

# Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

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EST 1999

DECEMBER 2024

PRICE: 40p

## *Christmas Events*



Christmas Doors

Photo: Mark Farrington

*Christmas Greetings to all our readers*

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**GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Building & Grounds** Malcolm Watson      **Cemetery & Allotments** Angela Niblett

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**CLERK** Nicola Webster      *clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*      01223616622

**To email Parish Councillors, use:** *firstname.surname@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** Peter Fane      07802 256861      William Jackson-Wood      07873 731597

**COUNTY COUNCILLORS** Brian Milnes      07971 886113      Maria King      07764 609061

## **GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

*greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk*

### **SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 OCTOBER 2024**

#### **PLANS FOR THE SAWSTON GREENWAY**

A presentation was received from Kerry Allen detailing the plans for the Sawston Greenway in Great Shelford and Stapleford. There was a robust discussion debating the detail of the plans.

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Jenny Flynn presented the final draft submission documents for the Neighbourhood Plan. There was a discussion regarding the more controversial points following the consultation. The Parish Council is happy to proceed with the documents and is grateful for the contribution of the community as a whole, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Rachel Hogger and Jenny Flynn.

#### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS**

District Cllr Fane discussed the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including the introduction of grey belt and the additional support for rural exception sites. The definition of affordable housing will change, with more emphasis on affordable rent. The area for the Cambridge Delivery Group has not yet been defined, but it may be near to the Great Shelford boundary. There is a grant available for improving High Streets, which could apply to Woollards Lane.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

a) The Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC) working group has sent a joint response to the complaints received from CBC Ltd. CBC Ltd has published a revised Vision 2050, which contains few changes but does include some points raised by the working group. Errors in this document include the statement that building has started on the new hospital and is due to be completed in 2028, which is not accurate as the full business case is not yet approved and the new hospital review is ongoing. There has been no success in enforcing the no through route for the campus.

b) East-West Rail (EWR) are awaiting the upcoming budget, then are due to hold a non-statutory consultation for eight weeks, with the expectation that the Development Consent Order will be submitted in 2026 and construction will commence in 2029. There have been challenges to EWR from the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), Cambridgeshire County Council

(CCC) and South Cambridgeshire County Council (SCDC). There was a discussion regarding the money donated by Great Shelford Parish Council (GSPC) to Cambridge Approaches and the Clerk will write to remind them of the conditions of this donation.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS**

- a) The Council will write to all County Councillors to restate the Council's established position on Cambridge South East Transport (CSET). It was agreed to amend the draft letter to include the phrase 'as they contradict the will of SCDC' in the first paragraph.
- b) A response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Bus Franchising Consultation was discussed and will be submitted.
- c) The success of the Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bid for the improvements to Church Street was noted.
- d) The feasibility study for the double yellow lines around the junction at Grahams Road was reviewed. It was agreed that the Council approves this work and will seek a contribution from the Co-op.
- e) It was agreed that the consultation on the CCC Highways and Streetlighting Contracts stakeholder surveys will be publicised on the website and Facebook page and in the Village News. Parishioners will be invited to respond as individuals and these surveys should be referred to the Travel and Transport Infrastructure Working Group (TTIWG) for a recommendation regarding whether the Council should respond.

## **COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

- a) Owl boxes have been installed in the Pocket Park with the help of the Hawk and Owl Trust. The Council will donate £100 to the Trust.
- b) A report was received following the Fun Day on 29 September.
- c) An update was received on the Christmas lights event on 1 December.
- d) Plans for Remembrance Sunday were discussed and the hire of a van at a cost of £120 was authorised. GSPC will donate £100 to Histon Feast Week for the use of their road signs and authorise the hire of a van to transport them at a cost of £126.
- e) It was agreed that GSPC will support the Christmas Carol Event on Tuesday 17 December in principle and request a detailed budget.
- f) The provisional date for the GSPC Christmas Social is Friday 10 January, dependant on the availability of the venue.
- g) Options for future fundraising events were discussed. TTIWG is requested to discuss a street party on Woollards Lane. Cllrs Price and Niblett were

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appointed to consider the potential for expansion of the community Easter egg hunt.

## FINANCE MATTERS

The budget analysis was received and there were no actions at this time. The monthly accounts were approved.

## STAFFING MATTERS

The Council will convene a full HR Committee meeting to review the Clerk's probation period.

Full copies of the agendas and minutes of the Parish Council and Committee meetings can be viewed on the Parish Council website:

*greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes-agendas*

### PARISH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Cemetery & Allotments	4 December	7.30pm Pavilion
Planning Committee	9 December	7.30pm Peter Amis Room, Memorial Hall
Finance & General Purposes Committee	18 December	7.30pm Pavilion

Meetings may be adjourned for up to 15 minutes when the public can ask questions and put forward points of view related to business on the agenda or for items they wish to raise for future agendas. No decisions can be made in this section of the meeting.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS (14.10.2024, 28.10.2024)

24/03606/PRIOR	Westfield Farm Barn Cambridge Road	Change of use of buildings on agricultural units and former agricultural buildings to four dwellinghouses.
Refusal recommended. However, in accordance with our emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy S&GS3, the Planning Committee would support a rural exception housing scheme that provides affordable housing on this site.		

24/03722/HFUL	The Kings Orchard Kings Mill Lane	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to dwelling, single storey side extension to garage and erection of a pool house and external swimming pool.
Application supported.		

24/03891/FUL	13 Westfield Road	Demolition of existing single storey dwelling and the construction of a two storey dwelling and single storey ancillary annexe with associated landscaping.
Application supported.		

24/03916/FUL	4 Mingle Lane	Demolition of existing bungalow and the erection of a 4 bed, 2 storey self/custom built dwelling together with an attached garage.
Application supported.		

The committee considered the issue of water scarcity and agreed to recommend full Council to do the following:

- write to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) to ask what monitoring it is proposing in relation to the publication of the Water Resources Management Plan by Cambridge Water (CW) and the performance of Cambridge Water, especially as regards its leakage, consumption reduction and smart metering targets.
- write to GCSP to ask what water availability and/or flood-related planning conditions it typically considers so that the Planning Committee can make appropriate suggestions when commenting on planning applications.
- write to CW to urge it to be more ambitious in its suggestions for use reduction or perhaps lobby SCDC or the County Council to do so.
- monitor the development of the water credits scheme and the emerging Local Plan.

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## GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH

### Saint Mary the Virgin

#### Julie's Jottings

Since the 5th century there has been a tradition on the third Sunday of Advent to have a day of rejoicing. It is called Gaudete (Latin for rejoice) Sunday and marks a shift in focus. Anticipation for something a long way in the future is now close at hand. This is a time to rejoice, to feel or show great joy or delight.

A much enjoyed Advent hymn dates back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and takes up the theme of rejoicing.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born  
Of the Virgin Mary – Rejoice!  
The time of grace has come— What we have wished for;  
Songs of joy. Let us give back faithfully.  
God has become human, With nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed By the reigning Christ.  
The closed gate of Ezekiel Is passed through,  
Whence the light is risen; Salvation has been found.  
Therefore, let our assembly Now sing in brightness  
Let it bless the Lord: Greetings to our King.*

The carol refers to the closed East gate of the Temple, which in Old Testament tradition was only going to be opened when the Redeemer came to set the people free. The carol regards Christ, the Prince of Peace as this Redeemer.

Rejoicing is not just a response to what God has done, in the past, it is a choice. It is not just something to give back in response to what happens to us, but something that we give back to God and others by bringing them joy. The person who gives back love and joy to others anticipates Christ's coming.

I hope that you have a joyful Christmas and the things that come your way bring healing and hope to you and your family.

*Rev Julie Norris*

#### A Reflection for Advent

Christmas is coming! Preparations for the big day are under way, the shops have been at it for some weeks already. But what is it that is coming? Hopefully a happy time to celebrate with family and friends, presents, plenty of good food, but maybe the New Year starting with a hole in the bank balance or an even bigger number on the credit card. Probably all those things but not of course for everyone.

But what about the Christ part of Christmas? The short season of Advent focuses our thinking, our anticipation of remembering and giving thanks for

the coming of the Christ child into our human lives. Almighty God, made man for us, God with us then and, wonderfully, now. That is indeed something to celebrate.

An old proverb says, ‘You can’t fatten the pig the night before the fair’. Time and again I remind myself not to wait until Christmas Day to give thanks for the generous love and unfailing mercy of God. Advent provides the time to look again at my life, what I am doing, what I am regrettably leaving undone and prepare myself to do better. Advent is a time to reflect on God’s infinite love and mercy for me and all mankind, on His willingness to forgive and His desire to be reconciled with us all, not just on Christmas Day but every day of the year. Thanks be to God.

*David*

*Peacock*

## DECEMBER SERVICES AND EVENTS

<b>Saturday 30 November</b>	
	Carol singing for Christian Aid, 2–4 pm in the Grand Arcade. A great start to the Christmas season! Meet with folk from churches in the Cambridge area for a joyful sing-song!
<b>Sunday 1 December</b>	
	<b>8am.</b> A traditional <b>All Saints Holy Communion</b> using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). <b>10am. Parish and Family Communion Service.</b>
<b>Saturday 7 December</b>	
	<b>Christmas Tree Festival Week.</b> Doors open for the Festival today. The Festival ends on 15th. Music and choir will enhance your visit, 11 – 4 pm.
<b>Sunday 8 December</b>	
	<b>8am.</b> A traditional <b>Holy Communion Service</b> using the Book of Common Prayer. <b>10am. Parish and Family Communion Service.</b> <b>4.30 pm. Christingle Service</b> All ages welcome.
<b>Sunday 15 December Preparing for Christmas</b>	
	<b>Rejoicing at 8am. Holy Communion Service</b> BCP. <b>10am Parish and Family Communion Service.</b> <b>Travelling Nativity – all ages!</b> Meeting at <b>Freestone’s Corner at 3pm</b> and ending up with mince pies in the Community Room. <b>6.30 pm</b> Traditional Carol Service in the Church, a retiring collection for the organ.
<b>Monday 16 December</b>	
	<b>6pm School Carols</b> by Candlelight

<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	
	<b>6.30pm Village Carols</b> , meeting outside the Memorial Hall.
<b>Sunday 22 December</b>	
	<b>8am. Traditional Holy Communion Service BCP.</b>
	<b>10am. Parish and Family Communion Service.</b>
<b>Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve</b>	
	<b>4.30 pm Crib Service</b> Children and adults create the Nativity in the church 4.30pm.
	<b>11.30pm</b> Midnight Mass.
<b>Sunday 25 December Christmas Day</b>	
	<b>10am Family and Parish Communion.</b>

Other regular weekly services: **Mondays and Thursdays 8.30 am.**  
**Join us at St Mary’s for Morning Prayer** (30 minutes).  
**Sundays 6.30pm: Online Service** held via Zoom. These services give a lovely space to pause and listen to music and readings which, at the end of the weekend, can prepare us for the week ahead. You can find the Zoom link on the Pew Sheet on the website.

**Thought for the month:** The best of men are but men at best.

*J Aubrey 1680*

**For more information about St Mary’s, Great Shelford**  
 Vicar: Revd Dr Julie Norris [Revjulienorris@gmail.com](mailto:Revjulienorris@gmail.com).  
 Administrator: [administrator@stmarysgreatshelford.org](mailto:administrator@stmarysgreatshelford.org)  
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*Christmas Lights Switch On*

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## **Community Carols at Shelford Memorial Hall**

**Tuesday 17 December 6.30 —7.30pm**

‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ *Isaiah 9v6 (ESV)*

Christmas carols are a way of telling the story of the nativity and the birth of Jesus Christ. They contain great truths - truths of hope, love and joy - something that's hard to find in an age where truth is viewed as relative. Those who know carols have that truth hidden in their hearts, ready to pull it out at a moment's notice.

The word ‘*carol*’ actually means a dance or a song of praise and joy celebrating the birth of Christ. The power of music evokes a memory and with those memories come emotions.

In Christmas, the Christian faith brought together traditional winter feasts and celebrations, which were designed to spread light in the dark, deep midwinter months and the celebrations of Jesus's birth. Christmas carols have an appropriately uplifting and celebratory style to honour such an occasion. Over the centuries, songs have been written to help God's people remember the story of Christ's birth and its significance so they could respond in joy or adoration.

One of the earliest recorded Christmas carols was the ‘Angel's Hymn’ in 129 AD which is said to be the precursor for the carol now known as Hark! The Herald angels sing.

Carols are something that we mostly take for granted at this time of year and we sing them unquestioningly as part of our Christmas celebrations. The fact that we usually sing carols in groups means that we associate them with a sense of community happiness, especially since they are sung at Christmas which is generally thought of as a joyful time of year. Despite their religious origins, they continue to play a large role in many people's Christmas celebrations.

Great Shelford Parish Council and the churches of St. Mary the Virgin and Shelford Free Church invite you to gather with family and friends on Tuesday 17 December at 6.30pm to enjoy the timeless Christmas carols celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ whilst reflecting on the real meaning of Christmas.

During the evening, the Christmas story will be retold through the singing of traditional carols accompanied by the City of Cambridge Brass Band.

Characters from the Christmas story will add their reflections about their experience during the period of the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago. After the carols, mulled wine and mince pies, tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served.

**Events** at Great Shelford Free Church – all welcome!

**Advent Services** - come join us on Sundays at 10:30am for the following themed services:

Sunday 1 December: Advent 1 – HOPE  
 Sunday 8 December: Advent 2 – PEACE  
 Sunday 15 December: Advent 3 – JOY  
 Sunday 22 December: Advent 4 – LOVE

### **Christmas Services**

Tuesday 24 December at 6.30pm: Carols by Fairy Lights. Family Service.

Wednesday 25 December at 10am: Christmas Day Family Celebration.

Friday 6, 13 and 20 December at 10am: Advent Reflections.

Monday 2 December, 12.15pm: Community Café Advent Lunch.

For more information, please contact the church office on 01223 842181 or email [administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk)

### **Other village events**

Sunday 1 December 2 – 6pm: Community Christmas Light Switch on (organised by Great Shelford Parish Council).

Sunday 15 December 3pm – 4.15pm: Travelling Nativity (joint event with St Mary's Church). Outdoor family event, all welcome. Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character (optional!). Starting point will be at Freestone's Corner (near where the Village Sign is, close to the traffic lights).

Tuesday 17 December 6.30pm: Community Carols, outside Great Shelford Memorial Hall (joint event with St Mary's Church and Great Shelford Parish Council).

### **Regular Activities**

- Community Café every Monday: 10am until 12 noon – Join us for tea/coffee and homemade cake. Last session before Christmas will be on Monday 16 December, restarts on Monday 6 January 2025.
- Little Steps Toddler Group every Wednesday: 10am – 11.30am. This group is for toddlers up to the age of three with their parent or carer. Last session for 2024 will be on Wednesday 18 December, restarts on Wednesday 8 January 2025.
- Tiny Toes Baby Group every Wednesday afternoon: 1.30pm – 3pm. This group is for babies under one year old with their parent or carer. Last session for 2024 will be on Wednesday 18 December, restarts on Wednesday 8 January 2025.
- To book a place, please email [administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk).

*Margaret Cletheroe, GSFC Administrator*

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# GRANTA Medical Practices

Opening hours for our surgeries over the Christmas and New Year break.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Opening hours</b>	<b>Repeat prescription schedule</b>
<b>Fri 20.12.2024</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>27.12.2024</b>
<b>Sat 21.12.2024</b>	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston/Royston HC)	Place order today, pick up <b>30.12.2024</b>
<b>Sun 22.12.2024</b>	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>30.12.2024</b>
<b>Mon 23.12.2024</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>30.12.2024</b>
<b>Tues 24.12.2024</b> (Christmas Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>31.12.2024</b>
<b>Wed 25.12.2024</b> (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2025</b>
<b>Thurs 26.12.2024</b> (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2025</b>
<b>Fri 27.12.2024</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>02.01.2025</b>
<b>Sat 28.12.2024</b>	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston/Royston HC)	Place order today, pick up <b>03.01.2025</b>
<b>Sun 29.01.2024</b>	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>03.01.2025</b>
<b>Mon 30.12.2024</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>03.01.2025</b>
<b>Tues 31.12.2024</b> (New Years' Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>06.01.2025</b>



<b>Wed 01.01.2025</b> (New Year's Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up <b>07.01.2025</b>
<b>Thurs 02.01.2025</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>07.01.2025</b>
<b>Fri 03.01.2025</b>	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up <b>08.01.2025</b>

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**Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well stocked medicine cabinet at home.** You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol/ibuprofen), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

**Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you.** They are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many open in the evening and at weekends.

**Pharmacists can now also prescribe some medications under the “Pharmacy First” service.** Please go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/> for further information and eligibility criteria.

**Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service.** If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

**For further information on available healthcare services,** please go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or our website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

*Sandra East, Head of Patient Services* [cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net)



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## SHELFORD SCHOOL

Year 2 explored the changes brought about by the Great Fire of London. This included study of the materials used to construct medieval buildings and how they influenced the way the fire spread, as well as later changes as building methods developed. The most memorable part of this topic was undoubtedly the visit and demonstration from the fire service. Pupils got to experience the force of modern fire hoses.



A much quieter event came on Remembrance Day when Year 6 led our annual service, looking at the sacrifices made by others that we all benefit from today.

The passing of the seasons is reflected in school life. In October Year 3 led our Harvest Service at St Mary's, using paintings, poetry, music and prayers to help us stop and reflect – a time to be grateful for the food we have and think about those who are less fortunate. As usual we supported Jimmy's Cambridge through donations of food and money.

By the time you read this, autumn will have given way to Advent and the promise of Christmas to come. If you are seeing this soon after publication there may still be time to come to the Lights switch on event on 1st December when the PTA will be supplying essentials such as hot dogs, as well (I hope) as some more traditional Christmas fare. The usual school events will follow, leading up to the carol service and the Shelford Christmas Day before everyone has a well-earned rest.

*Peter Ede, School Governor*

## PIPPA HEYLINGS MP

*The following item features edited extracts from our MP's newsletter.*

It was a dark day this week, waking to the news of the US election. Families across the UK will be worrying about the damage Trump will do to our economy and our national security, given his record of starting trade wars, undermining NATO and emboldening tyrants like Putin and withdrawing from the climate agreements. Fixing the UK's broken relationship with the EU is even more urgent than before. We must strengthen trade and defence cooperation across Europe to help protect ourselves from the damage Trump will do.

**Now more than ever, we must stand up for the core liberal values of equality, democracy, human rights and the rule of law – at home and around the world.**

**Locally** I am calling for certainty about the funding for the new Cambridge Cancer Hospital which is under review. I took the opportunity during the Budget debate to urge the Chancellor to stop further delay on this ground breaking, life saving hospital which already has spades in the ground.

**East West Rail (EWR)** The government has announced that it wants to go ahead with the full East West Rail route from Oxford to Cambridge. This cannot be a repeat of the “botched job” by the former government. I have already had two meetings with the new CEO of EWR, and I shared my deep concerns about the failure to properly engage with local communities along the route and the lack of any local benefits to those communities, particularly to those most impacted. In South Cambridgeshire, residents need real details that answer the many questions that have been raised for so long without a response; and EWR must demonstrate that they have listened and acted on what I and many others have been saying.

I was somewhat reassured by the more open approach adopted by the new CEO, David Hughes. Whilst acknowledging that there would be significant impacts for some along the proposed route, he assured me that the consultation will reveal significant changes in response to the things we have been shouting about:

- electrification of the route rather than diesel trains
- ensuring connectivity between villages, such as Harlton and Newton
- reducing huge environmental damage (towering embankments, cutting through Chapel Hill), and others.

For details of EWR's proposals and the consultation process:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024>

As always, I welcome your feedback. Please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you would like an appointment, please do email me at [pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk).

## SHELFORD FEAST

In 1994 we held the first modern Shelford Feast, in the school grounds, and raised a surprising £1800 for the school. We thought we'd done quite well and so we tried again the following year – and doubled our profits. Roll on thirty years and we are proud to say that, along with entertaining the village for a whole week, we have been able to give £20,000 to deserving local causes in 2024. In total that means we have given away over £390,000 to nearly 100 local groups and causes – so, many thanks to the over 100 volunteers who make The Feast possible and of course to the thousands who attend and enjoy the week.



What had once been a weekend (see this picture from 1920) has turned from a single Feast day into a week long Festival of music, comedy and entertainment and is now a fixture of the summer calendar, with interest from much

wider afield than just the Shelfords. But our aim stays the same: to both entertain and to raise money for local good causes.

So, we are delighted to say that this year's £20,000 will go to thirty groups – £3,000 to three groups and anything from £150 to £500 for others, according to need and to the amount of help they and their supporters can give us. Because if your good cause can run a stall, or your supporters can help fit out the marquee or serve in the food tent, then everyone gains. We depend on volunteers!

These good causes who applied should be receiving grants very soon:

Acacia Court Residents, Great Shelford Beavers, Bowls, Cogwheel Counselling, Cricket, Cubs, Football Club, Friends of St Mary's Church, Great Shelford Village Charity, Shelford Guides, Friends of the Library, OASSIS, Over-70's Xmas meal, Pantomime, Rainbow Pre-school, Sawston Girls FC, Scout & Guide HQ, Shelford Scouts, Sick Children's Trust, Rugby, Shelfords School, SSI Youth Club, Stapleford Community Warden, WI, Mobile Warden, SYD, Sawston Samba, Parkinsons, CAMMS Meals on Wheels, Touch My World Productions.

*Duncan Grey*

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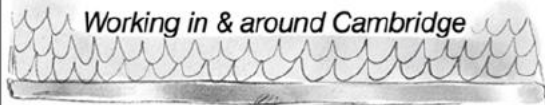
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## LIBRARY

### HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM ALL THE LIBRARY STAFF

We will be running our usual events during December:

**Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time** Every Tuesday at 10.30am

For children aged 0–4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

**Craft & Chat** Every Friday morning 10.30am –12noon. No need to book.

**Tea & Games** Every Friday afternoon 2 – 3.30pm. No need to book.

**Stay and Play** Thursday 12 December. For children aged 0–3 years. 2–3.30pm. A relaxed drop in session for families with young children, £2 per family. Toys provided.

**Lego and Duplo Club** Fortnightly, Monday 9 and 23 December 4–5.30pm.

Come along and have some fun making Lego models. All materials provided. Suggested donation £1. Suitable for ages 2–10.

**Children's Games Club** Fortnightly, Monday 2 and 16 December 4–

5.30pm. Come along and have fun. Board and card games provided.

Suggested donation £1, no need to book. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

**Art Club** Every Saturday morning 10.30am–12noon. Suitable for ages 4–10.

Drop in event. £1 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

**Christmas and New Year Opening Hours** Great Shelford Library will close for Christmas at 1pm on Tuesday 24 December and reopen at 10am on Friday 3 January.

*Mel Abbiss – Community Librarian*

**Opening hours: see page 24**

**Contact details:** Telephone: 0345 045 5225

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## DIARY DECEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Time	Place
1	Christmas Lights switch on	6pm	Memorial Hall
7	St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival (until 15th)	11am–4pm	St Mary's
12	Christmas Concert	7.30pm	St Mary's
15	Travelling Nativity	3pm	Freestone's Corner
17	Community Carols	6.30–7.30pm	Memorial Hall
20	Seniors' Tea Party	2.30–4.30pm	Memorial Hall
Country Market 9–11.30am every Wednesday Except December 25 and January 1 and 8, 2025			

	<b>BIN COLLECTIONS</b> Black bins                      Tuesday 10, 24 December Blue bins                        Tuesday 3, 17, 31 December Green bins                        Tuesday 3, 17 (next Jan 14)
	<b>POST BOXES</b> Coppice Avenue, Mill Court (Hinton Way), Library, Old Vicarage, Church St, High Green bus stop, Stonehill Road, Macaulay Avenue. Usual post box collections are 9am. The latest collection is from the Post Office at 4.45pm.
	<b>POST OFFICE</b> The Post Office is at Great Shelford Local Store (was Kash Stores), 35 Hinton Way. Open Monday to Saturday 7am–8pm, Sunday 9am–6pm.
	<b>LIBRARY</b> Monday 3–7pm, Tuesday 10am–1pm & 2–5pm, Wednesday 10am–1pm, Thursday closed, Friday 10am–1pm & 2–6pm, Saturday 10am–1pm. NB The library is closed on bank holidays.

## 2G3S

**Dr Bike** continues to run its volunteer run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. Children are welcome to come and learn how to look after their bikes and do simple maintenance and repairs, but please attend with them (for safeguarding reasons). For more information, contact [drbikestapleford@gmail.com](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com). You can also book a time slot at that address, although this is not essential.

I hope if you attended our transport evening, or the film Fugolburna, or the Repair Café, that you found it worthwhile. All our activities aim to support you in making environmentally friendly choices and to be more aware of the importance of wildlife and nature to our wellbeing and that of the planet for our descendants.

Some of our members attended the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Local Climate Action Conference at Cambourne, and met other organisations and individuals working to meet the challenges of the climate/nature emergencies. Members also went on a march in London calling for Clean Water. The Cam Valley Forum arranged transport for local people, as over abstraction and pollution of our local rivers are so relevant in this area. The National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Wildlife Trusts were all represented at the event.

Looking forward to 2025....

**AGM and social** on 7 January at 7.30pm at Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford. Come along and meet us!

**Repair Café** at Shelford Memorial Hall on the afternoon of 22 February – put it in the diary if you have things to repair!

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto:mail2G3S@gmail.com) to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website [2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/](https://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/).

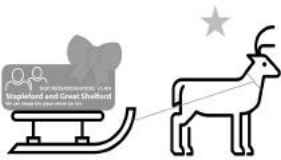
*Helen Hale*

### EAST WEST RAIL

Consultations are in progress about the proposed Oxford to Cambridge rail link which is planned to come through Hauxton to the Shelford junction. Do read the detail at <https://tinyurl.com/mrvjeb3k> (sections 15 and 16) to learn the impact of the new line on local villages.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### A neighbourhood plan-shaped Christmas present for our villages?



At its November meeting, Stapleford Parish Councillors voted to approve the submission to the local planning authority of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and all of its supporting documents. Great Shelford Parish Councillors had the opportunity to do the

same at their full council meeting on 20 November. Whilst this is far from a perfunctory process, at the time of writing this article (8 November) there are signs of a propitious outcome. The NP is, after all, being produced by a volunteer group of residents and councillors on behalf of the two parish councils; the councils have received monthly progress updates over the past three years and authorised various aspects of it along the way; and my detailed report on the submission version of the NP was met favourably by Great Shelford councillors in October.

All being well, we will soon be able to announce submission of the NP to South Cambs District Council (SCDC) via parish council websites and local Facebook pages, although you may also hear my enormous sigh of relief carrying across the fields.

Once submitted, SCDC will conduct a 'Regulation 16' consultation over five weeks to receive comments on our submission NP. It will:

- publish details of the NP on its website and elsewhere
- provide details of where and when the NP can be inspected
- provide details of how to make representations
- directly contact everyone who submitted comments to our Reg. 14 consultation in March/April 2024 (they may wish, for example, to see whether or how their comments influenced the NP and make representations against that).

Comments received during the Reg. 16 consultation will be passed onto an independent examiner appointed by SCDC (and agreed by the parish councils) to determine whether our NP meets the legally binding 'basic conditions' required of it. I'll write more about the examination process another time, suffice to say that if the examiner ticks the box against each of the basic conditions, then there will be only one more hurdle to jump (a community yes/no referendum) before the 21 planning policies in our NP become legally binding and used in the determination of all planning applications coming forward in Stapleford and Great Shelford parishes.

We thank residents for their continued support and input and wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

*Jenny Flynn*

*Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group*

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## **BUSWAY**

### **A Critical Moment**

### **Your Last Chance EVER to Save Your Countryside**

A pivotal decision has been made that affects the future of our community and environment with Cambridgeshire County Council voting to proceed with plans to build a five mile road through the countryside between the A11 and Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Known as the Cambridge South East Transport Scheme (CSET) the road will be used by buses and now faces a public inquiry. **This is your last chance to save the countryside by supporting a better alternative.**

The bus road plans have faced substantial opposition from local residents, environmental groups, businesses and Parish Councils because it is so damaging to our special countryside and rural setting and will unleash development all along its route. Despite these objections, our politicians have pushed ahead, when a better, more cost-effective alternative exists.

**The Better Alternative:** The alternative solution is to build one mile of bus road and one point two miles of bus lane alongside the A1307, where congestion is an issue. This would have much less environmental impact and cost £100 million **less** than building five miles of road. Importantly, this would achieve similar transport and economic benefits and could achieve faster results by opening up each phase of the project as it's completed. For more information about the alternative and a comparison head to [bw4b.org/the-better-way](http://bw4b.org/the-better-way).

### **What You Can Do to Help**

Now, **more than ever**, it's vital for the community to come together and take action. Here's how you can help:

1. **Make a donation:** We urgently need to raise funds for legal and professional fees to make the strongest argument possible against the bus road at the public enquiry. The costs are very significant indeed and whether you can donate £50 or £5,000, without this, we will not be able to fight it effectively. We urgently need to have instructed solicitors, a barrister and expert witnesses who will deliver their evidence to the public inquiry. Donate at [www.cambridgeppf.org](http://www.cambridgeppf.org) and click on Protecting Cambridge & Campaigns.

2. **Volunteer to help:** We need people who can help by going door to door to speak to fellow residents or distributing information - please get in touch at [hello@bw4b.org](mailto:hello@bw4b.org).
3. The fight to save our countryside is in its final stages. If you oppose this project, the time to act is now. This is **your last chance** to prevent five miles of bus road from permanently scarring our landscape and losing the green belt and the unique character of South Cambridgeshire forever. Together, we can protect our environment, our community and our future. The alternative scheme in the A1307 corridor saves £100 million, delivers similar benefits faster and is much better for the countryside and environment.

Please take a look at our website which shows the impact on your village. [www.bw4b.org](http://www.bw4b.org) . We urge you to please email us at [hello@bw4b.org](mailto:hello@bw4b.org) as soon as possible to offer your support. Thank you for your continued support.



Edge of Stapleford now (above) and how it might look after a year (below)



***Better ways for Busways!** is a non political group that supports better public transport solutions in South Cambridgeshire. Howard Kettel*

## READERS' LETTERS

The Great Shelford Village News is always happy to receive letters from readers – see page 47 for details of how to contact us.

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## SHELFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION QUIZ EVENING

David Beresford, our celebrated quizmaster, once again put in much work on our behalf and entertained us with a superlative quiz, both challenging and entertaining. A full house of nine teams of six enjoyed six rounds with every question being illustrated by a photograph.

There was also a table round about British landmarks to test the brain cells during the fish and chips (or similar) meal. As well as racking the brains for the whereabouts of this viaduct or those white cliffs, the break halfway through gave us all the opportunity to refresh our glasses and enjoy each other's company. The raffle also provided a bit of fun.

The evening was most enjoyable and once again we are most grateful to David for providing a thought provoking and memory testing quiz.

Our thanks to Richard Patterson for the organising, to our fine MC, Colin Jefferson and to our faithful team who set up, served and cleared up the meal and did a wonderful job returning the hall to its normal tidy state.

Many thanks to those of you that came along to support the Twinning Association.

Details of our family exchange visit to France at the beginning of the May half term next year will soon be available and we do hope some of you will be able to join us! For further information about the Twinning Association and our activities, please email us on [twinningsec@gmail.com](mailto:twinningsec@gmail.com) or visit our website: [shelfordtwinning.org.uk](http://shelfordtwinning.org.uk).



Photo: Richard Patterson



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## Come to Verneuil in 2025

The dates for the visits have now been set, so put them in your diaries!

Shelford to Verneuil May 24–27 2025.

Verneuil to Shelford July 5-8 2025.

Everyone is welcome (singles, couples, family groups)

- It is an opportunity to get to know our twinned village, situated just north of Paris and its lovely people
- An enriching experience for the whole family
- It is not necessary to speak French, but fun to try
- It is not a requirement to host if you have been on the visit; neither do you need to have gone to Verneuil in order to have guests to stay
- Adults £130, Teens (13-18), £100, Children (up to 12) £50\*  
\*We are able to offer this competitive price for the children thanks to the very generous support of Great Shelford Parish Council.

**If you are interested in the trip,** please contact

Sarah Haddow [sarah.haddow@talk21.com](mailto:sarah.haddow@talk21.com) or

Colin Jefferson [colin@frenchfrogs.net](mailto:colin@frenchfrogs.net)

Use the QR code to access our website.



**Please note:** Participation in the visit involves becoming a member of the Association, in accordance with our charter. (£10 single membership/£15 family). This is easy to organise.

# Great Shelford

## Christmas Lights Switch On

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**OLD NEWS****Extracts from The Great Shelford Chronicle 1774-1868**

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

6 December 1856

THE CRIMEA – Some of the families in the village have been highly delighted during the past week, by the return of sons or brothers from the Crimean army, who after all the dangers, toil and hardship that they have undergone, have returned on Furlough for a few weeks to their native place, safe and sound.

9 December 1857


CHRISTMAS TURKEYS – Mr William Moore of Gt. Shelford has 135 of the finest cock turkeys in England, which will be in London in a few days for Christmas. He has a large number of hen turkeys for the same market. Mr Richard Brand, of the same village, at the late Birmingham Show gained the two first prizes for fine turkeys. He has a hen turkey in his possession that weighs 24lbs alive.

15 December 1860

DRUNKENESS – Simon Pouter, labourer, Little Shelford, was charged with being drunk and incapable in the “streets” of Great Shelford on the previous night. The defendant only had 9s a week and “small beer” and although he had 3 children with the whooping cough and a wife to maintain on this sum, yet he thought a man should have a little “nourishment” sometimes. The man had, it seemed, borne a good character, on the strength of which, and a promise not to repeat the offence, he was sent about his business on agreeing to pay the sum of 2s 6d, mitigated costs, within a week.

29 December 1860

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. a foot race of 100 yards was run between John Main of Sawston, a rather swift-footed gentleman, and Charles Porter, of Great Shelford. The winner was to receive from the loser 30s and this prize, notwithstanding Main’s previous fame as a runner was won by his opponent. Porter’s time, ten and a half seconds.



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## WI

At our November meeting, Eleanor Witter introduced our speaker, Neil Callan who with his wife, Clare shared with us their infectious joint love of gardening.

Some years ago, they began to develop three quarters of an acre of Fen soil from almost nothing, other than a few good trees, into an interesting, colourful and productive garden. Few of us had known that under the fen soil are layers of shells from when it was under the sea. That makes the peaty soil alkaline as opposed to upland peat that is acidic. Clare claims that they had no real plan but the garden now has areas that are stunning at different times of the year.

Neil and Clare are good photographers and treated us to projected images of their 'Garden through the Year' including close ups of many of the flowers starting with wintersweet and snowdrops in the early spring, through the usual and unusual flowers of later spring. Their real passion is for the family of May flowering bearded irises shown in more superb shots. Some of their most colourful irises were potted up for us to buy.

After naming over 70 plants in the photographs, the year ended with the garden blanketed in snow and trees covered in hoar frost. Winter, we were told, is actually a busy time for them with hedging producing mounds of woody stems and branches that can't be composted but that in the countryside can still be burnt on a controlled bonfire.

Throughout, we were told what went well but also comfortingly for many of us what didn't thrive or survive, which plants do well in wet/dry soil and which need sun/shade or do well anywhere. Gardens are not static, they continuously evolve.

After they had answered some excellent questions, Eleanor thanked our speakers and then followed more lively conversation over coffee/tea and biscuits.

Our regular meetings continue with a Christmas party and craft work on 7 December followed by Lestyn Edwards with 'My tutu went AWOL!' on 2 January 2025.

To find out more you will be very welcome to join us at our usual venue, the Community Room behind St Mary's Church, Great Shelford, on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

*Eleanor Witter President*





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## COUNTRY MARKET

After two successful chutney tasting mornings in the earlier part of November, the Christmas spirit started to creep into the market. Now into December there are just three markets before Christmas. Plenty of work for all our producers!

Our tables will be filled with seasonal fayre in addition to our regular lines, marmalades, jams, chutneys and local honey, plants and seasonal greenery and many different crafts.

By definition, all our produce and craft work have to be home made, home grown or hand crafted. Many of our products can be viewed on Great Shelford Country Market Facebook pages. The market is the place for original and interesting Christmas gifts, so do come, allow time to have a good browse and then stop at our coffee shop for freshly made coffee or tea and a home made cookie.

Looking back over the year our café has been very well supported and has become a real Wednesday morning social hub and friends 'meeting place' offering good coffee and service.

We always welcome your orders. Three ways to order! At the market, phone Dorothy on 01223 843946, or email [dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com](mailto:dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com) and we are happy to arrange delivery if you are unable to get to the market.

We send best wishes for the Christmas season to all our customers and friends and our thanks for supporting us throughout the year. We shall look forward to seeing you when we re-open after our New Year break on **15th January 2025**.



*Dorothy Doel*

*Market is in the Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane every Wednesday (9 to 11.30 am) **except** 25th December 2024 and 1st and 8th January 2025.*

**Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme  
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For further information visit our website <http://www.shelfordwardenscheme.org>

Jenny David (Chair) 07764615524 [jennykmf@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennykmf@yahoo.co.uk)

Claire Smith (Warden) 07811676991 [saurus1960@gmail.com](mailto:saurus1960@gmail.com)



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## REMEMBRANCE DAY



Photo: Duncan Grey

There was good attendance from both young and old, many in uniforms. This continues to be a serious community event for both church goers and non-attenders alike.

### SENIORS' TEA PARTY

**Friday, 20th December, 2024 in Great Shelford  
Memorial Hall 2.30-4.30pm**



Have fun with eats and quiz

This year organised by Rosey Feuall, LLM Gt Shelford St Mary, and others.

Tickets now available from Rosey at St Mary's Church, or order by phone/email, then I can get them to you in the next week or so.

01223 213305/roseyleaf@talktalk.net

In November I have been recruiting helpers from groups in our villages. If you would like to bake us a cake, please let me know asap.

The Friends of Great Shelford Parish Church  
invite you to a

# Christmas Concert

An evening for all the family with

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**Thursday 12th December 2024 at 7.30pm**

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## PETER PAN

### Little Shelford Pantomime 2025



A pantomime with a difference. Lost boys who really do get lost. Featuring Gary and Colin as Mrs Hooks one and two. A pair of Shakespearean crocodiles and three twins (THREE twins?). A team of construction workers who come to the rescue so the show can go on, and on, and on ....

This is Little Shelford Pantomime 2025. An exciting mix of traditional and something else altogether. Stuffed with familiar characters and some you will never have heard of (or would rather not hear of again).

You just cannot afford to miss it:

Wednesday 8 - Saturday 11 January at 7pm in Little Shelford Memorial Hall.  
**Tickets available (£5 children; £10 adults) from 1 December 2024 from any of the following:**

Little Shelford – Rachel Ford – 07974 698495; Great Shelford – Holly Gregory - 07876 615753; Stapleford – Sarah Coppendale - 01223 842498; Sawston – Susan Hunter - 07796 295167 or e-mail

[coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com)

## TENNIS

At this time of celebration, we're sad at Great Shelford Tennis Club (GSTC) to see the departure of coach (and former Member of the Month) Olly Halliwell. Olly, pictured, is getting married in January, before heading off for a new life with bride Ifthi. He is to go beyond Sawston and even further than



Peterborough, moving five thousand miles to the remote Indian Ocean archipelago of the Maldives. If things go to plan Olly will continue his work there, coaching the national men's Davis Cup and women's Billie-Jean King Cup teams against tennis giants such as Bhutan, Yemen and the mighty Nepal. Olly, 29, has been at the club for more than half his life, starting as a 13 year old helper with tennis camps in 2009. So, will he miss Shelford? "I'll miss the people" he says, "but it'll be a very

different environment where I won't have to wear this woolly hat or use a leaf blower before going on court".

Club head coach Hamid Hejazi said, "Olly is the beating heart of our junior tennis program and is one of those people everyone loves. I am incredibly sad to see Olly leave and he will be impossible to replace. His loyalty, honesty and humility are what define him. Not only is he one of the best tennis coaches to ever work with me but more importantly one of life's great people and someone I proudly call a friend."

We all wish Olly and Ifthi well on their exciting new adventures.

Meanwhile life goes on at our little old club with a new parent and child doubles tournament on 7th December, plus our traditional Boxing Day tennis with mince pies and mulled wine.

To all the *News* readers Assalamu Alaikum\*, as they say in the Maldives.

*\*Peace be unto you.*

*Stephen Chittenden*

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE	
28 Nov–5 Jan	Cinderella
<i>Phone 01223 503333 <a href="http://cambridgeartstheatre.com">cambridgeartstheatre.com</a></i>	

ADC THEATRE	
27 Nov – 7 Dec	CUADC/Footlights Pantomime – Snow White
2 – 4	Comic Sans: The Magnificent Serif
5 – 6	CU Show Choir: To Glee or Not To Glee
10 – 14	A Christmas Carol
17 – 21	The Winter's Tale
<i><a href="https://www.adctheatre.com/whats-on/">https://www.adctheatre.com/whats-on/</a> or Box office phone 01223 300085</i>	

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – BOTANIC GARDEN	
until 23 Dec	Christmas Robin Trail
until 21 Dec	Cambridge Botanic Lights
7 Dec	Family Activity: Christmas Craft
<i><a href="https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/museums/cambridge-university-botanic-garden">https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/museums/cambridge-university-botanic-garden</a></i>	

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – MUSEUMS & GALLERIES	
From 3 December	<b>Picturing Excess: Jan Davidsz de Heem.</b> Fitzwilliam Museum
Throughout December	<b>The Cavendish Laboratory and the Birth of the Atomic Age.</b> Whipple Museum
<i><a href="https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/whats-on">https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/whats-on</a></i>	

ARTS PICTURE HOUSE	
From 20 December	<b>Mufasa: The Lion King.</b> Simba is determined for his cub to follow in his footsteps
<i><a href="https://www.picturehouses.com/coming-soon">https://www.picturehouses.com/coming-soon</a></i>	

GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH	
14 December	<b>Handel's Messiah by Candlelight.</b> Eboracum Baroque perform at 7pm
<i><a href="https://eboracumbaroque.co.uk">https://eboracumbaroque.co.uk</a></i>	

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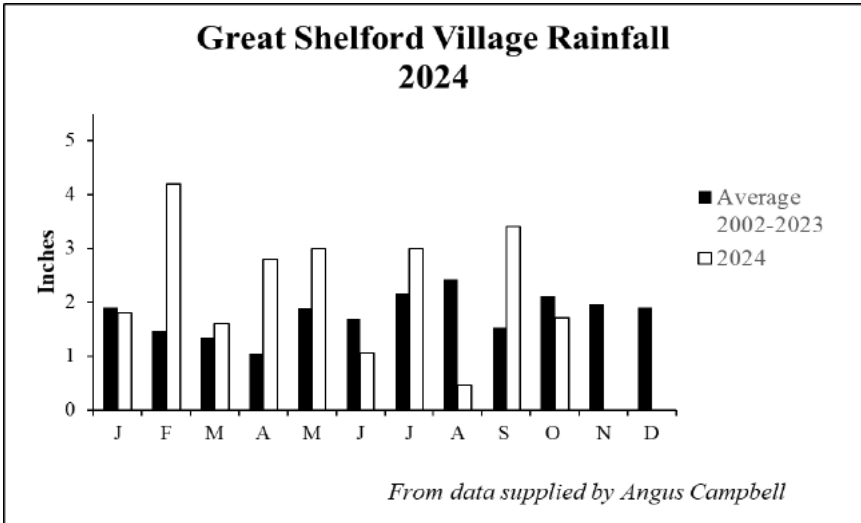
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## HOW TO CONTACT GREAT SHELFORD VILLAGE NEWS

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 photo, will fill a full page. Notices for events work best as a half page (half A5) in landscape format and usually in black and white.

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### JANUARY ISSUE OF THE *VILLAGE NEWS*

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### NOTE

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