



*Around
Little
Shelford*

Spring 2024

Key Contacts

All Saints Church

www.allsaintslittleshelford.org

Rector – Simon Scott

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littleshelfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

Clerk – Beckie Whitehouse

07480 242390 *littleshelfordparishclerk@gmail.com*

Memorial Hall

Chairman of Trustees – Robin Fox

842936

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846296 *littleshelfordmemorialhall@aol.co.uk*

Neighbourhood Watch

Coordinator – Fiona James

07801 149329 *fiona@fionajames.co.uk*

Independent Community Website

Editor – David Martin

www.littleshelford.online

Newsletter Contributions

newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org

Contributions for the summer edition should be emailed to the address above (or delivered by hand to the Church Office in the North Building of the Churchyard) by Friday 31st May 2024. As space is limited, articles should be less than 340 words and adverts should fit within half an A5 page.

The photo on our front cover this season was taken by Penny Eames. ***Please send entries for the summer edition to newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org***

Dear friends,

This copy of the Newsletter has something of an anniversary feel about it – commemorating two significant events. One of them has been quite a well-kept secret.

On a Tuesday back in February, we passed the fiftieth anniversary since David Adams, long-time resident of the village, first played the organ at a church service in All Saints Church. He had offered to fill in for the regular organist and was politely asked by the Rector if he was available occasionally thereafter – and fifty years later he continues to play most weeks for one of our three Sunday services.

I haven't even notched up 20 years yet as Rector, so I am hugely grateful for David's willingness to deliver such an outstanding level of music over the long haul – and still to remain fresh and enthusiastic as he does so.

Of course, the musical contribution he has made, for five decades, reaches much more widely – through his teaching at Sawston Village College, through musicals and pantomimes and singalong evenings at fun week-ends etc etc etc. To spare David the blushes, perhaps I can say that this kind of involvement in the lives of others is wonderfully enriching and it is something we are used to in Little Shelford, even if it is disappearing from many other communities. Many people make a positive contribution to our village – even if only a few manage to keep going for 50 years. Anyway, I was determined to draw attention to the anniversary and so we had a happy gathering, with David playing something old and something new to mark the occasion, after regaling us with some 'tales from the organ loft'.

The other anniversary is one from the church calendar, because we are drawing near to Easter once again, when we remember the key events of the Christian story, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I want to fuse the two anniversaries I have mentioned by way of a photograph of the cake which was baked to honour David Adams.

The icing was a representation of a torn page of sheet music from David Adams' favourite hymn 'O Love, that will not let me go', written by the 19th century Scottish minister, George Matheson.



The hymn was written on the night of Matheson's sister's marriage. Years before, he had himself been engaged; but when his fiancée learned that he was going blind—with nothing that the doctors could do—she told him that she could not go through life with a blind man. He had been studying for the ministry at the time and his sister had been the one to care most consistently for him over the years. By the time of her wedding Matheson was now 40, and his sister's marriage no doubt brought a fresh reminder of his own heartbreak earlier on. He apparently wrote the hymn in 5 minutes – and claimed never to have improved the original. It celebrates the loving faithfulness of God – a 'love that will not let me go'.

It is a wonderful piece of poetry – and I have no shame in quoting it in full:

O Love, that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light, that followest all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy, that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross, that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

I think David Adams favourite line is this one: 'I trace the rainbow through the rain'. But my choice for this letter, as Good Friday approaches, is from the final verse: 'from the ground there blossoms red, Life that shall endless be.'

May we all know and experience that unstoppable love of Jesus Christ this Easter...

Simon Scott

What's on at All Saints



Details of services and other activities may be found on the All Saints website. Go to www.allsaintslittleshelford.org or scan this code:

The usual pattern of Sunday services is:

9.30 am - A family service where adults and children join together for the first half hour before children leave for their own teaching groups: All Saints Minis (0-4), All Saints Kids (Reception-Year 6), Pathfinders (11-14, meeting from 9.30).

11.00 am - A quieter, more reflective service.

6.00 pm - Sunday @ 6 is a relaxed and informal service with contemporary songs. TNG, the group for 14 to 18 year olds, meets after this service.

During school holidays and at special times of the year (e.g., Christmas and Easter) the pattern of services and activities may change.

Regular Mid-week Activities

Home Groups meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Wednesday afternoon.

A **Church Prayer Meeting** replaces Home Groups once a month.

A **Women's Group** meets on Thursday mornings.

All Saints Tots

meets on Wednesday mornings in the Village Hall.

Kaleidoscope, a group for older members of the church, meets once a month on a Tuesday morning.



ALL SAINTS
TOTS

TOYS, CRAFTS, BIBLE
STORIES, BOOKS,
SONGS AND MUCH
MORE!

FOR BABIES,
TODDLERS AND THEIR
CARERS

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS (TERM TIME)
9.30-11.30AM, LITTLE SHELFORD MEMORIAL HALL

To find out more

contact the **Church**

Office: 01223 847815, office@allsaintslittleshelford.org

Granta Medical Practices Update February 2024

Appointments update

Here at Granta, we continue to offer a mixture of face to face, telephone and online appointments. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our appointments system works and what is available to Granta patients.

Firstly, please be assured that no-one apart from clinicians make clinical decisions about your care when you first contact us. Our reception teams have clear criteria, set by GPs, as to what can be put straight onto a clinician's urgent list. However, if they or you are unsure, they will take your details and discuss your concerns with the clinical team and then get back to you.

When ringing for an appointment you will be asked if there is a particular clinician you would like to see, either for continuity of your presenting problem or continuity of overall care. It may be that you don't mind who you see – you just need to speak to someone about your current medical problem.

Please do help our reception team by providing as much information as possible. All information is treated as confidential and will only be used for triage purposes. They are simply trying to make sure you are seen by the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

If you do feel that your problem is not urgent, you will be asked if a routine appointment may be more suitable, or perhaps a long term medical conditions appointment, a palliative care appointment, or whether we can help you in any other way.

If your appointment starts with a telephone call then, together with the clinician, it can be decided whether a face to face appointment will be the appropriate next step.

Routine appointments are available a few weeks in advance, all pre-bookable via our reception teams and online. New routine appointments are released daily at 8am and at 2pm to allow for regular availability. If you ring and there is nothing available, our reception team can send you a link that is valid for 7 days (that you can check

daily) to pre-book a face to face or telephone appointment, so that you do not need to ring back.

Alternatively, if you would prefer, you could use Accurx Patient Triage via our website to have an online consultation with a clinician. We do ask however that you only send routine queries as it can take up to 72 hours to respond.

There will always be sickness, annual leave and the perception that clinicians are not seeing patients. However, on average, Granta's doctors and nurses see around 4,000 patients face to face per week, and consult with another 3,500 via the telephone and online. We continue to try and accommodate all of our patients in a way that suits and please be assured that we are continuously reviewing and revising patient access.

Our telephone system is being upgraded!

You said, we listened! Our new 'phone system now allows you to stay in the queue whilst not staying in the queue! If you are holding on waiting to be spoken to, you will be given the option to request a call back. You can then come off the line and we will ring you back when it's your turn to go through to reception, keeping your place in the 'phone queue.

Don't forget though, you don't have to ring up at 8am to get an appointment. If your health condition is urgent, you will be seen on that day, regardless of the time you ring. If you need a routine appointment, you can ring any time of the day, you can book online (new appointments are released online at 8am and at 2pm daily), or you can use our online consultation tool, Accurx Patient Triage, a link to which can be found on our website.

Finally, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you that have taken the time to give us positive feedback recently. All of our staff work really hard to provide the best possible service, in the face of increasing pressures in primary care. Every single compliment is shared with the entire team, and really makes a difference. Thank you.

Sandra East
Head of Patient Services

Shelford School News

This has been a short but very busy half term. Pupil, Parent, Teacher Consultations have successfully been held for all years 1 to 6. These helpful sessions are a key way to share information about what each child is learning and their progress in school.

Safer Internet Day

Before the half term break, on Tuesday 6 February Pupils in Year 3 lead a very informative presentation for Safer Internet Day. They described what being safe on the internet means. Their questions to the whole school brought forth some very sound answers. The main outcome was that if anyone feels uncomfortable or distressed by something they have seen on-line, they should tell a responsible person.

Termly Curriculum Thread

This half term the thread has been 'Community – Empathy'. The school vision states that 'we aspire to show *love for one another*. This is an application of empathy, which enables us to *live and work in harmony* in our *community of lifelong learners*.

Pupils at Shelford have been exploring the theme of what makes a community. Titled 'Yuck or Yummy', Reception pupils learned how peoples' preferences can differ. Year 1 looked at 'Terrific Toys', asking what their grandparents played with and what life was like then. Year 2 wondered how trade impacts community via 'Chocolate' while Year 3 were back in time studying communities of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. Year 4, via 'The boy at the back of the class', worked out how we can build a community where all are welcome. Year 5 applied empathy to understand how to contrast beliefs starting with Egyptians. The Vikings were the starting point for Year 6 to understand communities that settled here long ago.

Activities so far this half term

On Thursday 7 March World Book Day children dressed up as characters from their favourite books and paraded around the all-weather path – a most impressive sight watched by supportive parents. Year 6 pupils will have been to Grafham Water for a 3 day residential experience.

PTA News

The PTA have been busy organising the preparation, printing and ordering of school tea towels. Books and book cases have been bought particularly for Key Stage 2 classrooms. Welly rack shelters have been

built that in this wet winter have already been very useful. For the last Sunday of term, the PTA have organised an Easter Egg hunt on the Rec.

End of Term Activities

Term will end after a service in All Saints, Little Shelford, on Maundy Thursday 28 March.

We wish all the Pupils, Teachers and other Staff and Volunteers a very restful Easter holiday.

Eleanor Witter (Foundation Governor, St Mary's)



2G3S Going Green in Shelfords, Stapleford, Sawston

Events coming up and regular sessions:

Conversation Evening in April on electric transport – cars and bikes. To be held at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. More details to follow.

Dr Bike is running its volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3 pm to 5.30 pm every Tuesday. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers or have any questions on Dr Bike, get in touch using drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

South Cambs Organic Gardeners meet at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. More details on the March meeting from helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk.

Pure Clean Water - this excellent film was screened to a sell-out audience at Sawston Cinema. It vividly showed Hobson's Conduit in its glory days before the drought of 1976 destroyed its SSSI status. In more recent years, the fall in the water table means, despite augmentation by pumping water from the aquifer to the chalk stream system, watercourses can regularly run very low or dry e.g. in the 2022 drought. Over abstraction is the cause, for householders and farmers, and the Environment Agency has said abstraction needs to reduce by 60% for the streams to recover.

Householders in the Cambridge Water Company region use on average 140 litres per person per day. The Eddington development was built to allow 80 litres, by harvesting rainwater and using grey water to flush toilets and water gardens. If we all conserved this precious water, and the water company fixed leaks faster, we could greatly reduce our consumption. One panel member, a councillor, had reduced their household consumption to 45 litres per day per person! And no, she didn't smell, her hair was clean and her clothes were clean! You can save water by not using a hosepipe, watering plants with washing up water, not flushing the toilet every time you wee, saving water as it warms up in the tap and using it to wash vegetables, water the garden or flush the loo. You can check your water consumption by looking at your bills. Something else



you can do is read the Local Nature Recovery Strategy on the Natural Cambridge website, and respond to their forthcoming questionnaire.

Cambridge Sustainable Food gave us a very interesting talk at the end of January, with lots of discussion and a quiz to test our knowledge. The organisation has been in existence for 10 years and works to build a fairer, more sustainable food system, with less waste, fairer distribution, food security, and healthier food. A lot of their work at present is running eight food hubs, which they supply with excess food from supermarkets. Last year they redistributed 187 tons of food!

We discussed how our choices of food affect our health and the planet. As I have said before in this column, if you choose to do just one thing to really make a difference to the carbon footprint of your diet, eat less meat (especially beef) and dairy. If you're interested in finding some recipes, there are lots on the Veganuary website, and also on the Love Food Hate Waste site.

To read more about the dysfunctional food system in this country, read 'Ravenous' by Henry Dimbleby, who was called the Food Czar, having worked on the National Food Strategy, the School Food Plan, and with DEFRA.

Hedgehog Highways – East Cambridgeshire DC surveyed constituents about the animals they most wanted to help, and hedgehogs topped the poll. The Council is now working with developers of new housing estates to incorporate hedgehog-friendly measures as they build e.g. holes at the bottom of fences, to enable hedgehogs to pass from one garden to another. In your own garden you can do this. You can also put out water and cat or dog food for them, and leave a pile of leaves for them to lie in or make a house. More information on the RSPCA website.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to **mail2G3S@gmail.com** (*please note new email address*) to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us).

Singing for Breathing



Do you have breathing difficulties? Did you know singing can help?

Singing is a great way to improve the way you breathe and get the best from your lung capacity. The Cambridge Singing for Breathing group is meeting online, using Zoom, on Thursday afternoons 2.30 - 4.00pm and we're looking for new members!

Kay Barrett, founder of the group, says:

"You don't need any singing experience to take part - it's all about what it feels like, not what it sounds like. The camaraderie of the group, the guided relaxation, the breathing exercises and the singing are so much appreciated by everyone and the health benefits transfer over into daily life. Being online singers can join from the comfort of home, even when they are feeling unwell. We sing with microphones turned off, which can actually be very liberating! You simply sing along with the leader, learning uplifting songs often in call and response style. We also use multi-track recordings so we can enjoy singing rounds and harmonies."

Do I have to pay?

Those who can afford it are invited to give a £3.50 donation each week, but this is not essential - we want everyone to be able to come.

Do I have to come along every week?

We know that appointments, sickness, family commitments and such can get in the way! Just come along when you can.

I have Long Covid, can I join?

The gentle pace, breathing exercises and relaxation can be very beneficial, but do check with your doctor or respiratory physio, especially if your symptoms are severe.

How do I join?

Simply email singingforbreathingcambridge@gmail.com or call Mary on 07972645473 for more information and to receive the Zoom link each week.

You can find out more at www.singingforbreathing.wordpress.com or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/singingforlunghealthcambridge

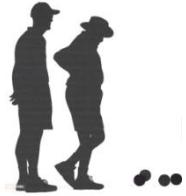
Little Shelford Lawn Bowls Club

The Wale Recreation Ground, Whittlesford Rd, Little Shelford

Help save our bowls club

Unless we can encourage more village members to take up bowls this season, our bowls club is in real danger of folding after 100 years of bowls being played in the village. Why not come along to our two open taster sessions on Saturday 20th and 27th April, 2.30 to 5.00 pm when tuition will be given and equipment provided: all you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes.

So please come along and have a go! You're never too young or old to take it up. Get in touch or just turn up. For further information please contact:
Vic Franklin Tel 01223 842276
(victorfranklin123@btinternet.com)



Little Shelford Wildlife Group

We have had two working group afternoons to dig up some of the nettles near the path on the Wale. We will still need a couple more to finish, and clear a lot of the dead wood into piles and tidy up.

We found this toad under a log!! We tried not to disturb him.



Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI) Update

SSYI is a Christian charity that has been supporting young people in our local area for over 25 years and we now work with over 270 young people in Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston and Duxford. Our aim is to provide safe spaces, quality youth work and support for local 10–21-year-olds. Particularly focusing on those who are marginalised, isolated, at-risk or not accessing other provision. By building positive relationships with young people, running youth clubs, schools work and other activities we enable them to overcome challenge, learn and succeed. We have a dedicated Youth Centre in Great Shelford where we run 6 youth clubs a week, in various venues in Sawston we run 4 weekly youth clubs, and we run a club in the Community Centre in Duxford.



**Shelford & Stapleford
Youth Initiative**

Despite the cold and wet weather these last few months have continued to be very busy with our team of 4 youth workers often seeing a weekly attendance of over 130 young people at our youth clubs and activities. 40 young people come along every Friday for our year 6+7 session in Shelford, with most of the year 6 class at Great and Little Shelford Primary there, alongside many year 7's from SVC, St Bede's and other secondary schools. Before Christmas we ran 6 Christmas parties, 4 Christmas meals and an Ice-Skating Trip in Cambridge. Over the February half-term, we had 2 film nights, a retro gaming evening and a couple of other sessions in the community.

Mentoring and 1:1s are a big part of our work and we are now meeting with 16 young people a week in this way, mostly in Sawston Village College but we also run sessions in the community, often meeting young people for some food or a walk in a public space. This allows us to work more closely with each one, building relationship, understanding their needs, and journeying alongside them through difficulties they may be experiencing with their mental wellbeing, education, emotions, family, or the struggles they face due to deprivation.

We firmly believe in the power and value of youth work and see an ever-growing need for quality provision for young people.



Can you help us?

By Volunteering - Our work couldn't happen without our fantastic volunteers, and as the work continues to grow, **we are looking for more people to join the team.** If you are looking for a great opportunity to support local young people whether that's helping in youth clubs or joining as a Trustee, we would love to hear from you.

Youth work is so rewarding, and you don't have to be young or 'cool' to get involved, just a willingness to get stuck in and listen to, and chat with young people. A DBS check will be required to help out and training will be provided.

By Giving - As a charity we are very dependent on donations and are in need of some more regular givers to continue to offer the support we do, if this is something that you may be able to support with head to www.justgiving.com/theshelfordandstaplefordyouthinitiative

We are so grateful for all the support we receive from the parish councils, churches, organisations, and individuals. Thank you. For more information on what we do or to enquire about how you can help, get in contact with our Lead Youth Worker Zac Britton on 07599 024210, Email zac.britton@ssyi.club, or Treasurer and Trustee John Greaves on 07771 930938, Email treasurer@ssyi.club

Our website can be found at www.ssyi.club or use @ssiyouth to access our Facebook and Instagram pages. Thanks for reading!



Little Shelford Groups

Activity groups in grey. To include a group in this list or to change the contact details, please email newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org.

Group name	Contact details
All Saints Tots	Alison Hynds 847815 www.allsaintslittleshelford.org
Kaleidoscope	Joan Church 842243 www.allsaintslittleshelford.org
Badminton Club	James Newman 07717 394176 james@jamesnewman.org www.littleshelfordbadmintonclub.co.uk
Ballet East (ages 3-18)	Jo Thorndyke jothorndyke@hotmail.com
Bowls Club	Ray Saich 842737 pandraisaich@gmail.com
Cricket Club	Chris Schofield 563276 chrisscofie@hotmail.com www.littleshelfordcc.com
Local History Society	Ray Saich 842737 pandraisaich@gmail.com
Pantomime	Sarah Coppendale 842498 coppendales@btinternet.com
Wildlife Group	Diana Haines 841415 dianahaines42@icloud.com
Physiopilates	841968 cambridgephysiopilates@gmail.com www.physiopilates.org.uk
Shelford Bridge Club	Tony Cliff 0753273794 Anthony.r.cliff@gmail.com
Shelford Community Transport	John Dibnah 842054, Marjorie Smith 564922 Rosie Cranmer 513572, Gillian Northmore 504542 sites.google.com/site/littleshelfordcouncil/groups-and-businesses/little-shelford-community-groups/shelford-support-group
Shelford and Stapleford Strikers Football Club	Anthony Stevens 843703 disleystevens@aol.com www.pitchero.com/clubs/shelfordandstaplefordstrikers

Sustainable Shelford Environmental 2G3S	Linda Whitebread <i>greengroupssss@gmail.com</i>
Shelford Twinning Association	Penny Pearl 842483/217554 <i>penny.pearl@btinternet.com</i> <i>shelfordtwinning.org.uk</i>
Shelford Garden Club	Helen Chubb 845032 <i>www.shelford.org/gardenpage.htm</i>
Shelfords and Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI)	Zac Britton <i>zac.britton@ssyi.club</i>
The Shelfords WI	Vanda Butler 561053 <i>vanda.butler@googlemail.com</i> <i>www.theshelfordswi.wordpress.com</i>
Shelford Community Orchard and Woodland Project (SCOWP)	Gill Davidson <i>davidson.wg@btinternet.com</i> Mike Darsley <i>mdgb59@gmail.com</i>

Little Shelford Defibrillator

The Little Shelford defibrillator can be found attached to the wall of the rear kitchen extension at the **Navigator Public House, 63 High Street**. When you open the defibrillator the machine will talk to you and guide you through how to use it.

Waste and Recycling Bins Reminder

Tuesday	12 th Mar	Blue bins
Tuesday	19 th Mar	Black bin
Tuesday	26 th Mar	Green & blue bins
Wednesday	2 nd Apr`	Black bin
Tuesday	9 th Apr	Blue bin
Tuesday	16 th Apr	Black bin
Tuesday	23 rd Apr	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	30 th Apr	Black bin
Tuesday	7 th May	Blue bin
Tuesday	14 th May	Black bin
Tuesday	21 st May	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	28 th May	Black bin

A review of Sleeping Beauty, Little Shelford Pantomime 2024

Once upon a time... I had the pleasure to be transported back one hundred years attending the very first performance of this happy romp on a rainy Wednesday in January. It is always wonderful to be reacquainted with a classic pantomime fairytale and savvy scriptwriter Ad-Libby Ahluwalia once again made sure it was served afresh, injecting the plot with some delightful local *Shelfordy* themed puns. Dick Wallin and Heidi Meikle as directors had crisped the villages' teenage cast up thoroughly for another week of panto fun in Little Shelford.



Miles Cragg provided the brilliant piano playing, aided by Lucy Barlow and the curtains opened to the village displayed picturesquely in the background, thanks to Frances Richardson's dynamic scenery design and enthusiastic mentoring of budding artists in the village. An excited group of palace staff were looking forward to celebrating Princess Aurora's 18th (a sweet performance by Isobel Whitton). Aurora's two sisters, Alexandra (Abigail Pearce) and Serena (Rafaela Wilkinson) and mother Queen Beatrice (Zosia Zmija), were all very keen to prevent Aurora from being stung by something sharp so to defeat the spell that the evil witch had put on her whilst still a babe in arms. Deserving mention was the brilliant jester Boris (Joseph Morris) properly funny and playful, whose performance, including solo *Smile*, brought the whole play together.

The bright-eyed unstoppable force of nature Jack McNaught as the Dame and fairy Wand-a (the charming Emma Quinnell) spurred on the festivities with glee. Dressed to the nines in sunshiny yellow in all her petticoat glory, surrounded by sizzling spice girl fairies, Dame Nancy kept up the cheer.



Plot twist however necessitated the party plans be overheard by wickedly portrayed furry friends Snookums (Ella Guron) and Fluffikins (Millie Kennedy) who being Chinese cat spyware personified, quickly informed the wicked villain of 2024's panto. Entry to a superbly eyerolling Ava Henry as evil witch, Grizelda, who was once again **not** invited to the festivities accompanied

by her deadpan side kick, Norman (Toby Woodcock). We loved the quick-witted insults that were coming fast and furious from this firecracker clad in black.

The not so innocent cats lured the hapless Aurora to the attic where all sharp things were hidden – a pun-cture paradise! Avoiding the story tale spinning wheel, the impatient cats caught her with a claw to ensure they put her to sleep in time to get their place in the ice cream queue at the interval. Alas! Evil job done and Beauty put to sleep for a very very long time while the cats performed a celebratory dance.

Hats off to Emma Christelow and Cheryl Smythe for the scintillating choreography; wardrobe coordinator Charlotte Chatwin and her team for the costumes; make-up coordinator Becky Whitehouse and the many others involved.

The gallant Round Table troops in the form of King Arthur (Harry Chatwin), Queen Guinevere (Beatrice White), and the knights led by the dashing Sir Lancelot (Atticus Whitehouse) were on hand for the rescue but political correctness disallowed the purrfect magical kiss.

The sounds of *Wake me up before you go go* at long last for Aurora accompanied a sci-fi excursion into the future, bringing Sleeping Beauty to modern day Shelford, complete with teenage chorus members playing on their smart phones. Dazed and confused, she was rescued by Wand-a who guided her back to her palace of a hundred years ago where the story got its happy ending, faith in humanity was restored – and look who finally got his girl, none other than Boris! *Always look on the bright side!*



The fluorescent Scene was mesmerising; fairy, swords and spinning clocks, one hundred years of sunsets followed by sunrises – Nikki Wilkinson overseeing yet another annual delight. The pantomime jogged along aided by many others – too many to name them all – except of course panto driving force, Sarah Coppendale.

As with every good Christmas tradition, there's a joy in knowing exactly what you're going to get and yet the show once again exceeded expectations. Rock on 2025 – can it be that we have a 40th anniversary coming up? - we can't wait!
Alice Diamond

**Shelford Twinning Association
Invites you to
Le Petit Déjeuner Français**

Venue: Great Shelford Free Church Hall
(Ashen Green entrance)



Saturday, 16th March 2024
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.



Everyone Welcome

*Croissants, pain au chocolat, pain au raisin, brioche, baguette
Confiture, Nutella, du beurre
Jus d'orange, du chocolat chaud, du thé, du café*

There's no charge, but donations towards the costs of consumables would be welcome.

This is an ideal opportunity to socialise with people who have an interest in Shelford Twinning Association and its events as well as find out more about our next visit to Verneuil-en-Halatte in the May school half term break and also about our French counterparts visiting the Shelfords in July.

Reserve your places by Wednesday 13th March 2024
email: twinningsec@gmail.com or telephone 01223 842483

Little Shelford Local History Society

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Monday 22nd April 2024

AGM at 7.30pm followed by a talk

'The history of King's College Chapel' by Paul Shakeshaft

All welcome

Little Shelford Pantomime – Auditions

Auditions will be held for *Peter Pan*, Little Shelford Pantomime 2025 on Sunday 28 April 2024 at Little Shelford Memorial Hall between 12 noon and 3 pm.



To both book a time slot to audition and to complete an audition form, please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/Panto2025>

Please ring Sarah on 842498 or e-mail coppendales@btinternet.com if you have any queries.

Little Shelford Safari Supper May 18th 2024

The Safari Supper is back in 2024 and it's time to get in touch if you are interested in finding out more or coming along. It's a great way to see old friends and meet new people in the village.

In 2019 we had over 100 villagers joining in the fun, meeting new people and old friends as they travelled around the village for supper. Anyone can get involved as there are plenty of ways of helping without hosting. The evening will start at 7pm with drinks together and there you'll get your itinerary for a main course and a dessert in small groups at different locations around the village. At the end of the evening, we will meet together again.

Everyone who comes will make a contribution- either by hosting a main or pudding, by providing canapés or help for starter drinks or end drinks, or by contributing wine for a main course. You'll be able to give us a preference of what you'd like to do. There's no need to come as a couple or to have to host, so we hope as many people as possible can get involved. Dietary issues can be catered for with prior notice.

We need to know if you are interested by Mid-April latest so do get in touch if you have any questions or want to be on the list. We'll be gathering more details from everyone who has expressed interest soon.

Do get in touch by emailing Kate Beaton, katebeaton@me.com

Little Shelford Cricket Club 2024 Season

The 1st XI will be playing in CCA Senior League Division 3 for the 2024 season after our successful season in the Junior League Division 1 South last year (See our 2023 Winners Shield left). A big step up for the 1st XI but under team captain Matthew Beal, there is excitement about playing at a higher level of cricket and anticipation that the Clubs strong 1st XI team, supported by a strong 2nd XI squad and youth section, can make a big impact.

Open Day Sunday 14th April

We will be holding an open day on the Wale Recreation Ground on Sunday 14th April from 1pm. Come along and meet many of the players, club Captains, our enthusiastic and expert coaches and committee members. We will have our new bowling machine in use and it's an ideal opportunity to come and try out our artificial strip! All are welcome no matter how experienced. As an additional encouragement some refreshments will be provided.

Softball Cricket for Children 6+ Resumes on Saturday 4th May

Also, for Children from six years old we restart our Softball Cricket coaching sessions in May. These sessions have been very popular in the past few years and some of our young girls and boys are now progressing to play for our Junior sides. Children can come along and learn basic cricket techniques from our expert coaches and make new friends. They will learn batting, bowling, fielding and throwing skills as well as getting exercise in the beautiful and very safe surroundings of the Wale Recreation Ground while learning about teamwork and the joy of the game of cricket. **Softball starts on Saturday mornings from 4th May, 9-11.**

Wale Ground Improvements and new equipment



You may have noticed work going on to improve the playing surfaces in the Wale, both for the football pitches and the wider cricket outfield. We are grateful for the support of the Shelford and Stapleford Strikers Football Club (in particular Sean Crossan) who secured a grant from the Football Foundation to help fund the playing surface improvements.

You will remember that after the drought and record hot temperatures of the Summer of 2022, large areas of the Wale were completely scorched and free of grass, with only moss maintaining the green appearance. The first step to improving all the playing surfaces was to bring in a ground maintenance contractor in the Autumn to scarify and seed the whole outfield including the football pitches. We hope you have already noticed the improvements beginning to show with grass taking hold in many of those mossy areas. There will be additional work



done in March including the application of fertiliser across the whole playing surface.

We have also said farewell to our 60+ year old motorised roller and replaced it with a more modern and hopefully more reliable roller. This will be used to help maintain the playing surfaces and especially the cricket square. The new roller is a refurbished second hand machine but still costly. So, the club will be running a crowd funding campaign when the season starts to help with its purchase.

Out with the old and in with the new!

AGM

Our AGM was held on Sunday 4th February and was well attended. All our Officers were re-elected and Matt Beale was confirmed as Captain of our 1st XI, Seb Harrison Vice-Captain, Rupert Beale Captain of the 2nd XI and Larry Damary Homan as Vice-Captain. Chris Schofield was confirmed as Club Captain. Our award winning Ian Reid and Jamie Harrison were re-appointed as our Junior Section Coaches.

Nets for the 2024 Season

Indoor nets for Senior Team members are held weekly 8-9pm at Fenner's sports hall. Outdoor nets for Seniors and Juniors will start in April on the Wale. If you would like to come along and join Nets then please contact Chris Schofield (Club Captain) for more information on chrisschofield@littleshelfordcc.com. We will also be holding Junior Nets throughout the Spring and Summer and if you would like to find out more about where and when please contact Junior Coach Jamie Harrison jjc.harrison@ntlworld.com.

Fixtures for the 2024 Season.

All our fixtures and match results and player statistics, including friendlies and Junior Section games can be found on our ECB Play-Cricket web site: <https://littleshelford.play-cricket.com/> and you can also follow us on Twitter [@LShelsCricket](https://twitter.com/LShelsCricket). The season starts on Monday 29th April for the Juniors while the Seniors will start with friendlies on Sunday 21st April with a friendly game against "CAM Ceylon", a very enthusiastic and friendly team! All we need is good weather to get our season off to a great start!

Vice-President Supporters and Sponsors

We thank our main Sponsor, Navadhanya Indian Restaurant in Cambridge (<https://www.navadhanya.co.uk/>) who generously support the Junior Teams. Also, our Vice-Presidents who help us with funding and often come to support the teams on the Wale on Saturday afternoons. We would love to have more Vice-Presidents to support the Club, so if you are keen to see the Village maintain its Cricket Team do, please get in touch with our Chairman. Minimal commitment but maximum satisfaction from supporting the great game of cricket.

David JH Jones, Chairman, Little Shelford Cricket Club
davidjhjones@btinternet.com 01223 847213

History: Little Shelford – The Home to Champion Shire Horses

Ever heard of **Hamer Towgood Esq?** Probably not, but if you search "Little Shelford" in a resource like the British Newspaper Archive his name appears more times than any individual member of the Wale Family of Shelford Hall. So, who is Hamer Towgood and why does his name appear so often? I am not aware of any Towgood's left in Little Shelford now, so why was he so well-known and so frequently mentioned in the press?

The answer is best summed up in one of his obituaries after his death. In the "Review of the Year" published on December 25th 1914 in the Cambridge Independent Press, there is a concise description of his fame **"The Death took place in January 1914 of Mr Hamer Towgood of Little Shelford, an agriculturalist well known, not only in Cambridgeshire, but throughout the country. He was particularly interested in the breeding of livestock and his stud of shire horses was world famous, his mares winning many prizes in London and the Eastern Counties. Mr Towgood was also one of the few remaining gentlemen who had previously been members of the Duke of Cambridgeshire's Light Horse"**.

So, I thought it would be interesting to look at the life and times of one of our least well known but famous village residents and add as much colour to his life as possible. Hamer Towgood lived in Little Shelford for close on 50 years and he made his mark not only on Little Shelford but many of our local villages too.

Birth and background

Hamer Towgood was born at Paxton Hill House in Great Paxton near St Neots in 1843. He was the son of Edward and Sarah Towgood and in the 1851 census he was living in Paxton Hill House with nine siblings, seven sisters and three brothers along with eight servants! They were a successful family and had made their money from the Little Paxton paper mill in the 1800's. The Towgood's were great benefactors to Great Paxton Church.

Hamer Towgood lived in Little Shelford from the middle of the 19th Century until his death in January 1914. He married in 1872 to Adeline Chapman at St George's, Hannover Square, London and had one son, Reginald Hamer Towgood, all of whom were living in Little Shelford in the 1891 Census. He had been a County Councillor, was a JP, he ran the Sawston Paper Mill and had become famous as an agriculturalist. Sadly, his life was not without tragedies as we will see later.

So, when did Hamer Towgood move into Little Shelford and where did he live? Well, that's relatively easy to answer by looking at Fanny Wale's "Record of Shelford Parva" and what this tells us about Hamer Towgood is set out below. Although, Fanny Wale does say that Hamer Towgood bought his estate in Little Shelford in 1860 from Colonel Wale, but he would only have been 17 in 1860 so that might not be quite factually correct. Given his Father Edward Towgood had taken over the Paper Mill in Sawston in 1835 (he still owned the Great Paxton paper mill) it may have been that his Father bought the estate and certainly Hamer Towgood was living in Little Shelford by the 1871 Census, at the age of 28, not yet married but with 3 servants, a groom, a cook, a housemaid and a kitchen maid. Where was he living? The House still known as **Sains Foins**, on the Whittlesford Road, just before the Newton Bridleway.

Fanny Wale Book – "A record of Shelford Parva" and Hamer Towgood

A little farther along the Whittlesford Road is a milestone marking 49 miles to London, and 6 to Cambridge, and beyond on the opposite side of the road are the Ley Groves Cottages, built by Hamer Towgood. Behind the cottages is a meadow with a grove of trees, and a road going over the stream and river, which is the south boundary line of Shelford Parva. This road goes to the Paper Mills at Sawston, which belongs to Hamer Towgood Esq., who lives at a house opposite Frog Hall (now Rectory Farm) which he calls "The Saint Foins".

Hamer Towgood Esq. bought his estate in 1860 from Colonel R.C. Wale, his carriage with a handsome pair of horses is a familiar sight to the inhabitants of the surrounding parishes. Mr Towgood has been well known as a successful exhibitor of horses and cows; his animals have gained many prizes at the cattle shows. Albert Pettitt was horse-keeper and Mr Meadows managed the Saint Foins estate and also the Glebe Farm adjoining, he lived in the entrance lodge until the death of Mr Towgood in January 1914, who is buried at Shelford Magna, near his only son. Then Meadows went to live in Frog Hall and continued to farm the Glebe, with the help of his wife and two sons, named Arthur and Ernest.

A flavour of Hamer Towgood's life from local newspapers

There are far too many articles concerning Hamer Towgood's life to reproduce here. I have only replicated in detail two stories, the report of his son's sad death at the age of 19 in a flu pandemic and the other the report of his funeral, which sums up the impact Hamer had across South Cambridgeshire in his 50 year residence in Little Shelford. But, to

give you a flavour of other stories and just how successful he was as an agriculturalist here are just a few:

14th May 1870 – Duke of Manchester's light horse exercise and parade in Cambridge and at Grantchester Meadows. Hamer Towgood wins several prizes along with his brother, Edward.

14th December 1888 – Christmas Agricultural Show: Winner of Best Fat Pig and best Pen of three Fat Pigs weighing less than 1 stone, Hamer Towgood

20th December 1890 – Cambridgeshire Christmas Agricultural Show: Winner of Champion Prize for best Steer, Hamer Towgood

14th July 1893 – Cambridgeshire Agricultural Show: Winner of Champion Prize for **Best Shire Mare, Hamer Towgood**

24th July 1903 – Cambridgeshire Agricultural Show: Hamer Towgood offers two prizes for useful innovations for agriculture in Cambridgeshire

31st May 1907 – Cambridgeshire Agricultural Show: **Winner of Champion Prize for best Yearling Filly**, Hamer Towgood

Cambridge Independent Press - Friday 16 January 1914

DEATH OF MR HAMER TOWGOOD – WELL KNOWN AGRICULTURALIST

We deeply regret to record the Death of Mr Hamer Towgood, which took place at his residence, Saint Foins, Little Shelford, on Sunday Afternoon after a long illness. His passing has caused widespread sadness for Mr Towgood was held in general affection and esteem and the large attendance at the funeral last Wednesday was significant of the affection in which he was held across the district.

After the death of his brother Edward Towgood, Hamner Towgood become the owner of the Sawston Paper Mill where most of the fine writing paper used in the country is made. He was an excellent business man and most assiduously attentive to the requirements of his trade, attending personally to every detail. He never allowed pleasure to distract his attention when business required it.

*Besides his business as a paper maker, Mr Towgood was largely interested in farming and particularly in good livestock, **his stud of shire horses was world famous with his mares winning many prizes in London and in the Eastern Counties. He owned at the same time such famous animals as Rolleston Fucia, Shelford Pax, Shelford Satin and Stolen Duchess and horses with the prefix "Shelford" to their names can be found in many leading studs across the country.** For some years Mr Towgood was a*

member of the Council of the Shire Horse Society. He kept a small herd of pedigree short horn cattle and some pedigree Jersey's, these latter to supply the best milk obtainable in his household and to the many employed about his home. His fancy in sheep was for Suffolk's and he always had a number of 1st rate swine. He was widely known for the quality of the cattle, sheep and pigs and his contributions to the Christmas sales at Cambridge and St Ives usually took many of the prizes and made the highest prices at auction.

His death is a very great loss to the Cambs. and Isle of Ely agricultural society of which he was a vice-president and an exceedingly generous supporter. For several years he had provided a highly popular prize for Shire fillies and also contributed to the general expenses of the show in which he had always taken the greatest interest exhibiting in the shire horse classes. His exhibits considerably raised the standard of these classes.

Everything Hamer Towgood undertook to do, he did thoroughly and well, sparing neither time, attention or money, and he was successful.

Until late years he hunted regularly and since he ceased himself to ride to hounds, he has always taken care to keep the hunt for the fun of others. He liked shooting to but more perhaps for the opportunity it gave him to give pleasure to his friends and for the sport he found in it himself.

He was for a considerable time a member of the Cambridge troop of the Duke of Manchester's Light Horse.



Do you know more about **Hamer Towgood**? Any comments or additional information? Please feel free to contact me on davidjhjones@btinternet.com

Cambridge Dial-a-Ride

We need volunteers! Cambridge Dial-a-Ride is a charity that provides essential travel services to those who have difficulty with public transport due to age, infirmity, or disability. We provide door-to-door transport, with a smile, for people who struggle to get about unaided or are wheelchair-bound. We take individuals and groups from homes to day-care centres, individuals to hospital, partners to visit loved ones in care, and groups to garden centres, or just out shopping. For many of our passengers, we are the one way they get out of their homes every week. What we do makes a big impact on peoples' lives.

However, rising costs (salaries, insurance, vehicle costs, and so on) mean we must either increase prices, find more volunteers, or cut back our services. If we increase prices, we know more and more people won't be able to afford to leave their homes, and we desperately don't want to do this. That's why we need volunteer drivers! We are looking for drivers with a D or D1 licence that enables you to drive a manual minibus. We'll train you to use wheelchair clamps and electric tail lifts safely, so don't worry if you don't have experience.

As a volunteer on and off for over ten years I know what a difference our service makes. My mother was disabled and without Dial-a-Ride both her and my life would have been much harder. I can also say it's great fun – our passengers appreciate the service and a chat! So, come and make a difference. Please call 01223 506 335 for details of how you can volunteer on our team!



Little Shelford Parish Council

**Join us for a Hedgerow Deep Clean.
2.30pm – 4pm Sunday, 17th March 2024**

With all the hedgerow vegetation having died back this is a perfect time to deep clean our hedgerows and collect bottles, cans and other litter. Our Village Man, does a great job of keeping the village tidy every week. But, this is our chance to help him out before the spring returns and the hedgerows bloom again.

Meet at the Little Shelford Pavilion at 2.30pm.
Bring protective gloves and a bucket. High Visibility jackets and litter bags and pickers will be supplied.

Questions?

Contact David Jones on 847213 or
davidjhjones@btinternet.com

or

littleshelfordparishclerk@gmail.com
07480 242390



Meet your Parish Council

Sunday 17th March

5-6pm

The Pavilion (Wale Recreation
Ground)

Little Shelford PC works hard on behalf of residents. We wanted you to have chance to meet Councillors, learn about our responsibilities & funding.

We hope to have representatives of the Village Societies & Clubs present that help keep the Village community vibrant.

This is a good opportunity if you are new to the Village.

Wine, Soft drinks and nibbles provided
Questions?

Contact the Parish Clerk:
Beckie Whitehouse
Tel: 07480 242390
littleshelfordparishclerk@aol.com

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Against The Tide Film Screening

"Against the Tide" is a recent film, a travelogue, an examination of modern science, an excursion into history, an autobiography, and more. But at heart, it is the story of one man's stand against the tide of contemporary atheism and its drive to relegate belief in God to society's catalogue of dead ideas. Professor John Lennox — esteemed Oxford professor, mathematician, and philosopher of science — has devoted decades to rigorously investigating the intersection of science and Christianity. In *Against the Tide*, he counters the rise of scientific atheism and explains the rational foundations of his belief.

Join the conversation between Professor Lennox and veteran Hollywood actor and director Kevin Sorbo as they journey from Oxford to Jerusalem and explore the evidence on which Lennox's Christian faith stands firm.

There will be refreshments provided at the start of the film and there will be a live Q&A session afterwards. The films running time is 1hr 50mins and is suitable for age 11+

Good Friday - 29th March

7pm Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Followed by a short live Q&A with Prof. Bob White

£3 per person, including soft drinks and popcorn

Book in advance via the QR code or at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/against-the-tide-tickets-839237009487>

Recommended age 11+

Tickets available on the door, subject to availability

