

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

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APRIL 2021

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Parochial Charities Almshouse Available



Brownie crafts on Zoom – see page 22

Will George 1978–2021

Shelford Feast 2021

Readers Thank Local Shop and Service Providers

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL					
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CHAIRS OF SUB-COMMITTEES					
Planning	Barbara Kettel	843920	Cemetery & Allotments	Gregory Price	07986 217852
Highways	Barrie Ashurst	07803 001985	Pavilion & Recreation	Malcolm Watson	844901
MEMBERS					
Paula Arnold	07831 351911	Peter Fane	07802 256861	Ifthinan Shareef	07900 621911
Pete Basset	07540 368562	Angela Niblett	560225	John Stanton	07789 830407
Lyn Disley	845955	Charles Nightingale	844763	Simon Talbott	847068
CLERK	Mike Winter	07870 807442 / 504494 clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk			
To email Parish Councillors, use: firstname.surname@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk					
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS		Peter Fane	07802 256861	Nick Sample	07706 990833
COUNTY COUNCILLORS		Kevin Cuffley	832079		

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 17 FEBRUARY 2021

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

PUBLIC SESSION

A resident requested clarification on private road street lighting. Councillor Barrie Ashurst confirmed that South Cambs District Council (SCDC) would be contacting private road residents to establish their willingness to fund the cost of the power supply. Failure to agree may result in lighting being removed.

A resident asked about Call for Sites linkage to the East-West Railway. (A Call for Sites involves giving landowners the opportunity to come forward with sites they are interested in developing.) The Chair confirmed all the sites within Great Shelford are to be opposed on the basis of the Green Belt.

In response to a concern raised about the Call for Sites for Cambridge South, the Chair confirmed that the deadline for the Parish Council's initial response was 1 March and no further action was necessary until the second consultation on potential sites was issued.

A resident expressed concern about a letter from the Mayor regarding development around Cambridge South. The Transport Infrastructure Working Group is trying to react proactively to all the potential developments. The letter will be reviewed when a copy has been located by the resident or the District Councillor.

FINANCE

Sixteen cheques to the value of £13,881.40p for the period up to 17 February were presented. Following one amendment the total value was reduced to £13,481.40p.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

District Councillors

Councillor Peter Fane was in attendance. A report was circulated and is on the website. This included discussion of new housing policies, the protection of chalk streams in South Cambridgeshire, the special demands being made as a result of the recent heavy rainfall and the various authorities responsible for dealing with flood water, and an overview of grant schemes.

County Councillors

None in attendance. A report was circulated and is on the website.

The Chair and Clerk will prepare a letter to the CEO and leader of the County Council regarding the absence of County Councillors at Parish Council meetings over the past two years.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Highways Committee

A report was circulated and is on the website. This includes references to provision of additional off-road parking in Davey Crescent, possible solutions to the use of the route from High Street, Little Shelford to Church Street, Great Shelford, as a rat run, and the damaging of verges by delivery vehicles, in particular in Cambridge Road. At the meeting, the provision of pavement seating outside the Mini Garage and the replacement of the railway direction sign were also discussed.

Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February were circulated and are on the website. There was a request for more trees to be given Tree Protection status.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee

All facilities except for the playground are currently closed. Work on the riverbank has been delayed due to the need for approval from the Environment Agency but it is hoped a decision will be received by 21 April. The proposal for decking for the duck feeding area has been deleted from the plan due to safety concerns.

REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS

Playscape Grant applications have been submitted and tender documents reviewed. Planning permission granted for the full master plan will run out in June 2021. It was unanimously agreed to consider the playground as permitted development on condition that the Parish Council receives a statement from the District Council to this effect.

SSYI Club Room The lease is complete. Work on the roof should commence shortly. Proposals for work on the insulation of inside walls are underway but the Parish Council may need to provide additional financial support for this.

Schools Sawston Village College has been chosen as one of 50 schools nationwide to be part of a Government scheme for rebuilding/modernisation. Staff should be congratulated on their efforts to ensure that the pupils engage with education during the lockdown period.

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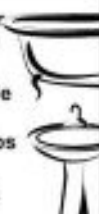
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OTHER BUSINESS

East West Rail (EWR) Members of the Parish Council and Action Group were to have a meeting with EWR on 18 February. It had been requested that this should be recorded for public access.

Guided Bus The I-Transport summary report Stage 1 stating that the alignment can be achieved in opposition to the GCP preferred routes is to be sent from the joint Parish Councils to the GCP Assembly, the Mayor, the Joint Assembly and the Chair of the Local Liaison Forum.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) The Clerk is to identify a possible later date for the APM. A Zoom meeting may be necessary in the meantime.

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

SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING CONCERNING THE EWR (EAST-WEST RAILWAY) ON 27 JANUARY 2021

PUBLIC SESSION

Approximately 50 members of the public attended, although his number varied during the meeting. A statement from the EWR Action group was read out thanking the Parish Council for arranging the meeting. The statement requested that the Parish Council pledge funds to take the EWR to court for a judicial review on their decision not to consult for a northern route into Cambridge. The statement also outlined the benefits of the northern route and the negative impact of the proposed route E corridors on Great Shelford.

Twelve residents spoke to support the pledge. One resident suggested that a decision on funding should not be made before the Parish Council Transport Working Group had reported back on all options related to transport issues, but the Chair of the group said that a meaningful report on all projects could not be produced in a matter of weeks. Other residents emphasised the need for speed, saying that a decision needed to be made now.

A representative of Cambridge Approaches said that solicitors have been engaged and an arrangement of risk sharing on fees has been suggested. The solicitors will not attempt a judicial review that they feel is hopeless. Political campaigns combined with the threat of a fully funded judicial review present a positive statement to EWR.

REQUEST FOR PLEDGE IN SUPPORT OF A JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Chair provided information on pledges to date from other local Parish Councils. Haslingfield (population 1507) have donated £1000 for initial legal advice and pledged £13,000 for future stages of the judicial review, should they proceed. Great and Little Eversden (population 8414) have pledged £9,000, spread over two financial years. Harlton (population 308) have contributed £2,035 spread over 2 years, which is in proportion to their population. Other Parish Councils have been contacted for support by Cambridge Approaches.

Nine Councillors spoke in support of the pledge. The Parish Clerk stated that the pledge is in the long term interest of the village and is thus a topic that the Parish Council can legally support if they vote to do so.

A proposal to support the pledge of £25,000 (including the £1,000 previously agreed) subject to future assurance as to amenability to review and to likelihood of success with openness of expenditure by Cambridge Approaches, was carried by a unanimous vote.

The Clerk clarified that this would have no impact on 2021/2022 budget plans and that Parish Council reserves would be allocated to cover the pledge.

REQUEST FOR USE OF MEMORIAL HALL BY NHS COVID-19 COORDINATION HUB

The SSYI roof is being replaced and work planned to commence imminently. During this time, the only entry to the Memorial Hall will be via the emergency exits. It was agreed that the Memorial Hall should be made available to the NHS Covid-19 Coordination Hub, subject to these constraints.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN APRIL

Planning Committee Meeting	7 April 5.15 pm
Planning Committee Meeting	21 April 5.15 pm
Parish Council Meeting	14 April 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 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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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

20/05355/FUL	Mr & Mrs Fynn 16 Granhams Road	Erection of a detached three bedroom dwelling with parking, access and driveway.
There are no objections from us with regards to the dwelling but we are concerned about the mature trees on the site and ask that the tree officer visit and discuss options. In addition, the road is narrow and traffic flow is impeded by the railway crossing; neighbours must be able to access their properties and there should be a condition that all contractors' vehicles park within the development boundaries .		

20/05401/CL2PD	Mr & Ms E & G Prime & Butler 251 Hinton Way	Lawful development certificate for a proposed single storey side and rear extensions.
The rear extension is far bigger than allowed under planning conditions and therefore we object to this proposal on the grounds that it is too large for the site. This extension mirrors the neighbour's but is twice as deep.		

21/00106/HFUL	Mr J Smith 29 Coppice Avenue	Single storey garage attached to existing annexe at front of building, re-roofing, windows and cladding of annexe and new sliding front gates.
In principle, we have no objections but we want to preserve the trees and are pleased to see that the arboreal specialists have put forward requirements to ensure their protection.		

21/00362/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Arter 13 Woodlands Road.	Refurbishment and part extension to coach house to form annexe.
This proposal is to build a detached two bedroom house and therefore we believe exceeds permitted development rights. We object to the annexe proposal as we believe this is a separate dwelling without permission and not an annexe.		

APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY SCDC

Shelford Day Nursery, 3 High Green. Change of use of former bank and car park to children's day nursery, external changes and provision of four off-site cycle racks.

Editorial Note *This notice was posted on the CCC website, 26 February 2021*

SHELFORD COUNTY COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

‘On Tuesday February 23rd I received a long and complex report which was the culmination of the Manor Farm Audit. The subject of the report largely concerns the Deputy Leader Cllr Roger Hickford’s occupancy of Manor Farm, Girton as a tenant of Cambridgeshire County Council’s Farms Estate.

The contents of the report are confidential at present, for legal reasons in order for the Audit and Accounts committee to fully consider and discuss the matter. But having read the report I had two meetings with Cllr Hickford to consider implications for the Council, outside of the remit of the committee.

Subsequent to those meetings Cllr Hickford has asked me to accept his resignation as my Deputy Leader and as a member of the Council with immediate effect.

I have accepted his resignation and confirmed this to Chief Executive Gillian Beasley.

I have also thanked Cllr Hickford for his years of service in his role as a Councillor and the support he has given me over the years as my Deputy Leader.’

Cllr Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council

READER’S LETTER

I must respond to Dr Cooper’s last reply regarding the relocation of the Co-op. He is no doubt, NOT looking at the problem for those people who live near High Green or further away. Great Shelford does not just consist of ‘the centre’. Woollards Lane has Tesco and the Delicatessen, and High Street has the butcher’s shop, so those drivers in Little Shelford who do not wish to travel an extra one minute (which I timed, keeping to 20 mph) to the new site, or cyclists not wishing to bike, say an extra two minutes, could use those shops. The car park provided is not ‘perilously close’ to Granhams Road otherwise, again, why were the existing shops allowed to locate there? I have driven in and out of that car park and the high wall is not a hazard. It lays some four to five foot to the back of the pavement and the visibility to the south goes way beyond the turning to High Street. In fact, it is far less hazardous than coming out of Ashen Green where cars are continually parked on the left hand side, including at times, some that are illegally parked on the double yellow lines, and where, to see if anything is coming from the left, you have to pull halfway out to the middle of the road.

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

Lockdown lifting...

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.

It is so good to see the lockdown being cautiously lifted. Like myself, you will probably be looking forward to a hair cut in mid-April! Having physical contact with family and friends is a great relief and seeing the schools open is a real sign of hope.

We have so many people to thank for helping things to move forward it is unfair to single any group out, apart from NHS workers. They have been truly wonderful and as the Covid-19 figures fall they will still have so much to do in addressing the long waiting lists. We need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months ahead.

A very happy Easter to you all!



Supporting your parish church....

Even before the pandemic we were concerned about the increasing financial deficit we have been facing for several years. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has now, regretfully, decided (in consultation with the Diocese) to reduce our regular Ministry Share contribution by half, to £26,895 this year, in order to halt the ongoing drain on our reserves. This will balance the 2021 budget, but without a substantial increase in income we may well face the same decision in future years, or the money will run out. This decision has not been taken lightly, as it has serious implications for the future life of the parish. Ministry Share goes towards the costs of stipendiary ministry, and failure to meet our Share in full, as well as passing an additional financial burden on to the other parishes in the Deanery, will impact on the provision of a full-time vicar in Great Shelford after Simon's retirement.



We would welcome any additional Stewardship support to enable us to meet the full Share asked for by the Diocese, in this and future years, in order to maintain a stipendiary vicar.

Donations can be made by:

- Parish Giving Scheme (PCC's preferred option).
- Standing order or bank transfer.
- Donating via the Giving Page on website
<https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>
- Traditional envelope donations (posted through the vicarage letterbox, or left in the collection box at the back of church). Please write your PIN on the envelope, if you have one.

To help further, at no cost to yourself, please Gift Aid your donations if you are able. Our Treasurer, Pat Brown is happy to assist with any of the above.

Contact details: phone 07811 563597 or email: patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you very much for all your support.

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-19 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.

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' 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 regretfully Sunday Club is not currently possible. 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

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
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COUNTRY MARKET



Coming out of lockdown seems to be taking for ever, and we are not there yet. Our members were so disappointed when we heard that village halls must remain closed until 17 May.

Let us hope that the sun will shine for our re-opening on Wednesday 19 May which still feels some way off.

Meantime, we continue to miss Wednesday mornings in the Memorial Hall. We are always pleased to receive orders for preserves and baked goods, and enquiries for plants and crafts. It takes just a phone call or email to order and arrange a delivery.

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GRANTA Medical Practices

As I write this (8 March), we have now vaccinated 17,805 patients. All patients in cohorts 1 to 4 should have been contacted and vaccinated by us. If you haven't, or if you have previously declined the vaccine but have now changed your mind, please call us on 0300 234 5555 (option 2) and you will be prioritised for our next clinic. If you know of anyone that falls into one of these cohorts but has not yet been vaccinated, please let us know as soon as possible.

We are currently vaccinating patients in cohorts 5 and 6. Some of you may receive a letter inviting you to a vaccination centre, and others may receive a text or telephone call inviting you to an appointment at Granta Sawston.

NHS England are starting to contact patients that fall into cohort 7 (over 60 years old) and cohort 8 (over 55 years old). You will receive a letter direct from NHS England giving you further instructions about how to book your vaccination.

May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that, if you have booked a vaccination appointment but are not going to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your vaccine to someone else.

We appreciate that everyone wants to know when their appointment will be and we are working as fast as possible to get through our patient lists. Contacting us before being invited however, will not make this process move any faster.

Please bear with us as our team continue to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

Please remember – you will NEVER be asked for payment for the Covid-19 vaccination. Any text message, letter or telephone call requesting your bank details and/or payment should be ignored. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be more susceptible to this type of scam.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes rapidly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance please go to 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, 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

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EASTER

I want to recount a story to you. It's an old story, written down by those who shared it and safeguarded it. The story is retold by four different people and their accounts do not agree one hundred percent, but their recollection of events is our window into this story. Below is a translation of John's account of events. If you want to discover who John was you can Google it and see what scholars think. I personally choose not to doubt that the account below is true and the best record of events. I will let you make up your own mind.

'Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had got there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.'

If true, this account is life changing. It alters how we view the world we walk on. If true, it is our window into God's nature. If true, it should have impacted the world for great good and transformed our view of everything. But the story was put into the hands of humans, into the hands of Men (and women), 'Men, who above all else, desire power.' (J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*). We have been poor custodians of this story, but there is hope. There is hope that the rich truth of God's love for you and me might grow inside of us. My prayer today is that you might know something of this richness in your life, maybe even explore it more by joining in with our online events at the Free Church. Happy Easter.

Rev Martin Cockerill

WHAT'S ON AT GREAT SHELFORD FREE CHURCH

Join our Sunday services online via livestream every week or in our church building from 14 April!

Our Tiny Toes baby group will be starting again on 14 April. Please book a place via our website.

Our Little Steps toddler group will begin meeting on 14 April at Shelford Rec.

Our Roots & Shoots Bible study videos are released every Tuesday and are available on our website.

We meet every Sunday evening on Zoom to have a time of prayer at 8pm.

We have a weekly podcast which offers a chance to reflect more deeply on our Sunday talks.

To find out more please visit our website: www.greatshelfordfreechurch.org.uk

Contact our church office: 01223 842181

or email administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES 2020



Thank you for the wonderful response to the appeal in 2020; a year that was difficult and very unusual. I'm sorry for the delay in telling you the news but everything was delayed due to Covid-19. The whole operation went ahead despite many obstacles. There was a lot of prayer.

This report is to let you know that the boxes collected from this area went to Belarus, Serbia and Nigeria.

Thank you for bringing great joy to children and giving them a gift of love. This is one of the many stories that was told after the boxes were given out.

'At a nursery children heard about the Christmas story and were delighted to receive shoebox gifts. The parents expressed how thankful they were, and that the children loved the gift boxes very much. One mother stopped the local partner the next day and said that she too had received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift when she was a child, and that it was the most memorable thing from her childhood'

If you want to know more, or look at the many photos or videos please go to samaritans-purse.org.uk

Many thanks again. I hope you can take part again this year.

Jane Furlow, OCC connect volunteer

PAROCHIAL CHARITIES NEWS

Great Shelford Parochial Charities owns 32 homes – one, two and three bedroom houses – at More's Meadow where we provide almshouse accommodation for Great Shelford people unable to afford commercial rents.

One of our almshouses, a 2 bedroom bungalow, will be available soon.

Applicants must be residents of Great Shelford. Priority will be given to applicants with a child, or those whose circumstances are otherwise exceptional.

Application forms are available to download from our website – gspc.org.uk and are also available from:

- **Our clerk:** clerk@gspc.org.uk
01223 842411
- **Our agents:** Redmayne Arnold & Harris
30 Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, CB22 5LZ.
shelford@rah.co.uk
01223 800860
- **Our partner:** John Huntingdon's Charity
189 High St, Sawston, CB22 3HJ
office@johnhuntingdon.org.uk
01223 492492

Completed applications should be sent by post or email to John Huntingdon's Charity at the above address and be received by 12 noon on **Tuesday, 6 April 2021**.

Applications will be assessed anonymously by the Trustees and those shortlisted will be invited to attend an interview with our representatives.

Brian Connellan
Trustee

MAY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the Great Shelford Village News is Friday 16 April and it should be available on Friday 30 April with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter

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WILL GEORGE 1978 – 2021

Will was a Shelford boy, moving with his parents, Chris and Anne, to Shelford Park Avenue at 18 months old. He followed his parents' backgrounds in English Language and Linguistics and after sixth form at Hills Road studied at Sheffield University. Later he gained a First in an MBA in Marketing.



Working at Eurocentres in Cambridge, he met Carolina, a student from Colombia and in 2003 they married. Soon he was working with Anne in Cambridge Language and Activity Courses (CLAC), a partnership which was to be a success both personally and professionally.

In Shelford Park Avenue they brought up their children, Sebastian, Nick and Victoria until 2017 when they moved to Stapleford.

One of his friends described Will as 'happy, relaxed, uncomplicated, and so capable. He occupied the bright side of life and had a whatever-it-takes attitude to making his and the lives of those around him as good as he could.' His other passions in life were Chelsea FC, cycling, walking, cooking and most of all making

the most of social occasions with family and friends. He was always positive, excellent company, sociable and thoughtful, a caring family man.

He was a hugely valuable member of The Bunch, helping to organise The Shelford Feast in its publicity, advertising and sponsorship. With his marketing skill and his persuasive smile, he helped to raise thousands of pounds towards good causes in the village, even though he rarely got to enjoy the Feast itself as it clashed with the CLAC summer courses.

Will himself said that the eight years following his cancer diagnosis gave him the chance to create some of the happiest memories of his life. He spent time thinking of others and preparing his friends and family for the time he would no longer be with them.

In a final video message from his bed at the Arthur Rank Hospice he said: *'Life's hard enough already, we need to share the burden. And that goes for all of us. The more we can share, the more we can love, the better.'*

Duncan Grey

A ROOTER AND A ROBIN



Photo: Jan Meeus

If you ask a gardener what is their favourite bird, I'll bet you 9 times out of 10 they'll say the robin. And the reason for this might be because of its pretty russet breast, its cute rounded body set on the finest little legs – in short, its general irresistible charm.

But the main reason may be more about its behaviour when you are gardening. It comes so close sometimes you catch your breath to see it there, and how honoured you feel that something so delicate and lovely might want to be near

you, might even trust you! It comes still closer and you see the exquisite feathers... that beady little eye... and such bold eye contact, cocking its head to one side, the skipping and hopping about and finally perching on your garden fork as if posing for a photo then saying, 'good morning how are you today?' with wistful, but perky chirps. You can actually have a little chat with a robin. I've seen many a burly gardener do it, I swear it's not just me.

This human interaction is almost non-existent in other wild birds and I have often wondered why they should be so different? It turns out there are a few reasons for this, one being that we Brits don't have a tradition of trapping and eating small birds which kind of helps. But the main and most interesting reason I think, is connected to the evolution of these little birds.

Many thousands of years ago, when much of the land was far more wooded, and wild boar and deer roamed about in great numbers, the inquisitive nature of the robin would have been evolving. They were following these large animals, especially the boars, as they rooted in the earth, watching for those delicious worms. Robins aren't great at pulling out worms like the blackbird, are useless at cracking a snail like a thrush, and they are only just learning how to hang onto a bird feeder like a tit, but they do like to use their charm or, rather, inquisitive adaptability, and succeed in letting someone else do the work. I expect they were very close friends with the boar. And here we are, many thousands of years later, a taller, more upright 'swine', and lo and behold they are with us too. It's not much of a leap and we are of course equipped with that very useful garden fork!

*Sarah Ashworth, Designs For Life
Garden designer and wildlife specialist, Little Shelford,
sarahashworth.co.uk*

BROWNIES ON ZOOM!

This time last year, lots of us had never heard of Zoom, and yet for many it's been a lifeline for keeping in touch with family and friends during the pandemic. It has been a lifeline for Brownies too!



Lockdowns and social distancing restrictions between have meant Brownies haven't been able to meet up in the usual way for almost a year. But Zoom's provided a successful and fun alternative. Shelford Brownies and Stapleford Brownies have combined to run weekly virtual meetings.

There have been lots of craft, games and fun so far this term with activities from a challenge badge based on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Pancakes, codebreaking, scavenger hunts and chocolate crispy cake making are still to come! (*See front cover picture for examples of our craft activities*)

We have more girls wanting to join Brownies, so we'd love to hear from anyone interested in helping to inspire girls and have fun with online meetings. We also want to be ready for new adventures as soon as we can meet in person again. To find out more contact Lisa and Joanne at shelforddistrict@gmail.com or go to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>.

GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY

Spring is here at last! We're hoping that our libraries will be able to introduce managed browsing again from 12 April.

For up to date information please either telephone Customer Services 0345 045 5225 (8am–6pm Mon – Fri and 9am–1pm Sat) or check our website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries

Meanwhile, the library is open for collecting reservations (including Select&Collect), returning items and pre-booked use of computers (public services only) from **10am–2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm–6pm on Fridays**.

We also offer an extensive range of online resources and information, including free access to Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Oxford English Dictionary and Ancestry.com: *Cambridgeshire Libraries - library online*.



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DIARY APRIL

PLEASE NOTE

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

	BIN COLLECTIONS
	Black bins Thursday 8 and Tuesday 20 April
	Blue and green bins Wednesday 14 and Tuesday 27 April
	POST BOXES
	Coppice Avenue, Mill Court (Hinton Way), Library, Old Vicarage, Church Street, High Green bus stop, Stonehill Road, Macaulay 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.
	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



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SHELFORD SCHOOL

At the time of writing, the school team are really looking forward to welcoming children back to school on 8 March. The sense of joy and relief at moving towards normal education and routines is balanced with caution and extra measures to keep everyone as safe as possible. Lateral Flow Testing (LFT), for example, is embedding itself in school life, with staff already self-testing for Covid-19 twice a week. Staggered school runs and class bubbles will remain and, happily, some extracurricular music and sports activities can restart.

As with the previous return from home learning, the focus will be on gently transitioning pupils back to school life. We again give thanks to our supportive, resilient and creative school community. Staff and families have worked incredibly hard together to make both lockdown learning and the transition back to school as effective and enjoyable as possible for the children, supported all the while by our wider village communities – thank you.

Whilst Covid-19 has created challenges, it has also provided an opportunity to see regular school activities from a different perspective and to try new ones:

Celebration Assembly moved to weekly Zooms, enabling whole families to join in, and the last included a brilliant video retelling of ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’ created for Reception by Year 6 to make up for activities they would normally enjoy together at school.

World Book Day went online, with a virtual parade and a whole host of themed activities such as decorating potatoes as book characters and creating books in jars. And, instead of Art Day workshops, Art lead Mrs Ashton inspired children with a ‘Recycled Art’ competition; their entries were fantastic and gave the judging panel an incredibly difficult job! (*see back cover for pictures*) The winners were so excited to receive oil pastel prizes and a ‘Drawing with Rob’ book for their classes, kindly funded by the PTA.

Understandably, the PTA year has been quieter, with the Christmas and Summer Fairs especially missed. However, in honour of World Book Day there will be a sponsored Readathon for the children over Easter, led by our PTA liaison and Foundation Governor, Emily Button. In addition, staff have given the PTA a list of books they would love to use to support learning across the school and these have been turned into an Amazon wish list. Please feel free to use and share this link, and thank you if you support the school in this way.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2WSDF7L9G47UW?ref_=wl_share

Proving that time really does fly, as you read this the children will have now completed three weeks back at school and are enjoying their Easter holiday! We hope that your Easter is healthy and filled with peace and joy... and maybe even enough sunshine for a bank holiday barbecue!

KEY TO THE SCHOOL ARTWORK ON THE BACK COVER

Recycled Art competition winners	World Book Day
1 Octopus by Magnus (Y6)	Painted Potatoes
2 Oceana by Florrie B (R)	A Hermione Grainger by Ava
3 Captain Sir Tom Moore by Jessica (Y6)	B The Rainbow Fish
4 Stumpy the Hedgehog by Isabelle (Y5)	by Mrs Alderson
5 Crocodile by Georgia (Y2)	Book in a Jar
6 Turtle by Ralph (Y2)	C The Faraway Tree by Gilbert
7 Max the Rainbow Robot by Dylan (R)	
8 Hephaestus' Hammer by Wilf (Y5)	

Maria Lazarus, Parent Governor

RETIREMENT OF ALISON WEST (FORMERLY QUINLAN)

Alison was the headteacher of Shelford School from 1988 until January 2005 when, following a year's secondment as a Primary School Advisor with the Local Authority, she was appointed to the role permanently.

Following a short but tactful break, Alison took on the oversight of Shelford School. Her upcoming retirement this summer therefore brings to an end not only a 33 year relationship with Shelford School but almost 45 years working for the Local Authority in Cambridgeshire.

The present school governors hereby invite former pupils, their parents and former staff or governors of Shelford School during those years to join them in marking Alison's retirement.

For any teacher the knowledge that you have made a positive difference to your pupils and colleagues makes all the hard work worthwhile. When Alison stepped down as head in 2005 she remarked that her fondest memories would be of the many conversations over the years with individual children – the playtime chats and those occasions when they took their work to her to be praised.

We invite you, therefore, to add a message of thanks to Alison to an electronic card: <https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/7c130c49be297b4>.

The governors also intend to send Alison a gift. Should you wish to contribute towards it you may do so via: <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8xKyqMX2eq>.

For more information or help with this please contact
chair@shelfordschool.org.uk

Anna Caroe

SAFE@HOME?



Great Shelford residents have joined with Trumpington Stitches to create this 1.5m square 'Safe@Home?' patchwork quilt, now hanging in the café/library area at Clay Farm Centre (Hobson Square, Trumpington) ready to be unveiled after lockdown.

This was a group project but we worked on it individually at home making over 200 squares with an appliqued motif of a heart in a house. Recognising that some people have not felt safe at home, 35 squares illustrate specific varied experiences of the Covid-19 lockdown, from comfort eating, grief, domestic violence, child abuse, to Zoom, pets at home and the NHS. Extra squares became a second quilt for display at events and workshops.

During lockdown, Trumpington Stitches members have also worked on items for charitable donation to help people in need both locally, by making warm hats, scarves and mittens for Winter Comfort, and by sending items to the charity 'Knit for Peace' <https://knitforpeace.org.uk/> for onward distribution.

We are looking forward to meeting together again, initially outside and eventually indoors again on Monday evenings, to share our creativity and informal workshops.

For further information or to join our group please see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/966781436742450> or our website <https://trumpingtonstitches.net>

Katherine McGilly



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FUNDS GIVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR GREAT SHELFORD'S PLAYScape!

We are absolutely delighted that two major funding bodies have awarded us grants, allowing us to finally build an inclusive and inspiring playscape.

Thanks to an amazing grant of £99,841 from FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects from funds donated by waste and resource management company FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund, we will be able to order the beautiful Duncan and Grove equipment for the scheme. This company hand craft their durable natural play equipment out of hardwood and they will also be creating a large bespoke climbing frame, as well as providing off the shelf items such as swings and hammocks. This generous grant will also provide the new accessible roundabout and inclusive sand pit with its gangway and play tables, perfect for wheelchair users to play alongside their peers.

Cheryl Raynor, FCC Community Foundations local grant manager says: 'We are delighted to be supporting the Parish Council and the Playscape Committee to bring this project to fruition. The community have been involved every step of the way and have demonstrated the both the need for the project, and the benefit to the local community, we look forward to work starting on site shortly.'

For more information about FCC Communities Foundation funding contact Cheryl Raynor at cheryl.raynor@fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk or visit <http://www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk>

The other fantastic grant, for £54,867, was awarded by the Amey Communities Fund and will help fund the mounding, which maximises the playability of the space and the extensive wet pour safety surfacing, a crucial element to keep the playscape functioning well for many years. This fund will also provide the accessible trampoline, a truly inclusive piece of equipment. Chosen especially so that wheelchairs and buggies can be wheeled onto it, it allows siblings and friends to bounce together no trouble. We've witnessed amazing acrobatics on other local trampolines and expect this to be a piece of equipment that will also really appeal to teenagers and young people.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the incredibly committed Playscape committee for all their hard work over the years, the Parish Council for their continued support and to all those in the village who have donated, fundraised and championed this project to get us to this point.

We're really very excited to see construction start in the very near future, as I bet you are too!

Eleanor McCrone

READERS' LETTERS

Two more letters from correspondents wishing to thank local shopkeepers and service providers

THANK YOU

It was good to see the letter from Valerie Powell in the February edition of the Stapleford Messenger. We would like to endorse the thanks to all of our deliverers, shop and hospitality staff, particularly from local village sources, including Barkers, Kash, Boots, The Forum and the local volunteers who collected prescriptions and gave other assistance.

Patience and help when giving a telephone order, and a smile with a few words at the door from people, including our postmen, all of whom have their own situations, energy levels and health to manage, have been bonus tonics for us during the last year; thank you. Difficulties have been exacerbated for us and many others by health issues; in our case by emergency surgery for Sue just as the first lockdown started, her discharge from Addenbrooke's a few days later (on our wedding anniversary!), and an extended period of post-surgery treatment and clinical vulnerability.

Thus, we have become very dependent on friends, family and the neighbourhood community. We have many people to thank, including the medics and their colleagues both at the hospital and those in the Granta Medical Practice. As well as the availability of help, including Sue's continued treatment during lockdown when some people were not so fortunate, we also appreciated the consideration and patience that was shown to us, not only from the Shelford surgery, but also Sawston, from where Sue was referred to Addenbrooke's. Apologies if we have missed anyone. Thank you.

If things have been bad for us there must be others, whose situations have been and remain worse than ours. Our thoughts are with them, including children and the younger generation who have had to deal with a situation that we have not had to face in our lifetimes.

To all of those, not only in the 'front line' who have helped us and others, your help and selflessness will always be appreciated. We hope that the existence of community support continues and if additional help is needed to sustain such support, we would be pleased to contribute.

Peter and Sue Ray

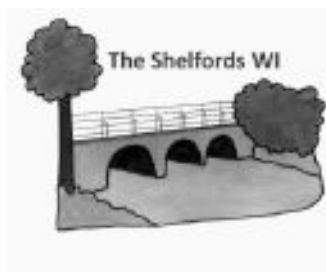
Residents of Great Shelford and parishioners of Stapleford

We would like to say a BIG thank you to the hard working staff of Day's Bakery in Woollards Lane, for having kept open during three lockdowns in the past year.

Without their cappuccinos and iced buns to keep us going every week, we would have completely lost our sanity.

*Kate and David Bovey
Great Shelford*

THE SHELFORDS WI



We held our annual meeting by Zoom on Thursday 4 March and reviewed the year's events. At last year's annual meeting we had no idea that we would not meet again as a group before the next annual meeting. As many of us had never heard of Zoom at the time we could not have imagined how it would allow the WI to continue to meet.

Reviewing the year, we are proud to have kept the Shelfords WI together. We held our first Zoom meeting on 30 April and have met at least once a month since then. We have even acquired some new members and look forward to meeting them in person later in the year.

This month's speaker was Becky from Cambridge Hedgehogs. We heard about the reasons for the dramatic decline in hedgehog numbers and about how we can help them by providing hedgehog friendly gardens. They need holes in boundaries and nesting places; gardens with 'wild' areas are ideal!

We are planning to continue to meet by Zoom until we can safely meet again in our normal venue. Our next meeting is on Thursday 8 April when Polina Rumsey will teach us *Face Yoga*.

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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SHELFORD FEAST 2021

Dear all,

Thanks for your patience whilst we deliberated on what is best to do for the Feast this year.

Following the government roadmap announcement, we've taken the difficult decision to postpone the advertised events until 2022. Tony Hadley and Trevor Nelson have both agreed to the new dates. Everyone who has already bought a ticket will be emailed and given the choice to either carry the ticket forward to next year or have a refund. Tony Hadley will be performing on Friday 8 July 2022 and Trevor Nelson on Saturday 9 July 2022.

Although the roadmap allows for events to return to pre-pandemic conditions from 21 June, we feel that there is little room for manoeuvre if there are any hiccups along the way. We hope you understand the decision behind the postponement, we'd like to run as safe and lively a festival as possible and we can only do that if we're able to work without the current restrictions.

We are planning to hold a smaller, free event this year on Saturday 10 July 2021, which we hope you'll all be able to attend. More details to follow.

Looking forward to seeing you all at The Feast!

The Bunch

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*

30 April 1803

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION – on the premises, part of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING AND DAIRY UTENSILS, and all the LIVE and DEAD STOCK and IMPLEMENTS in HUSBANDRY, of Mr Thomas Stacey, farmer at Great Shelford (retiring from business); consisting of geese feather beds, bedsteads, and hangings; chairs, tables etc. The live stock consists of three useful young horses, three cows and calves, sows, pigs, poultry etc. Dung carts, ploughs, barrows, and other implements in husbandry.

30 April 1819

RICHARD SCINNER – was convicted of running away and leaving his wife and child chargeable to the parish of Great Shelford. On account of an internal injury, the Churchwarden requested he might not be flogged. Sentence, solitary confinement for 14 days.

2G3S

Cambridge Nature Network

On 11 March we welcomed James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge Past, Present and Future (CPPF) to talk about the proposed network.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature deprived counties in England in terms of habitats and also in the amount of public access to nature. To increase biodiversity our nature sites need to be better, bigger and more connected. One way to achieve this is through a local nature recovery network. The Cambridge Nature Network is based on five priority areas for recovery, including the Gog Magog Hills and the River Cam Valley. Within each of these areas, the plan is to set up ‘bridges’ between existing sites and add extra small areas as stepping stones for nature.

To be successful it will need the support of local communities and councils, government agencies, businesses, landowners and farmers, university colleges and charities. Individuals can help by making their gardens wildlife-friendly and by writing to local politicians to urge them to support the network. Initial work is being progressed by local charities, CPPF and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire.

James Littlewood is leading this work for CPPF which looks after Wandlebury within the Stapleford parish and with whom 2G3S has a strong relationship. A report and summary will be issued soon; our website has notes on this meeting at <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/>.

Climate & Environment Fortnight

Some of us have attended online talks in the excellent series of informative webinars produced by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). They covered areas such as local sustainable farming, energy conservation in older homes, and food waste. As part of the farming webinar, a film was shown in which five local commercial farmers talked about their efforts to reverse some of the effects of large scale agriculture, resulting in better soil health, fewer carbon emissions, and more biodiversity on their farms. To see the film free of charge, go to <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/from-the-ground-up/>.

South Cambridgeshire Zero Carbon Communities

SCDC produces a wide-ranging and interesting newsletter The latest edition, (available on their website at <https://tinyurl.com/yjc58hve>) has information about the recently awarded Zero Carbon grants, the Doubling Nature strategy, the new Net Zero Now scheme, the latest developments on plastic and food waste, and green grants. There are also details of StreetFocus, a cycle route planner website which helps you find out where planning applications are and

see if new developments could pay for improvements to streets that would get more people cycling and walking.

Future Events

Thursday 8 April at 8pm – planning meeting

Monday 10 May at 8pm – Our next Zoom talk and discussion is on transport. Edward Leigh, who has led the volunteer pressure group Smarter Cambridge Transport for over five years and who recently qualified as a transport economist, will talk on ‘a hot transport topic of the day’ – to be determined!

Something practical you can do to help wildlife – plant some seeds for nectar-rich flowers. Or reduce your carbon footprint and grow some vegetables, even just a courgette plant or some herbs. To read when the weather’s bad, books about increasing biodiversity – ‘Wilding’ by Isabella Tree and ‘English Pastoral’, by James Rebanks.

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 to get a Zoom link to join in our meetings. Also see our Facebook page.

Helen Hale

GREAT SHELFORD FOOTBALL CLUB



I am pleased to announce that, hopefully, we should be seeing football again after the date for outside team sports to resume, arrives. The Cambridgeshire County League, with the agreement of clubs, have decided to declare the present season ‘null and void’ but replace it with a Champions League style cup competition. If it goes ahead as planned, games should start on Saturday 10

April and run through to early June when the finals will be played. After discussions with managers and players our club have decided to enter our reserve team only.

Details will be posted on the league website when they are available:
<https://fulltime-league.thefa.com/Index.do?league=7984801>

On a less happy note, long term members of the club will be sorry to hear that Eric Linsey has sadly passed away at the age of 85. A Shelford boy, Eric played for the club in his youth before becoming an avid supporter, then in later years, he served as our Chairman for many seasons. Our condolences go out to his friends and family.

Terry Rider

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TENNIS CLUB

THE RETURN OF SPRING BRINGS A RETURN OF TENNIS!



At long last – the daffodils are blooming, the days are getting longer and tennis was able to resume on 29 March as part of the first steps on the road to the lifting of restrictions!

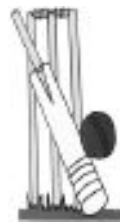
Our amazing coaching team have fully booked camps in the first two weeks of the Easter holidays, but courts are available for members to book around those dates and we are looking forward to seeing our courts well utilised once more. It has been a long and hard winter, but it feels as though the clouds may be lifting slowly.

The committee has been working hard in the interim to ensure that we can return to play safely, and we'd like to remind all members that we are reliant on their compliance with the restrictions that do remain in place. Please consider the people you are playing with and take responsibility for helping us avoid further spread of the virus.

Angharad Harris

CRICKET CLUB

With signs of spring and the announcement of the government roadmap for easing of Covid-19 restrictions we are looking forward to the coming season with enthusiasm. The club will be running two adult and three youth teams, with all the home matches to be played on Great Shelford rec.



You are very welcome to come along and watch – Saturdays for the adults and various weekdays (still to be finalised) for the youth teams. And if anyone is interested in playing, whether returning after a break or as a newcomer, please get in touch with me – peter.ede@ntlworld.com.

We will also be running the exciting cricket programmes 'All Stars' (age 5–8) and 'Dynamos' (age 8–11) for girls and boys during the summer term. The hour-long sessions will be on the Rec from 4.30pm on Fridays and are aimed at the children having a fun time together while trying out some new skills and playing some mini games. The cost for the 8 sessions is £40 which includes a personalised T-shirt and extra freebies depending on the age of the child. All children are welcome! For more details or to book a place please contact Julia Creed on creedjulia@hotmail.com.

*Peter Ede
Chair GSCC*

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GREAT SHELFORD BOWLS CLUB



The prospects for a full bowling year look promising.

The government have confirmed that bowls clubs will be able to open on 29 March. The details of any playing restrictions will be announced before then.

On the assumption that everything will go to plan, April will see the start of the 2021 Bowls Season with an open morning for everyone to attend on 24 April starting at 10am.

We would like to welcome all those who would like to have a go at bowling, both new players and those who have not played for a while. If you cannot make the Saturday, come on Sunday 25 April, at the same time, when we will be having a practice day.

Please come along and try your hand. You may find that you would like to join the club and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

For further information and if you are interested in joining us, please contact

Alan Edwards, Secretary, 07779834311 or Graham White, Chairman, 07740031713.

CORONAVIRUS DIARY FEBRUARY 2021

4 February. New month, same weather. 'For the rain it raineth every day' 'February fill dyke'. Well, the dykes, ditches, drains and rivers are all full. Time it stopped. In June, when it hasn't rained for five weeks and my vegetable plants have stopped growing, I'll wish – oh how I'll wish – for some of this rain. In the meantime, we're up to five water butts. Have we room for more?

I do love the internet in its role of giant encyclopaedia. That 'February fill dyke' (which my mum always used to quote) refers to a Victorian landscape painting, a scene we'd definitely recognise at the moment, and that in turn refers to an old rhyme – 'February fill the dyke, Be it black or be it white; But if it be white, It's the better to like'. The white, of course, is snow.

5 February. Start the day by bringing in the doorstep milk. Three bottles of organic milk from Plumbs Dairy. On Countryfile, food expert, Tim Lang says that our food is cheap because we externalise the cost onto the environment. No better example than cheap supermarket milk, in plastic bottles. If we used the supermarket for our milk, we'd throw away seven plastic bottles every week, 365 a year, 7300 over 20 years. That's an awful lot of wasted oil. And it is we householders who then have to pay to have them carted away, possibly (but by no means certainly) to be recycled.

Our dairy gives us glass bottles, which our milkman takes back and returns to us refilled. Yes, the milk is more expensive, but we're not offloading endless plastic bottles onto the environment. We're lucky still to have a local dairy. Many local people have discovered how lucky since the first lockdown started. There was a time when we had Robinsons Dairy in Woollards Lane, with milk produced by cows that grazed down King's Mill Lane. Now the milk is trucked up from the West Country, wasting yet more oil. No wonder our planet is groaning under the burden of we humans.

6 February. The Rectory Farm path is closed. The tunnel under the railway has been flooded for weeks. The gate onto the railway, which people have been using instead, has broken, and, after a near miss with a train, the farm tenant closed the path. Or maybe not. The sign's disappeared.

It's raining again, and again the river's high.

There's a pigeon on our lawn. It's here so often that this clearly qualifies as its place of abode. It will happily Hoover up all the apples I put out for the blackbird. So I bought a cage from the RSPB. Small birds can hop through the bars, but it shuts out the squirrel, the pigeon and the muntjac deer. The pigeon, however, is clearly miffed. It paces around and around the cage, sticks its head through the bars. Like my chickens of old, it's firmly of the opinion that if its head goes through, the rest of it will follow. It's wrong. It tries so long and so hard that my husband wrote a rhyme (with apologies to William Blake):

It puts a pigeon in a rage
To see a blackbird in a cage,
To see the food that it would eat
Vanish into a blackbird's beak.

I am reading a great book about trees. It's by the late Cambridge scholar, Oliver Rackham, and called 'Ancient Woodland'. It's about trees and the way in which we've managed woods for millennia, a blend of history and natural science. Every page is a pleasure to read. But, for all that it's a truly great work, it's hard to come by (there's a copy on Abebooks for £245!). The Library Service exhumed a copy for me from the bowels of the County Store. Don't you just love libraries? They stock not only the commercial, must-read stuff, but also the books of lasting value. We have plenty of time just now for reading and learning, so I'm making the most of it.

7 February. The weather forecast for the week threatens us with deep drifts of snow, punishingly cold winds and very low temperatures, so I have given myself the week off from gardening and other outdoor chores. Ironically, although the wind is cold, the sun has just come out. Had I not read the weather forecast, I'd have been out there working. We get so dramatic about the weather these days. Weathermen apologise every time it rains or is a bit cold,

as if we should have 52 weeks of unbroken sunshine. If we did, I'd be even more worried about climate change than I am already. Still, it's nice to grant myself a holiday. I'm making a steak and kidney pie for dinner. Food that sticks to the ribs for a cold day – slow-cooked steak and kidney, with a big dollop of red wine, onions, mushrooms and red pepper, with a thick gravy. A proper Sunday dinner.

10 February. It snowed on Sunday, but soon thawed, leaving dribblets on walls and in shaded corners. Not enough for a snowman, or a snowball fight. Since then it's been wretchedly cold. For T S Eliot, April was the cruellest month, but I keep thinking, no, surely it's February – when the cold bites into you, when it's relentless rain or snow, when the wind's from the east, and the skin on your knuckles cracks and your face feels flayed, and you're cold, cold, cold.



Yesterday we walked across the arable land near Babraham. In the lee of a hedge, the sun felt warm. On the neighbouring field we saw hares. They'd chosen their position carefully, to make the most of the sun, and they lay and basked. Occasionally they'd run about, stretching those impossibly long legs into easy action. A quick box, then they'd settle, with a clear appreciation of personal space. A bit of cat-like grooming, then their eyes would close, and they'd enjoy the sun again. The life of a hare. There were lapwings too.

11 Feb. This morning I ate the last apple from my apple store. We have several apple trees, but my Magic Apple Tree is the Kidd's Orange Red, which produces a huge crop of apples every year, and which I carefully put into the store. Thus stored in the cool, my apples last me from September through the winter, a daily dose of enjoyment.

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Yesterday Boris said, 'It's too early to be booking your summer holiday yet. We don't know what will be happening'. My heart sank to my boots. I live for my holidays – a precious week in the countryside, somewhere green and hilly and full of wildlife. I felt a moment of rebellion – you can't keep us shut up like this for ever. But it's no use rebelling. The daily death rate is only just starting to fall: a few days ago it was still 1,000 a day. And the awful thing is, we've got used to hearing it. A year ago, we'd have been appalled. Now we just sigh.

13 February. Our call for vaccination arrives in the post. Appointments on Tuesday.

15 February. It rained overnight, and the temperature rose from zero to nine degrees. What a blessed relief! The last week was so cold, so raw. It hurt my face, hurt my chest. I stayed indoors. Unusual for me.

16 February. Vaccination at Chesterton. The vaccination centre was the Indoor Bowls Club, which was not, as I'd imagined, a modest hut, but a huge sports facility. The process was beautifully organised, everyone was very kind, and we duly got our jab and left.

17 February. A hot and feverish night. I got up next morning, feeling flu-ridden and awful, drank a cup of tea, took two paracetamol and went to bed.

18 February. Slowly feeling better. I am so glad I only had the after effects of the vaccination – if this pale shadow of coronavirus is so awful, then I'm grateful to have evaded the virus.

19 February. The big topic of conversation – 'Have you had your vaccination yet?' We compare sore-arm stories, MY reaction was worse than yours. All the usual little conversational gambits.

I've started going out into the garden again. I feel I've had two lost weeks. It's only a month till spring vegetable planting begins and there's so much to do. If only the ground will dry a bit.

21 February. A happy story. Two weeks ago 'Badger' was sleeping rough by the Cam in Chesterton. The boat he lived in was destroyed by arson three years ago. He had no insurance and got no compensation. A local man set up a JustGiving page to raise the money for a new one. Yesterday Badger and his dog, Lottie were back on the Cam with their not entirely new, but definitely serviceable boat. And he's got a plan for the future... Sometimes putting a life back together really is that simple.

22 February. The prime minister announces his roadmap out of lockdown. On 8 March schools will reopen. The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March. From then on we'll be allowed outdoor gatherings of up to 6 people. Thereafter the dates depend on events. But from mid-April, if things go well, a household

will be allowed a UK holiday. And so the gradual relaxation will, if all goes well, continue until, on 21 June, the government ‘hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact’. It should feel hopeful, but it all seems so far away. In my head I know that we have to be patient and do it right, or we’ll be back where we started, with yet another lockdown. But I can’t help but long – really long – for more freedom.

25 February. My hair has grown five inches since the beginning of the first lockdown.

On my vegetable patch the pigeon has barged aside the netting and grazed its way down a row of savoy cabbages. I think nostalgically of the days when we had a neighbour with a shotgun...

From the kitchen window I watch an insignificant little brown bird that hops around our garden, pecking at improbably small crumbs. You could easily mistake it for a sparrow, but it’s a dunnoek. It has its daily round – first the lawn, then the pots, then it’s time for a bath and a sunbathe while it dries off, and then it’s back to the lawn again. A day in the life of a small bird.

26 February. I’m back in the garden after a few days away from it. It’s a beautiful spring day and it feels good to be alive. I see a bright yellow brimstone and two big fat buff-tailed bumble bees.

I have a lot of tidying to do - leaves and mud and all the detritus of winter. When you’re working, it’s the sounds that you notice. Pyew, the call of a buzzard. The mad laughter of a yaffle, repeated over and over and over. The song of a wren. Rackety jackdaws, cawing rooks, the magpie. A goldfinch singing at the top of a tree. The bumpity-bump rhythm of a passing train. I looked up when I heard the buzzard, and saw one, then two, three, four. The fourth soon vanished, while the remaining three climbed lazily upwards, circling around and around, an elaborate ballet which just went on and on. Such beauty. The joy of a sun-filled spring day.

The vaccination programme is going great guns. In roughly 12 weeks, nearly 20 million people have been vaccinated, roughly one third of the population. Already there are indications that the programme is having its effect, with far fewer infections among the elderly. The lockdown, too, has had its effect, with infections now down to about 700 per day and daily deaths down from the thousand mark to roughly 250 per day. How strange to casually quote such figures, as if they were good. Here in Cambridge and South Cambs. levels are pretty low. We’re lucky. Time to be cautiously hopeful?

28 February. We’ve had three beautiful sunny days, each one a joy. After the cold, the wind, the rain, the frost and the snow, February has redeemed itself.

Helen Harwood

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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:

01223 842553 gsvneditorial@gmail.com

Commercial advertisements

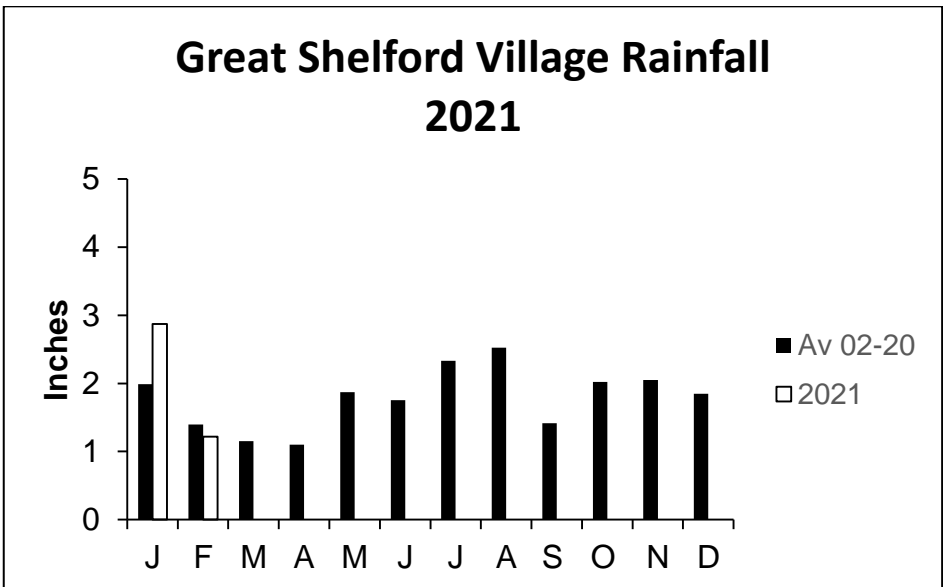
These are for a 12-month period, renewed in January. There is a waiting list.
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Editorial Committee

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



From data supplied by Angus Campbell

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

2G3S Green Group	Linda Whitebread	greengroupssss@gmail.com	843438
Badminton (Little Shelford)	Rosie Cranmer	rosie.cranmer@ntlworld.com	513572
Bowling Club	Alan Edwards	alanedwards505@gmail.com	666965
Brownies, Guides, Rainbows	Lisa MacGregor	shelforddistrict@gmail.com	843021
Bunch – Feast	Duncan Grey	dsg@post.com	842191
Carpet Bowls	Philip Seekings	phil.seekings@yahoo.co.uk	843416
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cambridge		0344 848 7979
Community Association Memorial Hall bookings:	Sheila Tilbury-Davis	tilburydavis.sheila@gmail.com	844384
Country Market	Dorothy Doel	dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com	843946
Cricket Club	Peter Ede	peter.ede@ntlworld.com	01223 510662
Football Club	Terry Rider	footybeast63@sky.com	01354 680661
Free Church	Maxine Du Plessis	administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk	842181
Friends of Shelford Library	Daphne Sulston	dsulston@googlemail.com	842248
Granta Medical Practices		capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net	0300 234 5555
Great Shelford Friendship Club	Cheryl Mynott	cherylmynott@gmail.com	845435
Mobile Warden Scheme	Claire Smith (Warden)	saurus1960@gmail.com	Mobile 07811 676991
	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 Cycling Club	Brian Connellan	brian.connellan@eastyoke.com	845382
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		
	John Dibnah	842054	Carol Bard 668157
	Rosie Cranmer	513572	Marjorie Smith 564922
Stapleford Choral Society	Adam Pounds	adampounds54@btinternet.com	07804 308042
Tennis Club	Victoria Roles	secretary@gstc.org.uk	07747 748891
The Arts Society South Cambs	Frances Clifford	frances.clifford@ntlworld.com	842551
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

SHELFORD SCHOOL ARTWORK

FULL DETAILS ON PAGES 26 AND 27

