

Great Shelford VILLAGE NEWS

EST 1999

MAY 2026

PRICE: 40p

Mystery egg?



Photo Duncan Grey

Fund Raising for Air Ambulance and Arthur Rank

Shelford Festival and Feast 2026 – Coming Soon!

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GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL				
CHAIR		Malcolm Watson	VICE CHAIR	John Stanton
CHAIRS OF SUB-COMMITTEES				
Planning		Barbara Kettel	Highways	Timothy Mann
Building & Grounds		Malcolm Watson	Cemetery & Allotments	Angela Niblett
MEMBERS				
Paula Arnold		Peter Brown	Roberto Ghersemi	
Barrie Ashurst		Justin Curtis	Howard Kettel	
CLERK		Sue Piergianni	clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk 01223616622	
To email Parish Councillors, use:		firstname.surname@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk		
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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 16 MARCH 2026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Eight members of the public were present. They spoke against the planning application for 47 Hinton Way with concerns over building height, proximity to existing properties, overlooking issues, invasion of privacy, light issues, trees with protection orders in residents' gardens and access issues.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Budget and Council Tax

- South Cambridgeshire District Council has approved its 2026/27 budget and Corporate Action Plan, supporting residents and communities. Key investments include £300,000 annually for voluntary and community groups, nearly £50,000 for homelessness prevention, around £450,000 for cost-of-living support, and continued funding for Mobile Warden Schemes. Council Tax will rise by £5.24 per year for a Band D home, bringing the total to £180.64.
- Cambridgeshire County Council has approved its £1.27 billion budget for 2026/27, including £20 million per year for highways maintenance. Council Tax will rise by 4.99%, generating around £21 million in additional funding, bringing the total Band D annual bill across all authorities to £2,408.59.

Planning and Growth

- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation closed with over 4,500 responses; a revised plan will be published in Summer 2026. The government is also consulting on a new Greater Cambridge Development Corporation to deliver key infrastructure.
- Proposed national planning reforms include a 'default yes' for development near railway stations, higher housing density and stronger support for affordable and accessible housing.
- Local planning updates: refusal of six homes on Newton Road, Little Shelford, new applications for up to 110 homes off Mingle Lane and a stable yard in Stapleford.

Local Government Reorganisation and Consultations

- Residents are invited to comment on proposals for new unitary councils. Locally, the preferred option is a Greater Cambridge Council (Cambridge +

South Cambridgeshire) and a North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Council (consultation closes 26 March).

- Other consultations include changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (closes 10 March) and Greater Cambridge Development Corporation proposals (closes 1 April).

Infrastructure, Highways and Transport

- District Council: New Community Infrastructure Levy proposed (£60/m² housing, £175/m² offices), with parish councils receiving 15–25% of receipts depending on Neighbourhood Plans. Weekly food waste collections to begin later in 2026; consultation on anti-social driving at Babraham Park & Ride (closes 27 March).
- County Council: £1.7 million allocated locally for resurfacing, including the A10 at Harston, A1301 in Great Shelford and Link Road in Sawston. Winter demand has increased repair crews; residents are encouraged to continue reporting issues. Unauthorised ‘Foxcotte’ promotional signs will be removed. The Combined Authority is reviewing bus franchising (update expected in June) and has secured funding for electric vehicle infrastructure.

Children, Education and Young People

- Holiday food vouchers for children eligible for free school meals will continue until September 2026, supporting approximately 22,500 children.
- Two new special schools planned in Gamlingay and March will provide 270 additional places.

Economy, Development, and Tackling Poverty

- A new data-led system helps low-income households access entitled support, with nearly 1,000 extra claims secured in South Cambridgeshire alone.
- County Council and Prologis are expanding the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, with 67 acres for research labs, training centres, and key worker accommodation.

Environment and Safety

- Residents are urged to recycle batteries safely due to a rise in fires; take used batteries to designated collection points.
- Ongoing funding and projects support sustainable transport and green infrastructure.

CAM VALE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Sarah Grove, Project Officer, gave an overview of the Community Rail Partnership (CRP), which connects communities, councils, and the rail industry to improve stations, support volunteers and youth, encourage sustainable travel and boost passenger confidence.

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Current Activity

CRP projects include community art, biodiversity improvements, youth engagement (such as train confidence trips), and active travel initiatives, funded via the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Shelford Station

Shelford Station is supported by Philip and Kathryn Ball, whose biodiversity work has earned Wildlife Friendly accreditation. Opportunities exist for station enhancements, better active travel links, collaboration with schools and youth groups, and participation in railway heritage activities. The CRP will also support awareness around the opening of Cambridge South, including wayfinding and onward travel guidance.

Student Travel

Greater Anglia offers a 16–17 Student Discount of 50% on rail fares for travel to college or work.

Collaboration Opportunities

Joint projects could include:

- Station environment or heritage improvements
- Arts or biodiversity initiatives
- Communications on rail services and Cambridge South
- Support for local events with sustainable travel

Funding is available through the Greater Anglia Communities Fund (deadline 16 April). Partner parishes contribute a small annual precept to support projects and match fund improvements; Great Shelford may consider joining in future.

Questions and Feedback

Concerns raised included access for mobility scooters and operational requests for Shelford Station (additional shelters, public announcements improvements, service frequency and staffing). These are outside CRP's remit, but submissions sent in writing to can be forwarded to Network Rail and train operators.

Resident feedback highlighted a number of areas for improvement at Shelford Station:

- **Shelters:** The northbound platform needs at least one additional shelter, positioned further from the southern end.
- **Announcements and screens:** PA announcements and on platform screens are currently only effective at the southern end.
- **Service frequency:** Ideally, two trains per hour each way all day. Norwich to Stansted (NRW–SSD) trains could stop at Shelford alongside the existing hourly Liverpool Street services.
- **Staffing:** The ticket office is staffed 6–10.30am Mon–Fri, but visibility on the platform would better assist passengers, particularly at weekends and during rail replacement services.

- **Fares:** Some anomalies (e.g. off-peak Shelford–Liverpool Street vs Cambridge–Liverpool Street fares) cause confusion and reduce passenger confidence.
- **Community use:** Opportunities exist to make the station more of a community hub, including selling items beyond tickets or hosting small activities.
- **Onward travel:** The ‘onward travel’ board requires updating, as current bus stop information is unclear and future changes (e.g., Sawston Greenway) may affect stop locations.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MATTERS

a) To receive an update and discuss matters relating to East West Rail.

Cllr Brown attended a presentation in Harston and viewed details of the first draft plan giving details of the path along the railway line.

b) CSET Busway: There are further delays on the public enquiry.

PLANNING MATTERS

The appointment of a Planning Consultant to act on behalf of GSPC for the proposed Mingle Lane/Hinton Way development was carried by a majority, subject to the following conditions: GSPC would contribute a maximum of £2,000.00, with the cost to be split: Stapleford two parts, Great Shelford one part.

26/00595/FUL	47 Hinton Way	Erection of one self-build/custom build dwelling and garage to rear.
Refusal recommended in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan: avoiding overlooking or loss of private residential amenity space, loss of daylight, or overshadowing.		

26/00629/FUL	Recreation Ground, Great Shelford Tennis Club	Demolition of existing clubhouse and erection of new clubhouse.
Application supported.		

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

a) It was agreed to appoint Polygon and Shelford Heating for work on the Memorial Hall heating and electrics.

b) Redmayne Arnold will carry out fire training; the Clerk & Assistant Clerk will attend.

c) The indoor market will be held on 25 October 2026.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a) The response to residents on Elms Avenue was noted. £80,000 has been allocated for footway resurfacing.
- b) The quote for recycling the four benches was accepted.
- c) The location for the memorial bench on the recreation ground was noted. Cllrs Niblett and Kettel seem to remember a minute stating no further benches to be allowed on the recreation ground; the Clerk will investigate.
- d) A Youth Council was discussed. It was agreed to ascertain the views and needs of the youth of the village. Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI) indicated they would be keen to be involved. The item will be discussed further at the Strategy Meeting.

FINANCE MATTERS

It was agreed to donate £1,000 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">Highways Committee</td> <td style="width: 20%;">6 May</td> <td style="width: 40%;">7.30pm Pavilion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning Committee</td> <td>11 May</td> <td>7.30pm Memorial Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full Council (Annual Meeting)</td> <td>13 May</td> <td>7.00pm Pavilion</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning Committee</td> <td>25 May</td> <td>7.30pm Memorial Hall</td> </tr> </table>	Highways Committee	6 May	7.30pm Pavilion	Planning Committee	11 May	7.30pm Memorial Hall	Full Council (Annual Meeting)	13 May	7.00pm Pavilion	Planning Committee	25 May	7.30pm Memorial Hall
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS
PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS
(09.03.2026)

Mrs Annabel Sykes presented a suggested response to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was agreed that this should be presented to the NPPF and thanks were extended to Mrs Sykes for her time and effort. Other planning matters were deferred to Full Council on 23 March.

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

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CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY?

In my family, May is known as ‘The Birthday Month’ as during this month my sister, niece, daughter, daughter-in-law and three of my grandchildren all celebrate their birthdays, which I think is a lovely time of year for such an important celebration.

When my daughter was growing up, we always planned a birthday party with her friends in the garden, which meant we had room to include all her classmates with no one being left out. Over the years we’ve had bouncy castles, picnics, treasure hunts, and barbecues as part of the celebrations, alongside the obligatory cake and candles, but within our planning would always be prayers for a fine day and in this regard, God never disappointed us!

This year towards the end of May we also celebrate an additional birthday: the birthday of the Church, a birthday which, unlike yours and mine, doesn’t have the same date each year because Pentecost is a movable feast, always falling 50 days after Easter. Pentecost is a festival which commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus after his ascension, and therefore also marks the birth of the Church as a gathering of those who believed in the Risen Jesus and who were committed to following in His way. When the Spirit came, His presence and power was marked by a mighty rushing wind, tongues of fire and new languages which were spoken by the disciples which enabled everyone who was gathered to hear the good news of Jesus in a language they understood. Everyone was included!

This festival which recognises the birthday of the church is not one we normally celebrate with balloons, cake and bouncy castles (although perhaps we should) but we do celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit and recognise that He Himself is always the greatest gift – the presence of Jesus with us!

This year Pentecost Sunday falls on 24 May and we would love for you to come and join with us for a service of Praise, Prayer and Thanksgiving at 6.30pm as we celebrate God’s good provision and precious gifts. Just as everyone was included in hearing the good news of Jesus when the church was born, so everyone is still welcome today.

‘Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be

tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' Acts 2:2-4

God Bless.

Diana Parr, Pastor

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 17 May 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. Please note that Community Café will not be running on the bank holiday on Monday 25 May.

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

Friday Prayer Gathering: Friday 22 May, 10.30–11.30am.

Join us for this monthly event – an opportunity to gather for prayer for one another, the church and for the wider world.

Pentecost Praise and Prayer evening: Sunday 24 May, 6.30–8pm.

Come and join us for this special event. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Margaret Cletheroe, GSFC Administrator



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The Doom Painting at St Mary's



The intricate painting over the chancel arch at St Mary's is one of the best surviving examples of a 'Doom' painting in the country. More than 600 years old, it attracts many visitors, but the artwork is fading and the detail is now difficult to see. After a major fund-raising effort, the painting was fully restored in 1971 and the question now being asked is whether we should be planning another restoration of this important part of our heritage. The talk on 13 May is a chance for us all to learn more.

Bob Doel

The Friends of Great Shelford Parish Church



Annual General Meeting

And talk by Cambridge University Historian, Paul Shakeshaft

The Doom Painting at St Mary's

Wednesday 13 May at 7.30pm St Mary's Community Room

All are welcome!



GREAT SHELFORD PARISH CHURCH ST MARY THE VIRGIN

<https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>

St Mary's Musings

As we observe the emergence of spring, with plants and trees sprouting new green shoots and buds, I am reminded of Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179) and her reflections on the 'greening' energy of the natural world (*viriditas*).

Hildegard interpreted the surge of green sap as a clear sign of God's life-giving presence, nurturing both physical health and spiritual wholeness in humanity and the environment. The Holy Spirit is seen as sustaining all life, with the new growth of flowers and animals – nature's awakening after winter – reflecting the loving origins of everything.

Hildegard's theological insight emphasises the interconnectedness of body, mind and spirit, recognising that changes in our physical state influence our mental and spiritual well-being, and vice versa. Hildegard saw medicine as a partnership with this greening energy. While scientific tools and medicines remain essential, Hildegard's perspective reminds us that the physician acts as a 'gardener', nurturing the body's innate capacity for healing. The kind nurse, doctor or midwife who really listens to us, not only calms our anxiety, but does not dismiss symptoms which are hard to articulate. By tending to the whole person, including their inner life, we foster a path towards renewal and recovery.

Currently, discussions are underway at St Mary's and in the Deanery regarding a new initiative focused on health and wholeness. The project aims to explore ways in which the churches might collaborate with community organisations and medical practices, promoting health awareness and whole-person care at the local level to complement clinical work.

In the coming month at St Mary's, we will reflect on the greening of life through various activities. The Holy Spirit's renewing power will be woven into our celebrations of **Pentecost on 24 May**. During the **10am Service on 10 May**, we will partner with Christian Aid in an urban farming project, supporting efforts to grow food in small spaces in Nairobi, Kenya, and learning from the community there. Additionally, **on Wednesday 27 May at 7pm** in St Mary's Church, there will be a training session on prayer. This session will explore the nature of prayer and the Lord's Prayer, discovering new ways in which prayer can unlock greater shalom and wholeness in our lives.

Rev Julie Norris

Christian Aid Week. We are fundraising for Christian Aid on 10 May and Gift envelopes will be available at Church on the preceding Sunday. A special collection will be made at both services on 10 May. During the 10am service, we hear how Christian Aid's partner 'Beacon of Hope' helps urban farming in Nairobi and how Fridah grows food in a tiny space to feed her family.

Saturday 2 May	MONTHLY SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING
	10.30am to 12noon Coffee Morning in the Community Room
Sunday 3 May	FIFTH OF EASTER
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional said service. 10am Parish Communion. A Sung contemporary Communion service, with a Sunday Club for children and families during the service.
Sunday 10 May	SIXTH OF EASTER and CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional said service. 10am Parish & Family Communion A contemporary service with music and activities for all ages and a Christian Aid focus.
Monday 11 May	PILGRIM GROUP
	2pm We meet at the home of Norma Coggins. Join in at any time. Today, using material produced by the Diocese of Birmingham, we focus on 'Why does Jesus' Ascension make such a difference?'.
Wednesday 13 May	FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S
	7pm Join us for the Friends AGM and a talk about the Doom painting . Paul Shakeshaft will help us gain a deeper appreciation for this remarkable artwork.
Thursday 14 May	ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
	8.30am A contemporary Communion Service.
Sunday 17 May	SEVENTH OF EASTER
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional said service. 10am Parish Communion. A Sung contemporary Communion service, with a Sunday Club 11.15am Young Pilgrim Group (YPG) Those who are in Years 5 and 6 and above meet after the morning worship 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.
Monday 18 May	PILGRIM GROUP
	2pm We meet at the home of Norma Coggins. Join at any time. With material from the Diocese of Birmingham, we focus on 'The Trinity'.

Thursday 21 May		CARE HOME
	11am Holy Communion at Cambridgeshire Care Home.	
Sunday 24 May		PENTECOST
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional said service with Pentecost preface.	
	10am Parish Communion A sung service, which captures the Pentecost theme and celebrates the Early Church.	
	5pm Evensong traditional evening prayer and music.	
Wednesday 27 May		LEARNING HOW TO PRAY
	7pm A training session on prayer. We look at what prayer is and at the Lord's Prayer. Do join us for an hour.	
Thursday 28 May		CARE HOME and EVENING PARISH TALK
	2pm Holy Communion at Barley Manor Care Home	
	7pm Our speaker, Helen Clarke Hill, is the Finds Liaison Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council. Her talk ' It doesn't have to sparkle to be treasure ', is one that young people might also enjoy. These talks invite donations toward the life and work of the Church. Please join us in the Community Room for refreshments at 7pm.	
Sunday 31 May		TRINITY SUNDAY
	8am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer. A traditional said service.	
	10am Parish Communion A contemporary sung service, with a Children's Sunday Club.	

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayers are said in the Chancel at St Mary's. We welcome people who drop in to join us. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.30am as follows

Mondays 11 & 18 May
Thursdays 7, 14, 21 & 28 May.

ZOOM SERVICE EACH SUNDAY

6.30pm Online EWorship. The link is given in the newsletter, accessed at <https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>

Thought for the month: 'Friends always forget those whom fortune forsakes'
Charlotte Bronte

For more information about Great Shelford Parish Church

Vicar: Revd Dr Julie Norris

Revjulienorris@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: David Wilding

wildingdavid1@gmail.com

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

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SHELFORD SCHOOL

The School Spring Term came to a very thoughtful end after much previous activity. One week in March was set aside for STEM events exploring Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths. Year 2 followed this up with a Chocolate Day. What fun they had designing both chocolate and its wrappers followed of course by tasting but also evaluating.

The Sustainable Preloved Fashion Event after school in late March was a good opportunity to pass on or buy some good quality clothes. The Head Girl and Head Boy introduced a competition for pupils to make and model some very inventive costumes made from recycled materials varying from curtains to playground rubbish. What good ambassadors for the future they are.

Music plays a big part in the rounded education of children as was admirably demonstrated during a series of concerts. Bands performed brilliantly for The Rock Steady Concert. Young pianists in Y1 and Y2 performed successfully in front of their families and an evening performance enabled the orchestra to show their talents. Many thanks to all involved whether teaching or supporting by listening.

Pupils had an incredibly busy yet fulfilling final week of term. This included celebrating Holy Week, albeit a week early. A Palm Sunday service with palm crosses in St Mary's Church was attended by the whole school. On Tuesday, Years 4, 5, and 6 met at the Free Church to experience Lent. Other classes took it in turns in St Mary's Church to listen to a brilliant storyteller from the charity, The Church Schools of Cambridge. Victoria related the whole story of Holy Week leading up to Easter Day illustrating the story and keeping the attention of the pupils by moving small models around a circular base as the story developed. This was followed by craft activities with links to the Passion.

Further events took place on Wednesday with Stations of the Cross worship at St Mary's Church and Maundy Thursday worship at All Saints Church. The final event of the School Easter Week was an Easter Service led by Y5 at All Saints Church after which, with a sigh of relief for pupils and staff the term ended on a joyous note.

One's first thought on the staffing of any school is the dedication of classroom teachers and the headteacher. At Shelford School there are also other staff and volunteers regularly on site including office staff, teaching assistants, caterers and mid-day helpers, breakfast club organisers, preschool and Rainbow's teachers, music teachers, the clergy, the caretaker and parent helpers and governors. We should be grateful to all who look after and educate our children and give them such a wide range of opportunities.

Eleanor Witter, Foundation Governor

RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

Q What is Rainbow Pre-school?

A Rainbow is a term-time only community pre-school under the management of Great and Little Shelford Primary School. We provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment for children aged from 2 to 4 years old.

Q How do I find out more about Rainbow?

A You can find out more about Rainbow by visiting the Great and Little Shelford Primary School website and following the links to Rainbow Pre-school. <https://www.shelfordschool.org.uk/web/welcome/685385>

We are always happy for you to contact us and organise a visit to have a look around. To get in touch please email us at Rainbow@shelford.cambs.sch.uk or call 07985 216603.

Q When can my child start?

A Children are welcome to join Rainbow at any point during the academic year. We have two separate rooms to cater for the specific age ranges. Our Sunbeam room takes children from the term after their second birthday and our Rainbow room caters for children in their pre-school year.

Allison Tomlin and Sarah Bullock.

WHAT PARENTS SAY - a selection of recent comments

We have loved sending our children to Rainbow Preschool! They have so much fun, make lots of friends and it is a great transition to starting at the primary school. It also offers a good combination of free play time and helping the children get used to structure and listening to instructions

Rainbow has been such a wonderful environment for all of my children to learn and grow. The staff pay excellent attention to their needs (including my child with additional needs) and genuinely care about them. It has been very reassuring to have complete trust in leaving my children in their care over the years.

The team at Rainbow's were all very friendly and experienced and got to know the children so well. They knew of [our son's] interests - tractors, construction, robots! - and thoroughly engaged with him in discussion and learning about these interests. He really came out of his shell during his time there! We look back on his time at Rainbows with fond memories. We were sad that he could not continue for a little bit longer - time has flown and he is now in school!

Rainbow Pre-school

A unique place to play and learn in Shelford

Rainbow's experienced and caring staff strive to get each child's early years education off to the most fun start by encouraging learning through play.



- * A safe environment - children are valued and respected *
- * We develop curiosity, creativity and imagination *
- * We encourage independence and love of learning *
- * Working in partnership with families *

We are now taking applications for both 2 and 3 year olds.

For more information visit www.shelfordschool.org.uk/web/welcome
or contact us at:



The Rainbow Room
Great & Little Shelford CofE Primary School
Church Street
Great Shelford
CB22 5EL
T: 07985 216603
E: rainbow@shelford.cambs.sch.co.uk

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*

31 May 1862

SERIOUS CHARGE OF MISDIRECTING A TRAIN – William John Clark of Great Shelford, merchant, whose case was adjourned last week, was charged by the Eastern Counties Railway Co. with having, on May 6, wilfully committed damage to the said company, to the amount of 9d., by taking 3 fog signals and placing them on the line, where they remained till a train came past, which caused them to explode.

Mr. Ashley, the company's solicitor, appeared for the Co., and Mr. Garratt for the defendant. It appeared that the defendant (why it could not be said, except he did it for a freak), took the signals and placed them on the line. A special train was coming down, and on the engine wheel going on to the fog signals, they exploded, and caused the greatest consternation amongst the passengers and to the engine driver. If this offence had been committed with any motive, it would have been treated as a felony, but there did not appear to exist any such motive. Subsequently Mr. Clark wrote to the Coaching Superintendent at Bishopsgate, and admitted that he had committed the offence in a foolish, thoughtless manner. The magistrates, considering the defendant's position and the whole circumstances, imposed the full penalty of £5 and costs.

31 May 1862

UNLAWFUL RELEASE OF A HORSE – Richard Brand of Great Shelford, was charged with having, on May 11th, released from Thomas Rowlinson, the pinder*, a certain horse, his (Brand's) property, which was wandering without a keeper. Mr. F. Grain, for the prosecution, and Mr Naylor for the defendant. Mr Naylor objected that Rowlinson was not legally appointed pinder, and therefore had no right to seize the horse. The objection was overruled, and the case gone into. That the horse had been trespassing there was no question, but it appeared that Brand had offered, through his servant, to pay all damage. The worst part of the case was that the defendant had broken the lock off the pound gate in order to effect an entrance. Fined £1 and costs

**A pinder was an officer of a manor who impounds stray beasts*

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections will be held on 7 May 2026 for all Councillors on South Cambridgeshire District Council. (SCDC)

The SCDC website <https://www.scams.gov.uk/elections> includes detailed information about procedures and rules including advice about registering to vote and about providing valid identification on the day.

The table below is a list, copied from the document on the website which shows all the persons nominated for election as a District Councillor for the Shelford ward.

Please note that in the 'Home Address' column SC stands for South Cambridgeshire.

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)
DENISON Lee	5 May Pasture Great Shelford Cambridge, CB22 5FA	Green Party candidate
FYFE Miranda	20 Gog Magog Way Stapleford, Cambridge, CB22 5BQ	Green Party
GAY Nick	(address in SC)	Labour Party
HUSSAIN Farhan	(address in Cambridge)	Liberal Democrat
LAMBLE John William	(address in SC)	Reform UK
LUNN Mark Andrew	(address in SC)	Liberal Democrat
NAUNTON Brigitta	(address in SC)	Reform UK
NIBLETT Angela Dorothy	(address in SC)	Conservative Party candidate
NOBIS Yvonne	(address in SC)	Labour Party
SHIRET Rebecca Louise	(address in SC)	Conservative Party

The District Council does not provide any details about the candidates' views and policies. However, a useful guide to such information is the website 'Who can I vote for' at <https://democracyclub.org.uk/>. This source aims to be impartial and is run by Democracy Club, a Community Interest Company.

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EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE: Support our urgent Cambridge Air Base Appeal

Cambridge Airport – home to our Cambridge crew – will be closing. Without a base in Cambridgeshire, we risk losing half of the service that currently responds to medical emergencies across our region.

Every day, five people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk need our specialist critical care team.

People like baby Clayton who was born in January 2025 at just 26 weeks.

Clayton's story 'I looked down and saw a tiny baby boy gasping for air,' Clayton's Mum, Mia, recalls.

Our Anglia Two crew, Dr Liam Neale and Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) Jon Locke, were dispatched by critical care car from our Cambridge base. The equipment carried by our helicopters and critical care cars enables enhanced care to be delivered at the incident scene – when the patient needs it most – such as blood transfusions, advanced pain relief, sedation and anaesthesia, and surgical interventions. This, combined with quick onward transfer to the most appropriate hospital, gives every patient the best possible chance of surviving and recovering from a life-threatening emergency.



When Dr Liam and CCP Jon arrived, Clayton was alive but extremely unwell and it was a race against time. Taking baby Clayton to the back of a heated road ambulance, Dr Liam and CCP Jon began treating Clayton immediately, providing critical

care in the moments he needed it most.

Dr Liam explains, 'Babies born this prematurely struggle to adapt to the outside world and often need help with their breathing. Even in a hospital setting, children this premature are at risk of dying. Being born at home

increases this risk. The odds really were against Clayton, and we needed to do all we could to help him.'

Clayton's tiny body was fighting hard, but he was barely breathing, so Dr Liam and CCP Jon inserted a breathing tube so they could inflate his lungs.

Dr Liam continues. 'He was so small he could fit in the palm of my hand. It was a real test of our equipment and skills on somebody so tiny. We got him breathing again, then supported this until he reached the hospital specialists. It was one of the most challenging jobs I've ever been to.'

'They worked so hard to keep Clayton alive,' Mia says.

Against all the odds, Clayton survived.

We need your help to relocate and build a new base

24/7, 365 days a year, our crews deliver hospital-level care to people facing sudden medical emergencies. We're not just a fast transfer to hospital; we bring the emergency department to the scene, giving people the best possible chance when every second counts. But right now, this lifesaving service is under threat.

With no Cambridge site, our air ambulance service will be cut in half – leaving just one base in Norfolk. With no crew in the centre of the region, tasking times to patients, like baby Clayton, who are facing time-sensitive, life-threatening emergencies, will increase dramatically – putting local lives at risk.

As a charity, every mission we attend is only possible thanks to public donations.

Please act now and donate £30 to protect the future of life saving care in East Anglia: eaaa.org.uk/base



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SHELFORD FESTIVAL & FEAST

It may seem a while until 5 July, but really it's not long now, and The Bunch have been working hard to organise the entertainments for you. Can you help us?

Monday June 29

Tuesday – Friday

Friday July 3

Saturday July 4

Sunday July 5

Monday* July 6

Tuesday July 7

Wednesday July 8

Thursday July 9

Friday* July 10

Saturday* July 11

Sunday July 12

Marquee up

Setting up – with volunteers!

Pixie Lott + Aine Deane

Beer Festival 12-5pm

Trevor Nelson + Jus' Neil 7-11

FEAST DAY

Big Screen Football

SYD – Sawston Youth Drama

Comedy Night with Milton Jones, Tom

Houghton, Jules O'Brien, Rob Rouse

Quiz

Big Screen Football

Summer Concert in St Mary's

'Back to the 80s' + 'What's Next'

Clear up – with volunteers!

Despite our longstanding tradition of holding our Feast in early July, FIFA decided to have a football competition at the same time, so we are competing for viewers with the World Cup by using our Big Screen. *England's success (or otherwise) at the football will affect our schedule, with Monday Friday and Saturday potential England football matches. We will display these on the Big Screen in the marquee, so come along!

VOLUNTEERS

We provide the entertainment and you, kind readers, provide the volunteer efforts to support The Bunch. We can't do it on our own so PLEASE SIGN UP by emailing Sarah Coppendale on volunteers@shelfordfestival.org and note the dates for setting up and clearing up – we need your help!

KEEP UP TO DATE

Football results may lead to changes in our schedule which will be announced on <https://shelfordfestival.org/>

Tickets on sale now in the village and online!

DIARY MAY 2026

Date	Event	Time	Place
6	Country Market	9–11.30am	Memorial Hall
7	District Council Election	7am–10pm	Memorial Hall
7	WI, talk ‘My Creative Journey’	7pm	Community Room
13	Country Market	9–11.30am	Memorial Hall
13	Cactus & Succulent Society (talk)	7–10pm	Memorial Hall
15	Friends of St Mary’s, The Doom Painting and AGM	7.30pm	Community Room
16	Auditions for 2027 Pantomime	11am–3pm	Little Shelford Memorial Hall
20	Engage Talk: The work of the POhWER advocacy charity	2–3.30	Library
20	Country Market	9–11.30am	Memorial Hall
28	St. Mary’s Parish Talk, ‘It doesn’t have to sparkle to be treasure’	7pm	Community Room
26	Library Friends, Author Talk	7.30	Library
27	Country Market	9–11.30am	Memorial Hall

	BIN COLLECTIONS Black bins Tuesday May 12, 26 Blue and green bins Tuesday May 5, 19	
	POST BOXES Coppice Avenue, Mill Court (Hinton Way), Library, Old Vicarage, Church St, High Green bus stop, Stonehill Road, Macaulay Avenue. Usual post box collections are 9am. The latest collection is from the Post Office at 4.45pm.	
	POST OFFICE The Post Office is at Great Shelford Local Store 35 Hinton Way. Open Monday to Saturday 7am–8pm, Sunday 9am–6pm	
	LIBRARY Closed on May Bank Holidays Monday 3–7pm, Tuesday 10am–1pm and 2–5pm Wednesday 10am–1pm	Thursday closed Friday 10am–1pm and 2–6pm Saturday 10am–1pm. Sunday closed



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MYSTERIOUS APPEARING EGGS!

Easter is over but I have been finding mysterious eggs in my garden.

It was curious to walk down my garden and find a broken egg on the grass. Of course, spring brings the hatching of wild birds, and their small shells fall from trees, but it was obvious from shape and colour that this was a hen's egg. Not only that but two lines of fuzzy red lettering proved this was a commercial egg with a code and a recent date!

This has happened at least four times in recent months – commercially produced eggs found on the lawn or on the compost heap. Two were complete and two broken into (see cover picture).

So, I have two questions. One, who puts them in my garden and two, where do the eggs come from?

Answers to the first could be fox, rat or magpie. I hear that there are polecats in the area but that seems unlikely. The eggs are quite large and moving them without breaking would be impressive. But surely more impressive would be for the mystery thief to find a store of eggs (on doorsteps? windowsills?, open the egg box and repeat the process over several weeks.

Someone around Hinton Way must have noticed their eggs are missing. I can't be the only resident to have found eggs in their garden. Can anyone solve the mystery of the appearing eggs? I'm baffled!

Duncan Grey

CAMBRIDGE CAKE CREATORS

We are a group of friendly enthusiastic cake decorators who for many years have been meeting up to share ideas, to learn from guest demonstrators and each other on how to improve our cake icing skills and to learn new techniques. All visitors with an interest in baking and cake decorating, including beginners, are welcome to join us!

We meet at **7.30pm** on the third Thursday of each month
(except in Aug or Dec) in **The Johnson Hall**
1 Magog Way, Stapleford CB22 5BQ (Near St Andrew's Church)

Cost: £10 pp which includes tea/coffee & cake.

For more information contact:
Vanda 01223 561053 or vanda.butler@googlemail.com

**The Friends of Great Shelford Library, in support of
The National Year of Reading, present:**

**An unexpected journey. Life in the
colonies at Empire's end; a woman's role**



Kate Armstrong talks about her mother's book detailing the life of a colonial officer's wife in the dying days of the Empire, illustrated with photographs.

Tuesday 26 May at 7.30 pm

Great Shelford Library

Tickets - £5 (Friends - £3) buy in advance from the library or on the door if space is available.



Refreshments provided afterwards.

GREAT SHELFORD LIBRARY

May is Local and Community History Month. We have lots of books in our local studies section about the history of Great Shelford and surrounding areas. Why not pop in to the library to learn more about where you live.

For details of the library opening hours please see p 26

Activities for Adults

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

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

Engage Talk POhWER – A charity providing advocacy to people who are vulnerable or have a disability. Wednesday 20 May 2–3.30pm

Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Author Talk hosted by Friends of Great Shelford Library – see opposite

Activities for Children

Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

May Half Term Event to be confirmed Thursday 28 May 2–3.30pm. £2.00 per child. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.Library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Story, Rhyme and Duplo Time – Every Tuesday at 10.30am

For children aged up to 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.

Mel Abbiss and Vikki Keppey, Community Librarian Assistants

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)



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THE SHELFORDS WI

REPORT ON APRIL 2026 WI MEETING

At the start of the Easter Weekend, Maundy Thursday was a difficult night for some of our members to be able to attend which was a pity. Vice President, Sue Tombs organised an entertaining Beetle Drive with the winner and loser at each table moving to a different table. Between rounds our Treasurer, Anne Roberts presented us with samples of different high quality chocolate bars. Guessing the flavours of plain chocolate (90%) and a pistachio filled sample proved to be quite difficult. Tea, coffee and biscuits completed our relaxing evening with time to chat to friends we rarely have time to talk to when there is a speaker.

Visitors and prospective new members will be made very welcome on the first Thursdays of May and June at 7.30pm in the Community Room behind St Mary's Church, Great Shelford. On 7 May a visiting speaker, Amanda Sutherland, will talk about 'My Creative Journey'. Our own members will lead the meeting on 4 June, giving short talks on rowing, fundraising and playing with a brass band at the Whit Marches around Manchester.

We have an energetic summer planned. As usual The Shelfords WI will be serving tea, coffee and cakes on 5 July, Feast Sunday. Offers of cakes would be gratefully received as we are a small group of bakers and often sell out. Also in July we have arranged a trip to Gransden, where some of us will be gliding and barbecuing, followed by a summer party in a member's garden in August.

Our programme and other information about The Shelfords WI can be found on our website: <https://theshelfordswi.wordpress.com>

Eleanor Witter, The Shelfords WI President

HOLIDAYS WITH (OR WITHOUT) YOUR PET!



It's the time of year when lots of us start planning summer holidays, and our pets are an important part of any plans. Whether you prefer to travel with your pet, or make alternative arrangements for their care, there are costs and practicalities to consider. We get lots of calls to the practice at this time of year, from people

who are hoping to travel to Europe with their pet and are wondering what is involved. Pre Brexit, a 'pet passport' allowed you to travel to Europe with your pet. Post Brexit, things are a little more costly and complicated.

The first requirement is a rabies vaccination. This must be given at least 21 days before travel. You then need to book an appointment within 10 days of your departure date. This needs to be with an Official Veterinarian (OV) so make sure your vet can issue the necessary paperwork. During this appointment the vet will check your pet's microchip and then prepare the Animal Health Certificate (AHC) that you'll need to cross the border into Europe. The AHC is valid for re-entry to the UK for four months.

If you are travelling with a dog, they will also need to visit an EU vet to be wormed, one to five days before returning to the UK. Unlike the pet passport, which could be used for multiple trips, you will need a new AHC each time you travel with your pet.

We have two OVs at our **Church Street Surgery** and are very happy to answer any



questions you might have about travelling with your pet. Travel requirements for non-EU countries vary, but we can point you in the right direction.

Not all pets are happy with upheaval, heat and travel. If you feel your pet would struggle with more ambitious travels, happily there are many pet friendly hotels, campsites and cottages available in the UK. So many pubs, cafes and shops are now dog friendly that it makes days out with dogs easy. It's worth checking any beach restrictions though. Lots of beaches only allow dogs in the winter months.

Some people may be lucky enough to have friends or family to look after pets while they are away, but there are also lots of good options when it comes to pet sitters, boarding kennels and catteries. Websites such as 'Trusted Housesitters' or 'Rover' list pet sitters/lovers who will either look after your pet in their own home or stay in your house with your pet(s). Local kennels, such as Waggy's in Great Abington, offer 'socialisation not isolation', so dogs that enjoy interacting with other dogs will have chance to enjoy their own holiday while you take yours.

If you have any questions about travelling with your pet, finding pet care while you are away or any pet health questions, please give the surgery a call on **01223 776773**. We are always happy to hear from you!

Nancy Stephenson, Church Street Vets

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SHELFORD COUNTRY MARKET



The months move on: gone are the hot cross buns and daffodils until next year and the remaining stock of knitted winter woollies has been put away. We don't have May Bank holiday breaks. It is business as usual every Wednesday morning from 9–11.30am in the Memorial Hall.

A big welcome if you are new to the market experience. You'll soon find the four sections: home baking and preserves, garden produce, craft work and the café serving hot drinks and home baked cookies. There is so much to see in each section. Everything we sell is home-made, home-grown and hand crafted and we take cash or card.

The early spring flowers and foliage have been a delight and now the stalls are filling up with healthy, well grown plants. We are moving to the time of year when the early morning dash is for the plants. It is always a great help if customers can bring boxes for taking away purchases. So many varied crafts are displayed each week and once a month, we welcome two members from our Histon market with most attractive pottery and jewellery. For the bakers, Tuesdays come round very quickly. We try to maintain a fair selection of home baking but are open to suggestions for items you might fancy!

The Wednesday Country Market is a social co-operative and belongs to the wider network of Country Markets Ltd. Members work together and are not individual stall holders. If you'd like to join us as a cook, gardener or crafter, we'd love to hear from you. Lots of ways to make contact: come into the market, visit our Facebook page, phone 01223 843946 or email dorothy@woodlandroad.plus.com

Dorothy Doel



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May 21st - Janet Dye - 'Reuse and Recycle'

GREAT SHELFORD FRIENDSHIP CLUB CONTINUES

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We have had a good start in our new venue in the **Lounge**, at **Pearce Lodge*****, Churchill Living, Station Road, Great Shelford. We hope more people will consider joining us in better weather in the Summer Term, **meeting from 2.15 for 2.30pm until about 4pm on Thursdays in term-time.**

Additional activities may happen at other times

Our programme includes local speakers, quizzes, discussions and occasional gentle outings. On 18 June there will be a low-cost boat trip on the Great Ouse.

The group is independent of village churches but we honour seasonal things. We aim to offer friendship and variety, rather than duplicate what happens elsewhere.

2026 dates: Summer term - 16 April – 9 July.

Autumn term - 25 September – 17 December .

Inquiries always invited: **Rosey Feuell (Anna Chaplaincy trained)**
01223 213305 or email roseyleaf@talktalk.net

**** by kind permission of Carly Taylor and management*

JUNE ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

The deadline for copy for the next issue of the *Great Shelford Village News* is **Friday 15 May** and it should be available on **Friday 29 May** with subscribed copies delivered shortly thereafter.

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Cats Protection is a registered charity 203644 (England and Wales), SC037710 (Scotland) and is listed as a Section 167 institution by the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland. BC_1770

2G3S

Litter Pick – we held a litter pick in March with the allotment group, kindly organised by Juliet Hawksworth, and collected a variety of unwanted items and several black bags of litter, see photos. Thank you to Judith for arranging the pick and the social on the allotments afterwards, but what a shame these picks are necessary.

Neighbourhood Plan

Conversation Evening –

Jenny Flynn, the leader of the group that drew up the plan and steered it through the referendum, gave us a very clear explanation of what is in it and how it can work. She urged us to get involved, and to check local councils were taking note of the NP when looking at planning applications. There are also



practical things we can do to look after local green spaces and to ensure that maps and information used in planning applications are accurate. Maybe with the state of the world, it's best to concentrate on our corner of it and try and improve the environment and build a strong and caring community.

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 and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

Greater Cambridge Development Corporation – move over Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)... You have probably heard about the proposal to form a **Development Corporation (DC)**, to drive the development the government wants in this area. There was a consultation which closed in early April, and we commented on it. We were concerned about the pressure on water supply and disposal, the pressure on green spaces, and the lack of local democracy. Such a body would be able to acquire land, plan infrastructure, housing, and so on, overriding housing targets in councils' Local Plans. There will be some local democratic involvement but also a lot of expert members on the Board. If there is further consultation I urge you to take part. We want some control over what happens in our area.

Citizen's Assemblies – these are a good way to engage the public in issues such as climate change and what can be done about it. A group of people are

selected to represent different ages and regions of the country, and they will have greatly differing views on the issues. Over time they see presentations and talks from experts in the field and take part in discussions to choose what policies they would favour. The discussions force people to choose, to realise that there are trade-offs and compromises to be made in the real world. Government needs to take the outcomes of these assemblies seriously, as their conclusions are only reached as a result of being well-informed and taking part in in-depth discussions. Democracy in action.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/.

Helen Hale

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT BRANCH

On Wednesday 13 May we welcome guest speaker Mike Partridge from the Bromley Branch to our monthly meeting to be held at Great Shelford Memorial Hall, 7–10pm.

Mike has travelled widely over the years seeking cacti in their own habitats especially in Patagonia, where they survive extreme winters and many are known for their spectacular, bright flowers during the blooming season.

Everyone is welcome to our meetings. As well as a judged table show of cacti and succulents, cacti grown from seed by members, are for sale. If you are interested, why not simply come in and have a look, or bring any cactus or succulent to us that you are concerned about and good advice will be freely available.

Our Society's mission is to educate the public about cacti and succulents through their study, culture and propagation, and to promote plant conservation. Details of the Society are available on our website www.bcsc.org.uk – it's well worth a look!

Jacqui Arbon



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LITTLE SHELFORD PANTOMIME – AUDITIONS



Auditions will be held for *Robin Hood*, Little Shelford Pantomime 2027 on Saturday 16 May 2026 at Little Shelford Memorial Hall between 11am and 3pm.

Any child between the ages of 9–16 is welcome to audition.

To both book a time slot to audition and to complete an audition form, please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/Panto2027>

Any queries? Please ring Sarah on 842498 or email coppendales@btinternet.com

GIRLGUIDING

22 February is World Thinking Day, a day when Girl Guides (known in some countries as Girl Scouts) across the world celebrate being part of an international movement dedicated to empowering girls and young women.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the first World Thinking Day and to celebrate the occasion

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Shelford District gathered for an afternoon of fun activities about friendship and wellbeing.

At the end of the afternoon, everyone sang campfire songs around a giant artwork we had created together representing Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and their equivalents from around the world.



Shelford Brownies have been having fun exploring magical mixtures, knotting, making no-bake brownies (!) and designing and holding a birthday party for everyone, including decorating cupcakes, singing ‘Happy Birthday to us’ and – best of all for many – eating pizza.

Just before the February half term, on a misty evening, the Brownies walked to the bottom of the rec with lanterns they’d made from plastic milk bottles. They discovered it can be very dark down there! They then returned to the HQ for hot chocolate which was much enjoyed by all. A particular highpoint of the term was two Brownies completing their Brownie Gold Awards.

Shelford Guides. In March, the Shelford Guides entered a team for Forward 2026. This is a local challenge hike for Guides and Scouts. Teams had seven hours to navigate a 10-mile route and to earn points by completing challenges on the way. The Shelford Guide team had a very successful day exploring the countryside around West Wickham, completing the hike within the time limit.

The Guides have also enjoyed making savoury pancakes, a tabletop winter Olympic games, playing wide games outside in the dark and organising a small fete to raise money for the World Thinking Day fund (a charity that offers girls and Girlguiding organisations around the world opportunities to transform their communities). The Guides worked hard on their stalls for the fete and a lovely mix of fairground games, cakes, drinks and small gifts was available.

Volunteers. We’re always glad of new volunteers. We have several units who need qualified leaders or people prepared to do Girlguiding’s leadership training. 14–18-year-olds wanting to be young leaders and/or do their DofE volunteering locally are also welcome. Please contact shelforddistrict@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Lisa MacGregor

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SOUTH EAST CAMBRIDGE BUSWAY (CSET)

The CSET public inquiry has been delayed yet again.

Many of you will have received a letter from the Department for Transport stating the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) have requested the delay due to the scheme's proximity to a gas pipeline which has been highlighted by National Gas Transmission PLC. (NGT). The period of abeyance will be until 30 June 2026 to allow time for a redesign.

The letter stresses that the inquiry is not cancelled, and new timings will be proposed in due course possibly sooner than 30 June.

Significantly, the Mayor of the Combined Authority who has responsibility for strategic transport policy has also made a formal objection to the GCP scheme and we note his resolute opposition to it.

Better Busways is well organised for the inquiry with excellent consultants lined up, with our Highways Engineer evidencing the material failures with the proposed GCP scheme with regard to transport and connectivity.

However, we still have a funding gap which must be bridged if we are to secure the best representation at the public inquiry and we are appealing for public donations. We are very grateful to those people who have already made donations and for the generous financial support of Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish councils, Magog Trust, Hobson's Conduit Trust and Cambridge Past, Present & Future.

You can make a first or further donation to by clicking on Cambridge Past Present and Future at <https://cambridgeppf.org/appeals/> and clicking on South East Cambridge Busway. Thank you!

Better Busways Team

ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE

PROTECT HOSPICE CARE

Thanks to our amazing community the nine beds at Arthur Rank Hospice's Inpatient Unit, which were under threat from closure on 31 March 2026, can remain open for another 12 months for patients. The Charity would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported their 'Protect Our Care' campaign. CEO, Sharon Allen OBE stated:

'The removal of the funding has been a significant worry. We continue to be grateful to those who have rallied around us and committed to financial support for the next 12 months whilst we seek stable funding options. Local people

deserve the outstanding care our colleagues can offer, and we are grateful that, for now, we are in a position where beds are not reduced. We must find long term, sustainable funding for hospice care on a national basis. We do not want to be in this same position in a years' time. The future is still uncertain, and the ending of this service would, without doubt, have huge implications for our local community and must be protected at all costs. This is a welcome but temporary reprieve until March 2027, so our work doesn't stop here. Over the coming months we will continue to explore new sustainable funding opportunities and plan for increased fundraising needs. Our next step is to look at different service models and how these could be funded, accepting that unfortunately there are no guarantees this will be possible. Our thanks, as always, go to our supporters and our outstanding team of staff and volunteers who continue to care and support each family who come through our doors. Offering dignity and personalised care to each patient is what makes every moment count.' **For more information, please visit arhc.org.uk/POC .**

HAVE FUN WHILST SUPPORTING OTHERS

Mission Mud in Waterbeach on Saturday 9 May, is all about taking on messy obstacles together, cheering each other on and heading home with big smiles and stories to tell. Whether you're a seasoned mud runner or giving it a go for the first time, Mission Mud is open to everyone aged seven years and over. For more details and to sign up see arhc.org.uk/missionmud

Walk to support Hospice Care

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's **Star Shine Night Walk** is back for 2026 and you can book two unforgettable sunset walks on Saturday 16 May in Wisbech and Saturday 20 June in Cambridge. Whether you're walking in memory of someone special, joining with friends and family, or simply wanting to support local hospice care, Star Shine Night Walk offers a beautiful moment of reflection, connection and community. As the sun sets, you'll walk side by side, honouring loved ones, celebrating life and helping raise vital funds for patients across Cambridgeshire. Be part of something truly special. Sign up now at arhc.org.uk/SSNW

Free Legal Advice and Will Writing Sessions

Did you know that Arthur Rank Hospice Charity in Cambridge, offers free legal advice and Will writing sessions?

For more information about the sessions and how to leave a gift in your Will to Charity please visit arhc.org.uk/iwill or speak to Rachael, Future Gifts Manager on 01223 675881 or email r.brown@arhc.org.uk

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FOOTBALL CLUB



End of season run-ins can be tense, tight and nervous, particular for Great Shelford FC who have never finished out of the top two in the Premier Division table for the past twelve completed seasons. This season was no exception!

Having gone into March having played more games than the chasing pack, our lead at the top looked virtually unassailable, but the one team that could catch us was old rivals West Wrattling who we still had to play twice. Ely City Reserves away was expected to be a hard game but an excellent performance saw us run out 4-0 winners. Hemingfords United usually give us a good game but four goals without reply in a scrappy home game saw our run continue.

Away to the past two seasons runners-up, Over Sports, was another potential banana skin, particularly on their sloping pitch with a force ten gale blowing, but another professional performance saw a valuable 3-0 win. The horrible windy conditions were still around the following week when we visited the Hemingfords and the game was completely different to the home game two weeks earlier. An early lead courtesy of a 30 yard Jack Chandler free kick augured well, but our big opponents used the conditions to their advantage with long balls and throw-ins in the second half, and only a magnificent rearguard display from our back four saw us keep a clean sheet to secure the three points.

Three games left and the permutation was avoiding defeat to West Wrattling in one of the clashes and win our other game against Orwell. As the fixtures transpired our final game of the month was the home game against Wrattling with all to play for! With two early goals we looked comfortable, but the visitors came back strongly with goals either side of the break and for a while looked the better side. The skill and character of our team came to the fore again however and three excellent goals made the game safe. A late penalty in the darkening gloom was obviously far too late and to the delight of at least half the biggest crowd of the season we had clinched our 21st Premier Division title with two games to spare.

The reserves continued with their improved form from last month with two good wins, both 2-1, against Haverhill Rovers Reserves and Wimblington respectively. With just three games to go they will be hoping to continue this form and end the season on a high.

Terry Rider, Great Shelford FC

TENNIS CLUB

They're changing the guard at Great Shelford Tennis Club, for the Annual General Meeting saw the end of Angharad Harris' glorious reign as club chair. Angharad has an extremely important new project to tackle so is standing down after several very successful years in charge. In that time the club embarked on a plan to rebuild the clubhouse, installed sturdy new green fencing around the courts, and perhaps most importantly established new junior and women's teams. Pictured are Angharad (L) handing over the reins of power to the freshly elected new chair Nicole Holmes (R) who admits she has a hard act to follow.

'It's going to be a very busy time. I think it's just about hit me that the timelines of the clubhouse [rebuilding] are actually coming up this summer. So yes, big shoes to fill.'

Nicole has been a member at the club for three years, already serving as club secretary, and attends regular training sessions with head coach Matt Sanders.

'I'm not the best tennis player, but I do like getting involved. And it's been a good way to meet people in the village. And I guess I want to give something back. I appreciate what it's like, I know how difficult it is when people don't volunteer to do roles. So, I'm more than happy to help.'

In other news from the AGM, the future of coaching is secured by a new deal between the club and its coaching provider Over & In. They have each made a mutual commitment for the next ten years, with Over & In planning to establish

a permanent office in the redeveloped clubhouse.

On court, congratulations to two of our boys' teams who have secured victory in their respective winter leagues. James and Daksh secured the Under 16 title even though both boys are much younger than 16. In the under-12s Luca and Sasha topped the table at the end of the winter season.



*May's Member of the Month is Angharad.
So long, thank you, and good luck!*

Stephen Chittenden

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21	Frida Kahlo
https://sawstoncinema.org/cinema-screenings/	

ARTS THEATRE	
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4–5	The Cat in the Hat (Family)
7–9	The Gondoliers (Opera)
10	Tim Key: Loganberry (Comedy)
12–16	Death on the Nile (Thriller)
19–23	I'm Sorry Prime Minister (Comedy Drama)
24–26	Still Pointless: Ballet Boys at 25 (Dance)
27–31	A Squash and a Squeeze (Family)
https://www.artstheatre.co.uk/whats-on/	

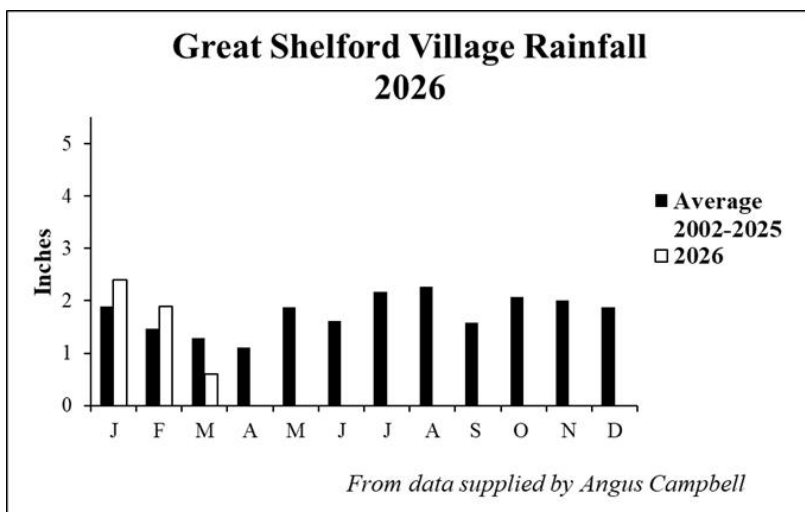
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Price hikes for heating oil Support for those struggling with heating oil bills began on 1 April you can apply to the new Crisis and Resilience Fund at the County Council. However, there's a real worry that many will fall through the cracks. In South Cambridgeshire, some families have been forced to pay double or more just to get their heating oil tanks filled. If you have examples of oil suppliers withholding agreed orders or who are 'price gouging' then please do report to the Competition and Markets Authority and copy me in.

Cambridge South Station: Construction and final installation will wrap up soon, with a short testing period before the official opening.

When it opens it will link up the busway, cycle paths and pedestrian routes for everyone in the surrounding community. Nevertheless, there are still issues to be resolved about how passengers get from the station to places, particularly the hospitals, on the biomedical campus, and especially in difficult weather conditions. I'll be following up on that.



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

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 07969 498617 jennymf@yahoo.co.uk 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 07825 769779 churchwarden@stmarysgreatshelford.org 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	johngry6@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

concerts

Helen Farish, poet & reader

Sunday 10 May | 3:00pm

An afternoon of luminous, emotionally resonant poetry with flashes of wit, from one of the most compelling contemporary voices in British poetry.



Exaudi

Saturday 16 May | 7:45pm

A celebration of the music of John Dowland, plus songs by Thomas Morley and present-day composers, from one of the UK's leading vocal ensembles.



Paul McKenna

Friday 22 May | 7:45pm

A rare solo show from one of Scotland's most compelling contemporary folk voices, delivered with Paul's trademark honesty, energy and charm.



Patrick Hemmerlé

Sunday 24 May | 3:00pm

The French virtuoso guides us through a kaleidoscope of glittering gems for piano, culminating in Schumann's monumental Symphonic Studies.



Gabriel Latchin Trio

Wednesday 27 May | 7:45pm

Classic acoustic jazz with a fresh, modern feel from 'the best straight-ahead jazz pianist to appear in the past few years.' - The Guardian

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk
01223 849004