

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

APRIL 2026

PRICE: 40p

A Happy Easter to all our Readers



Tunwells Lane awaits repairs Photo Duncan Grey

Tunwells Lane Night-Time Closure 7 April to 2 May

Annual Parish Meeting 22 April

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Planning	Barbara Kettel	Highways	Timothy Mann
Building & Grounds	Malcolm Watson	Cemetery & Allotments	Angela Niblett

MEMBERS

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 Barrie Ashurst Justin Curtis Howard Kettel

CLERK Sue Piergianni *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	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 18 FEBRUARY 2026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public raised a question regarding the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at Hinton Way/Mingle Lane, seeking information about the factors that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) are using to make decisions on this. The member of the public noted that the rear access to their property is via an easement. CC Fane had held a meeting to advise on the number of outstanding concerns; however, the points raised by the member of the public were not discussed. The final sign-off meeting has not yet taken place, so there is now some limited scope for changes. The member of the public also highlighted that the TRO effectively consists of three sections: the top and bottom sections are acceptable, but the middle section needs to be removed.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT Cllr Fane and Cllr Damary-Homan Adults and Health

- Arthur Rank Hospice secured a year's funding via private donation; a long-term solution is still needed.
- NHS dental services: The Health Scrutiny Committee made recommendations to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) on capacity, transparency, access, pilot hubs, training school, and funding efficiency. (The ICB is the NHS organisation responsible for planning and funding local health services)
- East of England Ambulance Service: improved response and handover times have been reported.

Children and Young People

- Holiday food vouchers: £1m has been proposed to continue support after the Household Support Fund ends.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding: Cambridgeshire is underfunded (£6,465 per pupil), with a £200m deficit forecast over two years; additional £780k invested in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) capacity.
- The Committee recommended the service budget with additional funding for holiday vouchers.

Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion

- Anti-poverty work continues; the Crisis and Resilience Fund will support some crisis payments but not holiday vouchers.

Highways and Transport

- Crews to deal with winter potholes have been increased from 8 to 30. Major A roads and village routes were targeted first. A Capital Maintenance Programme is being applied to the worst-affected areas (A1301, A10, Sawston).
- Peat soil roads: £2.1m reconstruction projects are underway; 11km has been repaired in the past year (£5.5m spent).
- Highway maintenance funding has increased from £35m (2023/24) to £73m, with £20m additional internal funding planned.

Strategy, Resources and Performance

- The Local Government Reorganisation consultation is ongoing; the final decision is expected in summer 2026, with new unitary councils possibly operating by Spring 2028.
- The draft budget was amended to provide £1m for holiday food vouchers and £20m for road maintenance over 2026/27–2027/28.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT Cllr Fane and Cllr Jackson Wood

Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Consultation closed in January 2026. Comments are being processed to inform the proposed submission plan, expected for a Summer 2026 consultation, ahead of submission for independent examination in December 2026.

The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) consultation on unitary options for Cambridgeshire/Peterborough closes on 26 March. Key options:

- Option B (supported by Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire) – two new unitary councils: Greater Cambridge (Cambridge /South Cambridgeshire) and North Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.
- Option A – County Council’s alternative including East Cambridgeshire in Greater Cambridge.

Decisions are expected in June or July 2026.

Waste Collection

A weekly food waste collection will begin across South Cambridgeshire in 2026; Shelford ward collections will start in the second half of the year with indoor/outdoor caddies.

UPDATE FROM JIM RICKARD ON GREAT SHELFORD LEVEL CROSSINGS

Trains require long stopping distances. The Granhams Road and Shelford station level crossings are manually controlled barriers monitored from Cambridge. Barriers are raised manually by the signaller and lower automatically after trains pass. Signallers focus on train movements and are unlikely to have visibility of road traffic conditions.

Recent re-signalling replaced track circuits with axle counters, which detect trains by counting axles entering and leaving a section. Observations suggest a short delay before the system registers that a train has cleared the crossing. Crossings are typically closed when a train is several signal sections away.

Northbound trains

At Shelford station, the new axle counter is located further from the crossing than the previous track circuit. When trains stop at the platform, the final axle has not cleared the counter, so the system keeps the crossing closed during the station stop. This increases road traffic queues and makes it harder for passengers approaching from the east side of the crossing to reach the train in time. Relocating the axle counter closer to the crossing may resolve this.

Southbound trains

The signal protecting the Granhams Road crossing is only two sections from Cambridge South station. If barriers lower before a train is ready to depart, the crossing could remain closed while the train is still in Cambridge South station as well as the normal approach period. Ideally, barriers should only begin lowering when a train is authorised to depart Cambridge South.

It would be useful to discuss with Network Rail how crossings will operate once the station opens and how to balance rail and road traffic needs.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS

- a) In response to the concerns raised by Great Shelford Parish Council, at a meeting with David Allatt and Neil Stevens (Cambridgeshire County Council Highways) Neil Stevens inspected Woollards Lane, High Street, Elms Avenue, and Tunwells Lane up to Freestones Corner and was appalled by the condition of the roads and the quality of previous repairs. The A1301 has been prioritised, Tunwells Lane is scheduled for resurfacing in April, and work at Granhams is nearly complete. The visit proved to be a valuable communication exercise, and the Clerk will be provided with a direct number to report urgent highways issues.
- b) The options for the TRO at Hinton Way/Mingle Lane were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Fane would propose to the GCP that the top and bottom sections of the TRO are acceptable, but the middle section should be removed.
- c) Extended level crossing downtime has occurred at Shelford Station due to axle counter issues. The procedure for southbound trains will need to be confirmed with the rail operator.
- d) Cllrs Watson and Stanton will be attending an East West Rail (EWR) meeting at Haslingfield Parish Council.
- e) Traffic and Transport Infrastructure Working Group: there will be a working party meeting to review their plans for this year. There is a renewed interest in a bridge from the recreation ground to Little Shelford.

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COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- a) Memorial Hall proposals: Cllr Stanton and the Clerk attended a meeting with Benchmark to discuss kitchen facilities including the ceramic oven and a larder fridge and cupboard. Quotes have been sought for a new sound system and a replacement hearing loop. The Chair has requested proposals for a new location for a boiler or an air conditioning system. Investigations into the installation of solar panels on the SSI roof are ongoing.
- b) A one-day first aid course for the Assistant Clerk was approved.
- c) A defibrillator cabinet will be located to the left of the new railings as you exit the Pavilion through the sliding doors. It was also suggested the telephone box on Church Street could be used for a defibrillator location if the school no longer wish to use it.
- d) An indoor market will be held at the end of October.
- e) The firework display will be held on Friday 6 November at the Shelford Rugby Club at a cost of £2,500.00.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Local Government Reorganisation: it was noted that the Parish Council continues to support Option A.

FINANCE MATTERS

The GSPC precept request of £409,652.00 from South Cambridgeshire District Council was approved.

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 APRIL

Building and Grounds	8 April	7.00pm Pavilion
Planning Committee	13 April	7.30pm Memorial Hall
Full Council	15 April	7.00pm Pavilion
Annual Parish Meeting	22 April	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.

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(12.01.2026, 26.01.2026, 9.02.2026, 23.02.2026)

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR LAND ADJACENT TO RUGBY CLUB

At the meeting on 23 February, a presentation was given by Mr David Mead representing the owners of the land located to the rear of 109–131 Cambridge Road adjacent to Shelford Rugby Club. The owners are preparing a planning application for residential development on the site.

The planning consultant presented initial proposals for residential development on a ten-acre site.

- A planning consultant based in Cambridgeshire is acting on behalf of the landowner.
- A planning application is expected to be submitted in the spring (April/May).
- A public consultation will take place prior to submission. A leaflet containing a QR code linking to a consultation website will be distributed, allowing residents to view the proposals and submit comments.
- The consultation period is expected to last approximately four weeks.
- The scheme is not fixed at this stage and may change following feedback.
- The site comprises approximately ten acres, with a proposal for around 120 dwellings (approximately 12 dwellings per acre)
- The land has been described as grey belt.
- A housing needs assessment is being undertaken through the Housing Enabling Team at South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- Affordable housing would be distributed throughout the development rather than grouped together and shared ownership housing would be included.
- The proposed housing mix is approximately 50% three-bedroom properties, 35% one- and two-bedroom properties and 15% four-bedroom properties.
- The layout of the development is still being developed.
- Open space is expected to be located on the side of the site closest to the rugby club.
- The proposals may include approximately 15 two-storey flats.
- All new properties will be gardened to the boundary with existing properties.
- Two access roads are proposed to serve the development.
- A lighting assessment has been undertaken to consider the impact of lighting from the rugby club.
- Access to the site is expected to utilise the existing access points.
- Informal pedestrian routes through the rugby club towards Westfield Road have not been considered within the current proposals.
- Surface water drainage is proposed to connect towards Cambridge Road, with sustainable drainage systems located underground.



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- Fencing would be installed along the GSPC allotment site.
- It was noted that no biodiversity net gain is proposed, as the development cannot meet the requirement.
- It was noted that no discussions have taken place with the rugby club at this stage.

Members of the public asked questions about the proposals, many of which were answered by Mr Mead during the presentation. However, the following questions need further clarification.

- How will coaches and larger vehicles access the rugby club once the development is in place?
- Will the planning application include a full ecological assessment of the site?
- Will there be adequate provision of open space, including areas for children's play?

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS

25/04656/HFUL	13 London Road	Part single part two-storey rear extension and a two-storey side extension.
Approval recommended.		
25/04629/HFUL	82 High Street	Erection of garage /outbuilding in rear garden, following demolition of existing garage.
Refusal recommended.		
25/04723/HFUL	8 Hinton Way	Conversion of attached single garage into family annexe.
Approval recommended but full traffic management plan required.		
26/00163/HFUL	18 Leeway Avenue	Demolition of existing car port and front porch, two storey side extension and front porch, alterations to existing single storey rear extension.
Approval recommended.		

26/00074/HFUL	22 Poplar Close	Roof extension including raising of ridge and rear box dormer. Replacement roof tiles and two rooflights to front roof. Single storey rear extension with sedum roof
Approval recommended but application should comply with the adopted Neighbourhood Plan		

26/00298/HFUL	74 High Street	Rear extension to ancillary pottery studio within rear garden, including new timber cladding and alterations to fenestration.
Approval recommended		

26/00490/HFUL	9 Cabbage Moor	Widening of the bay window to the rear, alterations to the conservatory, first floor extension over garage, new porch to the entrance and addition of render and timber cladding
Approval recommended.		

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting, to which all members of the public are invited, will be held on Wednesday 22 April at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

One of the items on the agenda will be an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) from Liz Watts, Chief Executive of South Cambridgeshire District Council. Everyone is welcome to attend.

RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

The remedial works required to ensure the continued safety of the play area have now been completed. We apologise for any inconvenience caused while these works were carried out.

CLOTHING RECYCLING

Just a friendly reminder that there is a clothing recycling bin available at the

Memorial Hall. It's a great way to donate unwanted clothes and help support a more sustainable community.

Please feel free to drop off any used clothing whenever it's convenient for you.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM

The Community Payback team has completed work on both the Rayments and Memorial Hall car parks. The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to the Community Payback team for their continued support in maintaining and improving the village.

EVENTS

Indoor market

This will be held on Sunday 25 October. For more information, please email Jenny at Office@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fireworks

Great Shelford Rugby Club has once again agreed to host the event for the Parish Council, with Scotsdales Garden Centre kindly providing parking. We are very grateful for their assistance. If you are attending by car, please park at the Garden Centre rather than in Westfield Road or Stonehill Road. We are hoping to have temporary lighting in place to allow safe crossing of Cambridge Road. The event will take place on **Friday 6 November**. Further details will follow.

Remembrance parade

8 November Further information to follow.

Christmas light switch on

29 November Further information to follow.

Christmas carol service

15 December Further information to follow.

Malcolm Watson, Chairman

TUNWELLS LANE NIGHT-TIME CLOSURE

Tunwells Lane will be closed for repairs and resurfacing between the Granhams Road junction to south of Woodlands Road between 8pm and 6am from Tuesday 7 April to Saturday 2 May. The 4-way junction with Woollards Lane and Station Road will also be closed.

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SHELFORD SCHOOL



Spring seemed to arrive almost overnight as the children returned from their half term break, bringing with it lighter mornings, warmer, drier days and a renewed sense of energy across the school.

In the last week of the half term, on a very rainy evening, parents and carers were welcomed into school for our consultation meetings. As always, pupils prepared thoughtful reflections on their progress to share with their teacher and family. It was a valuable opportunity to celebrate successes, look at the children's work in detail and talk together about next steps in learning. The pride the children take in sharing their achievements is always a highlight of the term.

Before the spring weather arrived, children from Years 3 and 4 took part in an indoor athletics competition. Two boys and two girls who took part will go on to represent the school at an inter-school competition at Sawston Village College. Meanwhile, children from Year 6 entered an inter-school challenge in English at Bellbird Primary School, coming third overall with a very high score. Well done!

Last half term we placed a special focus on mental wellbeing during Wellbeing Week, which was woven into the whole school timetable. Children took part in activities designed to support positive mental health, including mindfulness sessions, opportunities for quiet reflection, acts of kindness, challenges and additional outdoor learning. Classes explored themes such as resilience, gratitude and friendship, and staff led discussions about practical ways to look

after ourselves and one another. The week provided a valuable reminder that wellbeing sits at the heart of successful learning.

As part of their learning about Ancient Egypt, Year 4 travelled into Cambridge to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum, where they had the opportunity to visit a special exhibition – *Made in Ancient Egypt* – which is focused on craftspeople and technology. They also took part in papyrus painting and heard all about mummification in Ancient Egypt. This is part of the wider school curriculum thread for this term: Environment – global and local.

Meanwhile Year 2 children led the annual Candlemas service at St Mary's Church, which they did with great confidence and care.

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 once again had the unforgettable experience of performing at the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. Singing alongside thousands of other children and a couple of special guests in front of a packed audience is always a remarkable occasion. The months of rehearsals certainly paid off and we are enormously grateful to the staff who made the trip possible, particularly Mrs Barlow and Mrs Bell.

World Book Day in early March brought colour and imagination to the school. As is tradition, the day began with a whole-school parade, with children proudly showcasing costumes inspired by favourite characters and stories. From much-loved classics to contemporary tales, it was a joyful celebration of reading and the creativity that books inspire.

Another event designed to develop the children's literary spirit was our second poetry evening, which was held in February. Pupils involved in the debating and speaking club shared poems they have been learning, performing them with confidence, expression and humour! Several children chose to record their pieces for entry into the Poetry by Heart competition and we wish the two entries chosen to represent the school every success.

With ongoing budget pressures and limited resources, the school continues to rely heavily on volunteer support and fundraising. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and energetic PTA. Their events, including the recent Quiz Night, not only raise vital funds for the school but also bring the whole Shelford community together. Please do look out for details of forthcoming events, including the ever popular Easter Egg Hunt.

As ever, the school year is racing by as we look ahead to the Easter holidays and the final term of the academic year. Thank you to all members of the school community – staff, volunteers, governors and families – who contribute so much to ensuring that our children experience a rich, supportive and inspiring education.

Hannah Mohamad, Parent Governor



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Order on Thursday 2 April → Collect on Wednesday 8 April

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HIGHWAYS REPAIR

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAMARY-HOMAN

This winter has ravaged our local highways, but hopefully by now you will have seen some progress around you, although new issues continue to develop on the roads and footpaths. Progress has been slow, which has frustrated everyone (including those responsible for our highways), but it is now picking up. The Council has been working with the contractors who conduct the repairs to improve the situation and have taken the following actions:

More repair crews. The standard summer operations use four to six crews but obviously this is not enough to contend with the challenges of the winter. We have been steadily increasing the number of crews over the last couple of months (which is challenging given the national demand for road repair workers) and should now have 30 pothole crews in action across the County.

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There were certainly 27 in operation in early March. We have also sourced an additional Dragon Patcher, taking us to three in operation, although their operations are very weather dependent. The increase in crews is increasing the rate of repairs. In recent weeks, well over 1,000 potholes have been repaired each week, with over 2,000 repaired in the last week of February. We are conducting night and weekend repairs where appropriate.

The Council has increased officer capacity to improve response times to customer reports and to ensure that works orders are being raised as quickly as possible. Additional officer resource is also allowing us to inspect the quality of more completed works, as well as tackle the backlog of reports.

When it comes to repairs, you will have likely seen different types on the roads. Gray or pale black fills without a band around them are emergency fills, traditional repairs have banding around them, and longer stretches of repairs are likely from a Dragon Patcher. However, as many residents rightly point out, many roads need resurfacing and patchwork isn't a sustainable solution, especially with many roads coming to the end of their life. The A1301 has been a prime example of this. The administration at the County Council has committed an additional £20m to the budget to allow for resurfacing works to take place under our Capital Maintenance Programme (CMP). We also committed £20m for a 2027/28 CMP. Conservative, Labour and Reform Councillors did not vote in support of this.

As part of the 26/27 CMP, over £1m of funding has been secured to resurface the A1301 from the Hauxton Road junction in Trumpington down to almost the southern village boundary (stopping at Headley Gardens) in Great Shelford. I'd like to thank the Parish Council for their role in months of combined efforts to secure this funding. Previous funding had been allocated to resurface the stretch from the Co-op down to the lights at Station Road, but these works were delayed by National Highways, who required the use of the road whilst works were being undertaken on the M11. This stretch is due to see work undertaken between Tuesday 7 April and Saturday 2 May, with the works taking place from 8pm to 6am under a road closure – please note that this is weather dependent. Peter and I have successfully lobbied for this work to be extended to include the crossroads and we are working to get the rest of the approved work towards the village boundary to be included in this period of works.

Further resurfacing will be happening elsewhere within the Sawston and Shelfords County division (A10 in Harston and Link Road, Sawston). The additional £20m we contribute to our highways budget is the only way that resurfacing can happen; without it we would be in 'managed decline' of our highways, an approach taken by the County Council administration pre-2021. Furthermore, pothole data has only been formally gathered since 2023, thanks

to the efforts of Cllr Alex Beckett (Chair of Highways and Transport) and colleagues. The root of the problem, however, lies with the central Government who have not adequately funded highways for over a decade. The Department for Transport's analysis shows that approximately £58m is required annually just to keep our highways in the condition they are, never mind improve them, yet the Department only grants the County Council £31.3m per year. This funding includes footpaths, drains, verges, signs, lines and more – it needs to be spent on more than just the roads.

Highways are crumbling across the nation due to chronic underfunding for many years. At Cambridgeshire County Council, we do not accept managed decline as good enough for our residents, hence our decision to commit as much extra funding as possible, but national change is needed to properly address the issues on our roads. In Cambridgeshire, we have an estimated £800m of work required to get all our roads up to standard, although roughly £500m of this is required to tackle the challenges of soil-affected roads in the fens. We are working hard to find any solutions possible locally and Pippa Heylings MP is challenging the Government on their decision not to adequately fund our highways.

Peter Fane and I continue to be out and about, inspecting issues within our area and requesting urgent action where it is required. We very much welcome the efforts of residents both to report issues online and to alert us to areas of concern – it's a huge help to us. We have both realised, as our first year in office draws to a close, that highways are a year-round issue and we will continue to give them the attention they deserve. Please do continue to submit reports and contact us.

Regrettably, I need to close this piece on a concerning note. I am aware that those working on our highways have faced significant abuse, including officers of the Council and contractors being physically assaulted. Abuse of our workers (or anyone) is *never* acceptable, no matter how frustrated people are about the condition of our highways. Whilst I doubt this comes from anyone who will be reading this article, I will always speak out against abuse in any form, and I feel it is my duty to raise awareness of the issue to support our hard-working staff. The condition of our highways is not the fault of those working to repair them and they deserve to be safe whilst they work to improve our roads.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We will continue to do everything we can to improve our local highways.

Councillor Laurence Damary-Homan

laurence.damary-homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cllr Peter Fane is co-councillor for the area *peter.fane@cambridgeshire.gov.uk*



GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH ST MARY THE VIRGIN

<https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org>

St Mary's Musings

Over the next days and weeks, the Church's focus moves from darkness to light. Holy Week begins in April, with reflective compline services and commemorations of Jesus's journey toward crucifixion, including his last supper on Maundy Thursday and a reflection of his time in the garden at Gethsemane as he struggled to make good choices in the face of intolerable suffering.

On Good Friday, children will create a garden with three crosses. In the afternoon between 2–3pm when Jesus would have been facing his last hour, in the church we will walk the stations of the cross. Then at 7.30pm there will be an evening Tenebrae service led by the Byrd Club choir. Tenebrae means 'darkness' or 'shadows' in Latin and, during the service, the darkness deepens as candles are gradually extinguished. This service is a meditation on Christ's suffering, using readings from the Gospel of Matthew to follow the story of his passion. Through music and reflection, we highlight the drama of this significant day.

Holy Saturday includes a 5pm vigil, where the new Easter Paschal candle is lit, symbolising Christ's resurrection and renewed life. The members of the congregation renew their baptismal commitments.

At 8pm on Holy Saturday, Neil, Georgie, Seb, Torin, Olivia and Alistair will be confirmed at Ely Cathedral after many weeks of preparation. Confirmation is seen as a fresh start and new identity, emphasising gratitude for God's love and Christ's invitation to act for good in our daily lives.

On Easter Day we will capture the joy of Easter. Those newly confirmed will join the rest of the congregation and celebrate new beginning, new life and renewed hope.

Rev Julie Norris

For more information about Great Shelford Parish Church

Vicar: Revd Dr Julie Norris

revjulienorris@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: David Wilding

wildingdavid1@gmail.com

Thought for the month: 'Do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you.' Confucius on the guiding principle for conduct throughout life.

Monday 30 March	HOLY WEEK BEGINS
	6.30pm Compline in the Chancel at St Mary's.
Tuesday 31 March	
	6.30pm Compline in the Chancel at St Mary's.
Wednesday 1 April	
	6.30pm Compline in the Chancel at St Mary's.
Thursday 2 April	MAUNDY THURSDAY
	7 pm The Lord's Supper , stripping of the altar and Compline .
Friday 3 April	GOOD FRIDAY
	10am Making the Easter Garden in the Community Room. 2–3pm The Last Hour – Stations of the Cross in St Mary's. 7.30–8.30pm Choral Tenebrae . During the service candles are put out, as we remember Jesus's death on the cross..
Saturday 4 April	HOLY SATURDAY
	5 pm Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter . 8pm Easter Vigil and Confirmation in Ely Cathedral.
Sunday 5 April	EASTER DAY
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional said service, with Easter Preface. 10am A sung contemporary Parish Communion service, with Easter hymns and an Easter Children's Sunday Club.
Sunday 12 April	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. 10am Sung contemporary Parish Communion service, with activities in the service in which children and adults participate.
Monday 13 April	
	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Mary's. We welcome people dropping in to join us. We include the prayers of those who have made special requests. 2pm the Pilgrim Group meet at the home of Norma Coggins. We are resuming the Character Course that we started before Lent. This has been a surprisingly fruitful look at the character habits we can develop to make life fuller. These are stand-alone sessions, so join in at any time. Today we focus on humour.

Thursday 16 April	
	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Mary's. 11am Holy Communion at Cambridgeshire Care Home .
Sunday 19 April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. 10am Sung contemporary Parish Communion service with a Children's Sunday Club and flowers given to all who come. 11.15am Young Pilgrim Group . Those who are Years 5 and 6 and above meet together after the morning worship for an hour of fun, food and reflection. This is a group where these youngsters discuss ideas about how the church can engage in the world.
Monday 20 April	
	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Mary's. 2pm The Pilgrim Group will meet at the home of Norma Coggins. Today from the Character Course we focus on persistence.
Thursday 23 April	
	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Mary's. 11am Holy Communion at Barley Manor Care Home .
Sunday 26 April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. 10am Sung contemporary service with a Children's Sunday Club. 5pm Evensong A calm way to prepare for the week ahead with traditional evening prayer and music.
Monday 27 April	
	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Mary's. 2.00 pm the Pilgrim Group will meet at the home of Norma Coggins. Today in this final Character Course session we focus on curiosity.
Thursday 30 April	
	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Mary's. We welcome people dropping in to join us. We include the prayers of those who have made special requests.

In addition to the normal Sunday services at 8am and 10am, there is a **Zoom service** each Sunday evening at 6.30pm. The Zoom link is given on the weekly pew sheet which is on the Website, www.stmarysgreatshelford.org

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Great Shelford
Free Church

EASTER REFLECTIONS

This month we celebrate a pivotal moment in the Christian calendar: Easter Day, the day Jesus rose from the dead. Easter Day, however, cannot be a celebration unless we remember the events leading up to it, including Jesus' death on Good Friday. As we remember those events, it gives us a glimpse of Jesus' character, life and purpose.

For three years, Jesus had travelled around with his disciples preaching the good news of repentance and forgiveness. He healed the sick, made friends with despised tax collectors and prostitutes and fed thousands of people. He led a blameless life doing the will of his Father God but was then betrayed to the authorities by one who was closest to him. While his disciples fled, Jesus was arrested, faced a sham trial, and was sentenced to death on a cross, yet even as he was dying, he forgave those who treated him so cruelly. His body was buried in a borrowed tomb but three days later God raised him from death and he now reigns with him in Heaven.

Through his suffering Jesus can identify with our lived experience, the burdens we bear for ourselves and for the suffering of the world: abandonment, betrayal and denial, humiliation and injustice, pain and anguish, fear and disappointments. He can help us to bear those burdens if we lean on him, because through his death and resurrection, Jesus has opened a way for us to be in a relationship with Him.

He says, *'He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him'*. (John 14 v 21)

Jesus has promised he will never leave us and has prepared a place for us in Heaven to be with him eternally. He offers us new transformed lives filled with hope and a peace that passes all understanding.

'Jesus is alive!' is an Easter declaration – a cause for celebration. As Christians we celebrate the wonder and joy of the resurrection every Sunday and we invite you to come to our services and hear for yourself through words of scripture and songs of praise how much Jesus loves you and longs for you to join his family.

Every blessing.

Suzanne Watt, member of 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*).

Easter Sunday Morning Celebration on Sunday 5 April. Come and join us for an ‘all age’ meeting with Family Communion.

Café Church on Sunday 19 April 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–12 noon. 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

TearFund Big Quiz: Saturday 18 April: 6pm. Book individual places or a team of 6 (flexible) by Friday 17 April. Supper and refreshments provided at no charge but donations will be welcomed for the work of TearFund, which endeavours to reduce poverty and respond to disasters around the world. Tel: 01223 842181 or email administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk.

Friday Prayer Gathering: Friday 24 April: 10.30–11.30am. Come and join us for this monthly event - an opportunity to gather for prayer for one another, the church and the wider world.

Margaret Cletheroe, GSFC Administrator

FILL A BAG FOR ARTHUR RANK

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is holding their first 'Fill a bag' shopping event in April. Shoppers will have the opportunity to fill a pre-provided recyclable bag with pre-loved women's, men's and children's clothes for just £5.

Simply grab a bag at the entrance and fill it with a selection of quality items, all at a special fixed price. This is a fantastic way to support the hospice while picking up great bargains for yourself or loved ones.

The shopping event will take place at the Hospice in Shelford Bottom, CB22 3FB on Friday 24 April from 3pm to 6pm and on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April from 10am to 2pm, and will remain open while stocks last. Shoppers are advised to keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on stock levels.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity supports people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end-of-life care. Our 'Outstanding' services support over 3,800 patients and their families annually, helping people to make every moment count.

For more information about the event, see <https://www.arhc.org.uk/retail-sale>

SOUTH CAMBS ORGANIC GARDENERS

Water in Your Garden

A talk by Robert Smit of Hortiservices in Duxford



Ideas for sustainable and cost-effective ways to collect rainwater as well as setting up simple systems for distributing it in the garden. If there's time, he may also talk about wildlife ponds.

Monday 13 April at 7pm
Cox's Close Community Room,
Stapleford

There will be a small admission charge of £3.

Contact Helen Harwood, tel. 840393,
email helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk for
more details

GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY

Happy Easter to all our customers. How lovely to have lighter evenings and warmer weather. We have lots of books to help plan your spring and summer activities. Why not pop in and look through our travel section to give inspiration for day trips and holidays? If your garden needs some TLC after the long wet winter, we have loads of books on gardening to give ideas and help to get your garden ready for summer. Or come in to stock up on your spring and summer reads.

ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS

Tea and Games Every Friday afternoon. No need to book.

Engage Talk Scams Awareness Escape Room – PC Nigel Sutton. Wednesday 22 April 2–3.30pm. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Easter Craft Event Thursday 2 April 2–3.30pm. Parents and carers must stay with their children, who remain their responsibility. £2.00 per child. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time Every Tuesday at 10.30am. For children aged up to four 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.

LEGO Club Mondays 4–5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2–10. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

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 school aged children.

*Mel Abbiss and Vikki Keppey
Community Librarian Assistants*


Library opening hours – see page 26

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WI

It is always difficult to balance the business of an AGM and a speaker in one evening. In early March the topic 'More than just a cup of tea' did not prepare us for a superb insight into the early years of the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) both nationally and in this area, given by our brilliant speaker Mrs Zoe Jasko.

In 1939, groups all over the country were beginning to emerge, providing comforts for soldiers. Lady Stella Reading was asked by Lord Hoare to set up a women's organisation to help with the war effort. The groups were ready.

For many reasons there were thousands of people, mainly men, stationed and working in Cambridgeshire. Several University and Government departments moved out of London to Cambridge. Because East Anglia is flat and close to our enemy, it was ideal as a training ground for troops and setting up bases for those in active service. Locally there were over 100 soldiers living in tents in Grantchester, manning some very large guns that supported smaller guns mounted at Marshall's airfield.

Our speaker's grandfather was Vicar in Grantchester at the time and his wife set up a WVS canteen in the Reading Room close to the vicarage. Well-to-do ladies and daily helps worked together to provide a comfortable place for soldiers to spend some time. They thought of easy chairs for relaxation, tables and chairs so soldiers could write letters home and of course providing hot meals that could be cooked in the Vicarage.

Nationally over one million people were evacuated in three days. In Cambridge one of the main WVS tasks in 1940 was finding accommodation at short notice for evacuees of all ages arriving unannounced at the station.

The act of volunteering meant that women felt valued. It is still true today that volunteering not only helps others but does a lot for our own wellbeing too. The WVS is now RVS, having been given a Royal honour which added the R and, with the appreciation that men too have a lot to offer, has lost the W. Do you have a few hours a week or month to volunteer for a charity?

After coffee and delicious cakes, the business of the AGM passed smoothly with reports all approved and we were pleased to welcome two new Committee Members. Our next meeting on 2 April will feature something crafty for Easter. 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 new programme will be found shortly on our website: <https://theshelfordswi.wordpress.com>

Eleanor Witter The Shelfords WI President

SWIFT AND MARTIN UPDATE FROM CAMSWIFT



Last month we advertised for locations for swift and martin boxes around Shelford. We've been amazed by the response! Many of you have offered to house a box or nesting cup. People have told me how they remember the birds flying around the village and would love to see them again. Let's try and make it happen! By the time you read this we should have decided on where to put our first round of boxes. Watch out for them! The first house martins should be back in April and the swifts will arrive in the first week in May. We hope they will have a good breeding season, and take up their new homes. CamSwift boxes have already gone up in Sawston and should soon be going up in Stapleford too.

On a wider front, many of our South Cambs villages are also working to increase the swift population. Between us we are hoping to create a South Cambs Swift Corridor, which will extend from Bassingbourn and neighbours, and include the villages down the Cam.

What else can you do for swifts and house martins, apart from providing a nesting space? Well, we can all contribute.

You may have seen Dave Goulson on *Gardeners' World*. He's a professor at Sussex University and has for decades been researching why our insect populations are declining. His work has uncovered the devastating effect that pesticides such as insecticides, herbicides, moss killers and slug treatments have on our insect populations (you know, the ones we used to get on our windscreens!) Without insects, most of our breeding birds are in trouble, and particularly the high-fliers such as swifts, swallows and house martins that we in South Cambs are trying to help. We are individually powerless to stop agricultural spraying, but we CAN stop spraying in our own gardens. So, if you love birds, think really hard before you get any of those pesticides out.

And if you're a dog or cat owner, there's one really big thing you can do, and that is to avoid pet flea treatments. Pet flea treatments contain extremely harmful chemicals called neonicotinoids, and they don't just kill fleas. They run through the sewerage system into the rivers, where they kill the insect life. If your dog goes into the river, then the flea treatment will go into the water too. These chemicals are now found in birds' nests, and they harm and even kill chicks. So don't buy over-the-counter flea treatments. Don't treat preventatively. DO talk to your vet. And help save our declining insect population, which in turn will help our swifts and martins. Then one day, our Shelford skies may be full of birds again!

You can contact CamSwift at helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Helen Harwood



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2G3S

Repair Café: The next one of these in our area is at Whittlesford URC on Saturday 25 April from 2–5pm. Booking is through the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website. We strongly urge you to book a slot in advance – at our last café at Great Shelford Free Church, all slots were booked up before the day, and ‘walk-ins’ only got a repair done because there were a few no-shows.

Local news:

- Good news that Stapleford Parish Council is forming a Sustainability Working Group, to look at ways to support biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions in the village. It will include an emergency response plan, to use in cases of flooding or wildfires (remember the one behind Gog Magog Way and Mingle Lane last summer?) We look forward to working with them.
- Swift boxes – you may remember I mentioned a local group was being set up to promote and enable these nesting boxes to be fitted in local villages. Shelford and Stapleford’s turn has come, so please contact Helen Harwood on 840393, or email helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk if you’re interested. They also have nesting cups for house martins. Thanks are due to the relevant Parish Councils for funding these. (See also page 31)
- Our MP, Pippa Heylings, had the opportunity to present a ten-minute Bill to Parliament on 25 February. She is calling for UK chalk streams to be nominated as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. As you probably know, 85% of the world’s chalk streams are found in the UK, and many of these are found in East Anglia. If they were to get UNESCO designation they would be protected from over-abstraction and also sewage pollution by the water companies, both of which happen frequently at present.
- You will recall I discussed the National Emergency Briefings on Climate and Nature in previous articles. There is now a film made of these briefings, which will be shown and discussed in Cambridge on Saturday 18 April at 6pm at Anglia Ruskin University. Tickets can be obtained on bit.ly/pebcams, and other local showings may be arranged and will appear on that website.

Future of Water: we held a conversation evening in January on the theme of water. I know we’ve had a wet winter, but we have a chronic shortage in this area. It was noted that there is a move to establish a Cambridge Development Corporation, with an ambitious agenda for growth and development in Cambridge and the surrounding area between now and 2050, with goals for increases in residential accommodation as well as business developments. Any such developments will inevitably increase pressure on water resources.

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An example of how the water issue is being treated in planning policy at present is Darwin Green, a proposed development for which planning permission was originally denied due to objections by the Environment Agency that there was not enough water available. To overcome this objection, the government advised that water credits and future developments in water availability should be taken into account, along with the expected date of occupancy of the new homes. As a result the development was given the go ahead, despite the concerns of local councillors that the new reservoir was unlikely to be in place in time and that the effectiveness of water credits is unproven.

The first of the two invited speakers to the conversation evening was Vicky Thatcher, head of Water Strategy and Environment at Cambridge Water. Cambridge Water, as the provider of our drinking water, is regulated by the Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT), the Environment Agency (EA), and the Drinking Water Inspectorate. Cambridge Water is granted a licence ('derogation') to abstract a certain quantity of water from the underground chalk aquifer per year. This amount is reviewed every five years and the company would be liable to a fine if this limit were exceeded. The plan for the next 25 years sees a growing gap between available supply and demand, due to growing demand and also an expected reduction in the quantity of water that Cambridge Water is licenced to abstract in future. The EA require this amount to be reduced due to climate change and other factors so that the level of damage to the environment caused by abstraction does not grow worse. About one third of this gap is to be addressed by reduced demand per customer, with the remaining two thirds covered by two additional sources: the Fenland Reservoir (scheduled for completion in 2037 but expected by many people to overrun) and a pipeline bringing water from Grafham Water, currently planned to go onstream in 2032.

Customers of Cambridge Water consume on average 119 litres/day per person, a little lower than the average consumption in the UK (but still too high). The Cambridge area has a relatively high proportion of properties having water meters: over 80%. Cambridge Water is intending to raise this proportion to close to 100% over the next five to ten years. Several members of the audience noted that they consume only about 70 litres/person/day – Vicky claimed her own usage was similar. Cambridge Water aim to achieve the reduction in average consumption by a combination of public information to change behaviour, making clear what is normal and what is required (peer pressure etc), and by identifying anomalously high-water readings (or sudden changes) that indicate a leak and taking action to eliminate it. This includes informing and visiting properties to identify the cause. 'Leaking loos', where a constant stream of water runs from the cistern into the toilet bowl, are a common cause

of high consumption and can be undetected by the occupant if not looked for. In previous articles I have suggested ways to reduce your water consumption: don't always flush the loo, use water butts and save kitchen water for watering the garden, take quick showers not deep baths, don't use a hose to water the garden, and throw used water on the garden not down the drain. If you plan an extension, think about designing the gutters to discharge rainwater to a soakaway rather than down into the drains. This sends water down into the aquifer rather than into the sewage system.

The second speaker was Yair Perry of Water Sensitive Cambridge (WSC), who design and install rain gardens and other ways of rainwater harvesting to reduce risk of flooding and where possible prevent pollution of waterways from excessive run off from hard surfaces. Their slogan is 'Let's keep more rain out of the drain'. Yair described how WSC had successfully mitigated road flooding in Chesterton by installing a roadside rain garden, and talked about their programme of installations in schools, notably the Icknield Primary School in Sawston, where pupils can learn about the issues and participate in the planting of the rain gardens. Their 'Slow Flow' planters, possibly combined with a water butt, are designed for capturing water from downpipes in residential and other buildings, absorbing rain that would otherwise run off during heavy showers where a water butt alone would not prevent this once full. (*Thanks to Peter Woods for much of this article*).

Dr Bike continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3–5.30pm 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. You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential. The Saturday sessions will resume later in spring.

You may have seen some 'Dr Bike' sessions advertised to run in several other villages, the nearest to us being in Sawston on Thursday 9 April and Monday 1 June, at Mill Lane Pavilion car park, 11am to 3pm. These are run by Cambridgeshire County Council, not by us. They do the same thing, so please use them if it's more convenient for you. You'll need to book at tinyurl.com/drbike2026.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels, email mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly newsletter, or for more information about our meetings. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/.

Helen Hale



COUNTRY MARKET

Annual Meetings come round all too quickly. Christa Jostock was recently re-elected Chair and will lead the Market in this special year.

The Great Shelford WI Market, as it was known then, opened in 1976 and apart from closing for the annual Christmas break and during COVID restrictions, the market, now with a slight name change, has been open every Wednesday morning since 1976. One founder member tells me that at that time retail traders in Woollards Lane opposed the opening of a weekly morning market in the Memorial Hall. Roll on fifty years and we are the sole 'business' survivor in Woollards Lane from the 1976 era. Come and join us now – free entry, no sales pressure, good refreshments and friendly folk.

Over the last few weeks, we have certainly felt a breath of spring in the air. The plant section has come to new life and makes a fine welcoming sight with so many freshly picked spring flowers, pussy willow, catkins and much more.

To ensure a successful market for many more years, we are always on the lookout for new producers. Do you enjoy baking and/or making preserves? Do you grow a surplus of garden produce? Do you enjoy craft work? Why not become a member of Great Shelford Country Market and the wider network of Country Markets Ltd. Please pop in for a chat and a coffee or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

Dorothy Doel.

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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.

Every six months I meet the inspiring South Cambs Climate and Nature Group who hold me accountable on progress with climate and nature 'asks'. This time we met in Great Shelford with delicious home-made food and warming cups of tea and coffee.

The workshop was very well attended by members from Great Shelford Whittlesford, Haslingfield, Stapleford, Hildersham, Duxford, Shepreth, Abington, Linton, Sawston and other surrounding villages – and many are part of the many eco, climate, sustainability and river action groups in those villages. Thank you particularly to Elisabeth Goodman Spain for coordinating and facilitating.

During our session in Great Shelford, we spoke about my bill for securing UNESCO protection for chalk streams (which some of them came to the House of Commons to see), tackling the dual challenge of transitioning to renewables while restoring nature and protecting food security, as well as how to shift from a growth agenda to one that enables our planet and all who live on it to thrive.

Trial by jury is one of the oldest and most important rights in British justice. The principle is more than 800 years old and worth defending. The government's decision to scrap jury trials risks eroding a cornerstone of our justice system while doing little to tackle the real problem facing our courts.

The court backlog is serious. Victims deserve justice far more quickly than they are currently getting. But dismantling fundamental rights is not the answer. If more Labour backbenchers had taken a stand alongside the Liberal Democrats, we could have stopped the Government in its tracks from pushing through this disastrous and deeply unpopular plan. Instead, the Justice Secretary pressed ahead this week despite the entire legal sector sounding the alarm that scrapping jury trials will do nothing to bring down the spiralling backlog.

There is a better way. The Liberal Democrats have set out plans to double sitting time in courtrooms across the country, helping reduce delays and deliver justice faster for victims.

Real reform is needed to fix the court's backlog. Weakening trial by jury is not it. I will continue to fight for this in parliament.

TENNIS CLUB

Fancy a last-minute night out in Chatteris on a damp Tuesday? Thought not. Yet that was the kind invitation sent to one of our men's teams last month. Dozens of potential players (including, to his shame, your correspondent) found themselves busy washing their hair that night, or grooming the dog, or strangely falling into radio silence. So, the four heroes who set off into the fens that dark evening are April's members of the month.

Reasons for this high honour are to follow, but first some context. Normally the Cambs winter league is all done by the first daffodil. This year is different, with postponements galore due to the wet weather, meaning the home club must offer three alternative dates for the fixture. The hosts even chalked up a premature walkover victory, possibly assuming nobody would be crazy enough to turn up at the drop of a hat, in rush hour, to Chatteris. But they hadn't counted on Shelford's fabulous four: 'French' Richard Sainson, 'English' Rick Calne, 'Desperate' Dan Fitzsimmons (pictured), and 'Captain Tom' Cope, who takes up the tale:



'They were great last-minute substitutes, two of them making their debuts for the club, everybody winning at least two sets, Dan winning all his sets with his crazy kamikaze style hard hitting no nonsense do-or-die tennis. Rich Sainson with his cultured French soft-skilled approach. Rick Calne is the stalwart; he said he'd been a captain before and when you're in trouble sometimes you've just got to step up for your club and your friends.'

Step up they did, and what's more they won! So congratulations to the team on the victory, but also for becoming the first ever joint members of the month. Next time in *The News* – all the exciting stories from the club's Annual General Meeting.

Stephen Chittenden



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Little Shelford Local History Society

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Monday 20 April

AGM

at 7.30pm

followed by a talk

‘Camping Close – the mob and the mausoleum’

by Ian Beaton

All welcome

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16 April **Julie Richardson** ‘Thursday Night at the Movies’

21 May **Janet Dye** ‘Reuse and Recycle’

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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

29 April 1854

PIG STEALING – On the 15th instant William Wright, labourer of Great Shelford, was apprehended by police-constable Vance for stealing two pigs belonging to Mr Barker, butcher of Whittlesford. Wright was fully committed by one of the Linton bench, to Cambridge jail for trial.

13 April 1861

POACHING – The case of Edward Whybrow and David Robinson was to have been heard last week but there was an informality in the information. The effect of it was that, on the day in question, Mr. Dennis had set a man to watch the field. The man saw the two defendants go into the plantation, having something moving in their pockets, which he suspected were ferrets, and put some nets over the rabbit-holes. There was no witness to overturn this evidence, and the Magistrates mulcted Whybrow the sum of £1 and 13s costs, and Robinson in 10s and 13s costs. The difference is on account of disparity of circumstances. In default they were to go to gaol for 14 days.

18 April 1863

THE CHURCH ON EASTER DAY – On Easter Day the Church of this village presented a very chaste and beautiful appearance, owing to the taste and energy of some of the ladies of the parish. The fine old screen was elegantly wreathed with evergreens and white roses; the walls of the chancel were festooned to correspond; the beautiful east window, lately put in by the Master and Fellows of Jesus College, was surrounded with a wreath of ivy and roses, with monograms on either side. These were contributed by Miss Grain, of Granhams, and Miss Hurrell. An illuminated text (1 Cor xv20) by Miss L. Grain, contributed greatly to the general appearance. The pillars and capitals on either side of the nave were trimmed with massive wreaths of evergreens and white roses, and the walls of the aisles were similarly decorated by the united exertions of Miss Dennis and Miss Ramsey. The font was most tastefully and emblematically decorated by Mr D. Ramsey with wreaths and real flowers. It would be impossible to convey an adequate idea of the beauty of the whole effect, but we doubt not that our Vicar would be proud to show the church decorations to any visitor.

GREAT SHELFORD BOWLS CLUB

**Coffee Morning and Open Day
Saturday 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 Morning and Open Day, when you will be welcome to have a go at Bowling. If you cannot make the Saturday, then please come along on **Sunday 19** at the same time when we will be having an **Open Practice Day**.

We are a friendly club and welcome 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 has been built in your ability to play, 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 also enjoy the friendly atmosphere on many of our club nights. If you are interested in coming along, you can contact either Gill Taylor (Secretary) on 07581 079420 or Graham White (Chairman) on 07740 031713. You can also get more information about our club on our new website at greatshelfordbowlsclub.co.uk.

Gill Taylor

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Our April meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 April at Great Shelford Memorial Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm. Our guest speaker will be John Hughes, a keen collector of succulents for 60 years. His subject will be his visits to Brazil and the Jardim Botânico Plantarium there, owned and maintained by Harri Lorenzo, a world-renowned botanist.

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

If you are interested in cacti and succulents, then the Society's website – www.bcsc.org.uk – is full of information, articles and incredible photographs of many species of these plants in habitat as well as grown by collectors in the U.K. It's well worth a look.

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FOOTBALL CLUB



Hopes of successive Premier League Cup finals and the chance of retaining the trophy were dashed when Newmarket Town Reserves knocked us out at the semi-final stage. A good first half performance saw us go into the break 1-0 up, which could have been more but for several missed chances, but an even second half saw the Jockeys equalise and take the tie into a penalty shootout.

Unlike last season's final against Over Sports, however, it was our turn to miss a couple and see the opposition score all theirs!

It was back to the task of hopefully retaining our Premier League, and two wins saw us remain comfortably on top of the table. Having thrashed Soham Town Rangers Reserves 8-2 in the away fixture, any thoughts of a repeat were thwarted when the visitors matched us all the way and only a late own goal from a corner secured the points. Newly promoted Orwell have given a good account of themselves in the top tier but rarely threatened in our game on their home ground. Another clean sheet and three goals saw a comfortable win but on chances created it could have been a lot clearer.

For reasons given in previous reports the reserves again had only two games in the month. The first away to Somersham Town resulted in a 5-1 defeat, which unfortunately epitomised their season so far. West Wrattling Reserves are flying high and in contention for the Senior A Division title, so our boys could have been forgiven for not particularly looking forward to their visit to Woollards Lane. Nothing is certain in sport, however, and a spirited and much improved performance from our young team saw them earn a 1-1 draw and dent the visitors' title hopes.

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

MAY ISSUE OF THE *VILLAGE NEWS*

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is **Friday 10 April** and it should be available on **Friday 24 April**, with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter.

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LITTLE SHELFORD MEMORIAL HALL FILM EVENING

There will be a Memorial Hall film evening with a showing of *The Ballad of Wallis Island* on **Saturday 18 April**. Doors open at 6.30 pm for a 7 pm 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 Ballad of Wallis Island* 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) are available from Sarah Coppendale: (842498) coppendales@btinternet.com and Diana Haines (841415) dianahaines42@icloud.com.

Please book by Wednesday 15 April so that sufficient food can be ordered.

BALLET TALK

Everything You Need To Know About The Royal Ballet In 75 Minutes

An illustrated talk with audio clips by ballet and opera specialist Sarah Lenton

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham

Monday 27 April, 7.30pm

Tickets £12, including refreshments

Sarah has spent most of her working life in the theatre and the last thirty years being at The Royal Opera House. She has written and directed over twenty shows, writes programme articles and websites and can also be heard regularly on Radio 3 and 4. Tickets at the door or from Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-royal-ballet-in-75-minutes-tickets-1983388271712?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

SAWSTON CINEMA	
16 (To be confirmed)	All My Sons (Arthur Miller) Filmed live.
23	Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale
https://sawstoncinema.org/cinema-screenings/	

ARTS THEATRE	
31 Mar–4 April	The Choir of Man (Musical)
7–11	Spitfire Girls (Drama)
12	The Glenn Miller Orchestra
15–18	Noughts and Crosses (Drama)
21–25	Midsomer Murders: The Killings at Badger's Drift (Thriller)
26	An Evening with Jung Chang/ Elif Shafak /Zadie Smith
29	War of the Worlds (Drama)
https://www.artstheatre.co.uk/	

CAMBRIDGE LITERARY FESTIVAL	
22-26	56 events including the following
23	Mary Berry – My gardening life
23	Giulia Enders – What it really means to listen to our bodies
23	Margaret Drabble – The books that made me
24	Alan Hollinghurst – The books that made me
https://www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com/whats-on/	

ADC THEATRE	
1–4	Olympus Unscripted: an improvised Greek myth
14–18	Chekhov's Four Farces
21–25	Next to Normal (rock comedy)
28 – 2 May	The Ferryman
adctheatre.com/whatson	

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Thursdays 6–8pm	Salsa sessions at Homerton College
4, 18	Guided tour of Kettles Yard – ticketed
7	Opening Concert of 2026 Cambridge Piano Festival – MinJung Baek Piano Recita
17	The Archaeology of Wandlebury Hillfort: A Twilight Talk (At the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research)

<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson>

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

1	Easter Family Day – Ages 2–10. Free drop-in artist- led event for families to relax and have fun together.
10	War Craft: Curator’s talk
Until 12 April	Made in Ancient Egypt (ticketed)

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SAFFRON HALL

11	London Philharmonic Orchestra – Dvořák, Brahms and Schumann
25	Brodsky Quartet – Schubert and Beethoven

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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)*

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

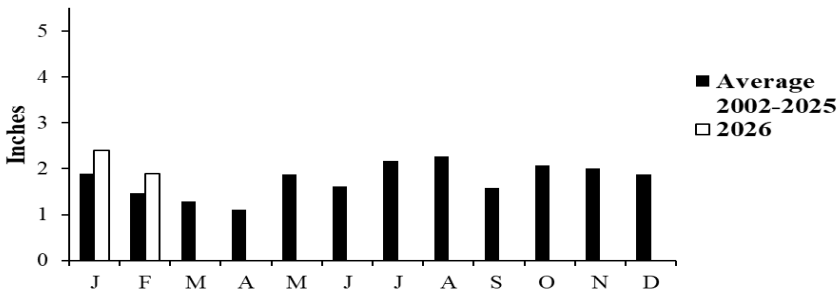
gsvnadverts@gmail.com

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

Subscriptions and online payment details

gsvnsubs@gmail.com
01223 842993

Great Shelford Village Rainfall 2026



From data supplied by Angus Campbell

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 66873
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 19777
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	Kim Lane Helen Clarke-Hill	churchwarden@stmarysgreatshelford.org churchwarden@stmarysgreatshelford.org	07825 769779 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@googlegmail.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	johngry6@gmail.com	01223 841784
WI	Vanda Butler (Secretary)	vanda.butler@googlegmail.com	01223 561053
Youth Initiative (SSYI)	Zac Britton	zac.britton@ssyi.club	07599 024210

concerts

Galvin Fairhall Lever

Friday 10 April | 7:45pm

Galvin Fairhall Lever bring together an exhilarating tumble of Celtic traditional music, melodic warmth, vibrant rhythmic invention, and the subtle expressivity of jazz harmony.



Ivo Neame Quartet

Saturday 18 April | 7:45pm

Ivo Neame, multi-award winning pianist and one of the most innovative and dynamic figures in the contemporary jazz scene, returns to the Granary with some of the finest UK-based jazz instrumentalists.



Music for Awhile

Friday 24 April | 7:45pm

J S Bach and Maddalena Lombardini from this much-loved period collective of Europe's most established early music performers, renowned for their adventurous programming and led by violinist Maggie Fautless.



Josienne Clarke sings the songs of Sandy Denny

Sunday 26 April | 3:00pm

Radio 2 Folk award-winning singer, songwriter and guitarist Josienne Clarke draws on traditional British folk inspirations, but is a thoroughly modern, multifaceted musician.

