of us may feel we have little sense of control over our own lives, what with politicians... big businesses... not to mention the Coronavirus restrictions – ***'but in the garden or allotment we are king or queen! It is our piece of outdoors that lays a real stake to the planet'*** (Monty Don).



If you care to embrace this metaphor, we can look at our own little garden kingdom and choose how to rule it: choose what we plant or build in it and what we take away from it. There are plenty of gardening rules to follow – it makes sense to use them, but don't forget to use your *humanity*. As king or queen you can choose to consider all the living things on your land as your beloved subjects, not just the plants. You could be a great ruler! Hospitable and nurturing, but also tough and decisive when you know what needs to be done for the greater good. You could allow your subjects a place to shelter and a place to forage, and during hard times you might even lay out food and water for them.

In the olden days, gardens were places of sanctuary from the wild scary beasts over the hedge. Now there are barely any wilds, instead mostly human development: houses, roads or agriculture. How we decide to rule our gardens does matter; our gardens make up a huge area of Britain, and together we could make such a difference to our dwindling British wildlife.

Simple steps to help wildlife without sacrificing your garden

- 1 Allow homes. Leave hidden areas untidy, or leave piles of wood, leaves or rubble undisturbed.
- 2 Allow natural processes. Leave the chemicals in the shed, or even better in the shop!
- 3 Allow native plants. Plant a tree and add flowers for pollinators.
- 4 Allow long grass. Decide on a nice shape with your mower – it can look great!
- 5 Allow access. Check if hedgehogs can get through your fence.
- 6 Allow water to pool. Create something that holds water with a gentle slope at one end.

Sarah Ashworth, Designs For Life
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READER'S LETTER

On reading Dr Cooper's letter regarding the relocation of the Co-op in the January *Village News*, I was annoyed at his reference that to relocate the Co-op would seriously damage the viability and vitality of Great Shelford as a shopping centre and cause a problem to the large number of elderly living there. I would like to point out that there is also a large number of elderly who do not live in the village centre and who have to walk anywhere up to 25 minutes to the Co-op's present location, me being one of them. Why should the shops only be restricted to the centre and not elsewhere? The Co-op is there to serve everyone and the new location would do just this.

Dr Cooper also goes on to say that he is concerned about the Co-op moving to an area in the course of being run down, which I found rather offensive to the residents who live there, and he mentioned the closure of Lloyds Bank. If the Co-op were to relocate, surely it would rejuvenate that area? There is also sufficient parking, 12 spaces in fact, behind the shop, and the access from Cambridge Road is sufficiently far enough away not to cause a hazard to traffic coming out of Granhams Road. If that was a problem, why was the Wine Bar allowed to open there? As far as the Post Office is concerned, thanks to Kash Stores we still have one, albeit on the 'wrong' side of the level crossing.

He goes on to say that he would have to make a 20 minute walk to get a pint of milk and loaf of bread. The medical profession has always encouraged people to exercise more to keep fit and healthy. As far as the hassle of crossing the road, there is a controlled crossing at the corner of High Street and High Green. Obviously, it is not a problem for those elderly who do not live in the village centre and have to make that 20-25 minute walk at the moment AND cross that terrible road.

I think the relocation should be seriously considered as an asset to all the people of Great Shelford and not just the few.

Name supplied

Dr Cooper replies:

The writer is no doubt looking at the problem for those people who live near High Green. Woollards Lane is clearly the centre of the villages of Great and Little Shelford taken together, as Little Shelford has no shops at all. The railway is an obstacle to access to both locations.

Users of the car parking provided at the new shop would find it hazardous. The entrance to the car park is screened by a high wall to the south and it is perilously close to the busy junction with Granhams Road.

UPDATE FROM GREAT SHELFORD MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME

During the last twelve months, the Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme (GSMWS) has experienced a number of changes. In October, Jackie Noble, who has been a warden with the scheme since 2007, resigned to spend time with her family. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Jackie, who has been a valuable and instrumental part of the GSMWS for the last 13 years. At the end of December 2020 we welcomed our new warden, Beverley Love, who has hit the ground running and is doing a great job working alongside our wonderful long-serving warden, Claire Smith.

Stella Nettleton, who has been a volunteer and acting secretary for the scheme, has also resigned. Stella has recently become a grandmother and is relocating to be closer to her granddaughter. We would like to thank Stella for all she has done for the GSMWS and wish her all the best for the future. Thankfully for us, Jackie Noble has not left us completely and has become a volunteer as well as continuing to help the scheme with administration and acting as secretary for the foreseeable future. We are extremely thankful to Jackie for her continued support. We are also very grateful to David Nunn, who has retired as treasurer after ten years and wish him all the best for the future as he and his wife, Anne relocate to be closer to their family. David has kept our finances in order and applied for grants and funding to keep the scheme running, as well as ensuring our wardens were paid. Thank you, David, for all you have done for GSMWS. We welcome Beth Foster who is kindly taking on the role as treasurer and is currently taking over the reins from David.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, we decided that it was no longer safe to continue with our house visits, so these have been replaced with longer daily telephone calls both by our wardens and our amazing group of volunteers. The wardens have also been doing welfare and emergency visits and some doorstep visits to maintain contact with members and monitor their wellbeing.

Despite all the changes and challenges the last year has presented, the GSMWS has survived. Our members have continued to receive daily phone calls, seven days a week. The number of shopping trips the wardens have done for people has increased, pensions have continued to be collected, prescriptions have continued to be ordered, delivered and managed and the scheme has focused on trying to help members engage in activities at home. We bought puzzle books and jigsaws (as well as receiving puzzles kindly donated by Galileo Multimedia Ltd) and continue to order hobby supplies for members online.

On the next page is a summary of the figures we have collected during the pandemic so far:

Tasks	Wardens	Volunteers
<i>Morning phone calls</i>	3345	
<i>Social contact-longer phone calls/ Doorstep-Garden visits</i>	269	1091
<i>Welfare visits</i>	299	47
<i>Shopping visits</i>	593	21
<i>Call out GP/DN</i>	35	
<i>Manage/deliver medication</i>	262	15
<i>Liaison with relatives/ Other services</i>	334	10
<i>Food/drink preparation for safety</i>	32	
<i>Collect pensions</i>	55	
<i>Assist with activities at home</i>	90	
<i>Tasks in members' homes</i>	156	

We are extremely grateful to Great Shelford Parish Council for their recent special support grant payment of £2,500 and also to the Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Great Shelford for their kind donation of £430.17 (which was 50% of the donations received from the drive-in carol service at Shelford Rugby Club on 16 December). These generous contributions are vital to keeping the GSMWS alive in our village. Thank you!

As I write, most of our members have received their first Covid-19 vaccine. Many attended Sawton Medical Centre and those who are housebound were vaccinated at home. Thank you to the staff of Granta Medical practice in Shelford and Sawston for helping with this wonderful process.

If you have an elderly relative or neighbour in Great Shelford who you feel would benefit from joining the Warden Scheme, please contact me or Claire Smith for further information. Our contact details can be found on the Local Organisations page.

Jenny David

Chair, Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme 07764 615524

Note: The *Great Shelford Village News* has now contributed an additional £2,000 to the Mobile Warden Scheme.

PLAYSCAPE UPDATE

We know that the current playground is really on its last legs, but we are cautiously optimistic that this will be the last winter of muddy entrances, non-existent climbing nets and worn out surfacing! The team has been working hard behind the scenes on planning conditions and finalising grant submissions, so I thought I'd share an extract, a vision of what to look forward to:

Current users of the playground mainly consist of families with young children (under 8) and occasionally a group of teenagers using the swings in the evenings.

Our goal is to literally and metaphorically open this space up to all. It is designed to be inviting and usable for all ages and abilities. We expect to see parents and carers playing and climbing with little ones, not just standing to the side. The really young ones will delight in pottering about and climbing up and down the mounds, the 8-12 year olds will be drawn into complex games amongst the climbing structure, young teenagers will feel free to access all the Playscape at their leisure (not least reliving the joys of hammocks and roundabouts!).

We expect to see many more children with additional needs, especially wheelchair users, making the trip to the Playscape to enjoy the sandpit, trampoline, roundabout and hammocks (if they can manage a standing transfer) as there is currently nowhere else locally that has such an accessible offering.

The Playscape will serve as an anchor for our village. Every small business is going to need help in the postCovid-19 recovery and keeping the village businesses and services, such as the library and family owned restaurants, thriving is important for everyone. The Playscape will be a draw for visitors to the village and thus increase footfall for businesses.

The planting areas and new trees in the Playscape will increase biodiversity and shade as well as help draw down carbon, and the future new pedestrian entrance (with more bike stands) will encourage more active travel to the rec.

In short, the community will benefit hugely from access to a free, green, high quality outdoor play area, for their mental, physical and emotional wellbeing, whether they choose to use a swing or just a bench to enjoy the new planting.

We should hear from the grant funding bodies early this month. If successful, it'll be all systems go!

Eleanor McCrone info@shelfordplayscape.org

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EAST-WEST RAIL

This is an abridged version of a letter from Anthony Browne MP to residents sent on 5 February 2021

Route alignment options

Many residents are concerned about the proposed route corridor selected by East West Rail (EWR). Corridor E would see a new station at Cambourne and then the line would approach Cambridge via the new Cambridge South station.

There is, however, a growing call for full consideration of an alternative route which would align with the A428 after Cambourne and then head north of the city, approaching Cambridge via Cambridge North station.

It has been suggested that this route would be less environmentally damaging and would support development to the north of Cambridge. My aim is to ensure that both the northern and southern options are properly consulted on.

Freight

There is understandable concern about EWR being used for freight movements and the consequent impact of noise and vibration on nearby homes. EWR has been created to build a passenger service and it does not fall within its remit to decide how much, if any, freight would be transported on the line. What they have been instructed to do is build a line that is capable of transporting freight.

I will continue to push for clarity on freight and to ensure that it is a crucial consideration in any decisions about route alignment.

Electrification

EWR has confirmed that the initial usage of diesel engines has been considered. My view is that to deliver on commitments to be carbon neutral, EWR should be electrified from the outset unless there is a clear plan to adopt an alternative green technology. EWR's Chief Executive, Simon Blanchflower has confirmed that they are looking at new technologies to enable this. I am also highlighting the importance of this matter with the Rail Minister.

Consultation

Concerns have been raised with me about a lack of prior consultation with communities affected by EWR's preferred route E corridor. EWR's process to date is set out on their website. There will be two further public consultations; a second 'non-statutory' consultation to help to choose a route alignment and a statutory public consultation on the selected route alignment. For my part, I will continue do whatever I can to ensure that the consultation process is as full and transparent as possible as decisions on this important project are made in the coming months.

THE SHELFORDS EAST WEST RAIL (EWR) ACTION GROUP

EAST WEST RAIL, DIESEL TRAINS AND OPTION E

A lot has happened since the Great Shelford Action Group was formed in December and did a door drop to alert residents to what is about to happen to our village if we don't take action. Little Shelford residents have since joined us and we are now The Shelfords EWR Action Group.

Our objective is to persuade East West Rail to conduct a full consultation on both a southern and northern approach to Cambridge. We want the best solution not just for our village but for Cambridgeshire and Greater Cambridge. We have been working hard and have several positive developments to report.

First, what is it all about?

East West Rail (EWR) confirmed Option E (southern approach to Cambridge) at the beginning of 2020 as part of their consultation phase.

All EWR documentation indicates that the corridor from Cambourne to Cambridge will connect to the West Anglia Main Line either at Shepreth junction or to the south of Great Shelford. Either route will have a devastating impact on our village. Why? The reasons are many and, in this update, we focus on diesel trains and freight.



Diesel and freight

This diesel ready track will not only be a commuter line but have significant freight capabilities. EWR have not consulted on this, but it is clear from Network Rail and other publications that the new railway line is likely to be used to take freight from Felixstowe and other East Coast ports to the Midlands to alleviate capacity issues on other routes. Diesel freight trains can be slow-moving, half mile long carriage systems and are likely to run at night. This has

adverse noise implications for the village. In addition, diesel causes air pollution; the line should be electrified from the outset but this is not currently planned.

What is the alternative?

CamBed RailRoad (CBRR) created an alternative route option known as the northern approach as it connects via north Cambridge stations - full details can be found on their website www.cambedrailroad.org.

Why a northern approach?

A northern approach aligns to an already existing travel corridor. It links from north Cambourne serving the large existing population and future expansion plans, to the north of Cambridge, connecting the new and growing Northstowe and Cambridge North. Passengers arriving at Cambridge North station could travel on to other destinations in Cambridge (including the biomedical campus and Addenbrooke's) using the rail line through Cambridge and other existing and proposed local transport infrastructure.

What has the Action Group achieved so far?

We have

- Worked with Great Shelford Parish Council (GSPC) and now have aligned objectives and the GSPC is proactively supporting consultation on a northern approach.
- Joined forces with other villages and supported the Cambridge Approaches (CA) www.cambridgeapproaches.org, and CBRR campaigns.
- Successfully lobbied GSPC to pledge £ 24,000 to support the CA Judicial Review Fund.
- Erected signs around the village in support of the CA and CBRR campaign.
- Undertaken a letter writing campaign to all key stakeholders, including politicians, EWR and other bodies.
- Helped persuade Anthony Browne, MP to state publicly in a letter to residents dated 5 February 2021, that he finds the arguments in favour of the northern approach persuasive and that the public should have a say on this option. (See summary of this letter on page 34).
- Agreed to attend a meeting in February organised by the GSPC with EWR to question them on the rationale for deselecting a northern approach.

The Wild Life Trust objects to a southern approach

The Wild Life Trust has stated their objection to a southern approach. Read more here: <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/news/east-west-rail-need-change-track>.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

EW R have not yet agreed to a full consultation on a northern approach so we must continue lobbying for this. Your support will help make the difference. You can subscribe to our updates at cambridgeapproaches.org.

Sign the petition

The CBRR petition calls for proper consideration of the Northern Route into Cambridge. Search 'CamBedRailRoad' on www.change.org. The petition has gained momentum with more than 6,700 signatures but we need more. Our next target is 7,500. If you haven't signed already, please do.

Complete the South Cambridgeshire development survey

Anthony Brown, South Cambridgeshire MP is asking for your views. Let him know you want consultation on a northern approach by completing the online survey at <https://www.anthonybrowne.org/form/planning-survey>.

Write to your councillors and MPs mentioning these key points

- The consultation did not include a northern approach into Cambridge so this wasn't offered as an option to support.
- Route E does not connect the existing and growing settlements from St Neots, Cambourne & Northstowe.
- The environmental effects of a diesel train coming through our villages will include diesel pollution concerns and noise.
- Route E will destroy the wildlife habitat including the protected Barbastelle bats.
- We request a pause before the next consultation so a Northern Approach can be properly considered including new proposed infrastructure.

People you can write to

Councillor Peter Fane, SCDC, cllr.fane@scambs.gov.uk

Councillor Nick Sample, SCDC, cllr.sample@scambs.gov.uk

Councillor Kevin Cuffley, SCDC, kevin.cuffley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Councillor Roger Hickford, SCDC, roger.hickford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Anthony Browne MP: anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

Mayor James Palmer: james.palmer@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport: shappsg@parliament.uk

EW R: contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

Join The Shelfords EWR Action Group

To join, please email the Shelfords EWR Action Group at gt-shelford-ewr-action@googlegroups.com.

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CAMBRIDGE FLOWER CLUB

At the moment we cannot foresee when Cambridge Flower Club (which meets at Whittlesford Memorial Hall) will be able to start meeting again. However, the club has remained in touch with its members by means of a monthly newsletter. This has included lovely photos of members' gardens though the seasons, their house plants, which have benefited from more TLC, and flower arrangements they have done.



The Glory of the Garden
Winning entry and photo: Joy McCombie

They have also been taking part in 'virtual' flower competitions. Three flower arranging competitions have been set by the President, Yvonne Lamb. The first one was to create a flower arrangement using the poem 'The Glory of the Garden' by Rudyard Kipling as a starting point, using flowers and foliage from the garden only (see photo of the winning design). The second was an arrangement without using floral foam (oasis) or a tapestry (pavé) design, and the third was a Christmas table centre. The winning design was used to create a Christmas card which was sent to all the members of the Club as well as to the NAFAS Group and Area Chairmen.

We look forward to the time when we can all meet again

*Freda Orgee
Chairman & Secretary
Cambridge Flower Club*

CORONAVIRUS DIARY JANUARY 2021

1 January I thought New Year's Eve was a horrible day – bitterly cold, grey and dismal – but today's even worse! A couple of degrees warmer, but raining. It's dank and dismal and everything's dripping – including me – and it's depressingly grey. However, I decided to turn the day to good use, and so I got out my box of seeds and sorted through them – chucked out the ones now too old to germinate, and ordered – from my seed catalogues – my vegetable seeds for the coming season. It's a hopeful task, and in anticipation everything looks bright – this year I'll try even harder than last (honestly!), and there won't be weeks of drought, and everything will come up green and lovely. What a lovely way to spend the day! Welcome to 2021.

3 January The week between Christmas and New Year always feels like a long run of Sundays, and at the moment Sundays of the stricter Sunday-observance sort. My sister in law, who grew up in St Ives in Cornwall, told me that, as children, they weren't allowed to play out on Sundays. It's not so different now, under Tier 4. Our sole choice for socialising is to go out for a walk. But at least you encounter lots of people when you do, and we pause to chat, and talk about our rather quiet Christmases. It's impossible to remember what day it is. In the absence of any structure, it could be Monday, or Friday, or any day. The pages of my diary are empty. What is there to plan?

4 January I've just taken down the Christmas decorations, and it looks so bare! That sums January up really – in any year. With Christmas over, all we have to look forward to is some rough weather. And we look back at all the stuff we ate and drank over Christmas, and think 'It's payback time' – healthier food and less (or no) drink.

5 January Well, we knew it would happen. The prime minister has just announced another lockdown. No school, no college, no going to work, no pubs or restaurants. No seeing friends or family. We need to combat the rising tide of infection from the 'new strain' which is highly infectious, transmissible even outdoors. This latter is a bit of a shock. Up until now we've relied on the outdoors being pretty safe, but not anymore. Still, the PM held out some hope – 'if things go well', we'll have vaccinated everyone over the age of 70, everyone with serious health conditions, care home residents and workers, and front-line NHS staff by the middle of February. Let's hope it goes well.

6 January Our postman, Richard tells me people have been generous this year with Christmas gratuities. I'm glad. Our postmen have played a vital part in lockdown life, and, even in ordinary times, they are part of the social support network. Your regular postman gets to know you, knows when you're on holiday, keeps a weather eye on you. It's nice that they've received a bit of appreciation for it. We older folk, and even some of the young 'uns, still

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struggle to get our heads around the idea that it's a private business and not a public service. Same with the railways. Once a nationalised industry, they never quite fit into the private business mould, either in our heads or in their operation.

My brother, who in May could walk eight miles, can barely walk around his village now. Something has happened to his legs. But his specialist has been seconded to working on coronavirus, so investigation is on hold. Another friend is desperately waiting for a hip operation. So many people up and down the country, whose treatment has to wait on the end of this crisis.

Today was quite warm and sunny and I've decided to restore my chicken shed, which needs a new roof and floor. So I spent my morning sawing plywood. My hens died of old age a couple of years ago and I didn't replace them. But I've really missed them this year. I want to get some new ones this summer. I need to think about their housing though. It's not just us humans suffering a pandemic. Bird flu has erupted again this winter and there's been a run of cases in the UK. There's an ongoing poultry lockdown – birds have to be locked up and isolated from wild birds which bring in the infection. This new requirement needs to be factored into my chicken run.

The coronavirus news today is terrifying: over 1,000 deaths and 62,000 new cases. My instinct is to go even further to ground, life reduced to the absolute minimum of contact.

7 January Donald Trump's supporters have stormed Congress. I feel a deep sense of unease. We in the West think that having achieved democracy we've reached maturity and wisdom, that we're safe. But four years of Donald Trump seems to have destabilised the supposedly safe American democracy. What will happen next?

11 January I'm washing up in the kitchen. I happen to look up and am astonished to see a muntjac deer on the lawn with an apple in its mouth. My reaction is outrage. Hey, I put that out for the blackbirds! The blackbirds obviously feel the same. No sooner has the deer gone than a blackbird lands on the lawn. Its rage is palpable – you can almost hear it saying, 'Oy, that was my apple!'. Since then, the lawn has barely been without a blackbird. I'm not sure if they're a pair, but there's definitely one of each – a hen and a cock.

12 January We've just walked on Rectory Farm. Tomorrow I'll walk up Granhams Way. But as I walk, I can't help feeling what a degraded landscape this is, the product of 21st century agribusiness. The trees are in poor condition, the hedges massacred, few flowers or birds. With a bit more interest in biodiversity – and a lot less spraying – it could be so different. But there's another issue – it's losing its value as agricultural land. Just now everyone wants a piece of Great Shelford. More and more houses are being squeezed into

the village. After a recent call for building land, the colleges have proposed Rectory Farm, and the land around Granhams¹. Already a company is mooting its retirement village off Haverhill Road. The biomedical campus has a toe in the parish by Nine Wells. The County Council wants to run a busway straight across the arable; and now there's a plan to run the East–West Rail link across our village. In my more pessimistic moods, I feel this village is lost, and I'm not sure I want to be here anymore. There's more to life than economic growth, the mantra of 'more, more, more'. We moved here because we wanted to live in a village, not a vast urban sprawl.

14 January It rained for 24 hours. God, it's depressing. The river is very high, almost ready to overflow. Vaccination is proceeding apace. Half the people I talk to say they've had it or are getting it. I feel envious.

16 January It's a particularly horrible day today. Cold and raining hard. I looked out to see a squirrel on the nut feeder, went out and chased it off. Five minutes later it was back, so this time I went out and waved my arms at it, shouted and chased it down the garden. I think it got the message this time. I have been reading about how much damage they do to trees, by stripping off the bark. So I'm not keen to boost their numbers.

It was supposed to snow, but it just rained heavily. At 10.30 the streets were deserted. The weather is the government's best friend in the struggle to police lockdown. No-one wants to go out into this weather. All our pavements are flooded. The Council's contractors obviously don't understand drainage – every pavement is a sump instead of a camber. The recreation ground has turned into a swamp, the riverside path is a sea of mud, with vast impassable puddles. The river is a turbid shade of olive green, and the water races by. Most times you'd be hard pushed to tell which way our river flows, but it's quite obvious today. There's a flood warning for Kings Mill Lane. And then, by 11.15, the rain had stopped and a few people emerged. One person in the deli, two in the Co-op, a queue of five outside the butchers. You'd hardly believe it was a Saturday. Woollards Lane used to be busy and full of life.

21 January Tonight the storm has blown itself out. At 4.50, though the sky is a lid of grey, that lid has lifted in the west. First a band of baby blue, then a blaze of deepest red, and at the horizon a band of glowing orange, the colour of ripe apricots. At the top of a tree a song thrush is singing.

22 January The thrush is there again. It's very cold, but up in the top of the tree, he's in the sun, singing his heart out. About four years ago, we had a different song thrush. He was such an accomplished singer: the notes flowed

¹ See <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/site-submissions/>

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like liquid gold. Then he disappeared. This is our new thrush, delighted to find a vacant territory. His singing is not so masterful, but perhaps he'll get better.

I'm frustrated by being so restricted in where I can walk. Rectory Farm is a sea of mud. I wish we could go further afield, but we can't.

23 January. The days are getting longer, there are early signs of spring – the birds are more active, preparations for nesting are afoot. I even saw a bumble bee. All this free time – I might as well make use of it. I went to Scotsdales, ordered my compost and manure, and got my seed potatoes. They are laid out, chitting, in their trays. The seeds I ordered are arriving. Shame the ground is so wet. Not really suitable for digging.

The river was very high last week. Would it flood? Mercifully, this time it didn't. And now there's a respite. From that at least. But the campaign against East–West Rail is cranking up. Signs have gone up all over the village.

I'm suffering from fungus-induced madness. No, I haven't been eating magic mushrooms! The madness is from trying to identify the fungi I've seen when I'm out on walks. No matter how I pore over the books, it's hard to identify them. Does it matter, I wonder, if you don't know what they are? No, it doesn't – you can still admire their beauty. It's just that, if you CAN identify them, you can tap into the accumulated knowledge about them. And trying to identify them makes you look more closely. You notice things you didn't see first time around. So I keep poring over the identification charts. I'll get there one day.

26 January A grim milestone, 100,000 deaths attributed to coronavirus in the UK. But's not clear what the figures mean. How many cases have we really had? How many of those people would have died anyway? It's a complex one. Figures, once published, become truth, whether they're true or not.

28 January It's a mild day, all the ice and snow have melted. One little bird after another luxuriously has its little bath in the now melted water. Suddenly, too, we're knee-deep in blackbirds, all trying to establish our garden as their territory.

30 January That squirrel's back. I've chased it three times in a quarter of an hour. The robin is standing in the ash tree and cheering me on. It's a war of attrition. Who will run out of energy first? I suspect it'll be me. Big changes have occurred this month. On 1 January we left the EU, not with a bang, but a whimper. On 22 January Joe Biden became president of America and Trump quietly slipped out of the White House and no-one cared.

And now it's the end of January. We're all fed up. January has been a cocktail of cold, wet and dismal weather. And we're all cooped up by lockdown. We long for it to be over. When will that be?

Helen Harwood

OLD NEWS

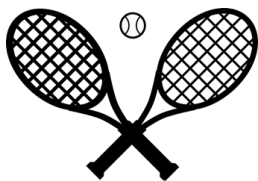
Extracts from The Great Shelford Chronicle 1774–1868

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

27 March 1812

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is now making to Parliament, that provision may be made in a bill now depending, for inclosing lands in the parish of Stapleford, for dividing and allotting certain pieces or parcels of open land or ground lying and being in the parish of Great Shelford and intermixed and intercommonable with the lands and grounds in the said parish of Stapleford (ie land either side of Mingle Lane). Christopher Pemberton.

TENNIS CLUB



Members should be advised that the AGM is planned for 7pm on Wednesday 24 March. The meeting will be held virtually. Information on how to request joining details for the meeting, as well as all relevant materials, will be communicated via the usual channels in due course.

Here are the answers to last month's quick quiz:

Used to start off a point, most often overarm	Serve
After the ball has bounced, hitting with the palm of your dominant hand facing your opponent	Forehand
Full groundstroke swing, but hitting the ball before it has bounced	Drive volley
At the net, hitting the ball before it has bounced	Volley
Hitting the ball up, aiming to get it over your opponent's head.	Lob
After the ball has bounced, hitting with the back of your dominant hand facing your opponent.	Backhand
Hitting the ball from above your head before it has bounced, driving it away to win the point.	Smash

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WHO IS THE MOST HEROIC?

Interviewer: Today we are meeting with the headteacher, the postman and a charity helper in the village. The question today is: who is the most heroic?

The postman: I think that the headteacher is the most heroic because especially during lockdown they have had to arrange everything at short notice.

The charity helper: Yes, the headteachers do have to work hard to do everything within a short amount of time, and come to think of it the teachers do too.

The headteacher: I do have to work at short notice, but I think that the charity helpers are the most heroic because they are raising money for the NHS and in the village they are raising money for the Arthur Rank Hospice and they don't even get paid for it!

The postman: I agree, they work so hard and give up their time to help and they don't even get paid for it!

The charity helper: I may work for free and give up my time, but I think the postman is more heroic because they have to work the whole day almost every day whether it's snowing, raining, cold or hot, they still have to deliver the post.

The headteacher: That is so true, no matter what the weather is or how they feel they have to deliver the post to everybody.

Interviewer: So which one of you is the most heroic?

The postman: Well I think the headteacher is the most heroic.

The charity helper: But I think the postman is the most heroic.

The headteacher: The charity helpers are the most heroic.

Interviewer: I think you all work as hard as each other to do your jobs.

The postman: Well now that I think about it, we are all as heroic as each other!

The charity helper: So is it agreed, we are all the most heroic!

The headteacher: I think it sure is!

Ellie Moss (age 11)

APRIL ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

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

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READER'S STORY

I think we should try and look on the bright side of life where we can. Especially now. Lockdown inspired me to write some children's stories. I sent them to *Blue Peter* and they sent me a lovely encouraging letter and a badge back. I am 57 now but was deeply chuffed that they were so kind. It brought back good memories of watching the programme from my childhood. In those days it was John Noakes, Peter Purves and Lesley Judd presenting. Why can't we all be kind like this? That is what I often ask myself.

My story is below:

Willy Whiskers has a trim

Willy Whiskers liked his long hair. He kept a comb in his pocket and combed it regularly. He also liked his long, bushy beard. His moustache curled neatly under his nose.

He was a well-dressed man. He liked to wear a red-spotted bow tie with his check suit.

Walking down the street people would look at him and smile.

'Morning Willy!' said the postman.

Willy waved at him.

'Morning!' he said.

'Morning Willy!' said the policewoman.

Willy waved at her.

'Morning!' he said.

He stopped and got his comb from his pocket. He combed his hair in front of a shop window.

In the front of the window there was a poster. It said: 'HELP THE HOSPITAL.'

Willy read it. The hospital needed some equipment.

The shop keeper saw Willy, and opened his shop door.

'Sad news, Willy,' he said, 'the local hospital needs a ventilator to help sick patients recover.'

Willy thought. He looked at his hair reflected in the glass.

'I'm going to cut my hair to help the hospital buy its machine,' he said.

'A charity haircut!' said the shopkeeper, 'What a good idea!'

Willy needed to get his plan of a haircut known, so he went to the local newspaper. He told them that he was having his hair cut to help the hospital, and needed people to kindly donate some money.

He went to the local radio station and told them that too.

He set up a JustGiving page on the internet.

And he gave out leaflets to passers-by on the street about what he was going to do.

On the day of his haircut, Willy sighed. He combed his long hair as usual. And he curled his moustache.

‘What have I done?’ he thought.

In the hairdressers a crowd of people had gathered to see him. They all knew how fond he was of his hair. Willy sat in the barber’s chair whilst the barber got out his clippers.

‘Here goes ...’

SZZZZZZZ!!!

SZZZZZZZ!!!

SZZZZZZZ!!!

Willy Whiskers’ head was shaved. Then his beard and moustache were shaved.

The crowd gasped. Then clapped.

Willy looked bare, but stood up and bowed, his head shining like a melon.

The barber passed a bucket around to ask for money. Willy Whiskers said: ‘Just call me Willy. My whiskers have gone!’

He was bald.

The next day Willy went to the local hospital with a cheque. He had raised enough money to buy a ventilator.

The doctors cheered.

The nurses cheered.

Everyone cheered.

‘Well done Willy!’

Willy bowed again and handed over the cheque feeling so proud of himself.

‘My whiskers will soon grow again. But this machine will save lives. I only did a little thing, having a little trim.’

‘More of a close shave,’ a doctor laughed.

And Willy smiled.

‘I’ll soon be Willy Whiskers again,’ he thought.

Pleased that he had helped, he walked all the way home, and as he did so, he felt in his pocket - ‘Ah,’ he said, ‘my trusty old comb!’

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:

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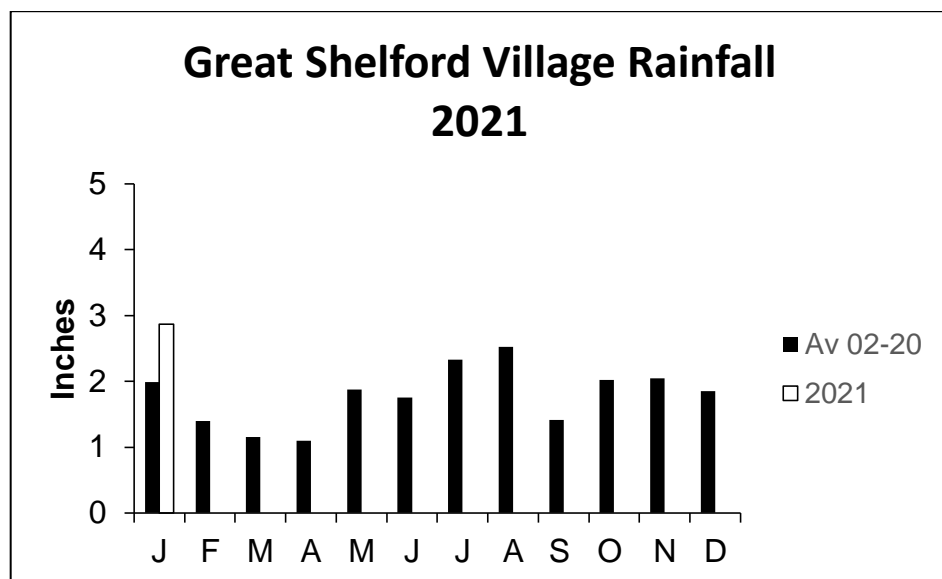
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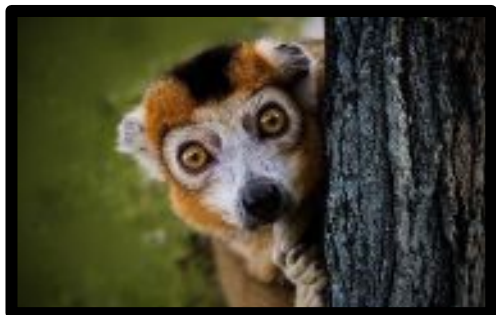
Lorraine Coulson, Duncan Grey, Bridget Hodge, Marjorie Smith, Judith Wilson.



From data supplied by Angus Campbell

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Bowling Club	Alan Edwards	alanedwards505@gmail.com	666965
Brownies, Guides, Rainbows	Lisa MacGregor	shelforddistrict@gmail.com	843021
Bunch – Feast	Duncan Grey	dsg@post.com	842191
Carpet Bowls	Philip Seekings	phil.seekings@yahoo.co.uk	843416
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cambridge		0344 848 7979
Community Association Memorial Hall bookings:	Sheila Tilbury-Davis	tilburydavis.sheila@gmail.com	844384
Country Market	Dorothy Doel	dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com	843946
Cricket Club	Brian Higgins	brian_higgins50@hotmail.com	07557 502840
Football Club	Terry Rider	footybeast63@sky.com	01354 680661
Free Church	Maxine Du Plessis	administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk	842181
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Granta Medical Practices		capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net	0300 234 5555
Great Shelford Friendship Club	Cheryl Mynott	cherylmynott@gmail.com	845435
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	Jenny David (Chair)	jennykmf@yahoo.co.uk	845367
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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
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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		504542
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	Rosie Cranmer	513572	Marjorie Smith 564922
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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



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

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