

# Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

JUNE 2021

PRICE: 40p

## *Tunwells Lane Traffic Chaos*



Burst water main leads to crossroads closure

Photo: J Wilson

*Open Gardens Nearby*  
*What Can You Do For Your Bees?*

## GREAT SHELFORD

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<b>GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
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<b>Highways</b>	Barrie Ashurst	07803 001985	<b>Pavilion &amp; Recreation</b> Malcolm Watson 844901
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<b>COUNTY COUNCILLORS</b>	Brian Milnes	07971 88611	Maria King 07764 609061

## **GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

*greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*

### **SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 28 APRIL 2021**

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

#### **RESIGNATION**

Charlie Nightingale has resigned from the Parish Council.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Fourteen members of the public attended the meeting.

One resident commented on the Parish Council report on the Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) busway proposal, expressing the view that the solution advocated could not actually be made to work and would worsen traffic problems in the village, and saying that a consultation should have been carried out before the report was written. The Chair stated that the Parish Council have written to the Greater Cambridge Partnership asking for a response to the project, and survey options will be taken in the village shortly. The resident also expressed concern about the number of sensitive items being considered as reserved matters. The Chair noted these comments but said that several situations are in progress at present that need to be debated internally before the information is made open.

A resident has emailed the Parish Council about safety issues related to building works in Church Street. The resident has been advised by Cambridge County Council (CCC) that there is no requirement for a temporary traffic regulation order or for traffic lights, only for a hoarding licence closing the pavement. The Chair suggested that the works should be held in abeyance until new County Councillors are in place for discussion of the risks involved, and that Highways should also be involved. Residents are concerned that costs may be involved and that they may not be able to proceed, which may affect the survival of some heritage buildings.

#### **NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Dr Peter Brown made a presentation and was unanimously accepted as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

#### **FINANCE**

Thirteen cheques to the value of £27,305.94p for 17–31 March and eighteen cheques to the value of £44,113.85p for the period up to 28 April were presented.

## **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

### **District Councillors**

A report was circulated and is on the website.

### **County Councillors**

No report was received.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **Highways Committee**

Planned work in Station Road and Woollards Lane has been cancelled. Councillor Barrie Ashurst is investigating.

### **Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee**

Clubs and facilities are opening again with appropriate risk assessments in place. Work on the river bank has been delayed due to material supply issues.

### **Cemetery and Allotment Committee**

One plot is currently available at Stonehill and one at the Cemetery location, and three new applications are to be reviewed. Clearance of four plots in poor condition is to be carried out at Parish Council expense. New plot holders will be invoiced in May this year and existing plot holders in September or October.

## **REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS**

**Playscape** It is hoped that work will begin in May and end in July. The provision of temporary play equipment over this period, particularly at weekends, is being considered. The Fun Run will take place on the third weekend in September as a virtual and actual event, subject to legislation.

**Neighbourhood Plan** The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan committee 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 will start in the second week in June.

**Feast** A limited Feast event will be held on Saturday 10 July. The Pavilion will be used as a bar but there will be no public access into the building. It is hoped to hold the Feast as normal in 2022, running from 2 to 10 July culminating in Feast Day on Sunday 10 July.

**Scouts and Guides** Enquiries are still continuing regarding the lease. It has not yet been decided when meetings will resume.

**SSYI Club Room** It is hoped to have a grand opening of the refurbished club room at the end of May.

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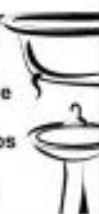
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**TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP**

Councillors Lyn Disley and Peter Brown presented summaries of village consultation documents.

A leaflet giving information about Parish Council consultations is being sent to everyone in the village. A Parish Council group will be established for reviewing responses and for preparing an onward response to East West Rail (EWR) from the Parish Council, to be approved at the Parish Council meeting on 19 May. A potential Extraordinary Parish Council single Agenda item meeting may be held on 26 May to agree the response to EWR, taking into account additional public response.

A Parish Council position statement on the busway proposal by Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) is available on the website.

The Chair expressed thanks to the Working Group for the extensive amount of work undertaken in preparation of the reviewed documents.

**PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Councillors Ifthian Shareef and Lyn Disley have discussed options for improving the digital capacity with the web administrator. They have asked for volunteers from parishioners to help with communication and public consultation. It was agreed that a Comms Working Group would be set up, chaired by Councillor Shareef.

Full copies of the minutes of the Parish Council and Planning meetings can be viewed on the Parish Council website [greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes](https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes)

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JUNE**

Planning Committee meeting	Wednesday 2 June, 5.15pm, Zoom
Planning Committee meeting	Wednesday 16 June, 5.15pm, Zoom
Parish Council meeting	Wednesday 16 June, 6.30pm, Zoom
Village Open Meeting	Wednesday 23 June, 6.30pm, Memorial Hall

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.

## SATURDAY FEAST 2021 – 10 JULY



We hope to hold a one-day community event on the Recreation Ground, offering food, drink and live entertainment for all.

Starting at 12 noon there will be a bar and food until 5pm, followed by an evening session from 6–10.30pm. We hope to have live music from 2–9.30pm.

There will be no stalls or arena events but it will be the best opportunity this year to meet up with local friends in a sociable open air atmosphere.

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](http://shelfordfeast.co.uk)

Save the date and see you there!

*Duncan Grey*



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## SHELFORD SCHOOL

It is with quite some relief that a whole half term of in-school learning will have taken place by the time you read this! There are still many challenges to be faced in leading a school through a pandemic but the staff, pupils, families and wider community continue to show great resilience and commitment to securing the best outcomes for the pupils.

In line with our curriculum theme of '**Growth and Change**' this half term, there has been excitement in the Reception class as the chicks have hatched. Year 4 have been growing plants and Year 2 have been observing a tank of tadpoles. At this time of year, we also get ready to ensure Year 6 has a fantastic final half term at the school, celebrating both their time with us and their future plans.

As announced in last month's update, there will be some change in the staffing from September and we are pleased to have appointed two excellent new teachers to the Key Stage 2 team. Gabrielle Hudson joins us from the Cambridge University Faculty of Education, having completed her PGCE, to teach Year 5 while Mr Cuff is on sabbatical.

In Year 4 we are pleased that Pamela Stewart, one of our current members of staff, will be teaching two days a week and experienced teacher, Lindsey Fox will join us to teach the other three days.

Another change to note is that Year 5 is starting some new traditions as they anticipate their final year at Shelford. They are preparing to vote on, and organise a Year 5 Activity Day, and with environmental and compassionate reasons in mind, have led the decision to perpetuate the colour of royal blue for all Year 6 jumpers in future. We look forward to hearing about what they decide to do through debate and democratic decision making!

Congratulations to the winning team at this year's PTA quiz! With 'deliver to your door' drinks, and the now indispensable Zoom, a brainstretching online evening raised vital funds for the school as we debated answers in break out rooms, filled in web based answer forms, and attempted to play our wild cards at the most opportune times. Thanks to the quiz masters, Andrew Corney and Daniel Ayres, and the PTA committee for the time and effort put in to make sure we all had a great evening.

*Anna Caroe*  
*Chair of Governors*



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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.

### Nearly there!

The government ‘road-map’ for the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions is making good progress. Later this month we should see the final set of restrictions lifted and we can cautiously begin to enjoy new found freedoms.

So many people deserve our thanks and appreciation for all that they have been doing during the last year, especially those working in the NHS. Well done to all!

Every blessing.

### The Friends of Great Shelford Parish Church

The Medieval Church of St Mary the Virgin has stood as a focal point of the village since the late 14th Century, and is a space that can be used for a variety of events.

The Friends organisation was formed in 1996 and exists for residents who consider the village church to be part of the rural community and wish to see it preserved for future generations.

The group welcomes everyone, be they Christian worshippers or not. The objective of the Friends is to help maintain the Church’s fabric, furniture, and fittings.

Recent projects included the installation of a new sound system and improvements to the interior lighting. Future undertakings include new furnishings at the Church entrance and some essential electrical work.

Fund raising events have included classical music concerts in the Church, dinners at local restaurants, coffee mornings and afternoon tea parties.

We would welcome new members to join the Friends and help us support this historic building and keep it alive and vibrant.

For more information and membership details:

Contact Trevor Ward (Secretary) [trevorward@gmail.com](mailto:trevorward@gmail.com) or 01223 843146





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## GRANTA Medical Practices

### COVID-19 Vaccinations Update

Have you had your first Covid-19 vaccination yet? If not, and you are in a cohort between 1 and 6, please contact us as soon as possible to arrange an appointment.

If you fall into one of the cohorts, 7 to 12, please ring 119 or go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> where you can directly book your first dose appointment at a central vaccination centre.

If you need to book your second dose, NHS England guidelines state that patients should return to the venue where they had their first vaccination, as the second dose will be allocated and sent to that original venue.

As always, if any of the Covid-19 vaccination guidelines change we will let you know via our website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk) and our social media platforms. However, please don't hesitate to contact us directly if you do not have access to the internet.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and kind words, as well as all the biscuits, chocolates and other lovely treats. The goodwill shown to us whilst we deliver the vaccines means so much to all of us.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Email: [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net) Direct dial: 01223 627743

### 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-19 restrictions, please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/panto-form> both in order to book a time slot to audition and to complete an audition form.

Please email [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com) or ring Sarah on 842498 or if you have any queries.

*Sarah Coppendale*

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## IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK

As I type, we are in Mental Health Awareness Week 2021, and there has never been a time when we have been so aware of its importance. As a child, I would overhear whispered conversations about people who 'suffered with their nerves', but it was never something that was discussed openly, rather a source of shame or embarrassment. Men, traditionally the stronger sex, have often seen it as a sign of weakness to admit to feeling sad or in low spirits. Yet one in four of us will experience mental health problems each year, and rarely a day goes by without us hearing of someone suffering in this way, especially since Covid-19. Our young people seem particularly affected by the isolation from friends, lack of sense of purpose and disrupted education caused by the pandemic.

It can be difficult for those who have lived stoically through a war or other trauma, to empathise with those who have spent a year in a warm house during peace time with lots of free time and yet still feel depressed. There are also those whose personality types do not predispose them to anxiety, in the same way that others' genetic makeup means they are unlikely to suffer from, say, digestive symptoms. In a Christian context, those experiencing mental health difficulties in the past may have been advised to pray about it or read their bible more, tactics likely to add to the pressure and guilt. Thankfully, these attitudes are on their way out; the sooner the better.

Another attitude has been to treat mental ill-health as a medical problem, and it is true that for many, modern medication can literally be a life saver. The chemistry of the brain can be altered to alleviate extreme 'lows' for some, but for underfunded and overstretched mental health services, prescribing drugs can be used as a sole line of defence, treating the symptoms but not the cause. Yet waiting lists for skilled practitioners of 'talking therapies' are long and growing longer by the day.

Although Christians do not make any claims to be therapists, there is something we in the church can do to help. As followers of Jesus we do not subscribe to a system that values people primarily for their economic productivity, their race or their sex. We see that loneliness and isolation will wound people, whereas being in relationships of mutual valuing and nurturing

will build them up. We recognise the vital importance of rest, forgiveness and being there, however long we are needed.

Christians, including leaders, have their ups and downs as often as anyone, yet knowing that we belong to a large family, where we are valued simply as human beings, means that the love of God and each other can begin to smooth away some of the turmoil and distress. Being available, vulnerable, giving of our time to listen to each other without coming up with what we think is the answer, is a gift we are learning, slowly, to give. For a wearied, worried and anxious culture, Jesus' voice in Matthew 11: 28–30 still beckons to us all;

*'Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.'*

*Liz Jenkin, Elder, Great Shelford Free Church*

## READER'S LETTER

Recently, I was taken out one afternoon in my wheelchair to the village. We got to Freestone's Corner (corner of London Road and Woollards Lane), and I was very disappointed to see the stone snake the children had decorated so beautifully, scattered all over the path. It had looked so nice a few weeks before and it was clear that the children had worked hard painting the stones. So children, how about putting them back?

We also sat in the Garden of Rest behind the War Memorial, in High Green. Once upon a time it had a hedge all around the outside and was quiet and restful, but looking around it, it struck me as sad and uncared for. The trees are old; it needs new trees to start growing beside the old. The path is nice but very uneven. Great Shelford needs this garden. It has lost the fields in the village that we once had. The Recreation ground is nice, but there are very few trees that provide shade. When the sun shines it's nice to sit under a tree and watch the cricket.

As an elderly member of the community of Great Shelford and someone who has lived here all my life, I would like to make a suggestion. How about a collection to remember the virus – I would like to buy a tree for the Garden of Rest. This land was given to the village in the 1930s for King George and I think we should treasure it for generations to come.

*Jill Nicholas (nee Arnold). Born 21 December 1931*



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## Great Shelford Parochial Charities

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## RADIO 2 TRAFFIC ALERT FOR TUNWELLS LANE

On Friday 30 April we woke to an enormous puddle outside our Tunwells Lane house – a welcome arrival of rain for our parched gardens? No, it was in fact a burst water main at the traffic lights which was causing the flow; passing cars were creating large arcs of water to soak unfortunate dog walkers and school pupils.

We went out in our car for an hour or two, and approaching home were surprised and a bit thrilled to hear the lovely Richie, (fellow Baggies fan), on the Ken Bruce show on Radio 2, warning of a problem in Great Shelford, Tunwells Lane.... Yikes! Cue interested texts from family miles away.



By this time, we were caught up amongst irritated drivers held up in Little Shelford as diversions were being put in place. Woollards Lane was alarmingly busy and urgent work at the lights had started. Signs were up warning of our road closure, and we settled in back home to watch the unusual sight and sound of an empty main road. This opened up possibilities.... The lads next door playing football? A Covid-19 spaced cuppa with the neighbours, chairs on the road and shared digestives? Well, no, because so many drivers decided it was worth having a go at getting through.

Despite there being a chasm the size of a sink hole at the lights, several Anglian Water vans, spouting water, and workmen in hi-vis, the message just wasn't getting through. Our next hour of amusement (in lockdown, it counted as entertainment) was watching cars nipping confidently past our house despite the large sign announcing 'Tunwells Lane closed'. Then they would drive airily back, as if they had always intended to do an annoying three-point turn. Others seemed to realise they looked pretty silly. A few looked really cross.

The most interesting vehicles were the large trucks which then had to reverse slowly back to Elms Avenue so they could turn. One managed to knock over cones in the attempt. What did these drivers think the signs meant? That they were put up as a practical joke? To be fair, we already have 'Granhams Rd

Closed' signs up, and perhaps it was unclear. I suspect though that some were expecting to see another one that said 'Yeah, just kidding, go ahead'.

After an hour or two of counting 'black Golf, Range Rover, red Mini – 20, 30, 40 seconds – yep, returning black Golf, Range Rover, red Mini'. We got pretty irritated and pitied those living near the lights who would have had hundreds of chancers having to accept the inevitable and make a noisy turn.

As I write, it is Bank Holiday Monday, so no work on filling the hole yet and the road is still closed. I am now missing the buses and the wailing police cars, because the emptiness is not that of a quiet country lane, more a 'Day of the Triffids' worrying silence. Well, until the next driver sails by – 20, 30, 40 .....

*Pam Connellan*

## FURTHER SUPPORT FOR PLAYSCAPE



We are delighted to announce that Scotsdales Garden Centre will be generously supplying the plants for the new borders of the Playscape. From dogwoods and Japanese anemones to lavender and beautiful grasses, the planting will be hardy and pollinator friendly, providing

long seasonal interest for all creatures who visit the rec. Our sincere thanks go to this local company for supporting our community project.

Don't forget to let me know if you're willing and able to help plant (all 700!) of these beautiful plants in the autumn, probably in late August or early September.

On a slightly more mundane (but nonetheless important!) point, we were very relieved to receive a Certificate of Lawfulness that allows the Parish Council to build the Playscape under Permitted Development rights. Despite having full planning permission for the scheme it was easier to build this way than discharge all the conditions in time to use the time-limited grants.

### **Get the latest news...**

Remember, 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](http://www.shelfordplayscape.org) or follow us on social media for updates on progress.

*Eleanor McCrone, [info@shelfordplayscape.org](mailto:info@shelfordplayscape.org)*



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- Home care services
- Care homes
- Using the NHS 111 First service

### **Get in touch**

Give your feedback by calling 0330 355 1285 or texting 0752 0635176, or online at <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views>

### **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*



Eboracum Baroque are delighted to return to the idyllic surroundings of The Orchard Tea Garden in Grantchester for a series of baroque concerts. These concerts are generously sponsored by Woodfines Solicitors, without whom these concerts would not be possible.

**Programme**

Thursday 24 June, 7pm: Dido and Aeneas + Fairy Queen

Thursday 24 June, 9.15pm: Purcell and a Pint

Friday 25 June, 7pm: Baroque Classics in the Orchard

Saturday 26 June, 7pm: Acis and Galatea

**Tickets** may be ordered from <http://eboracumbaroque.co.uk/>

The Orchard Tea Garden will be serving refreshments before the performances and during the interval. Please bring your own seating if you wish but the famous green deck chairs will be out!

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	<b>BIN COLLECTIONS</b>
	Black bins      Wednesday 2, Tuesdays 15 and 29 June
	Blue and green bins      Tuesday 8 and Tuesday 22 June
	<b>POST BOXES</b>
	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.
	<b>POST OFFICE</b>
	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.
	<b>LIBRARY</b>
	The library is open for limited services only. Current opening hours are: Tuesdays 10am–2pm, Fridays 2–6pm.

## WHAT'S ON

### CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE

8–11 June	Oleanna, 'A brilliant revival of a masterpiece'
17–26 June	The Woman in Black, Susan Hill's acclaimed ghost story
28 June – 10 July	Four Quartets, directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes



## PHYLLIS CROUCHEN

### SHELFORD SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS 1934–1936

There is a family story that my Great Aunt, Phyllis Crouchen met her future husband when she got off a train at the wrong station on her way to her new teaching job. They met on the platform before she found her way to the correct station. That new job was as Headmistress of the school at Great Shelford.

I discovered this recently with the help of Polly Stanton, Governor of the School, who guided me to that marvellous history of the school published in 1993 'The Making of a Village School 1843–1993' by Marjorie Westbrook. In her research, Marjorie recorded that Phyllis was appointed as Headmistress in

1934 when she was one of 29 applicants for the vacant role. The appointment came down to the final two applicants and the school managers split 3–3 before the Chairman cast his deciding vote in favour of Phyllis over the acting Headmistress at the time. Phyllis started at the school at the start of the new school year in 1934. It seems the defeated candidate felt she had been passed over because Phyllis was young and modern and had crossed the Atlantic!



attached photo is one of the few photographs we have of her (on the right seated in her Land Army outfit).

After the war she moved to Chesham, Buckinghamshire to teach and lived nearby in Amersham. In 1932, she did indeed go overseas (as noted above) when she was selected for a one year teacher exchange (part of what was called the League of Empire programme) and spent the year in Ontario, Canada. I expect this was a highlight of her working life. The school in Chesham where she was working closed in 1934 which is when she applied for the post in Great Shelford.

Phyllis spent two years at Great Shelford School and lived at May Cottage in the village with her father during that time. (I'm not sure this cottage still

exists\*). During her time as Headmistress, there was the first intimation of parental involvement in the school – possibly an embryonic PTA, according to Marjorie. There was also an expansion of other activities and Marjorie concluded that a freer, happier and more open attitude pervaded the school and although she was not Headmistress for very long ‘perhaps the appointment was a good one after all’.

Phyllis’s father died in May Cottage in May 1936 and shortly afterwards Phyllis left the school and moved back to Chesham. School archives in Chesham are missing but I think she had a connection with Ley Hill School in the village. In August 1936 she married the ‘man from the railway station’. She was 44 at the time and after the marriage they lived in Amersham.

That man was Raymond Faulkner who was to become one of Britain’s foremost Egyptologists, working and lecturing at University College London (where he received his Doctor of Letters degree) and writing many papers and books on the subject of Ancient Egypt. His books remain in publication to this day. They moved to Woodbridge in Suffolk in the 1950s and Phyllis died there after a long illness in 1963 aged 71 years.

I have one letter she wrote from Amersham in 1943 to my mother and she comes across as a warm, friendly lady. She remarks in the letter how happy she was in her marriage and it seemed a good match. There were no children.

My connection to Phyllis is through her brother, Jack who left Mutford aged fourteen and joined the Merchant Navy spending some years in the Far East sailing between various ports (Shanghai, Hong Kong etc). He transferred to the Royal Navy towards the end of the First World War and on one of his missions sailed into Kingstown Harbour (now Dun Laoghaire) near Dublin, Ireland.



At a reception for the ship’s officers, he met a pretty young Irish girl and as they say ‘the rest is history’. He married her in 1919 and subsequently left the Navy to settle in Ireland where I live. He was my Grandfather. Phyllis was a bridesmaid and is seated beside the bride in the photograph above.

So that is how Great Shelford got mixed up in my family history stretching from Mutford (Suffolk) to Ireland!  
*Jon Sedgwick*

**\*Editor’s Note**

Further investigation suggests that May Cottage could actually be 20b High Green as Ancestry lists this as the address of Phyllis’s father

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## 2G3S

**Bus Services** On 10 May, Edward Leigh of Smarter Cambridge Transport talked to us about how we pay for improving local bus services. Funds are needed to kick start this process and begin to attract car users away from their vehicles. Driving has to drastically reduce to avoid climate catastrophe, even with the advent of electric vehicles. Road transport is much subsidised at present, as drivers do not pay directly for cleaning up the air pollution they cause, the potholes they create, the road building needed to deal with congestion, or the carbon emissions they make – these costs are ‘externalities’.

As more vehicles go electric and thus won't pay fuel tax, Edward advocates replacing this fuel tax with a Road User Charge (RUC). This could be more sensitive than the former by charging less for rural journeys than urban ones for which alternative public transport is available, and charging more for rush hour journeys. The RUC would in this way discourage sole occupancy driving and incentivise the efficient movement of freight. It would also replace lost fuel tax revenues as drivers go electric and could also fund the improvement of bus services in a sustainable way.

Now that the new Mayor has cast doubt on the CAM Metro project and is looking at transport generally, there could be some changes in bus services quite quickly. He could bring in local policies such as congestion charges, workplace parking charges, road pricing and franchising bus services and set up citizens' assemblies, as in the past, to assess the public's views.

**Future meetings** There will be a planning meeting on 7 June at 8pm. Then on 8 July, we plan to have a talk about water supply in the area and the pressure on our chalk streams, entitled 'Why All is Not Well with the River Cam'. Please email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) for a link to attend either of these meetings.

Cambridgeshire has nationally important chalk streams and the chalk aquifer that supplies 97% of our public water supply is under unsustainable pressure. Stephen Tomkins will explain our ground water crisis and suggest that our own behaviour towards our water resources is a key issue.

Stephen read Natural Sciences at Cambridge and taught Biology in schools in Uganda and Cambridgeshire before moving into teacher training. With a longstanding interest in environmental education, he developed the first International GCSE in sustainable development. He now chairs the Cam Valley Forum, working for optimal benefit for us, as users, and for the river's own longterm wellbeing.

Before the talk on water, you might like to watch this: Transition Cambridge's water project, 'Precious Water'. This was in this year's Earth Optimism event, which formed part of the Cambridge Festival. The page is still available and

includes several videos and lots of information. The videos describe and explore the effects of our water consumption on the environment and what we can do about it. You will hear from Cllr Katie Thornburrow, from Cambridge City Council, and Ruth Hawkesley from the Wildlife Trust. You can also experiment with an animated aquifer and use a water calculator to see where the water goes in your home. To view this search for 'precious water' at [www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/](http://www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/).

You are still in time to book to attend the next Environmental Forum with our MP, Anthony Browne, online on 17 June at 4pm. If you would like to ask a question or just listen in, email him at [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk).

Finally, here's a heads-up for an international campaign in July. It is called **Plastic Free July**, and encourages people to sign a pledge to cut their plastic use during the month (and longer). See [plasticfreejuly.org](http://plasticfreejuly.org) to find out more.



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

*Helen Hale*

## CALLING ALL POTENTIAL SCOUT LEADERS

Shelfords and Stapleford scout troop is looking for a new scout leader. As a leader you will learn new skills and gain new experiences. It is fun, highly rewarding and a great opportunity to give something back to the community. We have a strong, experienced and very friendly team of assistant leaders - the role is about heading this team. Training is provided.

I and another of the leaders will be retiring after Summer Camp 2022. Our aim is to bring on a new leader this year, with a full year of handover, to take up the reins in September 2022 (or earlier if preferred).

The Scout group has a policy of accelerating access to scouting for children of leaders, so if you are a parent looking to find a place for your child(ren) in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, this is an ideal opportunity (for this role, or indeed any other volunteering role in the group).

Please contact 07720 598327 or [contact@sandsscouts.org.uk](mailto:contact@sandsscouts.org.uk) for more details.

*Phillip Burr*



## NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME SAWSTON OPEN GARDENS



*Mary Challis Garden*

Four Sawston gardens are opening their gates to visitors in June and July for the National Garden Scheme (ngs). The Scheme was founded in 1927 and has now raised over £60 million for nursing charities, by opening private gardens to the public for a small fee. Its core beneficiaries are Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute. For more details, see [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).

**Sunday 13 June, 1–5pm**

The **Mary Challis Garden**, 68 High St.  
Adults £3, children free.

**Sunday 4 July, 1–5pm**

**Sawston Village Group** (3 individual gardens). Adults £5, children free.

Details of both openings, with garden descriptions, are on the ngs website. Visitors can either book and pre-pay via the website or pay at the gate.

Cream teas, cakes and drinks will be available, 1–5pm, on both days from **Sweet Tea** café in the High Street.

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## CORONAVIRUS DAIRY APRIL 2021

**1 April.** The lockdown has ended and we're free at last to go out and about. So my friend and I take a trip to the Botanic Garden. So many people. After the lockdown and social isolation, it feels quite stressful. People with no sense of personal space, let alone social distancing. The gardens are lovely, but I'm not sorry to leave. At the railway station, you'd never know it's the day before the Easter bank holiday. It's very, very quiet. As the trains come in, a few travellers wheeling suitcases alight. We're still not allowed holidays or to have visitors to stay, so I wonder where they're going? Once the trains pull out, there's just bored staff and an empty station. It gives me an opportunity to look around the station area, which has changed beyond all recognition. A mass of modern multistorey buildings – flats, offices, hotels, student accommodation and a few coffee shops. A property developer's dream. But it looks like every other city in the country, corporate and characterless.

**2 April, Good Friday.** A very, very quiet day, a sort of honorary Sunday. It's very cold. My neighbours are seeing their son for the first time for months, having a barbecue in the garden. It's freezing and only works because they're so pleased to see him. You wish the weather could be a bit kinder.

**4 April, Easter Sunday,** and a glorious day. Everyone's happy. Grandchildren, barbecues, sitting in the sun, pottering in the garden. We all feel good.

**6 April.** The slow spring continues with a vicious frost overnight – I worry about the trees that are in blossom, notably the greengage. But the news is generally good – Covid-19 cases are continuing to fall.

**9 April.** The sad pile of Christmas presents that we never got the chance to exchange have been sitting in the dining room for nearly four months now. I feel like they've lost their meaning. We set off down the M11 for our late family Christmas. Ten minutes into our journey, we hit a traffic jam and sit in it for two hours. It feels like insult added to injury.

**10 April.** Prince Philip died yesterday. It comes as a shock. Arrangements for the funeral are announced, the same for them as for everyone else – 30 guests. I would expect no less of the Queen. Perhaps it's for the best anyway, she is 94 and the loss must be devastating. Besides, Prince Philip didn't want a fuss.

**12 April.** What a cold spring this is. I looked back to last year and read that there was day after day of unbroken sunshine. I wish! Instead we grapple daily with the frost. All my fruit trees are covered in fleece. Will the bees manage to pollinate them?

Today there's a further relaxation of rules. Shops are reopening. We can go on single household holidays. And schools have returned after the Easter holiday – time to get down to some serious learning. The pubs are reopening too.

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The Plough looks very smart, a fresh coat of paint on the outside tables, new planters outside. And Cara coffee. We're all looking forward to meeting outdoors for coffee and cakes. Or a pint.

Granhams Road is closed to through traffic. Gosh, it's nice to walk along it without risking life and limb. You can hear the birds and look around you.

**15 April.** I've become an obsessive weather watcher. Frost and fruit trees, fleece on in the evening, off in the morning.

**16 April.** A mostly sunny day, and even a little warm. I'm standing under a tree full of bees, sowing seeds. My neighbour's pear tree is in full blossom and all I can hear is the sound of bees buzzing – big furry bumble bees, smaller hive bees and glorious white blossom. I meet with friends at Cara. It's such a delight to catch up on everyone's news, to BE with people, not on the end of a phone or email.

**17 April.** It's the day of Prince Philip's funeral. The queen looks so tiny, frail even, though still with that iron resolve. From beginning to end – the slow cortege with the mourners on foot, the service in the chapel, words from the old prayer book, hymns about the sea and readings about nature, a lone piper playing 'Flowers of the Forest' – it's very moving. I feel the passing of a part of the world I knew, a world I grew up in.

**18 April.** We've had two stunning sunny days. A buzzard flies by. I am amused to see the crow neighbourhood watch take to the air. They'll soon see off any raptor that flies too close to their nest. Because we have been so much at home and so much out of doors, I have noticed many things that I'd never noticed before. I've always had a great enthusiasm for bees, but one, I notice today, is an unusual shape. It's more triangular than round, and has a long proboscis. It's flying around the cowslips and I discover that it's not a bee at all but a bee fly. I am quite taken by its gorgeous yellow jacket and its long black-figured wings. But it has some dodgy habits. It lays its eggs in the nests of solitary bees. They hatch and feed on the bees' eggs.

**20 April.** My friend suggests I watch 'Greta Thunberg: A Year to Change the World'. It takes me a while to find the resolve, but I am soon engaged and have enormous respect for this frail young woman with such resolve to challenge our destructive habits. And yet, at the end, I am sadly convinced that we won't change. We'll carry on our destruction until, eventually, the planet shakes mankind off its back like so many fleas – not an edifying thought.

**25 April.** Equally unedifying, after watching Greta Thunberg travel around the world to see the reality of climate change, is to see that it's happening here. Today's news is about wildfires – in the Mountains of Mourne. We have seen many of them over the last few years, on moorlands and heaths around the country. I also notice, in an election flyer, a reference to the drying up of our

Cambridgeshire chalk streams and read the manifesto of the Cam Valley Forum. We in South Cambridgeshire are suffering, or rather causing, a serious water shortage, which is drying up our rivers and streams. The small RSPB reserve at Fowlmere is one of my favourite places, and I was devastated, 18 months ago, when the mere there completely dried out. And yet we go on and on sucking water out of the aquifers. Well, this one's squarely in our hands. We have to use less water.

**26 April.** Now we are socialising again, now we can go for a coffee or a drink (outside at least) it's easy to lapse into our old habits of before the pandemic. It's hard to remember to keep at a distance and when you should be wearing a mask. The virus feels remote, unreal. Yet in India, coronavirus has run wild. They are suffering the oft talked about exponential growth in cases. Hospitals have run out of oxygen and people are dying without help. So many bodies that one crematorium has built pyres in the car park to cope with the numbers. We think, we've always thought, it'll never happen to us. That's what the Indians thought too. Meanwhile, and more hopeful, is Israel, where over half the population has received two doses of vaccine. A doctor there says they may be reaching herd immunity – remember that term from earlier days? –when enough of the population has protection against the virus to stop it spreading. Here we've achieved 33.5m first doses, 12m second. We're not there yet, but we will be.

**27 April.** For some months now, the blood clot controversy has rumbled on. A small number of people have developed blood clots after the AstraZeneca vaccine and a smaller number still have died as a result. My husband, who understands numbers, can't see what the fuss is about. Compared with the risks from coronavirus, the risk is negligible. My rational faculties are less well developed. Through continuous bombardment of press stories, I feel anxious. I try and trust his good sense and I try not to think about it. Sometimes I think we are cursed with too much information.

**30 April.** Yet more frost and the ground is very, very dry. The Met Office's report on April tells us it's broken two records: the frostiest April in 60 years, with 22 ground frosts and 13 air frosts, and the sunniest April on record. And almost no rain. All in all, a gardener's nightmare.

When I look out of the window, a cloud of rooks is descending on the bird feeder next door. With their black flapping wings and sharp grey beaks, it's shades of Alfred Hitchcock. Even the squirrel can't climb the shiny pole, but one rook just hangs onto the pole with its claws and shovels down the bird food. You have to admire it.

A month out of lockdown, the number of cases is remaining steady, not falling, but not rising either. This gives rise to cautious hope.

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**OLD NEWS**

**Extracts from The Great Shelford Chronicle 1774–1868**

*Compiled and republished by Anne George, Glynis Trundle,  
Margaret Ward and Alan Bullwinkle, 1993*

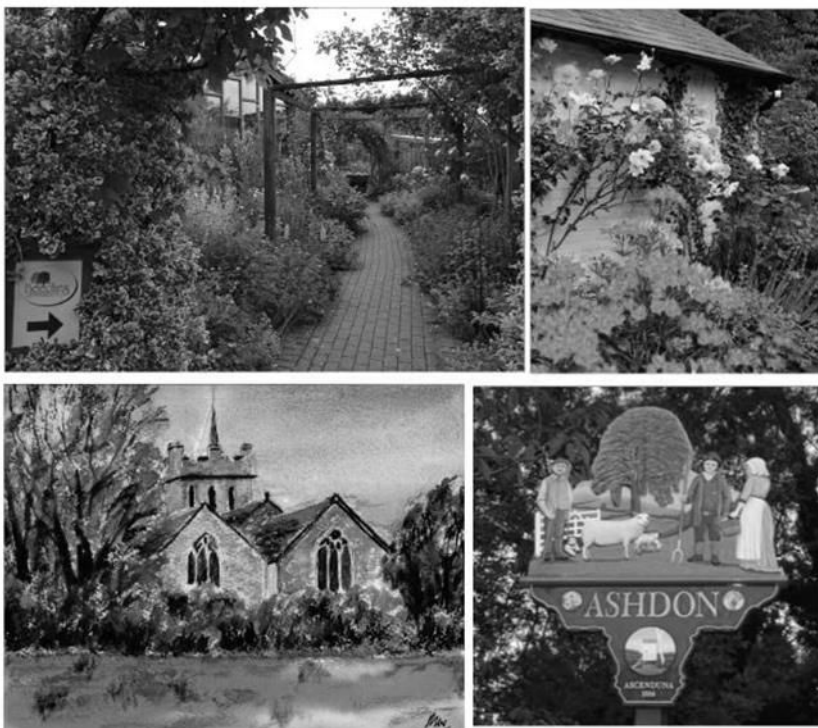
**13 JUNE 1834**

GREAT SHELFORD INCLOSURE – We, the Commissioners named and appointed in and by an act of Parliament entitled an Act for inclosing land in the parish of Great Shelford and for commuting the tithes hereby give notice that we shall hold our first meeting at the Eagle Inn in Cambridge, Wednesday the 18th June next at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

**15 JUNE 1849**

THE DE FREVILLE MANOR – Her Majesty has been pleased to grant permission to Edward H. Greene Esq of Hinxton, in this county to take and assume the ancient name of De Freville of the Freville Manor Estate at Gt. Shelford. The estate was originally granted to the Norman family of that name by Henry II in 1180. Of one of the family (Sir John de Freville, a crusader) there is a magnificent monument in Lt. Shelford Church.

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## ASK NOT JUST WHAT YOUR BEES DO FOR YOU...BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR BEES

There's a lot of talk about pollinators nowadays, so what do bees do for us?

Bees and other insects are attracted to flowers, they eat nectar and collect pollen on their bodies, then drop the pollen on another flower and fertilisation occurs... this is the classic sexual reproduction story – not quite 'the birds and the bees' but 'the bees and the flowers'. Without pollinators and their habits, evolved over millennia, much of plant life as we know it would simply end with that unvisited flower, never to make a seed.



In this country, the pollinators are also butterflies, moths, wasps, hoverflies... the list is long. The bees are most important, they are the most diligent and hardworking and the solitary bees are the best at the job, mostly because they are the messiest! They don't bother with the little 'baskets' on their legs,

they just get covered in pollen and scatter it far and wide as they fly off. There are 250 species of solitary bee versus the single honeybee species which we all know so well, simply because humans have a sweet tooth.

From the human perspective, without pollinators, loads of our crops would fail, in fact one third of all our food and all the cotton we wear relies on those unpaid insect workers. The reality of failed crops is big money lost – which seems to be the only language we understand these days, hence why we are hearing the word 'pollinator' so much.

Humans with their clever brains and dextrous fingers have worked out how to grow food in vast abundance. We've made amazing machines to open up the land, invented chemical compounds to kill insects, more chemicals to kill unwanted plants and further chemicals to make the ones we like grow much bigger and faster! I think you can guess where the humble bee fits into this picture... Bees are 'keystone species' in big trouble, take the keystone out and the whole lot tumbles down.

Perhaps policy makers will step in; I hope so, since a sea change in agriculture is desperately needed. But in the meantime:

***Ask not what your bees do for you; ask what you can do for your bees!***

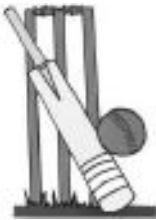
- Grow flowers – avoiding overbred varieties (doubles) that bees cannot enter. This directly helps pollinators, particularly bees.
- Grow natives –the larval stages of many insects often need specific native plants to eat. Would you leave the kids hungry at your picnic?
- Allow homes - make a bee hotel or simply leave some areas of your garden wild and untidy.

For more information: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/savingbees>

To get involved directly, join us in Duxford at The Nectar Garden on Brewery Field Fridays: <https://friendsofduxfordgreenspaces.org/> . Or volunteer at the organic food growing programme at CoFarm Cambridge where food and flowers are grown alongside each other for people, for pollinators and for wellbeing: <https://www.cofarm.co/cambridge>

*Sarah Ashworth [www.sarahashworth.co.uk](http://www.sarahashworth.co.uk)  
Garden Designer and Wildlife Specialist*

## CRICKET CLUB



After a closely fought pre-season friendly against Kam Kerala, the league season started with a home match against Milton 3rds. The unseasonably low temperature, as well as a biting wind, made it hard work for spectators, but at least it was dry. GSCC ran out comfortable winners, making 258/8 and bowling Milton out in the last of their 40 overs for 138. There were half centuries for 16 year old George Richards (who also impressed with his fielding, including two run outs) and debutant Fabian Araujo and some good bowling performances. 15 year old Josh Creed impressed the opposition with his bowling, though his father, Stuart pipped him in terms of wickets, three compared to Josh's two.

The Under 11s started their season with several good performances in a defeat against Sawston, while the Under 13s were frustrated by the weather on the day of their scheduled first match.

*Peter Ede, Chair*

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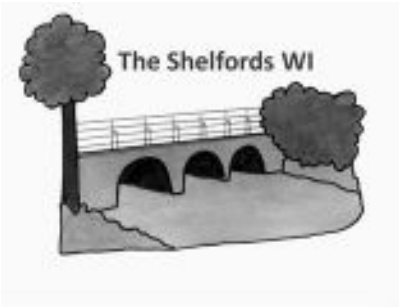
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## THE SHELFORDS WI



At our meeting on Thursday 6 May the talk was entitled '*A Turkish Shirley Valentine*'. The speaker was Jenny Gibb who told part of her own life story. Her life changed direction dramatically when she was made redundant and decided to move to Turkey. Jenny had only visited the country once before on her first ever trip abroad. She had been captivated by the beautiful light and sparkling water. A

series of chance encounters, including sharing a seat on a bus with a goat, led her to a remote village in the mountains where life and farming are still very traditional. She met and married a chef and they still return to the village every year to harvest the olives and tread them to produce oil.

There were many and varied questions from members on various aspects of Turkish life including; language, religion, traditional costumes and tips on how to cook vine leaves correctly.

We hope that our next meeting on Thursday 3 June will be our last meeting by Zoom. We plan to meet again in person at our Summer Party in the garden on Thursday 1 July.

New members and visitors are very welcome to join all meetings. Please contact 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.

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### JULY ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the Great Shelford Village News is Friday 11 June and it should be available on Friday 25 June with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter.

## 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.

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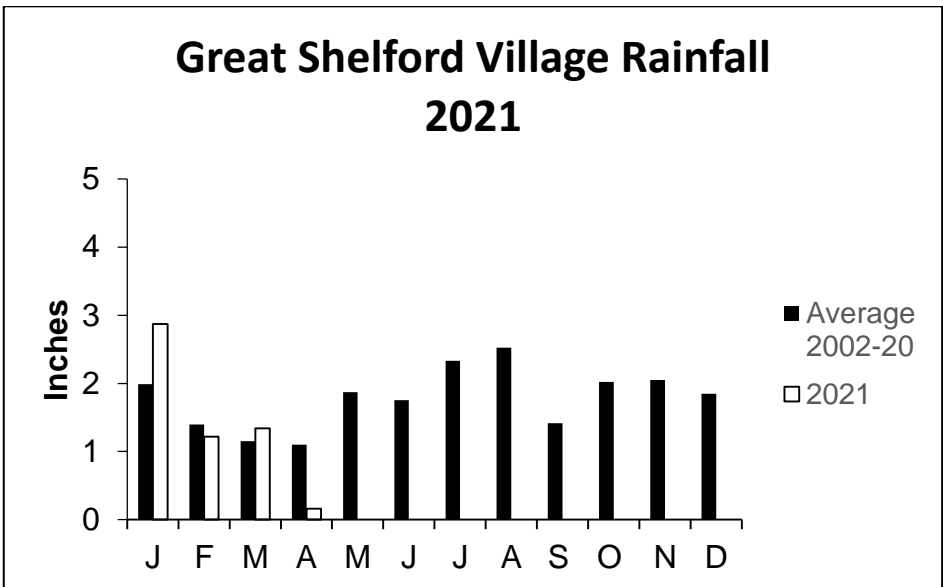
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From data supplied by Angus Campbell

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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 504542		
	John Dibanah	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

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