

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

MARCH 2026

PRICE: 40p



Needle felting picture by Matilda (1st Shelford Guides)

Photo: K Rooney

Parish Council Budget

Potholes! The story continues

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

| | |
|---|--|
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| Building & Grounds Malcolm Watson | Cemetery & Allotments Angela Niblett |
| MEMBERS | |
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| DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Peter Fane 07802 256861 | William Jackson-Wood 07873 731597 |
| COUNTY COUNCILLORS Peter Fane 07802 256861 | Laurence Damary-Homan 01223 699831 |

GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SUMMARY FROM THE UNADOPTED MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 JANUARY 2026

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Greater Cambridge draft Local Plan

A report was presented on the draft Local Plan, which sets out where new homes, workplaces and supporting infrastructure could be built in Greater Cambridge (South Cambridgeshire & Cambridge City) to meet housing and job needs to 2045.

Key points

- 50,000 new homes are needed for 73,000 new jobs; 37,000 are already planned.
- The Local Plan supports growth in Northstowe and Waterbeach, Cambridge Airport redevelopment and Cambourne expansion (with a new railway station).
- Grange Farm: 6,000 homes outside the Green Belt with improved transport links to nearby research campuses.
- Employment growth: Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Babraham Research Campus and two new A14 logistics sites.
- The only Green Belt releases proposed are Cambridge Biomedical Campus & Babraham Research Campus. Great Shelford Green Belt release has been dropped.
- Transport and water supply remain challenges.

Highways issues

- Tunwells Lane resurfacing has been pushed back to April, this is due to National Highways nighttime closures of the M11.

Greater Cambridge Development Corporation

- The consultation will be launched in the next few weeks. Cllr Fane advised that Development Corporations do have compulsory purchase powers.

County Council Monthly Report – January 2026

The County Council has agreed to

- appoint a Member Champion for care leavers (an elected councillor responsible for supporting young people transitioning out of care)

- work with partners on bus infrastructure management
- develop a county culture and arts strategy
- support the UK rejoining the European Single Market and assess local Brexit impacts
- introduce a flexible safety policy for new busways.

Budget Update

Rising demand – particularly in social care and service for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND – continues to put significant pressure on finances. Since 2019, major cost increases have included home-to-school transport (+122%) and children in care (+99%). The Council faces a £10m overspend this year and a SEND deficit nearing £100m. For 2026/27, £40m in savings/income is required before the budget is finalised in February.

Adults, Health & Environment

- The Public Health Strategy (2025–30) prioritises prevention, including: Healthy Schools
- Suicide prevention
- Active travel
- Employment support
- Tackling alcohol harm
- Smoking cessation improved in 2024/25, meeting the national target
- Solar panels at Babraham Park & Ride now power EV chargers and supply energy to Addenbrooke’s Hospital.

Transport & Combined Authority

Busway safety works (Orchard Park–Histon & Impington) are ongoing with diversions in place. Winter gritting continues until April. The £1 Tiger Pass for young people is secured until March 2027, though long-term funding is uncertain. January bus strikes may disrupt services.

Members emphasised to the County Councillors the poor condition of the village roads and requested that pressure be applied to Cambridge County Council (CCC) Highways to undertake necessary works.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS

- The Parish Council has resubmitted the pedestrian refuge by Scotsdales.
- Cambridge South Station is now expected to open in June/July 2026.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- a) Dilapidation survey on the Pavilion: suggestions by the architect for works to the corridor in the Pavilion had been agreed, costs would be sought to move forward with the project and submitted to Full Council for approval.

Memorial Hall proposals: a meeting had taken place regarding heating for the Memorial Hall, including options to relocate the boilers or to install air-conditioning/heating and solar panels on the roof of Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI) and storage batteries in the external storage cupboard under the SSYI staircase.

- b) Level Up Gym (based in Shelford) wish to hire the Memorial Hall and have a small area outside for a barbecue run by a professional catering company for their fifth anniversary party on 16 May.

It was **agreed** to allow the barbecue to take place on the rear car park, but the council would request a risk assessment and removal of any food waste after the event.

- c) The cost for the Assistant Clerk to commence the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification was approved.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Response to the CCC Emerging Local Plan

- a) The Planning meeting on Monday 26 January would have the Emerging Local Plan as its main agenda item. Cllr Kettel and Mrs Sykes will prepare a response on behalf of the Parish Council for discussion and approval at this meeting.
- b) Cllr Watson and Cllr Stanton will attend a meeting on the Cambridge Growth Company hosted by Peter Freeman on 4 March at Cambourne.
- c) The Parish Council has applied for a commemoration tree which will be placed at Freestones corner.

FINANCE MATTERS

Quotations for maintenance works and interior cleaning for the Memorial Hall and the Pavilion and the annual check of the emergency staircase from SSYI were accepted.

The quotation for cleaning the Pavilion and Memorial Hall windows was accepted, but it was requested that the Pavilion windows be cleaned monthly from May to September and the Memorial Hall quarterly.

The draft budget for 2026/27 was approved.

The precept for 2026/27 was discussed. The proposed precept was £425,921 which is an increase of £35,000 or 9%, equivalent to 17.71 per year; £1.48 per month on a band D property.

It was finally agreed the precept for 2026/7 should be £409,652. This is an increase of £19,133 or 5%.

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Full copies of the agendas and minutes of the Parish Council and Committee meetings can be viewed on the website
greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/minutes

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MARCH

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Cemetery & Allotments | 4 March | 7.00pm Pavilion |
| Planning Committee | 9 March | 7.00pm Memorial Hall |
| Full Council | 18 March | 7.00pm Pavilion |
| Planning Committee | 23 March | 7.00pm Memorial Hall |

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.

PIPPA HEYLINGS MP

The following text is based on extracts from our MP's regular newsletters. Register at: <https://www.pippaheytings.org.uk/newsletter> to read the full text

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Cambridge Development Corporation consultation opens

If a development corporation is to be established, it must exist for one reason only: to tackle the genuinely 'wicked problems' that sit beyond the control of local authorities. That means addressing fundamental constraints such as where our water will come from, how sewage capacity is managed, how health infrastructure including A&E provision can be expanded and how transport bottlenecks that are currently strangling the area are resolved.

What we do not want is another layer of bureaucracy sitting on top of local planning authorities. South Cambridgeshire has an award-winning, gold-standard planning system that has successfully planned for some of the most ambitious housing targets in the country while continuing to protect the character of our villages, uphold high environmental and sustainability standards and recognise the absolute dealbreaker posed by water scarcity.

Any new body must add value by solving these strategic infrastructure challenges, not undermine a planning authority that is already delivering well and responsibly in the middle of a water and environmental crisis.

The consultation is now live, see <https://tinyurl.com/2ctyc2vu>

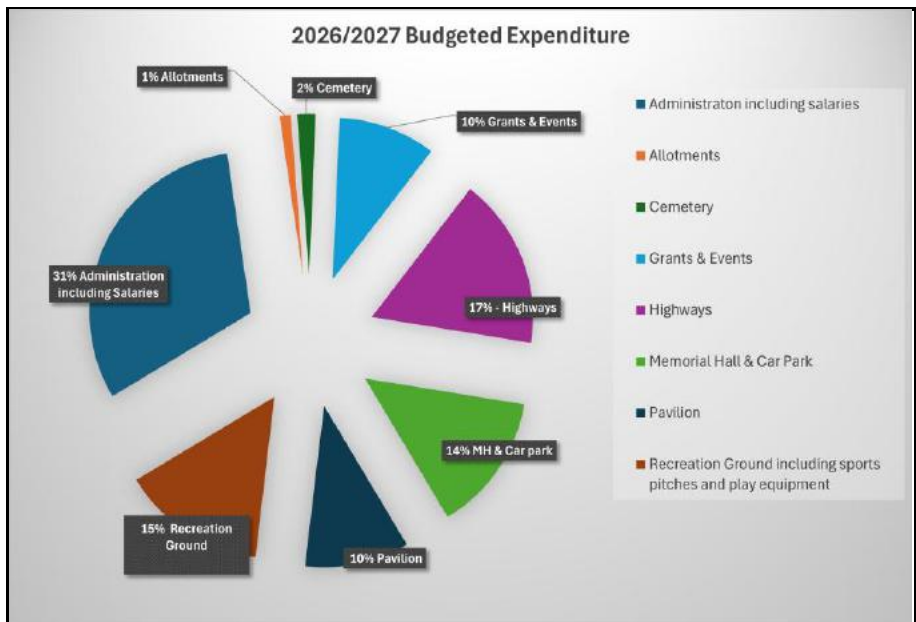
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish council budget and precept for 2026/2027

The Parish Council has approved the budget and precept for the upcoming financial year. The precept has been set at £409,652 representing an increase of £19,133, or 5% from the previous year.

This funding will be directed toward maintaining and improving essential services, community projects and initiatives that benefit all residents, including some refurbishment of the Memorial Hall.

The Parish Council remains committed to transparency and ensuring that the precept supports the long-term sustainability of our community.



EASTER FUN DAY AND MARKET

Sunday 29 March 9.30am–2pm, at the Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground.

Join us for a fantastic day of family fun at our Easter egg hunt & market, hosted in partnership with the PTA. This exciting event promises something for everyone!

Children can enjoy a thrilling Easter egg hunt and play on bouncy castles. Meanwhile, parents can browse a wonderful selection of stalls at our Easter market, featuring local crafts, delicious treats and seasonal goodies.

We can't wait to see you there.

RAYMENT'S CAR PARK

The Community Payback team has cleared overgrown greenery and debris along the car park wall, making each space about half a metre longer. They have also started removing brambles on the other side of the car park and will continue cutting back weeds.

Some spaces were temporarily closed for health and safety, but we hope residents can see the improvements from their work. Their next stop will be the Memorial Hall car park, where we have a similar issue to the one in Rayment's car park.

The Parish Council would like to express thanks to the Community Payback team for their continued support in maintaining and improving the village.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SHELFORD

Are you passionate about making a difference in Great Shelford?

Do you care about our community and want to see positive change?

Can you give a couple of hours a month and another couple of hours once a quarter? If so, keep reading – you might be the perfect fit!

Aims of Great Shelford Parish Council

Great Shelford Parish Council is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents by focusing on key areas that strengthen the village and support its long term vitality.

Through collaborative working, the Parish Council strives to create a welcoming, safe, and sustainable environment for everyone who lives in, works in and visits the village.

Become a Parish Councillor and help shape our village

If you'd like to play an active role in shaping Great Shelford, consider becoming a Parish Councillor. You'll have the chance to influence projects, address local concerns and support community initiatives. No special qualifications are needed – just a genuine interest in the village and its people. It's a rewarding way to connect with neighbours, gain new skills and make a real difference.

For more information, contact Sue – clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk. Join us in building a stronger, more vibrant community!

Malcolm Watson, Chairman

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH
ST MARY THE VIRGIN

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St Mary's Musings

Recently, in our study group, we explored various habits that we can nurture to develop our character. I was struck by the sheer volume of research highlighting the benefits of such practices. Evidently, adopting positive habits can increase our happiness, reduce selfishness and make us easier to live with. Cultivating positive habits enables our character to grow.

One example is the practice of gratitude. By intentionally focusing on what we are thankful for, we shift our attention away from complaining about what is wrong with the world. Regularly expressing gratitude not only helps us recognise the good in our lives but, according to research, those who make this a habit tend to be happier than those who do not.

This Lent, at St Mary's, we are embracing a new approach by using a daily reflection booklet titled *Draw Near – Life-giving Habits for Lent*. Every person attending church will receive a copy. The booklet encourages a short daily reflection on a Bible verse or two, followed by a prayer and a suggested response. The aim is to help us to foster habits and practices that draw us closer to God and to our neighbours.

This represents a shift in our Lenten practice of Lent. Instead of viewing it solely as a time of self-denial for its own sake, we are invited to see Lent as transformation. It gives us an opportunity to set aside time for study, prayer and heightened awareness of our actions towards others. This intentional focus has the power to transform and surprise us. It says in the book of James, 'Draw near to God and God will draw near to you.' (James 4:8)

Rev Julie Norris

For more information about Great Shelford Parish Church

Vicar: Revd Dr Julie Norris
Parish Administrator: David Wilding

Revjulienorris@gmail.com
wildingdavid1@gmail.com

St. Mary's Great Shelford is a Registered Charity No 245456

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST MARY'S IN MARCH

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 1 March – Second Sunday of Lent | |
| | <p>8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional spoken service</p> <p>10am Sung Parish Communion with children's Sunday Club reflection and activity during part of the service.</p> |
| Sunday 8 March – Third Sunday of Lent | |
| | <p>8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional spoken service</p> <p>10am Sung Parish Communion A contemporary Communion Service with music and activities in the service for all ages.</p> |
| Sunday 15 March – Mothering Sunday, Fourth of Lent | |
| | <p>8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer.</p> <p>10am Sung Parish Communion A contemporary service with children's Sunday Club and where flowers are given to all who come.</p> |
| Sunday 22 March – Passion Sunday, Fifth of Lent | |
| | <p>8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer A traditional said service</p> <p>10am Parish Communion A contemporary Communion service, with a children's Sunday Club.</p> <p>5pm Evensong A calm way to prepare for the week ahead with traditional evening prayer and music.</p> |
| Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday, Last of Lent | |
| | <p>8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer</p> <p>10am Parish Communion contemporary sung Communion service with a children's Sunday Club.</p> |

OTHER EVENTS

| |
|---|
| <p>Each Sunday, 6.30pm Online EWorship Zoom Service. The link is in the newsletter which can be accessed at https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/</p> |
| <p>Saturday 7 March 10am: Memorial Service for Barry Parker Barry Parker passed away before Christmas. A service to celebrate and give thanks for his life at St Mary's Church.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 7 March 11am - Coffee Morning This Coffee Morning will take place a little later than normal in the Community Room, following the Memorial Service for Barry Parker.</p> |
| <p>Care home Services A team from St Mary's will lead a service in the home. Family and friends can join us on the following dates and times: 19 March 11am, Holy Communion at Cambridgeshire Care Home. 26 March 2pm, Holy Communion at Barley Manor Care Home.</p> |



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ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

| |
|---|
| <p>Each Sunday morning there is a Sunday Club where the children go out to do activities, games and prayers for part of the service.</p> |
| <p>On the second Sunday of the month there is the Family and Parish Communion Service. Children are welcome throughout the service and are encouraged to participate.</p> |
| <p>Young Pilgrim Group (YPG). Those who are in Years 5, 6 and above meet on the third Sunday of the month after the morning worship at 11.15am for an hour of fun, food and reflection. This is a group where the YPG discuss ideas about how the church can engage in the world.</p> |
| <p>21 March, Easter Craft Morning, 10am–12noon at St Mary’s Community Room. A shared activity with Great Shelford Free Church. Children and families come together to reflect on Holy Week and Easter as they enjoy Easter activities. There will be creations to take away at the end.</p> |

LENT STUDIES WITH THE PILGRIM GROUP

During Lent there is an opportunity to study together. This will take place at 2pm on Monday afternoons at the home of Norma Coggins. We are drawing on the book called ‘The Falling Dusk’ by Paul Dominiak, which focuses on the seven last words of Jesus. We welcome those who want just to come for Lent.

1. **Monday 23 February** *‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’* (Luke 23:34). This is an introduction and a focus on forgiveness as a threshold.
2. **Monday 2 March** *‘Today, you will be with me in paradise.’* (Luke 23:43). We look at the shadow in the self and *‘Woman, behold your son: behold your mother.’* (John 19:26-27). We look at relationships in the Church.
3. **Monday 9 March** *‘My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?’* (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). We look at suffering and where hope is found.
4. **Monday 16 March** *‘I thirst.’* (John 19:28). Christ’s experience of physical need resonates with suffering of others across the world and may also point to our own need for God.
5. **Monday 23 March** *‘It is finished’* and *‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.’* (Luke 23:46). This is Jesus’ final prayer of dedication and trust before he dies. What does it mean for us?

LENT TALKS – ‘Where is God?’**7pm Community Room or St Mary’s Church****Thursday 3 March ‘Where is God in hospital?’** Jane Gardiner
(Chaplain at Addenbrookes & Arthur Rank).**Thursday 12 March ‘Where is God in an emergency?’** Andy
Nightingale (First Responder in Cambridgeshire).**Thursday 19 March ‘Where is God on the streets?’** Chris Jenkin
(Founder of It Takes a City, Certified Correctional Health Professional
(CCHP) and Cambridge Street Pastors).**Thursday 26 March ‘Where is God in conflict?’** Ruth Adams (Bishop’s
Adviser for Resilience in Conflict).**LENT LUNCHESES FOR CHARITY****Friday 6 March** at St Mary’s Vicarage (12 Church Street). Charity: Christian
Aid.**Monday 23 March** at the Free Church. Charity: Centre of Hope
<https://centrefohope.org.uk/wp/>**CB MOBILITY SUPPORT**

In August 2024 the British Red Cross closed its Mobility Aids unit on Newmarket Road, Cambridge. This caused a great deal of concern amongst customers as to where they would be able to get short term mobility equipment locally. The four volunteers who ran the Cambridge unit decided to set up a not-for-profit organisation locally to continue the service. Financial support was obtained; a container was donated by Cambridge City Council and Shelford Rugby Club kindly agreed to host us.

CB Mobility Support is open on a Monday and Friday at the Rugby Club from 10am until 3pm and can be contacted on 07731 403769 or online. We can offer wheelchairs, toilet aids, rollators and other aids for short term hire or sale and will also take in and reuse donations of surplus mobility equipment providing they are in good condition.

Please get in contact with Jo or Gaynor at CB Mobility Support on 07731 403769 if you would like any help, or pop in and see us. Further information can also be found on our webpage, see www.cbmobilitysupport.co.uk.

David Farrant



Great Shelford
Free Church

STORIES

I love stories. I love getting lost in a book, experiencing a whole other world, getting attached to its characters and their happenings. I'm currently awaiting the publication of the next novel in a series I devoured over the Christmas holidays. What new events will take the heroine (and me) by surprise? Will the pained characters find redemption and healing? Will laughter or tears hold greater weight in this next volume?

If I'm watching a television show after it was originally aired, I often fight the urge to look up spoilers – partly from my own impatience and partly because knowing the ending sometimes helps to make sense of everything else. How many of us have changed our minds about Darcy and Wickham by the time we've reached the end of *Pride and Prejudice*? Or felt more sympathy for Snape by the end of *Harry Potter*? Not to mention the complex feelings my young daughter has about Prince Hans even after her 50th viewing of *Frozen*! Knowing the bigger picture, seeing where things end, can help to orient all that has come before.

I wonder if you've ever thought about the bigger story your life is in? Is it all randomness, up to us to make the best of it and find what joy we can along the way? Is the world moving forward in progress, albeit with some bumps along the way? And do these different narratives change how you feel about the circumstances you face each day?

The Bible tells a different overarching story, beginning with a good and beautiful creation, into which came pain and conflict as people turned their backs on God and his good ways, then God's rescue plan to make all things beautiful again, with a cross and an empty grave at the centre of it all.

For Christians, this is the story that makes sense of our individual stories. There are beauty and joy, there are struggle and suffering. Through it all, God is with us, loving us and helping us, and leading us as we trust in him to a place of unparalleled belonging and unending joy: *'God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'* (Revelation 21:4). It is the ultimate happy ending? Is this a fairy tale? Is it too good to be true? Or is this the story that could make sense of your story?

May God bless you wherever you are in your story.

Monica Cragg, Assistant Minister, Great Shelford Free Church

FREE CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Services at 10.30am. Everyone welcome. Our morning services can be watched on our Facebook page live and are also recorded for future viewing (available on our YouTube channel, *Great Shelford Free Church – YouTube*).

Café Church on Sunday 15 March at 10.30am. Informal family service, seated around tables with refreshments served. Please note that this meeting is not livestreamed or recorded for future viewing.

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Community Café every Monday, 10am–12noon: Come and join us for tea/coffee and homemade cake.

Little Steps Toddler Group every Wednesday, 10–11.30am: This group is for toddlers with their parent or carer. To book a place, please email administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk

Tiny Toes Baby Group every Wednesday afternoon, 1.30–3pm: This group is for babies under one year old with their parent or carer. To book a place, please email administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk

SPECIAL EVENTS

Easter Craft Morning: Saturday 21 March, 10am–12noon in St Mary’s Community Room: This is a shared activity with St Mary’s Church. An opportunity for children and families of all ages to come together to participate in some fun Easter crafts as we reflect on the events of Holy Week and Easter. Everyone welcome!

Lent Lunch: Monday 23 March, 12.15–1.30pm in Great Shelford Free Church: Everyone welcome! Selection of homemade soups followed by cheese and fruit. Donations only. Booking through the church office (01223 842181) is advisable but not essential. Please inform us of any dietary requirements e.g. gluten free.

Friday Prayer Gathering: Friday 27 March, 10.30–11.30am: Come and join us for this monthly event – an opportunity to gather for prayer for one another, the church and for the wider world.

Margaret Cletheroe, GSFC Administrator

Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme
(Registered Charity 1055515)

We are a local charity that helps support the older residents of Great Shelford village to remain living independently in their own home. Through our phone calls and visits we aim to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

We can provide:

- Reassurance and security through daily phone calls and regular visits.
- Additional visits in the event of illness.
- Assistance with doctors' appointments and accessing local information.
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CELEBRANCY

WHAT IS IT, AND WHY DID I BECOME A CELEBRANT?

I live in Trumpington and work in Great Shelford as one of the Mobile Wardens. I just recently completed my training as a celebrant and am keen to share some ideas and shed light on what my new profession entails.

Why I became a celebrant is a story that began long before I ever knew the word ‘celebrant’ existed. It wasn’t a career I planned or imagined, but rather a path that unfolded naturally over time. Many people are seeking more personal, meaningful ceremonies to mark important life events these days. This might be a wedding, a naming ceremony or something more unusual, such as a pet memorial or the marking of a divorce!

While celebrancy has existed for many years, more people are now choosing non-religious, interfaith, or highly personal ceremonies. Many want something that truly reflects who they are – sometimes traditional, often a little different or quirky – and a celebrant can help shape that experience.

My journey began over twenty years ago when my family held a non-religious naming ceremony for our first child. We gathered in a local hall with family and friends, music, poetry, flowers and laughter. A celebrant wove our chosen words and readings into a ceremony filled with warmth and meaning and we asked close friends to act as ‘guide parents’ to support our child as he grew. At the time I didn’t realise it, but that day planted the seed for my future work.

Storytelling has always been central to my life. I trained and worked as a professional actor, performing in a wide range of spaces. Acting taught me how to connect with an audience and bring emotion and truth to words. Later, as a teacher and a mother, I learned the importance of listening – to people’s stories, hopes and experiences. All of this shaped the celebrant I am today.

When I work with clients the process always begins with getting to know one another. I listen carefully, ask questions and make notes as people share their stories, values and what matters most to them. From this, I craft a ceremony script that is entirely personal, often incorporating meaningful elements such as handfasting, live music, shared readings, or moments of quiet reflection. On the day my role is to hold the space – to deliver the ceremony with care and professionalism, presiding over a deeply significant moment in a family’s life.

When I finally stepped into celebrancy, it felt completely right. For me it’s not about reading from a script, but about creating something personal and meaningful. Celebrancy is about love, respect and story – and I believe everyone deserves a ceremony that reflects these personal elements.

Jane Coppola



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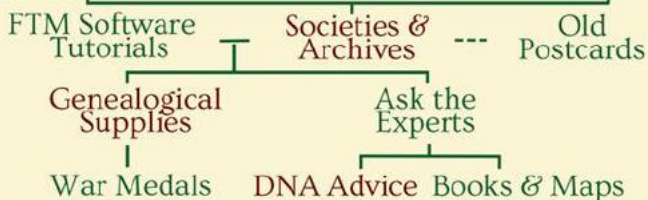


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OLD NEWS

Extracts from the Great Shelford Chronicle 1774-1868 Compiled and re-published by Anne George, Glynis Trundle, Margaret Ward and Alan Bullwinkle, 1993

4 March 1865

THEFT – James Dean was charged with stealing from the person of Josiah Ellerm a purse and three half-crowns, at Great Shelford on the 20th February. Prosecutor went into the Peacock beer house, where prisoner was with some other young man. His purse, which he also used as a tobacco pouch, he pulled out and gave one of them some tobacco and replaced the purse in his jacket pocket. Shortly after they left the house, and he called on some beer, but on feeling for his money he could not find it and, suspecting his pocket had been picked, he communicated with P.C. Longstaff, who found prisoner drinking at the De Freville Arms, and on searching him he found the purse and contents in his pocket. Committed for trial at the Sessions.

17 March 1866

RIDING WITHOUT REINS – James Kirby, Great Shelford, was charged with riding without reins on the turnpike road on the 24th February. Defendant admitted the offence and was fined 6d and costs.

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2G3S

Dr Bike continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3–5.30pm every Tuesday. For more information, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. The Saturday sessions will resume in spring, after the clocks go back.

Discussion on Neighbourhood Plan for Stapleford and Great Shelford

You will recall that this was passed by residents with a resounding YES at the referendum in 2025 and we are arranging a discussion evening on 2 March at 8pm, where the Chair of the steering committee, Jenny Flynn, our District Councillor Peter Fane and the two relevant Parish Councils will come and discuss with us how the Plan will be implemented and what we can do to help.

As I write we plan for it to be at Cox's Close in Stapleford, but check the website, posters, or Facebook page for final details.

Food Waste Caddies – you may have read in the South Cambs magazine that they are going to introduce free weekly collections of food waste from April. The Government has passed legislation to reduce emissions from food waste by tasking councils to collect it regularly. Food waste squanders energy and effort used in its production and produces methane as it rots if it's in landfill. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. Whilst we have always been able to put our food waste in the green bins in South Cambs, this is composted, which is less effective than sending the food waste to a biodigester. The new bins will be able to take all food scraps, meat bones, eggshells, teabags, etc and research suggests that separating out food waste results in a much better compliance rate. You will get a small caddy for the kitchen (no need to use a liner bag, save plastic. A paper bag will be OK if you prefer a liner) and a bigger one to put out for the refuse collectors. Here is something you can do to help the planet. Of course, it's even better if you can compost your veg scraps. It is even better to create less waste to start with, by using leftovers in soups, curries etc, see lovefoodhatewaste.com for recipe ideas.

National Emergency Briefing (NEB) – I mentioned this in my last article. A group of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 influential figures – MPs, senior civil servants, business leaders, media figures and representatives from culture, faith and civic groups. They updated the audience with the latest news on the implications of the climate and nature crises for UK – health, food security, national security and the economy, all with the message that action needs to be taken now, not sometime in the future, if we are to avoid very unstable and violent changes to our way of life.

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To quote: ‘There is clear evidence that emergency action will strengthen our national and economic resilience and improve lives.’ Our politicians need to see strong support from the public and the NEB is designed to help create a societal tipping point towards the genuine emergency action now needed. There is evidence that many more people support climate action (89% in surveys) than the Government thinks.

The briefing concerning the economy was powerful. It debunked the commonly quoted ‘we can’t afford to go net zero’ – arguing that we can’t afford NOT to. To quote:

- Today’s markets are broken. They assume a stable climate, clean air, fresh water and functioning ecosystems – while rewarding businesses that damage them and penalising those investing in resilience.
- This is a textbook market failure and it is government’s job to fix it. New rules must consistently reward lower carbon, restored soils, standing forests, circular resource use and reduced waste.
- Vested interests are slowing the transition. Profitable fossil fuel and extractive sectors lobby to protect the old system, just as the tobacco industry once did – even though they could diversify.
- The economics are clear: action is cheaper than inaction. The cost of inaction massively outweighs the cost of action, even on cautious estimates. Net zero is affordable and it pays back. The UK investment needed is around 0.2% of GDP per year and would be largely funded by the private sector, with clear long-term returns.
- Faster transition is cheaper. Research shows a rapid energy transition saves \$12 trillion globally compared to sticking with fossil fuels: more than twice the savings of a slow transition.
- Climate action cuts the cost of living. Inflation would have been significantly lower if we had decarbonised power, heat and food systems earlier; delay has already made households poorer.
- The best way to get other countries to act is for the UK to lead by example. Acting early accelerates innovation, lowers costs worldwide and increases the UK’s chance of being a high value producer in future industries.
- The test of success is simple. Policies can and must make households better off, reduce risk and build resilient businesses. The jobs will follow.

The briefing was introduced by Chris Packham and chaired by Professor Mike Berners Lee. You can watch all the expert talks on the NEB website and in due course there will be other opportunities to watch them. Those in public office and others with power have a real responsibility to tackle this. Doing our bit of

recycling, walking to work, flying less, consuming less all help but they aren't enough on their own, without governments and businesses taking serious action. The briefings are not all doom and gloom – speakers stressed the progress made, e.g. the costs of renewable energy have plummeted as more wind farms are built and solar panels are fitted; the ozone hole over Antarctica will repair itself in due course due to the phasing out of CFCs some years ago.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), contact mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly 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 living sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk

Helen Hale

POTHOLES: THE PROBLEMS

Two waiting for repair



One botched job

Photos: Duncan Grey

READERS' LETTERS

Copy of a letter sent to the Highways Department of Cambridgeshire County Council

THE POOR CONDITION OF LOCAL ROADS

Several of us who meet regularly in Stapleford are very concerned by the extremely poor condition of many of the roads in Cambridgeshire. Both cyclists and car drivers are put at more risk of accidents by the widespread potholes. You may not be aware that your attempts to fill the potholes are undone by the ease with which they reappear a few weeks later.

Friends from neighbouring counties and our own excursions indicate that road conditions in Cambridgeshire are peculiarly poor compared with several adjoining counties; although this evidence is only anecdotal it suggests that the system you use to maintain roads could be improved.

A few years ago the gas mains along roads in Stapleford were modified and the many excavation holes made good with a top layer of tarmac; all of these repairs have remained intact with no sign of potholes several years later. This suggests that the method you use to repair potholes should be changed to one that is more permanent and likely to be cheaper in the long term.

It seems to us that the heavily used routes through the villages of Stapleford and Shelford have become so extensively damaged that patch repairs are no longer sufficient and resurfacing is necessary. Most significantly, this includes the London Road (A1301), Church Road in Stapleford and Woollards Lane in Great Shelford, all of which are in a dire state.

Bryan Davies, James Foreman, Paul Izzett, Tim Jessop, Peter Woolley

Copy of a letter sent to both to Cambridge News and Cambridge Independent

GREAT SHELFORD POTHOLES

Sir, it is with regret that I must complain about the potholes on Cambridge Road, Shelford Road, Woollards Lane and Station Road in Great Shelford. Travelling around Shelford and into Cambridge, one sees cars dodging around the potholes and swerving onto the other carriageway. I can't imagine what it is like for motorcycles.

These roads need resurfacing, not just patching up.

Shelford was once said to be one of the best places to live in the UK. But with these potholed roads, not now.

Peter Dean

A LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR LAURENCE DAMARY-HOMAN

Potholes. They're a cause of frustration for everyone. Roads are suffering across the county and the nation, but that doesn't help anyone who has had to navigate our degrading local roads in daily life.

We have seen gradual patchwork come through the village in some of the worst affected areas, but we know that this isn't enough. Resurfacing is needed in many areas, particularly on the A1301 which is long overdue attention given its importance and volume of use.

It's been good to see the Granhams Road resurfacing commence, despite the unfortunate need to postpone the final surfacing works due to weather. Resurfacing of the A1301 from the Coop south to the crossroads has been planned for this financial year but pushed back by National Highways works on the M11. We're now expecting these in April, and Cllr Fane and I have worked with the Council to extend the scope of works to continue south beyond the lights, tackling the serious deterioration we have seen at the junction this winter.

We're working hard to get funds allocated to further resurfacing of the A1301 in the upcoming budget and hope to bring positive news to residents soon. We'd like to thank the Parish Council for their work in supporting our calls for local attention and am grateful to residents for their efforts in bringing issues to the attention of the Council. We're also seeking resurfacing elsewhere in the local area and are hopeful of other successes, but the budget only stretches so far. As an administration, we are investing as much in highways as possible, but we cannot provide the funding we need to fully resolve our highways issues in the County – estimated to be £800m.

Cllr Fane and I have been out and about all winter, highlighting the worst holes and urging action, and will continue to be on the case as we recover from this winter. Residents' efforts in reporting issues are greatly appreciated, even when it is frustrating to see reports pile up. We're challenging the Council to respond to reports more effectively and are doing what we can to prepare for next winter. Please do continue to report issues and write to us as Councillors, it really does help our efforts.

*Laurence Damary-Homan
Cambridgeshire County Council*

GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY

March is Women's History Month. The 2026 theme is 'Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future,' celebrating the contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational and social justice movements. We will be displaying a selection of books celebrating women's achievements.

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

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

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

Engage Talk: – Green Energy Switch – Wednesday 25 March 2–3.30pm. Please stay for a drink after the talk, a donation of £2 is appreciated. Please pre-book in the library or via *Cambourne.library1@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time – Tuesdays 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.

LEGO Club – Mondays 4–5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2–10.

Children's Games and Chess Club – Tuesdays, 3.30–4.30pm. No need to book, just drop in to try your hand at chess or other games. Suitable for primary school aged children.

Art Club – Every Saturday morning, 10.30am–12noon. Suitable for ages 4–10. Drop in event. £2 donation.

For a full list of the library opening hours see p.27

Mel Abbiss and Vikki Keppey, Community Librarian Assistants

READER'S LETTER

FROM ONE VENT TO 120 HOMES: WHY PROCESS MATTERS

There is a particular kind of noise that doesn't shout. It doesn't crash or clang. It just sits there in the background, quietly persistent, until one day you realise it has become part of your life. Once you hear it, you can't un-hear it.

For some residents on Hinton Way near Chaston House in Great Shelford, that low mechanical hum has become the soundtrack to everyday living.



A large external exhaust vent (see photo) now sits on the side of an office building overlooking nearby homes. It's not the sort of thing people expect to find appearing next to a residential street. The change wasn't dramatic in the way a major building project might be, just a new piece of infrastructure that, over time, has altered how the area feels to live in.


Small changes often carry big consequences. One vent, one new noise source, one subtle shift in atmosphere can change how people use their homes: whether windows are left open, whether gardens still feel peaceful, whether 'home' still feels like a retreat at the end of the day.

Local residents have tried to engage constructively with the planning and environmental health processes, raising concerns and seeking reassurance. Along the way, they've encountered technical reports and measurements that don't always reflect how things feel in real life. One noise report suggested the environment was quieter when the unit was switched on – imagine that! Figures on a page are difficult to reconcile with the lived experience of hearing the same background noise day after day.

This matters beyond one street. With proposals for around 120 new homes in the Mingle Lane area, many residents there may reasonably be asking themselves what this kind of change will feel like when it arrives on their own doorstep. New homes bring vitality, but also traffic, activity and noise. How those impacts are anticipated and managed will shape whether people feel confident or anxious about what's coming.

Trust in the planning process is built in small, local moments. If people struggle to feel heard over relatively modest changes, it becomes harder to believe that much larger developments will be handled sensitively. For those living on Mingle Lane, the story of a single exhaust vent, a street away may feel uncomfortably close to home, a reminder that when change comes it is trust in the process that can make the difference between development that feels manageable and development that feels imposed.

Jonathan Russell, Hinton Way, Great Shelford



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SHELFORD SCHOOL

A GOVERNOR'S VISIT

'School governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school. They focus on strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing.'

All of which is very necessary, but it is given meaning and purpose by visiting the school to observe the children. On the 10 February I joined the subject leader for Maths on a 'Maths walk', visiting each class in turn to observe Maths lessons.

When I arrived, all pupils were in the hall for Collective Worship. When I peeped through the window in the door, I saw lots of eager children with hands raised ready to answer the questions posed by Mr Carding, the Youth and Families Minister from All Saints, Little Shelford, who was leading that day.

Year 2 were exploring the relationship between multiplication and division. Having drawn 3 pairs of socks on their white boards the task was then to write a multiplication and division sentence.



$$3 \times 2 = 6 \text{ or } 2 \times 3 = 6 \text{ and } 6 \div 3 = 2 \text{ or } 6 \div 2 = 3$$

Year 4, using their knowledge of factors, were trying to solve a problem – four numbers are each multiplied by the same number to give 56, 24, 112 and 216 respectively – what were the original numbers? Are there other possibilities?

Meanwhile, **Year 1** pupils were using their knowledge of 'doubles' to find the total number of dots on domino tiles:

double 4 is 8; double 5 is 10 and so the total is 9.



Whilst there are many opportunities for pupils to gain essential mathematical knowledge and skills these explorative approaches encourage them to think 'outside the box'.

To this end **Year 5** were engaged in an exercise to discover the most common letter used in written text. They did this by recording in a tally chart the frequency of each letter from a sample page in a book. They went on to display the frequencies of all letters in a bar chart.

Year 6 were working in groups using a large sheet of paper to record all they knew about triangles and angles. There were happily recording the correct terminology and definitions.

It was playtime when we visited the **Reception** classroom but we were told that they too would be looking at 'doubles'. The approach to be taken would be to put one object into a 'magic pot' and bring out 2, then 2 objects and bring out

4, etc. When I encountered a Reception child in the queue at lunch time he was very enthusiastic (and knowledgeable) about what the magic pot had been able to do.

By the time we reached **Year 3** their Maths lesson was almost over. The topics scheduled for the Spring Term in Year 3 are multiplication, division, fractions, length, perimeter, mass and capacity. I look forward to observing one of these later in the term.

An added bonus to this visit was to observe a group of pupils with the **Rocksteady** tutor – there were two vocalists (with microphones) who were accompanied by guitars, percussion (electronic drums) and a keyboard. What an exciting addition to the musical provision at Shelford School.

Polly Stanton, Foundation Governor

LITTLE SHELFORD MEMORIAL HALL

FILM EVENING – SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

The Ballad of Wallis Island

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start
with a break for supper of pizza and salad

The Ballad of Wallis Island is a 2025 British comedy-drama film written by Tim Key and Tom Basden. Basden and Carey Mulligan star as a folk duo who reunite to perform for a wealthy fan (Tim Key) on a remote British island.

The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on 25 January 2025 and has won British Independent Film Awards for Best joint lead performance, Best screen play and Best original music.

Tickets (£15 per person) will be available from
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CHURCH STREET VETS

MARCH IS PET ANXIETY AWARENESS MONTH.

Our pets fit so well into our lives that we sometimes forget they are different species with very different needs. Life can be busy, changeable and noisy and our pets may struggle to cope. Some signs of anxiety in pets are easy to spot, but others may be less obvious. Common causes of anxiety in dogs include loud noises, such as thunderstorms, fireworks and traffic, being left home alone, car travel and visits to the vets.

Early socialisation can help with some of the above, but some animals (and breeds) are simply more prone to anxiety, and some behaviours might be learned after a scary experience. Signs of anxiety include shaking, panting, yawning, avoiding eye contact, hiding, whining and in more severe cases aggression – this is usually a last resort, if the dog has learned that it can't avoid anxiety-provoking situations.

Loud noises can also create anxiety in cats, who find changes to the home environment particularly stressful. Trips to the vets are also upsetting, as most cats are not used to car journeys. Cats don't have the same social needs as dogs, so most are content home alone, but if they are sharing a home or garden with pets that they don't get on with, they can find this stressful.



The first step to helping an anxious dog is noting the signs of anxiety. Younger dogs can be desensitised to car travel or recurring loud noises such as storms and fireworks, or you can ask your vet about medications to help manage these events. Giving your dog a safe place to which they can retreat can be very helpful and if your dog gets anxious out and about, let them move away, or take time to get used to something new and scary. Try not to reinforce anxious behavior by being over attentive but be calm and aware of what your dog might be experiencing. If your dog gets very distressed when home alone, it would be worth chatting to your vet, who may suggest consulting a behaviourist.

Anxious cats will appreciate a home environment that is as consistent as possible. Making sure they have places to get away from anything scary is

important, as is providing lots of beds, food and litter trays in multi-pet households. Pheromones (synthetic versions of animal's natural chemical messages) can be used at home to create a calm environment.

If you want to read more about anxiety in pets, the Blue Cross have lots of useful resources on their website, see *Pet Anxiety Month Blog: Blue Cross*. You are also welcome to call the Church Street Vets team on 01223 776773 if you have questions relating to pet anxiety or any other aspect of pet care.



Church Street vets is a family run, independent practice that opened in Stapleford in spring 2025.

GIRLGUIDING

Shelford & Stapleford Rainbows is having fun working on the Skills for My Future theme from the Girlguiding programme, with lots of games and activities.

Shelford Brownies is also working on the Skills for My Future theme this term. Excitingly, two Brownies will complete their Brownie Gold Awards (the highest award available to Brownies) in March. The Brownies have had great fun completing a challenge badge that involved making and racing hobby horses. They're looking forward to a night walk with lanterns made from milk bottles, followed by hot chocolate. And the excitement's building for a panda-themed sleepover next term!

Shelford Guides started the spring term learning about things they can do to help garden birds and made bird seed cakes to hang up outdoors.

Some Guides have chosen to work on the Artist badge this term, while others are doing the Confectionery badge. In January, the Guides had a fun day out with the Sawston Guides at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket where they built dens in the woods followed by needle felting craftwork (see cover photo).

A big thank you to everyone who visited the coffee morning at Shelford & Stapleford Scout and Guide HQ in January. The event raised around £400 for local Girlguiding members aged 14–18 years to visit Kenya this summer.

We're always glad of new volunteers: adults (we'd love to be able to reopen Stapleford Brownies) and 14 to 18-year-olds wanting to be young leaders and/or do their DofE volunteering locally. If interested, please contact shelforddistrict@gmail.com. Thank you.

.Lisa MacGregor

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THE SHELFORDS WI

Our year continues with another speaker on a fascinating subject. Graham Wylde is well known locally for his great interest in philately. Prior to 1839 the recipient paid the expensive letter postage that depended on the weight of a letter and the distance from the sender. Letter writing took off after Queen Victoria ordered the introduction of postage stamps at a fixed rate of one penny per letter in 1840.

On this occasion Graham was talking not about the stamps he bought at a Stamp Fair but in the letters that he found in a batch of envelopes with a particular series of stamps. These long letters were written by Maggie to her father Frederick Gill, a bank clerk. Maggie was born in 1863 and brought up mainly by her grandparents in London. At the age of eight Maggie was on holiday in Black Notley near Braintree. Her letter is beautifully written in good joined up writing with faint lines to help.

Further letters over the next six or seven years are interesting not only for their content but as an indication of how some Victorian families lived. Maggie and her grandparents holidayed in the summer in a variety of regions – Maidstone from where she visited Knole Park, Brighton where they left a particularly dirty hotel and moved to an apartment, and also Brooke and Gomshall near Guildford. Frederick did not enjoy the best of health, so several letters were written by Maggie from her home to wherever her father was recuperating, several times at each of Brighton and the Isle of Wight, where he was challenged by Queen Victoria for trespassing in the grounds of Osborne House. Maggie vividly described her life in London accompanied by a drawing of herself paying a cab driver.

Graham has obviously become very fond of Maggie and found in further research that she married Fred Turpin and died in Poole in 1947 at the age of 94. We too found her quite loveable. Do 8 to 14-year-olds nowadays write such insightful letters?

Next meeting

Our speaker in March with the topic ‘More than comfort – a cup of tea’ is Mrs Zoe Jasko representing Royal Voluntary Services (RVS). That will be followed by a brief AGM.

Visitors and prospective new members will be made very welcome on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Community Room behind St Mary’s Church, Great Shelford. Our programme can be found on our website:

<https://theshelfordswi.wordpress.com>

Eleanor Witter, The Shelfords WI President



Can you Provide a Home for a Swift or House Martin?



The *CamSwift* group has received a grant from Great Shelford Parish Council to purchase and install swift nest boxes on houses in the village.

Colonies of swifts and house martins already nest in the village but there are few sites available and those that exist are often under threat.

We have a number of swift nest boxes and house martin nest cups which we can install free of charge. Several householders in Sawston have already taken up the offer (funded by Sawston PC).

If you are interested, we will contact you and discuss whether there is a suitable site on your property for a nest box. To sign up for a box or nest cup, please contact Helen Harwood on 01223 840393, or email helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk.

If you are a Stapleford resident, we have a similar scheme funded by Stapleford PC.



*CamSwift,
Working for Swifts and House Martins in Great Shelford,
Stapleford and Sawston*

EAST-WEST RAIL

Following on from the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2025, a report has now been published. The 'You Said, We Did' report can be seen on the EWR website at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/you-said-we-did>

Design Update Events 2026 are being held at various locations to publicise the design changes that have been made. The event nearest to Great Shelford is on **Saturday 14 March. 12-5pm** at the Hauxton Centre, Church Road CB22 5HS

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PETE'S PATCH

SPRINGTIME IS HERE AGAIN!

Springtime is here again and snowdrops are just dying down. Now is the time to divide them. Dig up a clump 'in the green' and carefully tease the individual plants apart, so you have several new ones. These can be planted in new positions and will grow on for next year's early spring.

Now, it is time for crocus, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips to take the stage. These wonderful spring bulbs have been planted in my little garden outside my flat. The colours range from purple (crocus), to yellow and orange (daffodils), to blue and pink (hyacinths) with a lovely perfume, and bright red (tulips). They are successional so don't come all at once. It is so nice to look at them, each in turn, as they flower and fade. This is a treat.

In late spring I have English bluebells which take over. I didn't plant these. They were from the previous owner of my property. I love them! The Chelsea blue drooping bells covering my flower bed brings a broad smile to my face. They last from late April into May.

On my allotment I have four growing bags of first early potatoes. These are harvested in June or July. I also have some rows of broad beans and peas. I sowed the beans in large trays in my warm flat in February and waited until the seedlings were 4cms high with two true leaves. I hardened them outside before transplanting them in their final growing position. I put a chicken wire fence

around them and a fine mesh net over this to stop birds and mice from getting at them. The peas were just sown directly into the soil but also covered like the broad beans.

I am adding to my repertoire this year. I am trying cauliflower plants and root vegetables, like beetroot and parsnips. I will buy the cauliflower plants and transplant them into the allotment. I am concerned that cabbage white butterflies' caterpillars will eat the leaves before the curds can grow, so I will cover these with wire and fine mesh nets too.

Rhubarb which I had last year has died in the wet winter, just gone. So, I am replacing them with new plants from the garden centre. I am buying some more fruit bushes too ... a blackcurrant and raspberry canes. Hopefully, my original fruit bushes from last year will start fruiting later this summer.

Whatever you are growing in your patch, now is the time to get out and sow, plant or transplant your crops. Make the most of benign weather and hope for some rain over summer. Enjoy springtime for the beautiful, fresh, season it is.

Peter Dean

Cambridge Flower Club

(NAFAS affiliated est. 1954)

2026 programme

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE
on third Thursdays at 7.15pm. Refreshments 6.45

Annual sub. £45, visitors £10 each meeting

NAFAS demonstrators

*Raffle of Arrangements after demonstrations

March 19th

Rachel Barenkova* 'Let's go to the Flower Shop'

Further information from co-chairs:

Freda Orgee - 01223 891464; fredaorgee@gmail.com

Alison Drake - 01223 840117; drakealisonn@gmail.com




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GREAT SHELFORD FOOTBALL CLUB



The first team maintained their position at the top of the Premier Division table with four wins and a defeat, four of those games being home at Woollards Lane. Old rivals Foxton were comfortably beaten 4–2 before Hardwick inflicted only our second league defeat of the season.

Whilst very disappointing, Hardwick are one of a group of teams capable of beating anyone and the 3–2 scoreline was a fair reflection. Home games against Witchford 96 are usually a little easier than on their own pitch and it was good to get back to winning ways with a comfortable 3–0 win.

The one away fixture was our first visit to Cambridge City's impressive new ground at Sawston to play their reserve side on their all-weather 4G pitch. They had been improving after a difficult start to the season and gave us a good game in the reverse fixture, but a superb performance saw us come away with a 6–1 win. The final game of the month was a top of the table game against Ely City Reserves. Although on top for most of the game several chances went begging and when Ely scored with under ten minutes to go it seemed we were heading for another defeat. However, a penalty given for a trip in the box was firmly dispatched by our leading scorer Lee Hughes before a dramatic winner by the same player, after the impressive Ely keeper had parried his first shot, saw us snatch three valuable points.

It has been a stop start season for the reserves due to three teams dropping out of the Senior A division before a ball was kicked, and winter weather postponements certainly have not helped. They did at least have two games this month but unfortunately their indifferent form continued with two defeats, both away from home to Haverhill Reserves (0–2) and Histon Reserves (0–1) respectively.

There will be games on the rec on most Saturdays throughout the rest of the season, so why not come along and support your local club?

Terry Rider

Great Shelford FC

THE SHELFORD 5K: READY FOR ITS NEXT CHAPTER

In 2017 the Playscape committee took a leap of faith and resurrected the Shelford Fun Run to raise funds for all the masterplan improvements the community had asked for. Thanks to one of the founders, Andrew Unsworth, helping us through the first few outings, we got into our stride. From seasoned runners to families with buggies, it's brought the villages out in force, raised valuable funds and created a real buzz year after year.

Over these nine years the funds raised have helped bring to life a picture perfect Playscape, a wonderful Wheelscape, and soon to be (hopefully!) a new and improved basketball court and active trail. It has delivered far more than we could ever have imagined.

Now for the news: we won't be running the Shelford Fun Run this year. We know that's disappointing to hear but having achieved what we set out to do in raising funds for the different Playscape phases, this feels like the right moment to hand the event over to new people who can take this much loved tradition forward into its next chapter.

If you've ever enjoyed the atmosphere on race day, volunteered, cheered from the sidelines, or thought *'I'd love to be involved in something like that'*, this could be your moment. This is a **ready-made, proven fundraiser** with a strong local following and huge community goodwill. It would be an ideal opportunity for a local group, charity, or a small team of enthusiastic residents to put their own stamp on an event that already works brilliantly.

Importantly, you wouldn't be starting from scratch. We're keen to support a smooth handover, sharing experience, contacts, timelines, equipment and tips to make the transition as easy as possible. Think of it as inheriting a well-loved village tradition – rather than reinventing the wheel.

If you're interested in finding out more – even just an informal chat – please get in touch. We'd love to see it back in 2027. Let's make sure this much loved event continues to bring our villages together!

The Playscape

APRIL ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

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

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BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY (BCCS)

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Our first meeting of 2026 will take place on Wednesday 11 March at Great Shelford Memorial Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm and we are very pleased to welcome Hazel Taylor as our guest speaker.

Hazel has been a member of BCSS and its predecessor for over 50 years, having received her first cactus at the age of eight. She has travelled the World in search of cacti in habitat and her presentation will be on Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands – the many plants she saw there and some animals too.

All are welcome to come along to our meetings. There will be a table show of judged cacti, as well as refreshments and a raffle.

GREAT SHELFORD BOWLS CLUB

Coffee Mornings and Open Days

Saturdays 11 and 18 April at 10.30am

If you are looking for a club to join, or would like to take up a new hobby, please come along to our Coffee Mornings and Open Days when you will be welcome to have a go at bowling.

If you cannot make the Saturdays, then please come along on **Sunday 19 April** at the same time when we will be having an **Open Practice Day**.

We are a friendly club that welcomes players of all standards who want to play bowls and who, maybe, have never tried previously.

For those who have never played before and once confidence in your ability to play has been built, we would like new members to sign up to play in some of the many league matches we have throughout the season, which lasts from April to September, together with our inter-club matches.

You may find that you would like to join the club and enjoy the friendly atmosphere on many of our club nights. If you are interested, you can contact either:

Gill Taylor/Secretary on 07581 079420

Graham White/Chairman on 07740 031713

For more information about our club on our new website see

<https://www.greatshelfordbowlsclub.co.uk/>



1st Shelfords and Stapleford Scouts

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TENNIS CLUB

Breaking news for March: Great Shelford Tennis Club (GSTC)'s Annual General Meeting 2026 is on Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm in the clubhouse. The meeting will be followed by drinks and nibbles, and as has become traditional, the club will be holding a prize draw to win an exclusive GSTC hoodie.



The agenda is still being finalised, but development will certainly be up for discussion, perhaps with some new information about the plans to replace our clubhouse.

On arrival members should be able to admire the gleaming new fences surrounding the courts, just installed by Glenn, Luke and Louise (pictured L-R) from Cambridge Courts.

Many thanks to them for their hard work, and for our members' patience having to deal with a four/two/no courts club during installation throughout February.

Stephen Chittenden

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

**Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall,
135 High Street, Sawston, CB22 3HJ**

**Friday 20 March: Quiz Night, 7 for 7.30pm
Suggested donation £5.**

Proceeds to CAFOD,
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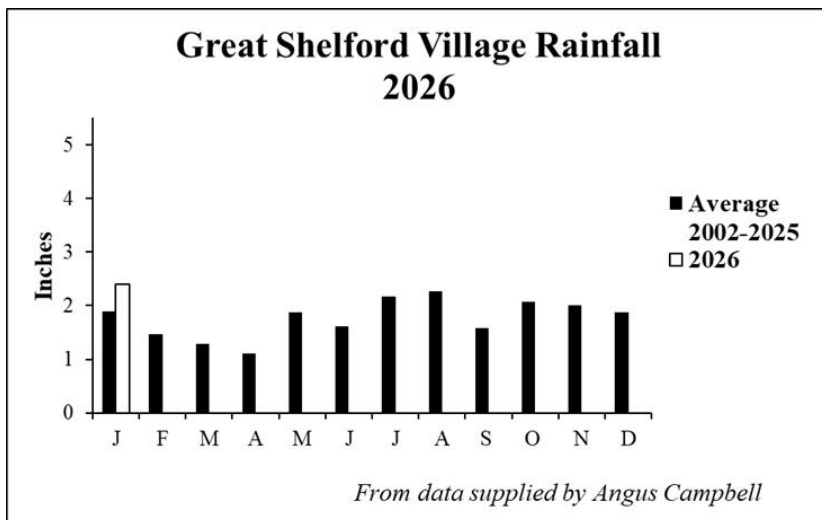
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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

| SAWSTON CINEMA | |
|--|---|
| 5 | Hard Truths (Mike Leigh) |
| 12 | Turner & Constable |
| 19 | I Swear (True story of John Davidson, diagnosed with Tourette's.) |
| <i>https://sawstoncinema.org/cinema-screenings/</i> | |

| ARTS THEATRE | |
|--|--|
| Until 7 March | Easy Virtue – Noël Coward |
| 10–14 | Single White Female – thriller |
| 15 | Gianni Schicci (or Where There's a Will) – opera |
| 16–21 | Rock & Roll Man – musical |
| 22 | Pulman and Stilgoe: Hooray for Hollywood – music |
| 23–28 | The Constant Wife – drama |
| 29 | What I (Don't) Know About Autism – drama |
| <i>https://www.artstheatre.co.uk/</i> | |

| CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY | |
|--|--|
| 29 | Walking Tour of Cambridge Library Site |
| Daily | Talking Plants – at the Botanic Garden |
| <i>https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson</i> | |



GREAT SHELFORD VILLAGE NEWS

CONTACTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

GSVN was designed from the outset to be a publication for news and information about our village, our societies, our businesses and our events. We are pleased to receive articles, letters and notices for community events for consideration. We don't invite poems or fiction because that would change the nature of the magazine.

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.

Please send your contribution, preferably as a Word document, by email (see below). You may also send items by post to Judith Wilson, 11 Elms Avenue, Great Shelford CB22 5LN. Please include your contact details. The copy date is usually the second Friday of the month.

General enquiries and items for publication

gsvneditorial@gmail.com

01223 842553

Commercial advertisements

gsvnadverts@gmail.com

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

Subscriptions and online payment details

gsvnsubs@gmail.com

01223 842993

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:

Duncan Grey, Bridget Hodge, Marjorie Smith, Judith Wilson

An archive of previous issues can be found at [https:// shelford.org/news.htm](https://shelford.org/news.htm)

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

| | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| 2G3S Green Group | Peter Woods | mail2G3S@gmail.com | 01223 843438 |
| Anglian Leisure, Sawston | Adam Wilson | sawston@anglianleisure.co.uk | 01223 712555 |
| Badminton (Little Shelford) | James Newman | james@jamesnewman.org | 07717 394176 |
| BCSS Cactus Society | Jacqui Arbon | | 07867 653748 |
| Beavers, Cubs and Scouts | | contact@sandsscouts.org.uk | |
| Bowls Club | Gill Taylor | gill.m.taylor@gmail.com | 01223 845904 |
| Brownies, Guides, Rainbows | Lisa MacGregor | shelforddistrict@gmail.com | 07523 668731 |
| Carpet Bowls | Wendy Seekings | m.seekings039@btinternet.com | 01223 843416 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | Cambridge | | 0808 278 7808 |
| Country Market | Dorothy Doel | dorothy@woodlandsroad.plus.com | 01223 843946 |
| Cricket Club | Peter Ede | peter.ede@ntlworld.com | 01223 510662 |
| Feast – Bunch | Duncan Grey | dsg@post.com | 07935 368536 |
| Football Club | Terry Rider | footybeast63@sky.com | 01354 680661 |
| Friendship Club | Rosey Feuell | roseyleaf@talktalk.net | 01223 213305 |
| Friends of Shelford Library | Sarah Driver | sarahjd1959@gmail.com | 07773 263597 |
| Granta Medical Practices | | cpicb.contact.gmp@nhs.net | 0300 234 5555 |
| Great Shelford Free Church | The Administrator | administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk | 01223 842181 |
| Great Shelford Online | David Martin | www.greatshelford.online davidm1961@gmail.com | 07772 197770 |
| Great Shelford Village Charity | Samantha Rigby-Coghlan (Clerk to the Directors) | clerk@gsvc.org.uk | 07979 184273 |
| Memorial Hall / Pavilion Bookings | Jenny Eldridge | office@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk | 01223 616619 |
| Mobile Warden Scheme | Jane Coppola (Warden) Jenny David (Chair) | jetcoppola@gmail.com jennykmf@yahoo.co.uk | 07969 498617 01223 845367 |
| Parish Church Bell-ringers | Ann Seaman | juliet.a.seaman@outlook.com | 01223 504682 |
| Parish Church Community Room | Mary Lester | lestermh_uk@yahoo.co.uk | 01223 842411 |
| Parish Church Friends | Richard Landon | richardglandon@ntlworld.com | 07887 568674 |
| Parish Church Sunday Club | Gillian Pett | gillian.pett29@gmail.com | 01223 843278 |
| Parish Churchwardens | Simon White Helen Clarke-Hill | churchwarden@stmarysgreatshelford.org churchwarden@stmarysgreatshelford.org | 07984 451305 07761 483203 |
| Police Non-emergency number | | | 101 |
| Rainbow Pre-School | Allison Tomlin | | 07985 216603 |
| Royal British Legion | Kevin Swann | sawstonpampisford.secretary@rbl.community | 07496 517859 |
| Rugby Club | Secretary | secretary@shelfordrugby.co.uk | 01223 843357 |
| Shelford & Stapleford Strikers | Douglas White | douglas.white2@ntlworld.com | 01223 561753 |
| Shelford Bridge Club | Tony Cliff | anthony.r.cliff@gmail.com | 07532 737794 |
| Shelford Primary School | Chris Grey (Headteacher) | office@shelford.cambs.sch.uk | 01223 843107 |
| Shelford Spokes Cycling Club | Brian Connellan | www.shelfordspokes.co.uk shelfordspokes@gmail.com | 07941 574663 |
| Shelford Support Group (transport to hospital, etc.) | General enquiries: To book a journey: | shelfordsupport@googlemail.com | 07804 041173 07514 542282 |
| Stapleford Choral Society | Adam Pounds | adampounds54@btinternet.com | 07804 308042 |
| Tennis Club | Nicole Holmes | secretary@gstc.org.uk | |
| The Arts Society South Cambs | Clem Messenger | gc_messenger@yahoo.co.uk | |
| Twinning Association | Penny Pearl | penny.pearl@btinternet.com | 01223 842483 |
| U3A (Sawston & South Cambs) | John Gray | johngray6@gmail.com | 01223 841784 |
| WI | Vanda Butler (Secretary) | vanda.butler@googlemail.com | 01223 561053 |
| Youth Initiative (SSYI) | Zac Britton | zac.britton@ssyi.club | 07599 024210 |

Alice Zawadzki Trio

Saturday 7 March | 7:45pm

Loosely connected to the jazz world but very much inhabiting her own realm, acclaimed vocalist, violinist and songwriter Alice Zawadzki performs with her stellar long-term collaborators bassist Misha Mullov-Abbado and pianist Fred Thomas.



Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne

Sunday 8 March | 3:00pm

Described as '*captivating, bold and striking*', Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne is at the forefront of his generation of English folk musicians as a commanding singer and player of the Anglo concertina and melodeon.



Pixels Ensemble

Saturday 14 March | 7:45pm

A programme embracing a century of musical character and change, from the youthful brilliance of Beethoven's Horn Sonata and Elgar's introspective Violin Sonata to Lennox Berkeley's masterful Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano.



Eleanor Grant & Gus McQuade

Sunday 22 March | 3:00pm

Eleanor and Gus present a winning and unique combination of voice, guitar and double bass, with repertoire that ranges from 16th-century lute songs to their own arrangements of modern folk and jazz.



Leveret

Friday 27 March | 7:45pm

Three of England's finest folk musicians, praised for their blending of rediscovered traditional tunes and original compositions, perform music rooted in the English tradition.

Booking: www.staplefordgranary.org.uk | 01223 849004