

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

AUGUST 2021

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Shelford Feast-Lite report



Shelford Feast-Lite 2021

Photo by Andrew Heather

Mores Meadow update

CONTENTS			
Parish Council	1	WI	23
Parish Council Meetings	5	Old News	23
Planning	5	Diary, Bins, Post and Library	24
Next Issue of <i>Village News</i>	5	Editorial Committee Note	24
Parish Church	6	2G3S	25
Granta Medical Practices	9	Connecting with Nature	27
New Local Business–Level Up Gym	9	Stapleford Village Day	28
Playscape	10	More’s Meadow Update	30
Summer Activities on the Rec	11	Cricket Club	33
Shelford Fun Run	11	Tennis Club	35
Thank You from the Charltons	13	Library	37
Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Lunch	13	Challis Horticultural Show	37
Free Church	14	Will George Cycle Challenge	39
Postcards from the Past	15	Coronavirus Diary	40
Shelford School	16	What’s On	47
Old Village Tractor	19	How to Contact the Village News	48
U3A Cambridge	19	Rainfall	48
Shelford Feast	20	Local Organisations	

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL					
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Pavilion & Recreation	Malcolm Watson	844901	Cemetery & Allotments	Gregory Price	07986 217852
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COUNTY COUNCILLORS		Brian Milnes	07971 88611	Maria King	07764 609061

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 June 2021

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

The Chair welcomed Libby White as the new Clerk and thanked Mike Winter for all his hard work as Clerk and Councillor.

PUBLIC SESSION

Four members of the public were in attendance. Residents raised concerns about the Cambridgeshire South Waterpark and the Guided Bus.

AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return)

Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement 2020/21) was presented and will be signed on 17 June 2021. Section 2 (Accounting Statements 2020/21) was presented by the Clerk. It was agreed that this should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING MEETING DATES

It was agreed that to the planning meetings would be changed from the third Wednesday of the month to the first and third Monday of the month at 7pm from July and would be held in person.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Planning Committee

Councillor Kettel explained concerns raised by potential plans for the Dernford Reservoir site. The Planning Committee feel there should be free public access. Many birds and other animals have moved in and any development would be damaging to the site.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committee

It was agreed that the Pavilion should remain closed until the end of the extended lockdown. The Cricket Club have asked for stop netting in line with the trees (the length of the playing area) to stop balls being lost in the wild areas. It was agreed that this could be done, but the netting should be removed once play has ceased.

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REPORTS FROM CO-ORDINATING OFFICERS

Playscape Construction has started on the playground. There have been one or two issues: there was a shortage of documents about drains and electricity cables/water pipes were not marked, resulting in damage to a water pipe. Some residents have raised concerns about safe working practices.

Neighbourhood Plan Interest is needed from Shelford residents to move the plan forward.

Police Liaison There have been reports of antisocial behaviour. A police community support officer will investigate.

Feast A one-day event will be held on 10 July. Public access will be granted, subject to Covid-19 regulations. There will be access to the Pavilion from Wednesday to set up the bar. Councillor Disley requested a space at the Feast to display information on current highways issues.

Land Acquisition Grange Field is being valued by Bidwells.

Schools Sawston Village College require some further Trust governors.

OTHER BUSINESS

Infrastructure Projects It was requested that the eight key points from the Greater Cambridge Partnership meetings held the previous week should be shared on the website. It was felt that the meetings are undemocratic; it has been difficult for those attending to participate.

Full Ball Protection Netting It is believed that the stop netting up alongside the Recreation Ground to protect the properties, is being donated to the Parish Council and an agreement is needed. The Clerk will investigate this.

Cambridge Biomedical Campus This may be a big issue for the village and the council would like to set up a Working Group to look into this. It was suggested that neighbouring villages should come together with a co-ordinated response starting with Great Shelford Parish Council and then expanding to other villages. Other villages have started to communicate with the Biomedical Campus and it is believed they are keen to work together.

Coronavirus Action It was agreed to defer the Village Meeting until September and to keep the transport surveys open until the end of July.

Copies of the minutes of the Parish Council and Planning meetings can be viewed on the Parish Council website:

www.greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN AUGUST

Planning Committee Meeting	2 August 7pm
Planning Committee Meeting	16 August 7pm
Parish Council Meeting	18 August 6.30pm

At the time of going to print it is hoped that these meetings will be held in the Pavilion.

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.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

21/02067/FUL	Mr Eftar Hussein 46 Woollards Lane	Change of use to takeaway with manager's flat and new shop front.
We agree that this site has been empty for too long and detracts from the street scene. Historically, the Parish Council has been negative towards take-aways in the village, but it is recognised that with Covid restrictions the ability to pick up good food locally has become essential. We can see no legitimate planning reasons why this application should not proceed.		

21/02465/PRI16A	CK Hutchinson Networks UK Ltd Land at Bridge Close	Installation of a 10.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works.
We are very keen to ensure good network coverage in the Parish and therefore we have no objection to this application.		

SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE *VILLAGE NEWS*

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is Friday 13 August and it should be available on Friday 27 August with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter.

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH

www.stmarysgreatshelford.org

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

Restrictions lifted!

The government lifted Covid restrictions as promised from last month, with an emphasis on personal responsibility about protecting others as we move forward. In the light of this the PCC has decided to keep in place our protocols for Sunday services for the time being (face masks and social distancing). Although we have no power to enforce this, we hope that you will agree to co-operate for the sake of others. It is clear that we are in the midst of a 'third wave' of Covid, so we still need to exercise caution.

Every blessing,



Flowers in church

St Mary's needs more people who are interested in flowers and willing to volunteer their time to help. Unfortunately, the team has lost several members over the last few years and to keep going they need more volunteers. Please think about joining the team on a rota basis, three or four times a year, always with a partner. No previous knowledge is needed as guidance and support will be provided. To find out more, please telephone Veronica Stower on 01223 573392.

Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral

My thanks to those of you who came along to the Cathedral to witness my installation as an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral. It was good to get the service completed after a six month delay!

Cambridge City Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the Foodbank. It is really important that we keep up efforts to support this as the effects of Covid continue. Our monthly collection will be made on **Sunday 1 August** and all donations are appreciated. A list of the foods most urgently needed can be found at the back of church or on the Foodbank website.

You can also donate money directly to the Foodbank. For more information, visit www.cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/



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GRANTA Medical Practices

Here at Granta we are always looking at new ways to connect with our patients and help assist them with their health care journey.

One of the options we are currently considering is a mobile telephone app called Airmid; a patient-facing app designed for patients and GP surgeries alike. From viewing upcoming appointments to video consultations, viewing your medical records and ordering your medication, you can manage all your health care needs in one place. There is also the option of incorporating and tracking your own personal health goals with Apple Health and Google Fit.



Airmid is a simple, secure app which you can log into using your NHS app login or your SystmOnline account. An NHS app login can also be created directly via Airmid.

Over the next few weeks we are planning to trial this mobile app with a number of pre-selected patients to test its suitability. If you have the NHS app, why not download Airmid and take a look? We would welcome any feedback you may have.

NEW LOCAL BUSINESS LEVEL UP GYM

We are a new gym in Great Shelford offering one-to-one training, sports massage and a range of classes.

Contact us for your one week free trial for classes and a free consultation for personal training.

To find out more, visit our website www.levelupgym.co.uk or telephone Luke or Joe on 01223 844032 or email levelup@frescofitness.co.uk.
Level Up Gym 63d Orchard Road, Great Shelford CB22 5AA.



PLAYSCAPE



The new Playscape is really starting to take shape! The old equipment and the (several!) layers of safety matting are long gone (with the horse and roundabout ready to take up their new residence over near the shelter) and tons of hardcore and topsoil

have been formed into the new mounds, with some already sprouting grass.

The first lot of equipment has been installed and the huge bespoke climbing frame is now being built in Duncan & Grove's workshop. We are particularly excited about the new sand pit. Specially designed to be accessible, it has a beautiful deck that allows wheelchair users into the heart of the area, allowing them to park up under a play trough to play alongside their friends.

You may have noticed a slight lull just before the end of July, but hopefully you'll be seeing lots of activity from now on!

Don't forget – please email info@shelfordplayscape.org if you can help with planting early September.



FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES ON THE REC WEDNESDAYS FROM 28 JULY TO 1 SEPTEMBER

10am–1pm

The Parish Council are kindly sponsoring these events whilst the playground is out of action, offering a different activity each week, from bungee trampolines, to climbing walls (and maybe even some archery!), but that's not all...

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, Ben and Pete, we will also be able to get out our beautiful new mini-golf greens. Christened at the Shelford Feast last month, these were an absolute hit with children and adults alike.

More details to follow on our social media channels and website www.shelfordplayscape.org

SHELFORD FUN RUN – REGISTER NOW!

10.30am, SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

www.shelfordfunrun.co.uk



This is a super friendly family 5k that school age children can successfully run or walk, plus it's raising money for the next phase of the Playscape: a really cool mini skatepark (or wheelscape as we like to call it!). A fast and flat course on closed roads, it's also a great one if you're an avid runner and want to beat your personal best.

Please register in advance as we are unlikely to be able to take on-the-day entries this year –

PLUS to guarantee a medal for your efforts we order the medals this month, so sign-up ASAP!

Eleanor McCrone

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THANK YOU TO THE STAFF AT REDMAYNE, ARNOLD AND HARRIS

A 'thank you' to the amazing staff at Redmayne, Arnold and Harris.

On Wednesday 30 June my husband, Ron (aged 91), collapsed in our garden. I went out to see what had happened and Ron seemed to be unconscious. I called 999 and, because I was on my own and unable to bend down to Ron to see if he was breathing, the operator advised that I go and find help. Unfortunately, our neighbours were not home. The operator asked me to go into the street to find help. Woollards Lane was deserted so I decided to go across the road to Redmayne, Arnold and Harris estate agents to see if they would help me.

Once I had explained the situation, the staff immediately came to my aid. A lady took the phone and answered the operator's questions and two men ran across the road to help Ron. They made him comfortable with a cushion for his head and the lady ran into the house to find something to wrap him in. All three members of staff stayed with Ron and me until the ambulance and our son and granddaughter turned up.

They were wonderful and took charge of the situation for me and we cannot thank them enough for their help. It is lovely to live in a village where people will help. Ron was discharged the following day with a few minor problems.

Ruth and the Charlton Family

STAPLEFORD-NACHINGWEA LINK 30 AUGUST AT STAPLEFORD PAVILION

Nachingwea



Stapleford

Everyone is welcome to Stapleford Pavilion on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 August to join our lunch celebrations of the 40 year Link between Nachingwea and Stapleford.

There will be two lunch sittings to avoid crowding, one from 12pm and a second from 1.15pm. To book your places, please send an email to iis.cooper@ntlworld.com stating which sitting you would like to attend.

There will also be a tombola, book sale and sale of produce. Donations are welcome to raise money for girls to be trained in cooking and tailoring skills so that they can run their own businesses and become financially independent.

Mary Cooper



Great Shelford Free Church

As this is published, the school holidays will be upon us and we hope that a summer of relative freedoms and warm weather will have arrived. For many of us the summer is a time to relax a little, to enjoy some time away from the regular daily routines and perhaps to get away for a holiday, to recuperate, re-energise and refresh before a new term begins.

I wonder what your ideal holiday destination would be? Are you someone who is anxious to fly away to sunnier climes as soon as you can; to swim in warm turquoise seas and laze on sun drenched beaches? Perhaps you prefer to appreciate the grandeur of mountains and lakes, walking where you can see their rugged beauty up close? Or maybe you like the hustle and bustle of a city break, to see the sights and attractions, the culture and history that are on offer?

For me, every time, it has to be the beach. Any beach, anywhere, any weather! There is something about looking out at the vastness of the ocean, the great expanse of sea and sky that stirs my soul, reminding me of the greatness of God. I love the sound of the waves as they break on the shore, sometimes gently, trickling back over the pebbles and sometimes huge waves crashing in, demonstrating the power that is contained there.

For me, walking along the shoreline is a place to unwind, to blow away the cobwebs and to realign my senses; it's a place where I feel close to the Creator and where I can reconnect with Him when I need some quiet time. Even on a busy beach it is possible to find a space to be still with your thoughts and with God, recognising the extent of his love is greater than the vastness of the ocean.

Whatever your preferences are for a holiday destination, or even if you are having a holiday at home, I hope you will have a welcome break; a space to pause and breathe, and a chance to get away from the daily grind; to be still.

On the wall inside our Church we have these words displayed, 'Be still and know that I am God.' These words, from Psalm 46 verse 10, highlight the importance of stillness in connecting with God. So wherever you are this summer, I pray that you will take a moment to enjoy some stillness and to recognise the presence of God within.

Blessings.

Diana Parr, Elder and Ministerial Assistant

What's on this summer at Great Shelford Free Church

Join our Sunday services online via livestream every week
or in our church building.

We are holding an **outdoor service on 15 August** at 10.30am on the
land behind Cara Coffee, which you are welcome to join.

To book, please visit our website.

We are holding a **coffee morning at Cara Coffee every Monday** from
19 July to 6 September from 10am to 12pm.

Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. It will be a time
to chat and socialise, with a short reflection. There is no charge but
donations are welcome.

To find out more visit our website www.greatshelfordfreechurch.org.uk
or contact the church office 01223 842181
or email administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

My wife Angela collects Shelford postcards and this is the first of many.



This card has everything and was
sent to a Miss R Leggett in Ipswich
in 1907, with a message 'Another
card for your collection'.

The scene is the crossroads with
Woollards Lane on the right and the
Stapleford/Sawston Road leading
away at the back. The building
shown is the Road and Rail Public

House, now demolished. Charles Whitmore's carpentry business is at the side.
The cart with the donkey belonged to Mr 'Donkey' White who delivered goods
around the local villages. On the left is the local milkman about to turn into
Station Road. The vehicle in the centre looks very grand.

Eric Jacobs

SHELFORD SCHOOL

As I write this, there is just one week left of term and the school year is drawing to a close. It is certainly true to say that it has been a very different year from a normal one, with many changes such as class bubbles, virtual collective worship and periods of home schooling. However, the school has worked incredibly hard throughout the year to try to minimise the impact on the children's learning, as well as on their mental health. The school should feel very proud of everything that they have achieved in the past year.



A collage from International Day

The school is currently applying for reaccreditation of the International School Award. Evidence to support this is being put together, including demonstrating how well international work is now embedded in all aspects of the curriculum in the school. International Day was celebrated at the start of July. Each class explored the culture and tradition of a particular country through a variety of activities. The highlight of the day for every class was a bespoke dance workshop, exploring traditional dances from their country.

After having been postponed due to ominous weather the previous week, sports day was able to go ahead on 2 July. All of the children enjoyed a great variety of activities such as hurdles, shotput, javelin and shuttle runs. Key Stage 2 children also took part in the traditional dash races. The children were keen to earn points for their Houses but the staff also reported a great team spirit and



Javelin throwing at sports day

sportpersonship which is wonderful to hear. Sadly, parents were unable to watch but the school have shared photos and videos on the school vlog. This demonstrates one of the many ways that the school has helped parents to remain connected whilst so many restrictions are in place.

A PhD student has been carrying out research on the impact of Forest

School on our children's thinking skills, their connection to nature and their mental health. The school has worked hard over the last few years to increase children's opportunities for outdoor learning and Forest School sessions, aware of the potential benefits to children. We look forward to hearing the results from this latest research.

Despite being unable to hold most of the usual fundraising events this year, the PTA has been working hard to raise money for the school. Events such as the virtual PTA quiz, sponsored 'readathon' and hamper raffles have all been very successful. The children are soon to take part in a PTA campout – not at the school this year but in their own homes and gardens. Campout packs will be delivered to families taking part and online bedtime stories read by the staff team can be viewed. These types of events highlight that the PTA is not just there to raise money (although that is incredibly important and much appreciated!), it also helps to bring the school community together in a fun and light hearted way. However, due to the restrictions this year, some fundraising has needed to be less fun and more targeted. The school currently have a Just Giving page aiming to raise £4,000 to help fund additional resources and equipment for next year to supplement the school's limited subject budgets. If you would like to contribute to this, please visit the Just Giving page by searching Just Giving Shelford School or via the PTA section on the school website, www.shelford.org.uk.

Finally, I wish our Year 6 children leaving Shelford School all the best in their new schools, along with wishing everyone a well-earned happy and restful summer holiday.

Emily Button, Foundation Governor

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OLD VILLAGE TRACTOR



We have recently bought this tractor for our collection of Ford tractors. It was originally bought brand new by Great Shelford Parish Council in 1968 and sold in 2015. The registration was RAR 460D.

It would be great if anyone has any photographs of the tractor in and around the village. If you have some, please get in touch either by telephone on 07964 282833 or by email info@rjfenton.co.uk.

Many thanks.

David Fenton

U3AC is a well-established, educational charity based in Cambridge with over 2,200 members. We offer a wide range of courses covering traditional subjects, such as history, languages, sciences etc; plus leisure pursuits, such as bridge and board games as well as physical activities such as walking, dance and table tennis. Our typical

members are no longer in full-time employment. We

aim to be Inspirational, Educational and Sociable, as participation is known to enhance well-being – both mental and physical. Offering over 300 courses and lectures we have something for everyone! Set up in 1982, we are self-financing and run by our members for our members, and we encourage those who wish to, to become tutors. We have premises in Bridge Street and offer a variety of learning styles - lectures, discussions, hands-on - both face-to-face in our modern well-equipped premises, and online via Zoom.

Please look at us on www.U3AC.org.uk, and we would be happy to send you our Programme for 2021/2022. We will be having an Open day and you are welcome to come and meet us in Bridge Street !

U3AC

Who we are and what we do

University of the Third Age in Cambridge (U3AC), an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), organises educational, social and fitness activities for people who are not or no longer in full-time employment (there are no age restrictions). Set up in 1982, we are self-financing and run by our members.

Email: office@u3ac.org.uk
Telephone: 01223 321587

SHELFORD FEAST

It was painful to cancel the 2020 Feast and The Bunch was determined to hold an event this year to bring the community together. It would have to be Covid safe, allow for social distancing and preferably offer free entertainment. Could it be done? The Bunch thought so and with the whole recreation ground at our disposal, plus a giant inflatable stage, a bar built in the pavilion and a scattering of food vans, we were delighted to hold a one day Shelford Feast for 2021.



We were lucky with the weather and grateful for the support of the Parish Council, the Playscape committee and the good behaviour of as many as a thousand people who enjoyed good music and entertainment from noon to late evening in a calm and friendly atmosphere.

Thanks to all those who came – especially those who cleared up their rubbish! Thanks to the volunteers who helped on the bar and elsewhere. The straw bales clearly provided entertainment for many young people, though it took many hours to clear away afterwards



We were also pleased to see the ‘#run4will’ runners who arrived at the Feast to celebrate the life of Will George, a former Bunch member. See page 39 for more information on their 9,500km run. Here they are being interviewed by Stephen Chittenden.



We are planning for the 2022 Feast to be the same line-up as we announced for 2020, featuring Tony Hadley on Friday 8 July and Trevor Nelson on the Saturday night. The Feast itself will be on 10 July. Any tickets already bought for the 2020 Feast will be valid for the 2022 Feast.

Tickets are already available online. Go to www.shelfordfeast.co.uk.

Duncan Grey

Photographs by Andrew Heather



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WI



The Shelfords WI finally met together in person at our annual garden party on 1 July, after meeting by Zoom since April 2020. The weather was dry and everyone really appreciated being able to mix and chat. We might have continued for hours if the evening had been warmer. It was lovely to meet several new members who have joined us during the past year via our Zoom meetings.

We do not meet in August but will be meeting again in our normal venue from September. The next meeting will be on Thursday 2 September when the speaker will be Tony Kirby on *Tides of Fortune: the rise and fall of English holiday resorts*.



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

Mary Talbott

OLD NEWS

Extracts from The Great Shelford Chronicle 1774–1868

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

2 August 1839

FELONY – on Saturday last, William Game, Robert Rust, and Mary Whittimore, were taken before the borough magistrates charged with stealing 9 fowls, the property of Mr. Charles Moore. The prisoners were seen in Shelford early in the morning of Saturday, with a sack and soon afterwards the fowls were missed. In the evening they were discovered in a pot in the house of the girl Whittimore. Committed for trial.

DIARY AUGUST

The COUNTRY MARKET has returned to the Memorial Hall and will be open every Wednesday morning, 9.30–11.30am



BIN COLLECTIONS

Black bins	Tuesday 10 and 24 August
Blue and green bins	Tuesday 3 and 17 August



POST BOXES

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

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



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

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Items that Royal Mail is unable to deliver (too big, signature required, etc) will be returned to the Royal Mail Depot in Clifton Road for collection, or arrangements made for redelivery.



LIBRARY

The library is open for limited services only.

Current opening hours are: Tuesdays 10am–2pm, Fridays 2–6pm and Saturdays 10am–1pm

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

2G3S

In July we held a very interesting Zoom talk about the River Cam, hosted nature walks around the Dernford Reservoir and Stapleford Parish Pit and enjoyed two cycle rides around the area. We also pledged to reduce our use of plastic in the Plastic Free July campaign and you may have seen our 'craftivism' efforts around the local villages to promote the message, see pictures, below.



Our next meeting is a planning meeting on 12 August at 8pm, on Zoom. The next nature walk will be around Little Shelford on 21 August. Please email the address below if you wish to attend either. In September, it is the Climate Coalition's Big Green Week from 18–26, so watch this space for the events we will be running.

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

Helen Hale



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LOVE YOUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE WHEN CONNECTING WITH NATURE



It is nice to be able to impress your friends by saying: ‘oh yes, that’s *Ranunculus acris*’ (while picking a buttercup) or point knowingly to a poor unsuspecting robin and declare with great importance: ‘that is *Erithacus rubecula* don’t-you-know’.

But don’t worry if you don’t have a clue! People like me who have been horribly exposed to Latin name calling all their lives are trying to forget it all and go back to the pure

connection we had when we were children. Of course we need to know accurate names in order to access the right information, but we can save that for practical purposes. For the business of pure nature connection, just noticing that buttercup and really seeing what’s in front of you – that is so valid; see the iridescent petals, the exquisite form, made all the more significant by its fleeting time in this glowing state.

So often, I see people capture things by naming and just as often, with a photo – then instantly dropping it or turning away, as if it’s done, finished!

I sometimes argue (and get most disapproved of I may add) that a label, a name and all its associated past ‘blerbings’, written or said about it, can put up a barrier between us and nature, between us and direct experience.

Shoshin is a word from Zen Buddhism meaning ‘beginner’s mind.’ It refers to having an attitude of openness, eagerness and lack of preconceptions when studying a subject. I’ll have you know that it is a very sophisticated thing to see things with beginner’s eyes, so don’t let anyone belittle your lack of knowledge! Everyone can love nature.



Sarah Ashworth

STAPLEFORD VILLAGE DAY AT THE GRANARY



We'd not done this before at the Granary; would people feel ready to get back together again? At 10am on Sunday morning, as the rain hammered down, I was beginning to wonder if the Village Day was about to be a damp error of judgement. Then, at 10.45am I had a text message: 'Kate – there are queues outside'. And we hadn't even opened the gates yet.

And so it started: visitors poured into the Granary and we were very quickly at capacity, clicking people in and out to manage the flow around the grounds. In my 11 months as CEO, I had not seen the Granary so full of people nor heard the unmistakable buzz of hundreds of animated, happy voices. The old 1930s orchard became a favourite spot for coffees and picnics. Colourful bunting hung from anything that didn't move and twisted and flapped its way around twelve gazebos in the 'craft village'. A hundred and eighty festoon lights dripped from the huge courtyard tent giving everything a warm, magical glow when the clouds were dark. And there was just enough sunshine to make everyone believe it had been 'a sunny day with the occasional shower' rather than the predicted grey forecast.

But... 'what was it like'? It was all the things I didn't plan and didn't expect. It was the way that local artists created little theatrical worlds with their stalls. It was the artwork from Stapleford Primary School which looked so vibrant against the yellow brick and black barn walls. It was the rich variety of music and theatre, chosen entirely by the performers and the pop-up food vans who brought their own menus. It was the children spontaneously dancing, drumming, wearing masks they had made... the laughing, the clapping, the exploring... And it was the warmth, kindness and friendliness in which everyone embraced the fundamental quirkiness and uniqueness of the day – because communities are quirky and unique.



THANK YOU to everyone who made the day such a memorable one – visitors, volunteers, participants and supporters. See you all again soon!

Find out more at www.staplefordgranary.org.uk, contact us: 01223 849004
ace@staplefordgranary.org.uk or kate@staplefordgranary.org.uk

Kate Romano, CEO

Photographs by Callum Barlow and Kate Romano

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT MORE'S MEADOW

Visitors to More's Meadow will see construction of the Parochial Charities' new alms houses is finally underway. The trustees had their first site meeting with the contractor in early July as foundations were being excavated and we look forward to seeing this £4.4m development progress to completion around the end of next year. The 21 new units – a mixture of one, two and three bedroom homes with gardens – will bring to 53 the total number of alms houses owned by the Charity and providing affordable living for Great Shelford people.



With East West Rail very much in the news, we have been paying close attention to plans for the new railway. Some of the trustees discussed the matter with Anthony Browne MP and we have made submissions to EWR's consultation process. We have also asked our architect to make modifications to the design so as to mitigate the possible impact of the railway; there will, for instance, be triple glazing installed throughout the development. Further details of our building design can be found on the Parochial Charities' website; www.gspc.org.uk/our-plans.



Parochial Charities trustees meeting on site with the contractor

Meanwhile, we have been busy making improvements to the adjacent meadow – also owned by the Parochial Charities – laying out wheelchair accessible paths, planting more trees and establishing a community garden where volunteers have been digging out the beds and planting flowers and vegetables. Special efforts have been made to accommodate all levels of mobility with the inclusion of raised planting beds within the garden. Further trees have been ordered for the orchard, ahead of November planting.



The community garden

We have been particularly pleased to see the village school using the meadow as part of their Forest School initiative and setting up a very impressive insect hotel during their most recent class visit.

Having moved our allotments so as to make way for the new development, we are also pleased to see our (very patient) allotment holders already harvesting their first crop from the relocated plots.

Why not come and visit? The More's Meadow landscape is there for the enjoyment of villagers so – enjoy the walk and take in the fine prospect across to the fields towards Cambridge and the Gog Magog Hills. You may use any of three entrances to the meadow:

- Via Bridge Close / More's Meadow
- Via the gates at the bottom of The Hectare
- Via the footbridge over the railway

We look forward to seeing you there.

Brian Connellan, Trustee, The Parochial Charities

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CRICKET CLUB

Four more league wins for the 1st XI this month, but there may be greater challenges around the time of the publication date of this edition of the *Village News*. The youth teams have had more mixed results, but plenty of good performances despite the constraints of Covid self-isolation amongst team members.

In mid-July our All Stars and Dynamos activities came to a successful conclusion. These are programmes established by the England & Wales Cricket Board and run by local clubs for children from ages 5 to 11. We have had well over 100 boys and girls taking part in an eight-week programme, the vast majority from local primary schools and most having played little cricket before. The sessions have been run by volunteer club members and parents, assisted by keen teenage helpers and it has been gratifying to see the progress made by the children as they have mastered basic skills and moved on to more



All Stars

Photo: Jack Gilmore

advanced activities. It has also been wonderful to simply see them having fun, something most welcome to parents and children after all the restrictions during the pandemic. The club looks forward to running the All Stars and Dynamos programmes again next year, as well as running more youth teams.

Peter Ede, Chair

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SUCCESSSES AT SHELFORD TENNIS CLUB

The Cambridgeshire Summer leagues for men's and ladies' doubles are almost done for the year, with the mixed matches well underway. A number of Shelford teams have had success this year including:

Men's 1 – placed first in the league

Ladies' 6 – promotion to division 7 for the loss of only one set all season

Ladies' 4 – promotion to division 4

Men's 5 – promotion to division 5

As reported in last month's issue, the Ladies' 1s have progressed to the play-offs of the National League County division and they played David Lloyd Norwich on Sunday 18 July. David Lloyd progressed to the play-off by virtue of being the only team in Norfolk to enter the competition, so the team had no idea what to expect. Three members of the Shelford team got caught in terrible traffic around Thetford meaning they arrived 30 minutes late and had to concede the first set of three of the singles matches. In the end it was a very close match, going all the way to a final doubles shootout (a single tie-break to 10 points) to decide the outcome. Sadly, David Lloyd Norwich took the final tie-breaker and will be promoted to the Regional tier of the competition. Shelford will try again next year. Well done to the team of Keri Tobin, Olivia Hyde, Angharad Harris, Ifthi Shareef and Ali Burd.



In other news, the professional tennis world enjoyed a grass court season for the first time since 2019, culminating in the ladies' and gentlemen's singles finals at Wimbledon. Wimbledon was part of the Government's large-scale event trials and Centre Court was at full capacity for both finals – such a boost after everything the world has been through over the last 18 months. Ash Barty claimed her first Wimbledon title, exactly 50 years after fellow Australian, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley's first

win and Djokovic continued to make history, claiming a sixth Wimbledon, and twentieth Grand Slam, title. There are now three active male players with 20 Grand Slam titles each. Tennis fans are so lucky to be witnessing this era of legends in our sport. The so called 'Next Gen' have a lot to live up to!

Angharad Harris

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LIBRARY

At the time of writing, our library opening hours are as follows:

Tuesdays	10am–2pm
Fridays	2–6pm
Saturdays	10am–1pm

However, all being well we hope to be able to increase these hours in August. For the latest updates visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library, telephone 0345 045 5225 or pop into the library.

Children can still sign up at the library for the free Summer Reading Challenge. Have fun reading during the holidays and collect stickers and rewards! Visit Cambridgeshire Libraries Facebook for Families page @cambslibfamilies or our website to find out more. This year, children can collect their stickers at any time the library is open.

We hope that adults will enjoy reading this summer too. Travel may still be tricky, but books can always take you to new places! Borrow books from the library or download free e-books or e-audiobooks from our online catalogue.

We also offer a wide range of e-magazines and e-newspapers. Did you know that you can read your daily newspaper free of charge on your device if you're a member of the library?



Rosemary Humby



CHALLIS HORTICULTURAL SHOW SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 2pm

This annual event is held in the Challis Garden in Sawston on the first Saturday in September. It's a great showcase for the wonderful produce and handicrafts made in Sawston and local villages. There are 59 classes to enter this year, so something for everyone. Trophies are awarded for the best entries for: fruit & vegetables; flowers; domestic classes; handicrafts and a children's section.

If you grow your own fruit and vegetables, arrange flowers, bake, make preserves, sew, knit, stitch, paint, sketch or take photos, there is a class for you to enter. It's fun and very rewarding.

Why not have a go and enter? Pick up an entry form from the Challis Garden or download from our website www.challistrust.org.uk/horticultural-show-2021/. Good luck!

Mike Redshaw

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SHELFORD TO COLUMBIA FOR WILL GEORGE



Amy Pratt, Amber Harwood, Ian Smith, Rob Hargraves, Rob Cawston, Oli Holland, Nick Harding, John Keane, Nick George, Rachel Skelding, Max Rushden, Matt Skelding, David Sheppard

On Saturday 10 July, a group of runners arrived at the Shelford Feast at the end of a running challenge covering over 9,000km in the four months leading up to the event. The members of the Toucan Harriers Running Club had been running the distance from Great Shelford to Colombia in memory of their friend, Will George, who passed away in February and to raise money for the Arthur Rank Hospice, where he spent the end of his life, so that they can continue to help others in the way they helped Will.

Most of the group grew up in and near Shelford and had stayed friends since primary school, secondary school, or 6th form. When Will died, they had the idea to do a collective running challenge, to support each other from a distance and to do something in memory of Will. As Carolina, his wife, is from Cartago in Colombia, they thought why not run from Shelford to Colombia in time for the Feast? Just 8,600km!

So with a target of 8,600km between the end of February and 10 July, they set off running. From around the country, others (including members of Will's family, other school friends, university friends, work colleagues and friends from the village) also donated runs. By the time they arrived at the Feast, 55 runners had logged over 1,200 runs for a total of more than 9,500km and they'd raised over £9,400 for the charity from more than 360 supporters. The fundraising page is still open for donations at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/shelford2colombia-for-willgeorge.

John Keane

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

THE FINAL CHAPTER?

1 June. Since March, Monday 21 June has been the goal. On that day we'd see the complete relaxation of rules, because vaccination would have done its work. And then the Indian variant (now renamed the Delta variant) arrived. Doubt set in. Some experts recommended delaying the relaxation. Until then, we'd all been heading towards it in complete certainty. Now we're not. It reminds me of that point at the turn of the tide when water flowing strongly one way meets water trying to flow the other way and results in swirling uncertainty. Will we, won't we?

Today, for the first time since March last year – that's 15 months – zero deaths were recorded. Lots of caveats, because it's as much to do with reporting as reality. But everyone is cheered. It's a sign that things are improving.

2 June. Boris is still roundly declaring, 'Currently I see nothing in the data to suggest unlocking will have to be delayed'. But I remain cautious. Meanwhile the weather is hot.

4 June. It's raining today. There's no doubt that Covid cases are rising again. We may be at the beginning of a third wave, they say. Around here, as always, case numbers are very low. In South Cambs there were 13 cases in the last week, while 74% of the local population has had one dose of vaccine, 51% a second. You'd have to be very unlucky to catch it and we all feel safe. Cambridge is very busy. The traffic through the centre is back to its usual state of congestion, while people on foot are pouring down Hills Road towards the shopping centre. They look confident, as if it's all over. Only the masks around their necks remind us.

10 June. Great Shelford is under siege from development. The guided bus from Hinxton. The East-West rail link. A retirement village. Today I read with despair that the Biomedical Campus has published its plan to 2050 – a 'vision' for the next three decades. It involves expansion and the land they want to designate for this is the open land between Great Shelford and Cambridge. That means Rectory Farm to the west of Cambridge Road and the land running from Hinton Way to the existing campus. That really will be the death knell for the village we now know. Our green lungs – green, or at least arable – will be gone. It's not the most beautiful landscape, but there are treasures to be found. It seems the march of development is unstoppable. I wonder when enough is enough? Never, it seems.

As it happens, I'm reading Robert Macfarlane's new book, 'Underland'. He talks of a phenomenon called solastalgia, psychic or existential distress caused by

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environmental change. People whose landscapes are being transformed about them by forces beyond their control. He is thinking of people in the Arctic, suffering both the effects of climate change and the growing exploitation of resources there or the inhabitants of the South American rainforest. But it's what I feel too. Over the decades, so many places I've loved have disappeared under the diggers or been fatally compromised by development.

11 June. There seems little doubt that the final relaxation will not happen on 21 June. For myself, I don't mind. I feel we have enough to make life good. If holding back on those last freedoms means we can vaccinate more people, then it's worth it. There seems plenty of evidence, from both here and around the world, that every time you think, 'Oh it's over and relax', the virus just bounces back.

What a glorious time of year this is. In the garden, there are peonies, roses with a texture of silk or velvet, flowers of every shape and size, from small clusters to dinner plates, in deep reds, delicate pinks, deep purples or white and giving off a gorgeous perfume. Purple sage flowers full of buff-tailed bumblebees and sweet peas giving off their heavenly perfume.

For the first time in months, I go to a venue that is crowded. The woodworking group I belong to meets at Burwash Barns in an outdoor workshop. We work away at our own projects, talk, and give each other help. It's a good day out and it feels like a return to a world I used to know, when socialisation was normal and unrestricted.

14 June. The big relaxation of rules, the final stage of the 'roadmap', only a week away has been postponed. Cases are rising again and because hospitalisations and deaths have a time lag after initial infection, we can't yet be sure that it's safe to remove any more restrictions. Am I disappointed? No! It was what I expected and, indeed, hoped given recent events.

A memory occurs to me from when I was at school, and endemic disease was a fact of life – tetanus, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid, measles, mumps, chicken pox, German measles and whooping cough. The books in Croydon library all had a label in the front: if you are suffering from an infectious disease, please do not return this book. Instead, send it to the borough disinfection unit. We were more accustomed to the fact of epidemic disease in those days. The young of today have grown up in a world that is largely free of it.

16 June. The heat. How exhausting it is. Everything's an effort. No work done in the garden, apart from the relentless round of watering, because it's too hot. Even housework's an effort and cooking. Heat becomes persecutory after a while. Storms are forecast tonight – please, oh please...

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The insects, however, love it. I see a banded demoiselle in the garden, a gorgeous damselfly, iridescent sapphire blue, with touches of emerald, and each wing veined with black and marked with a black spot. It's a jewel with wings and every year I am stunned by their beauty.

18 June. It rained for an hour yesterday morning, half-filled the water-butts, watered the garden and best of all the temperature dropped by ten degrees. What a relief!

I love the bees in my garden and spend hours watching them. Now I have a new camera and spend time photographing them too. My little black bees, which have been with me since early spring, have done their work and now disappeared. Theirs is only a short life, perhaps four months as a flying bee and six or seven as egg, larva, pupa.

I put up two bee houses this spring – one's a log and one, a plastic tube with cardboard tubes inside. I'm excited to discover that the bees have used them. In one I see a small bee back out of a hole, then reverse back in. It first laid down some pollen as food, then went back in to lay its eggs. Now there are seven sealed cells, each one sealed with mud. In the second house, the cells are sealed with what looks like resin, so they're different bees. It's all so exciting! Later, my neighbour shows me the bumblebee nest in a hole in his old pear tree.

27 June. The Health Minister, Matt Hancock, resigns. He may have fought off Dominic Cummings' assault, but he's been caught on CCTV with his hands all over an aide he brought into the ministry. This is one mistake he can't recover from. He's the one who made the rules, told everyone they can't hug their nearest and dearest. Everyone's comment is the same, 'There's one law for them, and another for us'. Thousands of harrowed people who've reluctantly obeyed the rules, and now they see that he hasn't. If you're in a public position, you have to be better than everyone else. I feel sorry, too, for his wife, pursued by journalists, anxious to film her devastation. They are carrion eaters, feeding on human misery.

28 June. Today's the big day (another one). Review of the final date for relaxing all measures. The Prime Minister is saying it's 'very likely' it will happen on 19 July. Yet, at the same time, the number of cases is going up sharply. Today's figure is 22,686. This time last week it was 10,633. The number of deaths and hospital admissions is rising too, but very slowly.

Half the year is over. What will the remaining half of the year bring?

4 July. Sajid Javid, the new Health Minister, is saying we must learn to live with Covid and warns that cases are going to rise significantly. He uses not just economic arguments, but health ones too – cites the rise in domestic violence, mental health problems and the backlog in treatment for other health problems. All very well, my husband comments, but if there are large numbers of Covid cases, then new variants will proliferate and they might evade the vaccine.

5 July. Boris Johnson is holding a news conference. It's not the final, final decision. That will come next Monday, after examining 'the data'. But the plan is, he says, to relax all restrictions on 19 July – no masks, no social distancing, no limits on meetings, no limit on the size of events and no advice to work from home. From then on, what precautions we take will be up to us. It sounds like a recipe for an exponential growth in cases. Will we think it's a good idea in two months' time? That's the interesting bit.

8 July. I've been to meet up with my friend in Grassington. It meant a long journey by train. I was apprehensive, but found that, in many ways, it's better than before Covid, which is an irony. The standard of cleaning is so much better and there's a regular litter collection throughout the train. We were spaced out in accordance with social distancing, so no being squashed into your seat, with a neighbour who puts their elbow in your face and relentlessly taps away on their laptop. All in all, it was much nicer, apart from wearing the mask, that is. For five hours – that wasn't great.

11 July. England reached the final of the Euros. Excitement is at fever pitch. There's a big crowd at the Plough watching on the outdoor screen. Lots of singing, chanting and shouts. It's so close, so very, very close. But we lose. How deflated we all feel.

12 July. The decision is made. From next Monday all restrictions will end. They keep saying this is the best opportunity we'll have – before the autumn when things naturally start to rack up again, be it colds, flu or Covid. The mantra is, 'If not now, when?', the 'when' being a return to normal life. But to me it's the wrong question. It should be, 'How can we adapt to living with Covid over the next few years?' No-one sensible thinks it's going away. It most certainly isn't. For the last week, there've been over 30,000 cases a day, and the government says they may rise above 100,000 a day. That doesn't sound good. I am not filled with confidence that we are going the right way. But we just have to go with it.

So, next week marks the end of lockdown rules and a convenient point to end this coronavirus diary. And if we're lucky – very, very lucky – it might really be the end. Take care, everyone!

Helen Harwood

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

A round up of what's on at some of the venues near us. For more information, times, ticket prices and bookings, please contact the organisation. Please note that this information has been taken from websites, can be subject to change and may already be fully booked. ***All events are, of course, subject to Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of the event.***

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We are pleased to receive articles, letters and notices for community events for consideration. Please send by email (preferably as a Word document), or send paper items, with contact details, to Judith Wilson, 11 Elms Avenue, Great Shelford, CB22 5LN. The copy date is usually the second Friday of the month. See the *Next Issue* box for next month’s date.

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

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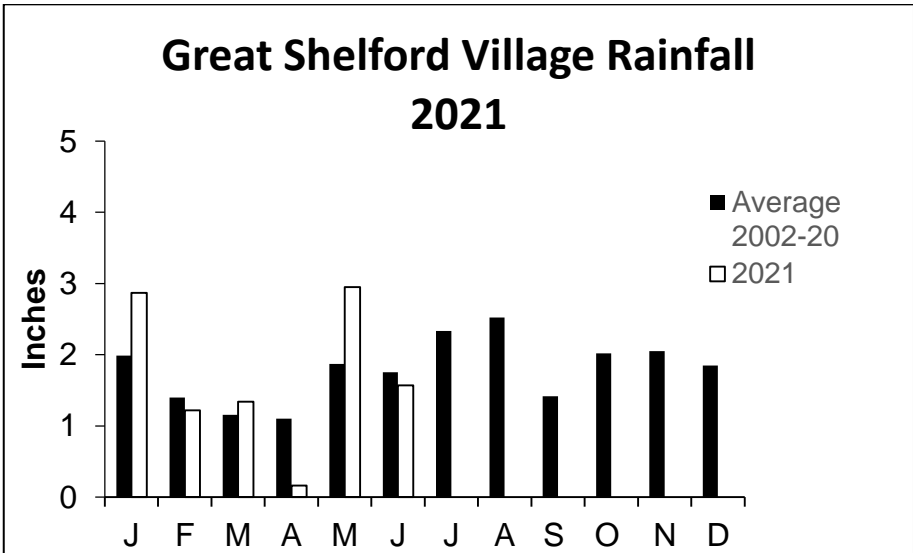
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