

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

MAY 2021

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Railway lines divide at Shepreth Junction in Great Shelford

Photo: J Wilson

SPECIAL TRANSPORT ISSUE
Where is the East West Railway going?
And what about the Guided Busway?

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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 MARCH 2021

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

MATTERS ARISING

Terms of reference for the Traffic and Transport Infrastructure Working Group are to be circulated. Advertising signs around the village have been removed.

FINANCE

Nineteen cheques to the value of £12,796.85p for the period up to 17 March were presented.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

District Councillors

A report was circulated and is on the website. A Gypsy Roma Workshop has been provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and funded by the Police, who are trying to encourage local representatives to engage with Travellers and negotiate their movements. A SCDC contact is to be provided for further workshop availability.

The cost of the pandemic to SCDC is about £2.35m.

Grants from the Housing and Community Chest are available with relaxed conditions for Covid support. Applications from the Covid Support Group and SSYI could be accepted.

County Councillors

A letter has been sent by the Chair and Clerk to the CEO and leader of the County Council regarding the absence of County Councillors at Parish Council meetings over the past two years. The reply was circulated.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Highways Committee

The committee is investigating accidents recorded on the Cambridge County Council (CCC) website so the information can be used to pursue improvements.

The underpass below the railway on Jenny's Path is flooded. The Chair has corresponded with Trumpington [Farm Company] about this.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee

It was expected that the Tennis Club would open on 29 March and the Bowls Club on 23 April. The next season of the Cricket Club starts in May. Football Club fixtures are planned from 10 April extending into May. Private hire of Pavilion facilities is not available until 21 June. Changing room toilets are only available for football and cricket players and officials from 17 May subject to risk assessment and cleaning after every use. No changing rooms are available until 21 June. A request for football to be extended into May has been rejected. The playground is open, and is being fogged twice per week. Work on the riverbank is to commence in April/May.

Cemetery and Allotment Committee

Stonehill and Cemetery vacant plots were allocated at an Open Day on 13 March. No plots are now available at the Cemetery location, but three plots remain available at Stonehill.

REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS

Playscape Grant Funding has now been secured from a number of applications and little or no Parish Council (PC) financial input should be needed. The aim now is to commence work in April with completion in early July. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Eleanor and Vaila from the Playscape Working Group for their extensive work on this project.

Neighbourhood Plan The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan has contacted all the previous group members to gain their support. A meeting is to be called the week after Easter with new and previous volunteers, including District Councillor, Peter Fane.

Parochial Charities Construction work on the new development at More's Meadow should start late April/May 2021 with completion by October 2022.

Community Association Reopening of the Memorial Hall for children's ballet is planned from 13 April, and for the Country Market from 19 April. Risk assessment for both activities is required. The lease of the Memorial Hall to the Community Association expires in May/August 2022. Six months' notice is required if the lease is not to continue after that. Councillor Ashurst will bring the matter up at the next Community Association Committee meeting.

Scouts & Guides The Scout and Guide lease expired in December 1994. Enquiries are taking place with CCC to see if the PC minutes at the time the lease was signed can give any indication on the ownership of the building. Unfortunately, access is not permitted at present due to Covid-19.

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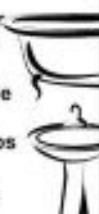
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SSYI Club Room Completion of the insulation of the inside walls is expected by the end of May. Work will exceed current budget estimates and approvals. It was agreed to increase the refurbishment budget to £50,000 from £34,600. Nesting boxes will be provided on the wall around the Community Association building.

Schools The Primary School re-opened in March. The Parish Council recognised the extraordinary amount of work being undertaken by the Primary School and Sawston Village College staff to enable a return to school activities.

EXTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

East West Rail (EWR) The Parish Council met with EWR and the EWR Action Group on 18 February. (See page 29 for information on EWR proposals.) The Chair is to respond to points raised, utilising the EWR Action Group proposals as a starting point. Chalk stream issues are to be included.

Request for funds from Cambridge Approaches The Parish Council approved a pledge (not transfer) of funds prior to commitment to Judicial Review. Cambridge Approaches is now requesting release of funds. Security of payee account would be required prior to the release of any funding. It was agreed that the Leigh Day client account would be utilised for payment of any pledge and that a simple agreement would be produced for Leigh Day to proceed via email contact with the Chair and Clerk.

OTHER BUSINESS

Transport & Traffic Infrastructure Working Group A positional paper and drafts for consideration by the PC for first online consultations were presented by Councillor Lyn Disley. The PC gave a massive vote of thanks to the working group for producing the initial reports as a basis for further discussions.

Improving Great Shelford PC Website Councillor Ifthinan Shareef presented proposals for updating the Parish Council website to make it more engaging for the Public. Phase 1: Working group and budget proposed for £2.5k in 2021/22 to consult with Webadmin development and acquire templates for a new format for the website. Phase 2: Longer term proposals for website improvements.

VE Day on 8 May Covid-19 restrictions suggest that any communal event should be omitted this year. However, a church service will be held.

Full copies of the minutes of the Parish Council and Planning meetings can be viewed on the Parish Council website

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY

Planning Committee Meeting	5 May	5.15 pm
Planning Committee Meeting	19 May	5.15 pm
Parish Council Meeting	19 May	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.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

21/00332/HFUL	Pierre Lao-Sirieix 14 Ashen Green.	Installation of roof window. Change of cladding to dormer and rear of property to wood effect cladding. Re-felting of flat roof.
No objections.		

21/00552/HFUL	Mr & Mrs Arter 13 Woodlands Road	Retrospective one and two storey side and rear extensions and alterations.
The previous owner gained planning permission in 2016 for a two-storey side extension and a large rear extension. He failed to build the side extension according to the approved plans and the current owners wish to rectify this by putting on the second floor as per the 2016 plans. We have no objection to this. We do however have great difficulty with the rear works. There is no way of seeing what the original was or what is proposed to rectify the erroneous extensions. We recommend that new plans are submitted.		

21/00554/HFUL	Ms Claire Armstrong 94 Cambridge Road	Single storey side and rear extensions.
No objections.		

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PLAYSCAPE CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

By the time you read this, we're hopeful that the contractors will have been instructed to proceed and you should see changes on site imminently!

The construction is expected to take about 10 weeks, although the Playscape will remain cordoned off whilst the new grass establishes itself for at least a further six weeks. This means it's unlikely to be ready for the summer holidays, but after waiting so patiently for years we're sure everyone can manage a few more weeks. We're also looking into some potential pop-up events during this time, so watch this space...

Be the first to know

We will be posting the most up to date information on our blog and via our e-newsletter during this time, so do sign-up for the latter via our homepage www.shelfordplayscape.org or follow us on social media for progress updates.

Hands on support?

I will be leading the planting of around 700 plants in the new Playscape once the contractors have finished, so would be delighted to receive any help you can offer. I can't say definitely when we'll be planting, but if you'd like to help in principle, drop me an email and we can liaise properly in due course.

And finally, here's an advance notice of our 2021 Fun Run .



Eleanor McCrone info@shelfordplayscape.org

SHELFORD SCHOOL



Photo: Mr Grey

Children and staff are delighted to be back at school and the bike and scooter racks are looking well populated once again. It was particularly heart warming to see all the 'Welcome back!' signs dotted around the site.

Well being and enjoying being back together remain

the key priorities at the moment. Dynamic risk assessments are fully operational and everything possible is in place to make everyone feel as safe as we can. Lateral flow testing for staff, bubble systems and robust timings with one-way systems all help to keep our community safe.

The school has introduced a silver linings padlet which you can access here: <https://padlet.com/head364/plk8nc124mimr16a> Please take some time to read this, and if you would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you.



Photo: Miss Bachewich

Forest school remains a firm favourite at school and is a staple in our curriculum with pupils and staff alike all enjoying our amazing outside space together.

The Easter break has been welcome, with beautiful sunny days and the gradual reintroduction of some outside activities. It

provided a time to rest and recuperate before the summer term began in earnest.

We have some exciting news within our teaching team. Mr Cuff will be taking a sabbatical for a year to move abroad and Mrs Alderson will take on the role of interim deputy headteacher. We as the Governing Board welcome her to the Leadership Team and are excited to work with her in her new role.

Finally, we look forward to introducing you to our new chicks in the next newsletter – they are arriving at school within the next few days!

Frances Dye, Parent Governor

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SATURDAY FEAST 2021

The Bunch hope to organise a Saturday Feast on **10 July**.

We plan to hold a one day community event on the recreation ground, offering food, drink and entertainment for all.

Starting from 12 noon there will be a bar and food, followed by an evening session with live music from 6 to 10.30pm.

It will be cashless, so bring your cards for food and drink, but entry will be free. If you bring your own chairs, you'll be more comfortable!

For up to date information do check the Feast website at shelfordfeast.co.uk

Save the date and see you there!

Duncan Grey

THE SHELFORD PANDOMIME 2021 'YOU SHALL GO TO THE HALL'

All the restrictions last year meant that there could be no Little Shelford Pantomime, but some of the older cast members have devised and rehearsed (in between lockdowns) a short play entitled *The Shelford Pantomime 2021 – 'You shall go to the Hall'*.



With social distancing, only a small audience can be fitted into Little Shelford Memorial Hall, but they would like to have an audience. Windows and doors will remain open, masks must be worn and there will be no interval. The play lasts about an hour.

Some seats are available (adults £8; children £5) for both the evening performance on Friday 21 May at 7pm, and the Saturday matinée on Saturday 22 May at 3pm, available on a first come, first served basis.

If you would like to come, please contact me on 842498 or coppendales@btinternet.com.

Sarah Coppendale

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH

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

Small steps ...

As the government ‘road-map’ is rolling forward, we can now have live singing during worship by a small group, socially distanced from the congregation. This is a small step, but a very valuable one as it is a sign that we are making progress. Thanks to our singers for their welcome contribution.

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.

Please keep those working in the NHS in your prayers; they continue to carry a huge burden as they prepare to address the backlog of treatment suspended during the worst of the Covid pandemic.

Every blessing,



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): New Churchwardens - Joanne Staines and Simon White

The APCM on 18 April elected Simon White and Joanne Staines to replace Stella Nettleton, who is retiring shortly after serving eight years as Churchwarden. Our sincere thanks to Stella for undertaking this role, especially beyond the number of years Churchwardens normally serve. She will be greatly missed especially when she moves away later in the year. We look forward to working with Joanne and Simon in their new roles. Best wishes to them both for the coming year.

The Rev'd. Canon Michael Wadsworth RIP

Michael passed away peacefully at a care home in Huntingdon late on Good Friday, aged 78. He was priest-in-charge of Great Shelford from 1998–2001; he retired in 2001 and moved to Sleaford. In later years his dementia had



become severe and he had become bed-bound and extremely frail. His wife, Tam had been allowed to spend time with him in the last few days and was with him when he died.

Michael's funeral was at Holy Trinity, Haddenham, on Friday 23 April. He had been Vicar of Haddenham and Wilburton for nine years before coming to Great Shelford. Due to Covid restrictions, numbers at the funeral were restricted but Tam and the family are hoping more of Michael's friends and contacts can join them for a Memorial Service later in the summer. The details will be circulated in due course. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

St. Mary's Sunday Club

At present, we are restricted on the numbers we can welcome to the Community Room, so regret that 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

Funeral: 23 April Canon Michael Wadsworth

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

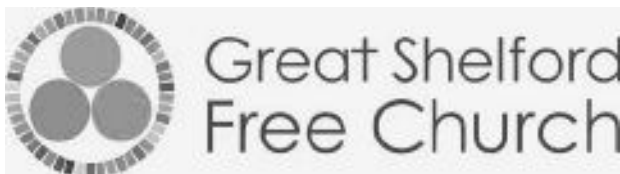
For further information about Great Shelford Parish Church

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OUR JOURNEY OUT OF LOCKDOWN

As we enter a lifting of restrictions and an easing out of lockdown and (hopefully) some warmer weather, it seems good to reflect a little bit on the journey we have been on to get this far.

It does feel as though we have been on a journey over the last year – not of choice perhaps, but of necessity, and it's been a journey of many highs and lows. Indeed, some have likened it to being on a roller coaster while others have compared it to being in a storm, where we are all facing the same storm, but in different boats. Still others have equated the journey to passing through a long, dark tunnel and that is the picture I'm reflecting on here.

As we entered that tunnel we left behind a familiar landscape of relative freedoms, which we probably took very much for granted, and embarked into a period of time which seemed quite dark and dismal, and sometimes it wasn't clear when or where the tunnel would end. During those days it was often remarked that there was light at the end of the tunnel, and with the introduction of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, the light got brighter and the end of the tunnel, nearer.

It seems now, as we navigate the 'road-map' out of lockdown restrictions, we are at last stepping out of the tunnel and as we emerge from the darkness we see that the landscape before us is very different from that which we left behind when the journey started. Here, there are many obstacles and unknown factors which hinder a clear view of the way ahead, and forever hovering on the periphery of our vision is the spectre of another impending disaster that might overwhelm us once again. On this side of the tunnel life is indeed very different. There are some familiar landmarks, but the landscape seems to be constantly shifting and we cannot always rely on the truth of what we can see.

However, in all of this, life is good, being alive is good, and we have much to celebrate and to be thankful for. We may not see clearly the way ahead. It may seem that we are just feeling our way along very slowly, and we may wonder in what or in whom we can put our trust and faith.

I read today that we should '*Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly and love extravagantly.*' (1 Corinthians 13:13 – The Message Version) which seems a good adage to adhere to as we enter this 'brave new world'. Personally, I am

forever grateful that because of the trust and hope I have in God, I can live and love extravagantly. My hope is that you will also feel able to place your hope and trust in God's extravagant love for you, because *'even though on the outside it looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace.'* (2 Corinthians 4:17 – the Message Version).

At Great Shelford Free Church our prayer for you is that whatever is revealed in the landscape you face on this side of the tunnel, you too will experience God's unfolding grace in your life.

*Diana Parr
Ministerial Assistant and elder*



Great Shelford Free Church – Summer Garden Party!

Join us on Pentecost Sunday, the 23rd of May, for a Garden Party at
Cara Coffee!

Due to Covid-19 regulations we will be having two slots of 30 people each: 1pm-2pm and 2pm-3pm. Drinks and refreshments will be provided as well as a BBQ! There will also be plenty of games and crafts to enjoy. Book via our website now to avoid missing out!

www.shelfordfreechurch.org.uk



Great Shelford
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JUNE ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

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LITTLE SHELFORD PANTOMIME 2022 – AUDITIONS



Auditions will be held for *Babes in the Wood*, next year's Little Shelford Pantomime, at Little Shelford Memorial Hall on Sunday 13 June 2021 between 12 noon and 4 pm.

Due to Covid restrictions, to both book a time slot to audition and complete an audition form, please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/panto-form>

Please email coppendales@btinternet.com or ring Sarah on 842498 or if you have any queries.

Sarah Coppendale

COMPUTER RECYCLING

We've just completed the latest round of recycling. As you know, we've been focusing on laptops for home schooling since the start of the year. We had 146 laptops donated, of which 20+ have been refurbished and given to either local schools or individual children. You can imagine we had some elderly (OK, geriatric) machines donated. There were a few Windows 98 laptops, but the star prize goes to the donor of the turquoise and white machine in the photo below. If you haven't seen one before, it's a 1999 Apple iBook G3 clamshell, a fairly exotic beast even in its day.

So, the recycling this morning:

- Over 60 laptops
- 11 desktop PCs
- 13 printers
- 8 monitors
- 3 TVs
- 45 mobile phones
- Over 130 inkjet cartridges
- Loads of cables and other electronics



Some of that will be reused, some will raise money for various charities, none of it will go to landfill. Well done to everyone who has supported the effort.

I won't be organising another collection until the summer; unfortunately, it just takes too much time. If you have stuff for recycling, please do get in touch and I'll contact you nearer the time.

Mike Nettleton

REWILDING FOR GARDENS?



Recently I've heard several people talking about 'rewilding their garden' – as a wildlife lover this is music to my ears, but do they really know what they are talking about? If a garden is truly wild, how can it also be a garden? Apart from anything else, the ideas around rewilding aren't really fully agreed upon yet.

So what actually is Rewilding?

The safe definition is something like: 'letting nature take care of itself, enabling natural processes to shape land and sea, repair damaged ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes' (from rewildingeurope.com).

Animals are usually part of the rewilding picture and this is where it gets tricky. We are trying to recreate patterns of disturbance and dispersal of seeds that were present in the ecosystem before humans hunted down all those animals. And this *bringing back animals that used to be here* is where the main disagreements crop up – notably around the beaver, a recent reintroduction to Britain. Maybe the actions of beavers can restore the land and reduce flooding - but perhaps bringing them back is just more human meddling, and will result in more problems?

I am going to bypass the debate for now, by returning to the smaller scale I work on. When it comes to 'rewilding' your garden, most experts would say: how can a piece of land the size of a garden, even a large one, accommodate the complex interactions and processes that will restore wild systems? This is a very good point, but I would say, 'with the help of a gardener!'

Perhaps an informed gardener can act as a missing link. A gardener can browse like a deer with secateurs, graze like a horse with a lawnmower, root like a boar with a fork (with the robin joining in) or turn over the turf like a herd of cattle.

If we really want to help wild our gardens, because they are small and the only animals remaining do too much of the same thing (nibble everything like a rabbit), we need to do more than just leave them alone. For me, the thought of the animals that may have lived here long ago and the part they would have played in the ecosystem, helps me in my pursuit to help make places more wild. I was trained by the Royal Horticultural Society how to cultivate pretty gardens, but I am finding it increasingly interesting considering this different role I could play, informed by the actions of animals.

*Sarah Ashworth www.sarahashworth.co.uk
Garden Designer and Wildlife Specialist*

THE SHELFORDS WI



We enjoyed our Zoom meeting on Thursday 8 April when Polina Rumsey introduced us to 'Face Yoga'. We learnt that this is a natural way of reducing ageing signs and that by improving our awareness of facial muscles we can build strengthening exercises into our skincare routine. Polina took us through a series of exercises which can take just ten minutes per day. It made for an

amusing Zoom meeting with us all pulling faces at the camera!

We are planning to hold the next two meetings by Zoom and then to meet again in person in July for our summer party. Our next meeting is on Thursday 6 May when our speaker will be Jenny Gibb speaking on 'A Turkish Shirley Valentine'.

Non-members are very welcome to join these Zoom meetings. Please contact our secretary (see local groups page) or any W.I. 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.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Mary Talbott

GRANTA Medical Practices

Covid-19 vaccinations

We continue to deliver second vaccinations, working in date order, vaccinating patients 11–12 weeks following their first dose.

Current guidelines state that patients have to return to the venue where they had their first vaccination, as the second dose will be allocated and sent to that venue. Should these guidelines change we will, of course, let everyone know.

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

Covid-19 vaccine safety

The UK vaccination programme has been very successful. At the time of writing, more than 30 million people have been vaccinated and it is estimated that 6,000 lives have already been saved.

There have been reports of a very rare condition involving blood clots and unusual bleeding after vaccination. This is being carefully monitored and reviewed.

Information is changing rapidly and we will keep our website as up to date as possible. If you do not have internet access, please feel free to ring us with any questions you may have.

*Sandra East, Head of Patient Services, sandra.east@nhs.net.
Direct number: 01223 627743*

HOSPICE SUPPORT FROM LOCAL WRITERS



A writers' group in Great Shelford, the *Shelford Scribes*, is putting together a book of short stories, games and puzzles in aid of the East Anglian Children's Hospice. Everyone who has contributed to it has gladly donated their time and effort free of charge. Now the group has set up a JustGiving page

to raise funds to cover the cost of printing the book. For further details and to make contributions, see

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jill-adderley>

Jill Adderley



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BE PART OF A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER WITH STAR SHINE WALK!

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is inviting you to walk in memory of someone special on the weekend of 22 and 23 May. The thirteenth annual Star Shine Walk, sponsored by The Cambridgeshire Care Home, will raise muchneeded funds for hospice care across Cambridgeshire.

This will be the second outing for Star Shine Walk as a ‘virtual’ event. Participants get to choose the time, location and method to suit them. They are challenged with completing a 5, 10 or 20 mile distance over the event weekend, and can chose to walk, skip, wheel, trundle, scoot, walk the dog or even dance their way around: whatever suits them most!



The walk raises funds for the Hospice’s essential frontline care, whilst providing the perfect motivation to get active. In 2020 the memory walk raised more than £40,000 – the equivalent of 67 visits by the Charity’s Hospice at Home team.

Teams of colleagues, friends and families can get involved, no matter how far apart they’re based. Angeline Liles, Events Officer at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, adds, ‘We have found that people taking part in Star Shine Walk treasure the event as a unique opportunity to actively remember, honour and celebrate the life of someone they love. The beauty of it being a virtual event again this year means anyone can take part *wherever* in the county, country or world they live. Teams can even set off at the same

time if they like! You can also plan your route to take in places of particular significance, or landmarks that are related to special memories.’

Register (£17 for over 16s and £15 for children) at arhc.org.uk/starshinewalk by 16 May to receive a Walk Pack, including a special edition event t-shirt and other goodies.

Dawn Easby, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

2G3S

Our next talk and discussion is about bus services and is on Monday 10 May at 8pm by Zoom. Edward Leigh, who is a transport economist and works with Smarter Cambridge Transport, will talk on 'How to pay for better bus services'. He says, 'Few people disagree that we need better rural bus services.

Franchising (re-regulation) is now an option in Cambridgeshire, which would make it easier to provide an integrated consistent service. But to expand service provision significantly will require additional money. So, the key question is, where do we get the money from?' Smarter Cambridge Transport is an apolitical, voluntary organisation, advancing integrated, sustainable and equitable transport for the Cambridge region. Email the address at the bottom of this article for a Zoom link for the meeting.



The online University of Cambridge Festival held at the end of March contained some excellent talks. Several of them had an environmental theme and are available on YouTube.

The next Environmental Forum with our MP, Anthony Browne is online on 17 June at 4pm. Email him at anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to ask a question or just listen in.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate has produced its first report. The Commission was established by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to provide independent advice to local government, the broader public sector and business in the area, on both setting and meeting carbon reduction targets for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and preparing for the effects of climate change on this region. Look at Cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk for the report. There are

plenty of challenges as you can imagine, particularly in transport, housing and growth.

At a national level, you may have heard about the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill. Drafted by scientists, legal experts, ecological economists and environmentalists, the CEE Bill is designed to reverse the climate and ecological breakdown we face. The Bill asks the UK to take responsibility for its fair share of greenhouse gas emissions (including flying and shipping), to actively restore biodiverse habitats in the UK and to stop damage to the environment through the production, transportation and disposal of the goods we consume. With the coming of the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November, which the UK is hosting, the timing of the Bill is apt. More details are available at www.cebilla.uk. If you support this Bill, you can write to Anthony Browne to ask him to support it.

Something to do this month – vote in the local elections on 6 May for County Councillors, the Mayor, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Here's your chance to vote for the people who most represent your wishes for the future of our area, and there are certainly lots of big projects in the air at present that have an environmental impact.

Something NOT to do this month is mow your lawn. The No Mow May campaign run by the charity Plantlife, aims to allow verges to flower in May, which is a prime month for pollinators such as bees. At the end of the month do the 'Every Flower Counts' survey on Plantlife's website.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.co to sign up for our newsletter, ask a question, or get a Zoom link to join in our meetings. Also see our Facebook Page.

Helen Hale

BACK ISSUES OF THE *VILLAGE NEWS*

Did you know that you can read back issues of the *Village News* online? Whether you want to check on a past event, find out about recent village history, catch up on an issue you missed or just enjoy rereading the articles, you'll find issues going back to 2014 on shelford.org/news



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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

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*

17 May 1862

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT – A subscription having been entered onto for the above object, in this village, the sum of £9.0s6d. was paid into Messrs. Mortlock's bank one day this week.

(This would be worth about £800 today)

29 May 1852

EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE – Our free-trade (or nondescript) contemporary, the Independent Press, on Saturday last bore the following testimony to the blessings of the system which he helps to prop up: 'It is with regret we state that many able-bodied labourers have been for a long time out of employ in this place, so that no person can pass the street without a sympathising feeling towards those unfortunate persons. They are continually traversing the streets, and seeking for a job, and in all probability without victuals, drink or money. On Wednesday, the Rev. J Spurrill of Shelford vicarage liberally distributed a quantity of bread to these men; and Mr J Livings has also very kindly assisted them. If these men, and those in other agricultural villages, are compelled to emigrate, what will the farmers do in harvest and other busy times?'

BRIDGE PLAYERS



I would like to improve my bridge skills and am looking for three people with whom to play bridge (COVID rules permitting) on an informal, non-competitive basis. If you are interested, could you email me at kanthim7@gmail.com?

Candy Manatunga

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SPECIAL TRANSPORT ISSUE – OVERVIEW

In the following pages we have

Information supplied by East West Rail on new public consultation

A representative of East-West Rail writes about their future plans for consultation and gives an overview of options being considered .

EWR action group response to EWR consultation documents

The EWR Action group provides a detailed response to the proposals already made and describes how they would affect Great Shelford and neighbouring villages.

Reader's Letter: Transport Issues: a Shambles

Problems with existing approaches and a proposal for an alternative

Response to Reader's Letter by EWR Action group

In the insert delivered with this issue we have a series of articles provided by the Parish Council.

Keeping up to date with transport issues

Summary of action taken on transport issues

GSPC Position Statement: on the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Cambridge SE Transport An alternative route for the Guided Busway

GSPC Position Statement: on EWR

Date for special Parish Meeting + Vacancy for Parish Clerk

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY EAST WEST RAIL ON NEW PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The East West Railway Company (EWR Co) has launched a new phase of public consultation on East West Rail, the proposed railway between Cambridge and Oxford. In this article, Hannah Staunton, Head of External Affairs at EWR Co, writes about the public consultation.

I'm glad to have this opportunity to raise awareness about the current public consultation. Our emerging plans include proposed changes to the railway between the Shelfords and Cambridge, and we're keen to hear from you.

We've held a number of online events since the consultation launched on 31 March and have received lots of questions and correspondence from local communities. Thank you to everyone – including your Parish Council – for taking the time to attend events and contact us. There will be more events that we hope you will attend, including our weekly two hour live chat events held via the virtual consultation rooms, as well as our next public event on the

Shelfords to Cambridge section of the route, which will be held on Monday 10 May at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there – albeit not in person, given ongoing restrictions associated with Covid-19.

What we're consulting on

The 10-week public consultation, which closes on 9 June, includes a number of questions that are relevant for residents in Great Shelford that cover:

- customer experience and railway operations.
- proposed infrastructure development on the existing railway between the Shelfords and Cambridge.

Shaping customer experience and railway operations

Whether you plan to use the new rail service to get to work, for business, education, leisure activities or to visit family and friends, we want you to have the best possible experience. That includes not only frequent, punctual services that you can rely on, but the wider experience, which is why we're keen to hear from potential future customers on things like the train service, station experience, on train experience, interaction with railway customer service teams and customer information.

Infrastructure developments on the existing railway between the Shelfords and Cambridge

Following an earlier consultation in 2019, we are proposing that the new railway between Bedford and Cambridge enters Cambridge from the south, before joining the existing Shepreth Branch Royston line (the King's Cross line) near Harston and then continuing on the West Anglia Main Line.

Our proposals need to ensure that the existing railway has adequate capacity for the additional EWR services and that it benefits local communities. Specific proposals around the Shelfords include emerging plans for the Hauxton Road level crossing, Shepreth Branch Junction and the railway north of Shepreth Branch Junction. It is important to note that we do not need to add additional tracks to the King's Cross line itself to enable East West Rail services to operate.

Hauxton Road level crossing

There is an existing level crossing at Hauxton Road which provides a link between the villages of Hauxton and Little Shelford. Given safety concerns, the Rail Regulator seeks to close level crossings wherever possible, so there are a number of options we are considering. These include building a bridge or an underpass at the existing level crossing, closing the level crossing with provision of a pedestrian/cycle bridge or permanent diversion, either with provision of a new highway or along other existing local roads.



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Shepreth Branch Junction

EWK train services would join the West Anglia Main Line at Shepreth Branch Junction, which joins the King's Cross line to the West Anglia Main Line. [See cover photograph]. We need to modify the junction to accommodate the extra train services. We have two options at Shepreth Branch Junction, which both require us to remove the junction and build two new tracks next to the existing tracks. In one option, 'at grade', the railway stays at the existing level. In the other, 'grade separated', we use a new bridge to join the two railways.

In both options the railway would remain in its current location. However, land may need to be acquired for the construction and permanent operation of either option. We do not currently envisage that this would require the acquisition of residential properties.

The existing railway from Shepreth Junction to Addenbrooke's Road bridge

This stretch of existing railway is currently two tracks as it approaches Cambridge. We would need to increase the capacity of this section to four tracks. Further design work is required in the next stage to determine the location of the two new tracks, which will be developed closely with Network Rail.

Information for landowners

East West Railway Company has also published proposals for a discretionary purchase scheme – the Need to Sell Scheme – setting out how the company would intend to support people who may be directly affected by proposals set out in an announcement of a preferred route alignment when selling their home or small business. We are inviting people to provide us with their feedback on this scheme too.

How to get involved

We're keen to understand what you think about the emerging proposals for the project, and your views on the broader scheme. A summary of the consultation document has been sent to 270,000 addresses along the route and we're really keen to hear from you at our live chat event and our next public meeting for this section of the route on 10 May.

Feedback forms can be submitted online by emailing us at consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk or sent by post to Freepost EAST WEST RAIL. For further information, or to request a paper copy of the form to be sent to you, email us at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk or calling us on 0330 134 0067.

Thank you again for taking the time to respond and help shape the future of the railway. We look forward to hearing from you.

Hannah Staunton

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EWR ACTION GROUP RESPONSE TO EWR CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

East West Rail (EWR) is a major new railway connecting Oxford and Cambridge. Routed appropriately, EWR might deliver important benefits to Cambridgeshire but unfortunately, the proposed route alignment for the central section from Bedford to Cambridge, and the manner in which it has been developed, are causing serious concern within Great Shelford and other affected parishes.

A consultation covering the section from Bedford to Cambridge began on 31 March and will run until 9 June. The Shelfords EWR Action Group has carefully examined many hundreds of pages of consultation documents in order to provide this summary of the project's potential impact on Great Shelford.

Changes to the railway in Great Shelford

The new line will run through the Shelfords on what is known locally as the Kings Cross Line (EWR refers to this as the Shepreth Branch Royston line) before merging with the Liverpool Street Line (formally called the West Anglian Main Line) in Great Shelford. EWR has stated that this junction, located to the west of Granhams Road and known for historical reasons as Shepreth Branch Junction, will need to be rebuilt to accommodate the additional trains. This may require the King's Cross line to cross the Liverpool Street line on a bridge, before the four tracks merge and run side-by-side into Cambridge Station. Technically, this is known as a grade-separated junction because the railways cross at different heights.

Assuming this happens, the impact on Great Shelford will be significant. The bridge structure is expected to be many hundreds of metres long (perhaps over a kilometre) and several metres high – roughly the height of the current footbridge across the railway. The new structure may be located south of Addenbrooke's Road bridge as that is where there is most space (see photos) but EWR does not say. EWR has stated that it does not think residential properties will be affected by this new junction.

Other layouts are possible, some with less potential to cause harm to Great Shelford, but considering the evidence, this is likely to be EWR's preferred option. As part of the consultation, EWR is asking what it should consider when designing the new layout.

At present, only two tracks run from Cambridge towards Great Shelford, (see photo) but this will become four tracks under the new layout. To accommodate the widened railway, the DNA cycle path running alongside the current tracks will probably need to be moved. EWR has said that the link will be maintained but does not say whether the wonderful artwork will be reinstated.



Harston to Little Shelford

A new grade-separated junction in Harston is proposed to connect EWR to the Kings Cross Line. This junction will be a 10m tall flyover, sweeping around from the north to merge just south of Hauxton. Because the railway will be moved from its current alignment, a new bridge over the railway will be required at London Road and a new road layout is planned for the junction with Shelford Road.

EWR is also considering permanent closure of Newton Road in Harston at the level crossing, resulting in significant impact on local residents including

cutting off the route to Harston Primary School for Newton residents. EWR is suggesting significant new road layout to mitigate this, but local residents will be highly impacted.

Harlton to Little Shelford

An imposing ‘great wall’ across the Rhee (Cam) Valley will most likely be built in the form of a 10 metre high embankment carrying the railway from Harlton to Harston, including an A10 viaduct and a 17 metre deep cutting at Chapel Hill in Haslingfield.

The pictures below show an artist’s impression from Cambridge Approaches of what ‘the great wall’ in Harlton could look like. This has not been approved or endorsed by EWR.

Before:



After:



The proposals are devastating. What can you do?

- Sign the petition in support of proper consultation on a northern approach (search CBRR petition on change.org)
- Respond to the consultation before June 9: www.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation
- Inform friends and neighbours
- Attend EWR consultation meetings
- Attend Parish Council meetings
- Write to the Parish Council, District Councillors, County Councillors, our MP, the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the Secretary of State for Transport
- Join the mailing list at www.cambridgeapproaches.org
- Join the Shelfords EWR Action Group by emailing: gt-shelford-ewr-action@googlegroups.com

READER'S LETTER

TRANSPORT ISSUES – A SHAMBLES

The village faces three major issues (and a host of minor ones) on the transport front:

- The 'Guided Busway' Cambridge South East Transport (CSET)
- The East-West Railway (EWR)
- The construction of Cambridge South station.

A number of residents have been saying for a long period of time that these projects had to be dealt with in combination ('holistically', if you wish). That hasn't happened and we are now in danger of having the worst of all worlds for the village.

The Shelfords EWR Action Group was formed at the end of 2020 to try to get EWR rerouted to the north of Cambridge. They are a single issue group – members have openly stated that they are not interested in the impact of other transport projects or coordination. The Action Group managed to get residents of the Cambridge Road area, Scotsdales, the Care Home and the Rugby Club very excited by telling them the EWR route would come through Cambridge Road. Technically, this was always next to impossible. The Action Group also knew at an early stage that, based on surveys being conducted by EWR, the route would actually be either along the Kings Cross or Liverpool Street lines south of the Shepreth junction.

The Action Group then applied to Great Shelford Parish Council (GSPC) for funding. On 13 January GSPC agreed to provide funding of £1,000. GSPC also set up a working group to look at all the transport issues as a whole.

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This was the right decision, but as of the last GSPC meeting on 17 March, Terms of Reference for the working group had still not been agreed. Meanwhile on 27 January, GSPC agreed to provide £24,000 of residents' money to Shelfords EWR Action Group and other groups unconnected with the village, without having had any report back from the working group and without having established relative priorities for EWR vs CSET, etc.

On the CSET front, GSPC has recently published a report by i-Transport, dated November 2020 and a final report dated March 2021, which it commissioned jointly with Stapleford Parish Council. The reports were prepared with secrecy and lack of consultation with residents. The report advocates routing CSET into the village along the route of the West Anglia Main Line, above ground. My view (and that of a number of others) is that this cannot work:

- In the current morning and evening peaks (ex any COVID changes) around a dozen trains call at or pass through Shelford every hour. The Station Road crossing is manually controlled, which means barriers close at least three minutes before a train arrives (more for stopping up line trains). Both crossings are closed for extended periods. The main reason we don't already have total gridlock is that some of the up and down trains overlap.
- I believe that opening of Cambridge South station is likely to add about four trains per hour.
- To that add 8-12 'guided bus' journeys per hour along the same route. I made these points to Malcolm Watson and his response was, '...will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting'. Again, in my view, by publishing half-baked proposals like this and communicating them to the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the two Parish Councils will have lost credibility and will not be able to influence the outcome of CSET.

My view is that CSET guided busway should come into the villages approximately along the route of the old Haverhill line. Doing this above ground, as Stapleford and GSPCs have proposed, would gridlock the two level crossings in the village. Therefore, both CSET and West Anglia Main Line should share the same route through Great Shelford **in a tunnel**. If, as seems highly likely, EWR will come in through the south of Cambridge, it should share the same route (or also be tunnelled along the Kings Cross line). In essence what I'm proposing is:

- Combine EWR (if necessary), CSET and West Anglia Main Line on the same alignment (presumably on four tracks).
- The alignment probably reuses part of the old Haverhill line.
- Electrify it, use hydrogen or whatever – no diesels (including freight).
- Put the whole line in a tunnel starting somewhere southwest of Wedd's factory at the end of Granta Terrace and (probably) running under the

existing West Anglia route through the centre of the village to somewhere the far side of the Granhams crossing. (my guess is it would surface somewhere around the back of Scotsdales).

- Underground station in the centre of the village (possibly under the existing station) with interchange onto at least West Anglia and CSET.

Benefits:

- Integrated transport system; greatly improved public transport for GS and Stapleford.
- Removal of two level crossings. If you do a proper cost benefit analysis on that, the benefits must be tens of millions.
- Free up several tens of hectares in the centre of the village - residential development (especially affordable), open spaces, etc.?

‘Disbenefits’ avoided:

- Three new ‘level crossings’ on Granhams, Hinton Way and Haverhill Road.
- Destruction of Green Belt at the Gogs and in front of White Hill.
- Creation of a development corridor along CSET.

The major downside will be closure of the West Anglia Main Line between Cambridge and Whittlesford for (at a guess) 12 months. However, other options would probably have a similar impact.

I’ve been told several times that I’m an idiot and worse for proposing this:

- ‘The water table is too high.’ When did the Channel or Blackwall tunnels last flood?
- ‘It will be too expensive.’ We are talking about projects, which in total will cost £5-10 billion pounds. Most of the tunnelling (given that it follows the existing railway lines) can be done by ‘cut and cover’. Costs of this sort of tunnelling are ‘modest’ – see section 4.1 of this EU document https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/assess_unit_cost_rail/annex_13_case_study_tunneling.pdf. So 11-28m euros per kilometre. As highlighted above, a large amount of land would be freed up to offset this and the economic benefits of removing the two level crossings would be huge.

The idiots are those who close their eyes and reject proposals without proper evaluation or who have another agenda.

The only way that any of this is going to fly, is by both PCs making a coordinated approach to the Secretary of State, which is what should have been happening from day one.

Mike Nettleton

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RESPONSE TO READER'S LETTER

TRANSPORT ISSUES – A DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

Mike Nettleton's letter includes a number of factual inaccuracies including a misrepresentation of the purpose and work of the Shelford EWR Action Group and we appreciate being given the opportunity to respond.

The primary objective of the Action Group is to secure a fair and proper evaluation of, and full public consultation by, EWR on a northern approach to Cambridge. To suggest that the group is 'not interested in the impact of other transport projects or coordination' on the village is categorically false.

EWR's current consultation confirms that they indeed considered a route through Cambridge Road which would require demolition of both Scotsdales and the Rugby Club. Additionally, EWR's 2019 consultation said that one possibility would be to join the Liverpool Street line north of Shepreth Branch and the current consultation explains why they have now ruled it out. Mr Nettleton's assertion that the Action Group disingenuously got businesses including Scotsdales and the Rugby Club 'very excited' by 'telling them' that this potential route would happen is factually incorrect.

Mr Nettleton seems to think that if only the Parish Council had forced EWR, the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Network Rail to work together, his idea for an underground station in Great Shelford connecting EWR and CSET to Cambridge South would become reality. In its latest consultation EWR has dismissed the possibility of joining the Liverpool Street line south of the village because it does not provide a sustainable and value-for-money transport solution. Further, to date, no one has been able to convince EWR to engage in meaningful communication with other local infrastructure projects. And during the EWR consultation meeting on 16 April, EWR advised that building a tunnel under eg Shepreth junction would be both challenging and very costly and therefore was not an option they were considering. All these matters lead to the conclusion that building a tunnel under the village is not a likely option, to say nothing of the construction disruption that would be involved.

If Mr Nettleton would like to attack someone, he should attack EWR rather than a hard-working group of villagers trying to address the democratic deficit it is leaving in its wake.

The Shelfords EWR Action Group

(to join, send an email to gt-shelford-ewr-action@googlegroups.com)

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CORONAVIRUS DIARY MARCH 2021

3 March. We're still under lockdown with a month to go. I'm in the garden. At last the ground has dried enough to do some digging, so it's a busy time. I'm cutting back roses too, and my hands are like pincushions. I've a fondness for ramblers – beautiful flowers, but vicious thorns. I remember my neighbour Tony Legge saying of gooseberries that he wondered if they justified the blood loss. Sometimes I wonder the same of roses.

Early mornings I hear a woodpecker drumming. Out in the fields there are boxing hares.

5 March. I've been working so hard, I'm exhausted. Yards of ivy cut back before the birds start to nest. Swathes of briar rose cleared. And digging. At this time of year, I walk round in a stupor of exhaustion. Mostly I sleep well, but sometimes I'm so tired I can't sleep. It's a simplifying life. It elbows aside the other concerns.

6 March. There was a budget this week. Most of the pain of paying for the Covid-19 outbreak has been postponed. But a row has erupted over nurses' pay, following the offer of a 1% rise. Clearly clapping is one thing, but coming up with a decent pay rise is a whole other issue. And a missed opportunity – a 1% rise in top-rate income tax could have funded a pay rise for nurses – and for all the invisible ancillary workers – ward cleaning staff, laundry, porters and so on – who've carried on working through the pandemic. So much gratitude for key workers. Well, put your money where your mouth is.

8 March. I was moving a pile of bricks – under them I found eight hibernating newts. It's almost impossible to move anything in the garden without disturbing something. Sometimes I wonder – as a wildlife gardener – if there's actually room for me at all.

The schools reopened today, a first tentative step to opening up life again. Now we wait – with no further relaxation of rules – to see if Covid-19 rates rise again. At 3.30pm I see the old familiar procession of parents and children as the school day ends. It feels like a step forward.

11 March. A night then a day of tempest. Stuff has flown all around the garden, fences have fallen down, the roof has flown off my shed.

At Granhams level crossing I meet a grandad with his grandson. The little boy loves to watch the crossing gates go up and down. Some things never change. Trains and ducks – free entertainment for small children.

I am hoping I'll see some hares. But while I am sitting beneath the hedge, it's a robin I see. Endlessly curious, it wonders what this human is doing sitting so still and hops to within three feet of me. It boldly looks me in the eye, and stands, head cocked, waiting to see. Such a small, small creature. What a precious encounter. I got soaked on the way home. I looked across the ditch and had the curious experience of watching sheets of rain fall six feet away, while standing in the dry. Not for long! It caught me up as I walked along Granhams Road, and I was pelted with icy bullets.



12 March. I am doing what Pooh Bear called his Stoutness Exercises, though really they're aimed at making sure I keep supple, so I can do my spring digging and planting. As I exercise, a constant stream of children go pass the window, on foot, on scooters, on bikes, while parents follow, many with eyes glued to their mobiles. Then the return stream of parents. Is it my imagination, or do they look more cheerful on their return journey - free at last! Two months of home schooling has not been easy.

In Cambridge, around the junction of Hills and Cherry Hinton Roads, the streets are full of young people again. It feels as if life has returned. Meanwhile, in the window of the Square, an advertisement for bar staff. It feels as if normality might return soon. Maybe in time we'll be able to sit outside on summer evenings with a glass of wine and a packet of crisps, without trying to keep two metres apart from everyone else. What a pleasant thought.

19 March. There's a dead animal in Granhams Road. I hoped against hope it wasn't a brown hare. No, it was a badger, which isn't much better. With its coarse thick coat and its scut of a tail it lay there, smashed. What a shame. Far too beautiful a creature to end like this.

It's a cold spring. Somewhere, I fantasise, there's a machine puffing out these dense streamers of dull grey which cover the sky. But for all that, things are growing, and the occasional sunny day with brilliant blue sky is very welcome. The birds sing, the bees buzz.

Everyone greets you with a smile.

There are lambs in the field by the railway bridge. Wobbly legs, string tails. Lots of baaing.

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Our vaccination programme proceeds apace. The EU's doesn't. They hung back in ordering their supplies, and now supplies are not forthcoming. They throw tantrums and blame us. They are not covering themselves in glory, nor are they doing a good job for their population. Meanwhile here, the infection rates are falling, lockdown has done its work. In Europe, on the contrary, they are rising. And there are new variants of the virus which could reduce the effectiveness of our vaccines. At this stage it looks like there'll be no overseas holidays. It's too risky. We've a long way to go before this crisis is over.

21 March. It's the Spring Equinox and the days will now become longer than the nights. It's a welcome boost to the spirits. When we kept chickens, we learnt that they respond to the light, not to temperature. I suspect that most of our wildlife does the same. In this climate the temperature tells you nothing about where you are on the calendar. Spring one day, winter the next. But this is a lovely spring day. We are out, planting potatoes and doing the spring digging. And so are all our neighbours. It feels companionable to be in this community of gardeners following the seasons.

It's Census Day. Having spent so much time poring over censuses (they're a great way to learn the history of the village) it feels momentous to me. We're another link in that chain, charting the history of Great Shelford. Years hence, people will look at census 2021 with enormous interest, and note all its peculiarities, because we were in the middle of a coronavirus pandemic, which changed life so much.

It's not long now. On 29 March the lockdown will officially end.

22 March. I'm crossing the Cambridge Road railway bridge, and I stop to lean on the fence and watch the lambs. On one side nose-tingling ammonia from the sheep, on the other the acrid stench of car fumes. The relentless noise of passing traffic. In between, rooks cawing, sheep baaing, lambs with their high-pitched mhhaaaa. Jackdaws – always ready to spot an opportunity – are collecting fleece to line a nest. Meanwhile, the rooks from the rookery on the other side of the bridge are probing the turf with their sharp beaks. When not fighting their neighbours, that is. They're a social bird. And being a social bird means that there's a lot of argy-bargy.

Today's deaths are the lowest yet— just 17. It's a Monday, which always means a lower figure. But still it's heralded as a sign for optimism. It's many months since there were so few.

22 March. The wren, yet another bird pecking through my flowerpots for insects, runs across the patio like a mouse. How can such a tiny, tiny bird produce such a loud burst of sweet song?

It's exactly a year since the first lockdown began. And our second spring under lockdown. Who could have imagined it? Life by now has settled into a calm

monotony. But only because we feel the end is in sight. And, of course, because it's spring.

There are so many runners in the village, both young and old. Lots of people walking too, far more than you ever saw before, either just out for a stroll or on their way to the Co-op.

28 March. The hour went forward today, giving us an hour longer of daylight in the evening. I did too much gardening yesterday (digging again), and am very tired. I put the clocks forward, then idle through the day. It's rather pleasant.

It's such a cold spring. The soil is still cold, the birds and bees seem sluggish. It's the wind. Some days have been bright and sunny, but always the cold wind from the north.

29 March. The lockdown has ended and it's a glorious day. I am on my hands and knees hand-weeding the onions. I am wreaking havoc among the invertebrate population. Disgruntled spiders and black ants. Tiny brown beetles. A veritable army of red seven-spot ladybirds. In a recent wildlife programme, I heard that the incomer harlequin ladybirds are now our commonest ladybird. Not in my garden they're not. There are hundreds of seven-spots, on plants, running up the fence, even flying. It's such a shock when they suddenly open up their wing cases and fly – they turn into a different creature. I've seen butterflies and there's the low contented buzz of a big buff-tailed bumble bee. Across two fences my neighbour is seeing her grandchildren properly for the first time for months. My other neighbours have gone out on their bikes for the day. And I am happily anticipating a day out tomorrow. Joy is in the air. A perfect blue sky, warm sunshine and content.

30 March. A glorious day of sunshine. Just like last year, the press carries reports of people flocking to parks and beaches, and concerns about social distancing. But what do you expect? It's been a long hard winter, with harsh restrictions. If people go just a little bit mad, can you blame them? We are all glorying in the sun. It's just people expressing a love of life.

31 March. The rate of cases and deaths has slowed at last. Even though the schools have been open for three weeks (although now it's the Easter holidays and they're closed) the cases haven't – so far – started to rise again. The vaccinations are slowing the virus down. Today's report: 43 deaths, 4,053 new cases, and a total of 31,000 people vaccinated – all the vulnerable groups. The programme is changing direction now to concentrate on giving that 31,000 second, top-up doses.

We've taken the first steps in opening things up again. Lockdown has ended, though many restrictions remain. Most notably, we can't meet people indoors. Now begins the process of unravelling the mind set we've got into, of staying

at home, of restricting our contact, the relentless hand-washing and wearing of masks, the fear of outside. It's easy to get set in those ways, and for our psychological wellbeing we need – when it is safe – to start moving outwards again. We have to find a balance between needful caution and fear of the outside world. It's not easy. This last year has ground itself in like ropes that cut into the flesh. It will leave many scars.

Helen Harwood

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Phil Seekings (Secretary)

BOWLS CLUB



By the time you read this we will have had our open days, but we are still looking for new members. The venue is next to the tennis courts on Great Shelford Recreation Ground. 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. Please contact me or Graham to arrange to come along for a trial or a practice. You may then find that you would like to join the club and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. If you haven't played before or are a little rusty, coaching can be arranged.

We play in four leagues: The Business House, Cambridge and District Division 3, Meldreth and District and the Foxton League, together with a few friendly games. We abide by the Covid-19 rules as laid down by Bowls England, so we can assure everyone that it will be a safe environment. For further information please contact either Alan Edwards (Secretary) on 07779 834311 or Graham White (Chairman) on 07740 031713.

Alan Edwards

SUMMER LEAGUES RETURN TO TENNIS CLUB

Since tennis resumed on 29 March, the team players at Great Shelford have been making the most of the dry, if cold, weather to get match fit for the summer leagues, which start in early May.

We have six ladies' teams and eight men's teams entered in the league, so the courts will be very busy with matches in the evenings. Regrettably we can't accommodate spectators due to the need to maintain social distancing, but we hope people will be able to watch matches as the summer wears on. There are mixed matches to look forward to later in the year, as well as the club's own internal tournaments. Watch this space!

Angharad Harris

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:

01223 842553 gsvneditorial@gmail.com

Commercial advertisements

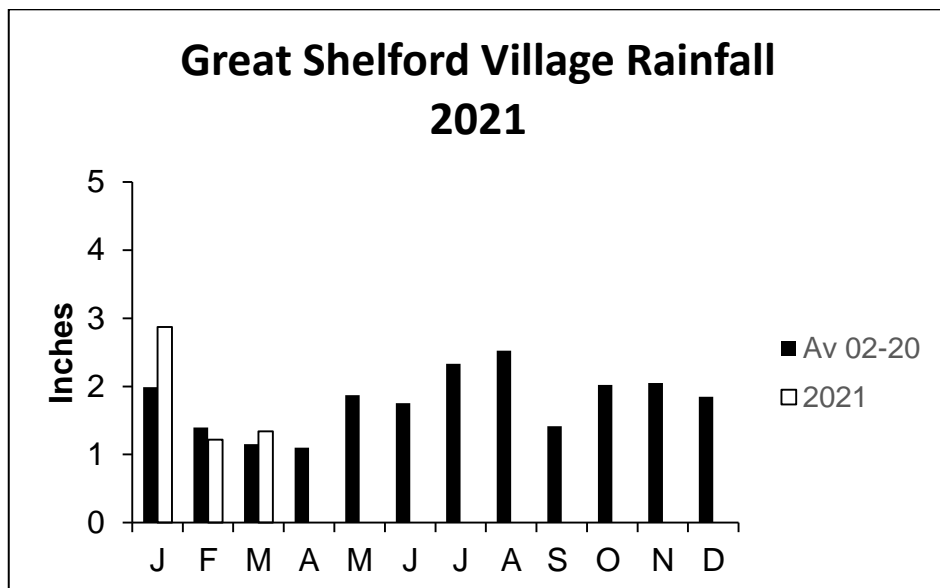
These are for a 12-month period, renewed in January. There is a waiting list.
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Subscriptions and online payment details

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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	greengroupsssss@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.pet29@gmail.com	843278
Parish Churchwarden	Stella Nettleton	stella.nettleton@btinternet.com	07763 887953
Parochial Charities	Mary Lester (Clerk to the Trustees)	lestermh_uk@yahoo.co.uk	842411
Police	Non-emergency number		101
Rainbow Pre-School	Alison Tomlin		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	Sarah Richards	secretary@gstc.org.uk	
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

LIBRARY UPDATE



You can now browse the library shelves and use the self-service machines to check out your books. A friendly face will be at the door of the library to explain how managed browsing works and to answer your questions.

To ensure that everyone can use the library safely:

- a one-way system is in place
- customers are being asked to wear masks (unless exempt)
- you'll be asked to sanitise your hands when you enter the library
- social distancing will be in place
- returned books will be quarantined

Other services, such as select and collect, reservations and pre-booked use of the public computers (essential use only) are continuing as before.

For further information about library re-opening, please visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library or call the Library Contact Centre on 0345 045 5225