
GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

Much to read this month with some articles carried forward from May, listed as received with the exception of Parish Council minutes which are at the end - Parish Assembly minutes will be published next month, but should be available on the village website shortly.

It is pertinent that Rev Mike mentions volunteering in his message this month - worth thinking about - many hands make light work and there are currently a number of opportunities in the Parish.

At long last and just short of a year since they arrived, BAM have completed the Flood Alleviation work on behalf of the Environment Agency. When they arrived the ground was continually wet and additional stone for their roadway had to be imported. On removing it they created dust as all of us along the Wantage Road (and probably beyond) are very aware, to this has recently been added the fluff from the vast crack willows - one wonders how much larger these will be allowed to grow before they start to do what their name implies and branches crack off without warning. The footpath up the hill is now fully open and those with loose dogs and children will appreciate that the gate is now self-closing, there are new steps down to the road and a hand rail, however visibility to the right is still restricted.

The Parish Council has appointed a Parish Clerk and Mel has written some words introducing herself to the community. Please note the Clerk has a new email address: clerk@greatsheffordparish.gov.uk and this does seem to be the only way to contact members of the Parish Council. There is currently a vacancy on the Council following the resignation of Eunice Tweedie.

The lovely redundant church, St Thomas' at East Shefford is open for a Flower Festival and Pimms to raise funds for the maintenance of the church on Saturday 14th, all are very welcome - while teas and coffee will be served, you are welcome to picnic in the adjoining meadow.

If you have enjoyed hearing the church bells ringing and wondered how this is done, or thought of trying for yourself, the Bellringers are holding an Open Tower on Saturday 21st June - all welcome - at the Church - you don't have to be a churchgoer to participate.

On the last Saturday of the month, the school fete takes place at the Spring Meadows site, where the PTFA are hoping to raise enough funds to treat all the children to a visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park at the end of term.

Looking forward, we have an update from Miranda Armstrong on future plans for "The Swan *on the River*" as it is to be known, it all sounds very exciting and what the village has been waiting a long time for.

If you have an article which you think other readers would like to see, please send it to: gtsheffordnews@gmail.com by 25th June.

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Linda Bowden

Editor

Village Calendar June 2025

Sunday	1 st	10.00 a.m.	Village Litter Pick, Village Hall
Monday	2nd	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
Wednesday	4 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	5th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	6th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	7th	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard Working Party, St Mary's
Sunday	8th	10.30 a.m.	Communion by Extension, St Mary's GS
Monday	9 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	11th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	12 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	13th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Friday	13 th	7.00 p.m.	Quiz Night, NAWT, Trindledown Farm
Saturday	14 th	2.00 p.m.	Flower Festival & fund raising St Thomas, East Shefford
Saturday	14 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo & Raffle, Social Club
Monday	16th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	18th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	19th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	20th	9.30 a.m..	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	21 st	10-12 & 1-3	Open Tower (try Bellringing), St Mary's Church
Sunday	22nd	10.15 a.m.	Café Church, St Mary's
Monday	23rd	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	25th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Wednesday	25 th		Articles for July Parish News to be received
Wednesday	25 th	8.00 p.m.	Cheese Club, Social Club
Thursday	26th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	27th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	28 th	7.00 p.m.	Race Night, Social Club
Saturday	28 th	12 - 3	School Fete, Shefford Site, Spring Meadows
Sunday	29 th	4.00 p.m.	St Stephens, Shefford Woodlands
Monday	30 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall

Brightwaltoncommunity@gmail.com

BRIGHTWALTON OPEN GARDENS
SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025

2PM ~4.30PM

ADULTS £5 UNDER 16'S FREE

TEA & CAKE IN THE CHURCH PLANT SALE

ART DISPLAY HANDYBUS TRANSPORT

**2 COMPETITIONS IN EACH
GARDEN**

Tickets and maps available on the day from the church

News from Chaddleworth St Andrew's and Shefford C.E. Primary Schools

Summer Term Productions - Performing Arts at the ready!

Owls

This year Owls are participating in the Corn Exchange production of Roald Dahl's Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. A group of schools will be involved in a big performance which parents are welcome watch on Tues 17th June! Over the next term Owls will have drama lessons which involve games, lots of fun and learning about stage directions and presence. Each child will have a part in the production and Mrs Chapman is currently in the casting stage after the first session and the children are very keen to find out what part they will play.

Red Kites

After the great success of last year's production: Go for Gold! the Red Kites Summer Performance this year will be Robin and The Sherwood Hoodies. The children will audition for their parts and rehearsals will begin after half term. Mrs Chrimes, Director, has already begun the search for costumes and Lawrence, production, is part of the team too! We can't wait! Red Kites have some great ideas on raising money for costumes and props/set design. If anyone has any theatre experience and would like to lend a helping hand, let us know! Opportunities for Owls to join our production choir coming soon....

CHICKS!

On Wednesday morning Isabella kindly brought her chicks in to school. Robins and Red Kites loved the opportunity - thank you!



Red Kites enjoyed their D&T cooking session with Penny alongside their learning of Fair trade. The children made banana pudding with Fair Trade ingredients. Thank you Penny!





lucky and most
Mr. Withers (Jnr and
and expertise are
Thank you to both
mud kitchen - we

If anybody has any
they no longer

delighted to take them off your hands - one person's junk is
another's treasure.



New mud kitchen!

For those of you who have children in
Kingfishers and Robins you cannot fail to
have noticed our fantastic new resource in
our outdoor learning space. We have an
amazing brand new mud kitchen which has
been well used already. We are extremely

fortunate to have two
Snr!) whose talents
second to none.
for building our new
are very lucky indeed!

of the following items
require - we would be



Congratulations are in order
as Stanley, Seb and
Elizabeth received end of
season awards from
Hungerford Rugby Club for
participation in their age
group teams and TREDs
awards for S-
Sportspersonship E-
Respect. Well done!

Spoons with slots and holes in

Measuring spoons

Different sized spoons

Jugs with spouts

Jugs with handles

Piping

Pipettes, basters

Different sized containers

Pots and pans

Colanders

Kitchen utensils

Natural materials

Funnels

Some transparent containers

Whisks

CALL FOR...

If anyone is able to donate to our school we are in need of...

- gardening supplies (seedlings, potato bag and potato seeds, water butt, rodent proof compost bin)
- cooking equipment (air fryer, table top hobs)
- bedding plants

If you or anyone you know has spare time each week we are always looking for volunteers to...

- Read with our children (Kingfishers, Owls and Red Kites)
- Support Forest School with Miss Oram on a Friday (exc 16/05 and 20/6)

Please contact the school office if you would like more information.

VE Day celebrations...

The bunting was up, cakes were baked, and red, white and blue clothing options were worn by all. We were able to embrace the 80th anniversary celebrations of VE Day.

VE Day - or Victory in Europe Day - marks the day towards the end of World War Two (WW2) when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end. On 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before.



Our acknowledgements and celebrations including;

- class worship picture news focus

- sharing Newsround together

[VE Day 80: What is VE Day? - BBC Newsround](#)

- joining the nation's 2-minute silence at noon, linking live to Westminster Abbey

[VE Day 80 live: BBC News](#)

- celebration cake decorating with the PTFA.

Tri golf for years 3 & 4...

On Thursday after school, some of Owls class took part in a tri golf event. We were lucky to complete lots of golf activities including hitting the barrier, chipping the ball on to a target and crossing the blue river.

We were very good at crossing the

river! We all had a lot of fun and enjoyed our VE Day celebration cakes on the way home! We showed great team work cheering each other on.

Mrs Chapman



Year 6 celebration day...

Congratulations year 6 who have demonstrated incredible perseverance this week!



After smashing their SATs, Y6 spent the day at FACE Activity Centre in Lower Basildon. The group started their day with survival skills, crafting and building, cooking on an open fire and then enjoyed a friendly game of laser tag! Take a look at what FACE Events Ltd offers by scanning the QR codes. *Miss Oram*



School Games Mark 2024-25...



We are extremely proud to announce that we have recently achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2024/2025 academic year. The School Games Mark Award is a Government led scheme that rewards schools for their commitment to their development of sports and competition across their school and in the community so we are delighted to be recognised for our success this year.



We are particularly proud of how many sporting events our children have had the opportunity to participate in this academic year so far, from cricket for both KS1 and KS2, Multi-skills to stacking cups, Tennis to Tri Golf, Rugby to Football and that's before we even mention the unforgettable Cross Country, which is always a memorable experience for all of our Key stage 2 children!

We also formed a school football team, entering league matches as both mixed and girl's teams. This year the county sports provision has simply not been enough for our children so we've needed to create our own friendly football and netball matches with a nearby school!

Throughout the year we have brought in specialist coaches to ensure the children are experiencing a wide range of sports from our Golf experience day to Gymnastics our Dance taster experience session to our block sessions with our MNR sports coaches.

We are also offering a record number of sport clubs; Dance, Football, Multi skills, Netball and soon we will be adding Lacrosse! We understand just how important exercise is for both physical and mental health so we couldn't be prouder of the improvements we continue to make with our PE provision across the school and are pleased that the hard work of everyone at the school (children, staff and parents) has been recognised by the School Games Mark. *Mrs Brown*

A special thanks to Mrs Brown for her leadership, dedication and organisation as our PE subject leader. School staff who have supported many different sporting events, parents who have helped with transport and been supportive cheerleaders at competition events and of course our children for getting involved, for their enthusiasm and sporting values.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

We look forward to applying once again in 2026!





Wildlife photography...

We are so incredibly excited to share that one of Everly's photos has been shortlisted as 1 of 20 for Wildlife photographer of the year under 18's category!

"Everly adores wildlife and is

always hunting for bugs to take pictures of. She loved how pretty he looked against the flowers and learnt to zoom in". 'Hawthorne Shield Bug' Everly, age 4.

The photo that gets the most likes on The Base, Greenham Facebook page will win...

['My Wild Life' Under-18s Finalists '25 - Facebook](#)

After school clubs...

We are so lucky with the varied offer of after school clubs for our children! From cookery to netball, dancing to football, walking and multisport.



A big thank you to all the adults who run and support our clubs, and to the children who embrace the opportunities!

Science week...

Mrs Chapman has been busy preparing information, resources and activities for everyone across the school to embrace the theme of this year's Science week, 'Adapt and Change'. Here's a snapshot of what everyone has been getting up to...

Robins

Science week this year, it was all about animal adaptation.... what a big word that it is!

"What does adaptation mean?" We talked about animals being the best they can be for their environment, for example giraffes with their long legs and a long neck to reach up to the tallest trees to get food"



Robins loved taking part in some under the sea yoga on Monday and then on Tuesday used their knowledge of adaptation to create their very own animals out of junk modelling, thinking carefully about what habitat their animal would live in, with comments like;

"I'm going to need a long neck to reach the tall trees"

"Mine lives under the sea, it needs fins"



Kingfishers



We started our Science week by looking at how animals have adapted to suit where they live. We matched the fact cards to the animals. The children then found out how an elephant had adapted and drew some diagrams.

We then looked at what had happened to our cress that we planted last week.

Some was grown in the light, some was grown in the dark and some was grown in the fridge. For each place the cress was grown in, there were two trays. One tray where the seeds were watered and one tray where the seeds weren't watered. Linking our cress and our sunflowers the children discovered that seeds need water, sunlight and warmth to grow into healthy plants.

The children also designed and made bridges that would strong enough to hold toy car.

This linked our design and technology with science. We used our knowledge of materials from earlier on in the year to help us. The testing with the cars will be carried out after the holidays!



a

Owls

Our Science week has been jam packed with investigations and research. To start the week we explored how animals have adapted and created posters to inform people of these adaptations. Following on from this, we created our own creatures who had adapted to their environment and then wrote a double page spread all about them.



On Thursday, we made mini rockets and tested how far they could go. After our first attempt, we adapted the rockets to see if they would go further. Some children were successful, but others struggled to beat their first distance!

Seb shared that he, “enjoyed making the rockets because we got to adapt them every time.”

Friday was the last day for our plants. We drew and discussed how they had changed over the last few weeks and why these changes may or may not have happened. Our final piece of science was to investigate what happens when we flush certain materials down the toilet. We put different materials into bottles of water and observed over the whole day what would happen. At the end of the day we discovered why it's not a good idea to put plastic and wet wipes down the toilet!



Red Kites & House meetings



On Thursday afternoon, we joined our houses and completed an enquiry about dunking biscuits! Red Kites shared that they “enjoyed dunking the biscuits”, “enjoyed doing experiments. It was fun”, “enjoyed finding out about evolution” and “liked discovering the new books and reading about evolution”.



NSPCC PANTS learning...



This week everyone has been learning again with Pantosaurus, talking PANTS and having conversations about staying safe.

[Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC](#)

Pantosaurus even has a catchy song to share. Click on the image to share the song together...



Wildlife photography...

We are incredibly excited to share that...

Everly's fantastic photo won the competition!



She was over the moon when she found out and wanted to say thank you to anyone who voted!

'Hawthorne Shield Bug' Everly, age 4.



Sporting achievements...

We were celebrating again in worship this week, where trophies and medals were shared for impressive sporting achievements earned through perseverance and hard work! A big well done to Hollie and Quinn on their football medals, Sullivan for his football trophies and Henry for his rugby TREDs award.



Mini tennis...

A group of year 3 and 4 children represented our school at the mini tennis held at Park House on Thursday. Every child showed great TREDs throughout the event! (Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, Sportspersonship) All the hard work took them through their league games and into... the final, coming away with hard earned silver medals all round! Well done to everyone who played.



Our class worship Bible passage focus...

'Lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us'. Hebrews 12:1

BIG question 'Can you think of a 'race' you are running, or have run?' (the race being a challenge you've persevered with)





PTFA News!

The PTFA started off the summer term with a Bag2school collection. Thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted textiles; we saved 190kg from going to landfill and your donations will instead go on to be reused and recycled.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day, the PTFA came into school on Thursday 8th May to decorate cupcakes with the children. The children iced and decorated over 100 cupcakes with union flags and sprinkles, to take home and enjoy!



We have lots of exciting events in our PTFA calendar for the summer term!

School Movie Night - Friday 23rd May

Non-school uniform day - Friday 6th June

Donuts for Dads - Friday 13th June

School summer fete - Friday 28th June, 12-3pm

School disco - Monday 21st July



**Chaddleshworth and Shefford schools PTFA
Summer Fundraiser**



Scan to donate



and help us take the whole school
to the Cotswold Wildlife Park!

Our fundraising efforts this term is with the goal to raise £1800 to go towards a whole school trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. This will be a brilliant treat for the children and staff, as well as linking to the learning they have been doing this term. If you are able, and would like to support us, please scan the QR code.

If you would like to help us in other ways, the PTFA would be delighted to have your support for our school summer fete. If you have any surplus of seedlings or plants, or if you have any soft toys (in





Calling all green-fingered growers!



The PTFA would be grateful for your donations of surplus seedlings or plants for our summer fete plant stall.

If you think you could help, please drop off your donations from Monday 16th June. Alternatively, speak to Nicola Liddiard or email chad_shefford_ptfa@mail.com

Thank you!

great condition), please get in touch emailing chad_shefford_ptfa@mail.com, or dropping off your donations under the school bike shelter.

Thank you as always for your continued support.



Do you have cuddly toys that are no longer played with?



The PTFA are looking for soft toys (in great condition), to be the stars of the summer fete's hugely popular 'Spin the Wheel' teddy game!

If your child is happy to give some of their cuddly toys a new home, please drop off donations in the school bike shelter.

Thank you!

Hope you've all had a fantastic May!

It's been a great month for us here at NAWT Berkshire – the flooding has finally cleared, and our events season is officially kicking off!

As we move into June, we have some really exciting events coming up. On Tuesday 3rd June, from 1pm to 3pm, we are hosting a volunteer recruitment day where you can come along, meet our staff and volunteers and ask any questions you may have about volunteering. Food and drink will be provided. If you'd like to come along, just let us know by emailing m.hall@nawt.org.uk with any dietary needs or give us a call at 01488 638584. We hope to see you there!

Then don't forget to mark your calendars for Friday the 13th of June—we're hosting a fun quiz night here at our centre! There'll be a raffle, prizes for the winning teams, and lots of laughs as we test your knowledge. Teams are up to 6 people. Tickets are just £10 each and include some delicious

food. Best of all, all proceeds go directly to helping the animals in our care. To reserve your spot, just give us a call at 01488 638584 or drop us an email at m.hall@nawt.org.uk. We're really looking forward to seeing you there!

Looking back into May, we had a good month for rehoming including saying goodbye to our lovely,



NAWT QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 13th June, 7pm start

Test your knowledge with Quizmaster Mike!

Raffle!

Prizes for the winning teams!

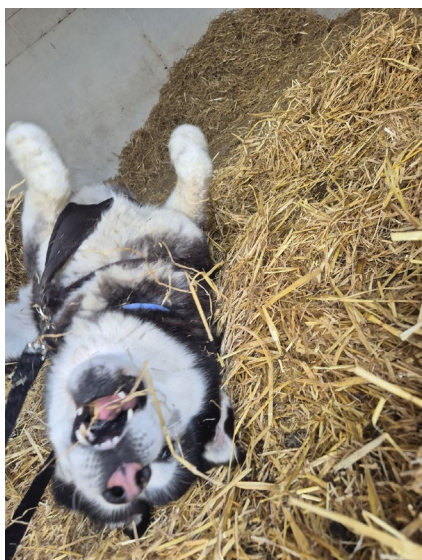
Maximum of 6 people in a team. £10 per person
Food is included in the price.
Bring a bottle (and a glass!)

To book, call 01488 638584 or email m.hall@nawt.org.uk

NAWT Berkshire, Trindledown Farm, Wantage Road, Great Shefford, RG17 7DQ



bonded pair Larry and Bodhi. They have now settled into their forever home and even have a lovely new brother to keep them company.



Still looking for their forever home is the wonderful Azu, a beautiful Husky who loves water, car trips and adventures! Azu is currently five years old and is great with both dogs and cats!

We're also on the lookout for more wonderful volunteers to help us

foster animals! If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact Sarah at s.hardwick@nawt.org.uk.

NAWT BERKSHIRE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DAY

JOIN US!

**Tuesday 3rd June
1pm - 3pm**

Come along for a BBQ and meet our current volunteers and ask what volunteering is like here at the centre



Please RSVP to m.hall@nawt.org.uk or on 01488 638584

As always, don't forget to follow us on Facebook (@nawt.berkshire) to stay up to date on all our latest news!



"Neighbourhood Watch is about being alert for any crime or suspicious activity. It is helping the Police to reduce crime, promoting neighbourliness and looking out for each other to make the community a safer place to live. We are looking for people in West Berkshire to volunteer to be Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. Sadly, we do not have many schemes now in Great Shefford.

A scheme can be anything from 5 properties upwards and the main role of a Coordinator is to circulate the Alerts on crimes and scams to your neighbours either via email or posting on a WhatsApp or Facebook Group for your area. You will receive free signs, stickers, leaflets and discounts for your neighbours.

For more information, please contact Angela Money BEM, Area Representative for West Berkshire via e-mail: ajmy5m7@gmail.com or by phoning 01635 40866/07774962641."

Inspector Alan Hawkett has asked me to share the below link to the "your area" website. Just add your home postcode and you will be able to find your local neighbourhood team, contact them, see crime stats for your area and see what priorities the teams are working on.

[Your area | Thames Valley Police](#)

If you know of anyone else that would like to join Thames Valley Alert, which is a free email messaging system where you can receive regular crime updates, information on ongoing incidents and crime prevention relevant to your local area. please notify them to click on the below link.

[Home Page - Thames Valley Alert](#)

PUB TALK

We're delighted, at last, to share some thrilling news that's sure to lift the spirits of us all.

As some of you already know The Great Shefford or *The Swan on the River* (as it shall now be known - thank you Dave!) has officially been acquired and will be reopening its doors as soon as possible, bringing back the cherished hub of our village. I know there have been questions as to who has bought the pub, so to clarify for everyone it is us - Miranda and Dominic Armstrong. We live here in the village and have the small farm on the Lambourn. We have taken the plunge in order to end the uncertain future that our pub was facing.

For all of us, the pub is more than just a place to have a pint. It is where we can come together to share good food and drink by our beautiful river and enjoy the good companionship of others. It has taken many months to navigate the workings of Stonegate, the previous owner, a classic large, remote corporate resulting in the merry-go-round of different tenants. But the freehold of the building has now been purchased to save it from any more uncertainty and is now being lovingly refurbished with the community at its heart.

Its ethos will be simple - well-kept beer, great wines, simple, but delicious food that is affordable and a warm welcome to all. Crucially we are not aiming for the gastro pub, but the community hub pub.

We very much hope this is the beginning of a new golden age for pub, where the uncertainty of remote ownership no longer threatens its existence. There has been a pub here at least since 1752.... Here's to the next 300 years at least.

We would ask for your patience a little longer. There is much to learn for us in starting a project of this nature as we plunge into the world of bureaucracy and gather all the permissions that we need. Work has started on the refurbishment, and I am sure many of you will already have met the wonderful George Medlin (GreenWoodpecker Building Co) who is heading up the renovation team getting his head around what is a very special building. We hope, by drawing on our local talent that we will have a thoroughly individual pub. Works were temporarily halted last week to protect a mother duck as she dutifully sat on her nest at the foot of the dead tree. We are delighted to say that they are now hatched and released into the river so work can continue outside.

We would love to hear your suggestions, for what you would like to see in your pub particularly your top tipples. We can't promise to deliver them all but we will do our best to incorporate top favourites where we can.

Please email us at: info@theswanontheriver.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

There will be more details soon, including our plans, opening dates (we'd love to be open by Christmas but alas it is beyond our control at this stage), opportunities and how to get involved. In the meantime, watch this space and spread the word: *The heart of the village is alive and nearly kicking.*

Here's to laughter, conversation, candlelight and the smell of delicious food to the clink of glasses by the riverside - we can't wait to welcome you back.

With very best wishes from the pub team.

Miranda Armstrong

Great Shefford Under Fives

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

Our “drop in” Monday **Baby & Toddler group**, run by Debbie and Kathryn, has been busy with many new parents, carers and their very young children. This runs on Monday mornings from 9.30 - 11am for £3 including refreshments for all so please come along with your little ones.

This short half term has ended in glorious sunshine for us all. The children are fortunate to have spent lots of time outside each day, both in the morning in our small garden area and every afternoon at our wonderful park or in the countryside. The daily outdoor learning brings fitness, coordination and strength, love of the countryside and feelings of joy. They have raced across the



fields, collected “treasure” in small bags, paddled in the river, watched the new barn being built, looked around the church and enjoyed the challenging apparatus at the park.

We celebrated VE Day 80 by dancing to Glenn Miller, having our lunch with cups and saucers and making jam tarts. Our music teacher has visited us for a special May Day lesson.



We took feather dusters and cloths to spring clean the church one afternoon; it is important to learn to help in the community.

We do have Pre-School spaces in September so if you would like to know a little more about the fabulous opportunities we can offer your pre-school child, please do get in touch or look at the photo **Learning Diary** on our website.

CRAFT CLUB

May has been a busy month for the craft club.

We are very lucky to have a lovely member, Claudia who actually lives in the Netherlands but regularly visits a friend in the village. When she is here on a Friday she comes along to the club. We are very proud to

be able to attract someone from so far away!! Claudia is very keen on crochet and at the beginning of the month she showed us how to crochet one of her favourites, wind spinners. There are some pictures of the ones she brought along as demos and some that our members have completed but many are still works in progress at home.

You need to hang them somewhere outside so that they can catch the breeze and spin round.



Later in the month we had a go at making flowers from coloured chenille pipe cleaners. We started off with bluebells, some of us progressed to daisies but again it is something we will return to in the following weeks as it was not long enough in one session.

All the best from our friendly club.

Stevie Franklin

St. Mary's Church

Open Tower

Saturday 21st June 10am to 12pm,
1pm to 3pm

If you are curious about bell ringing, would like to find out more or simply like to watch, do come along to our **Open Tower**.

Bell-ringers come from all walks of life, everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a church goer!

We would be delighted to share our activity and let you try if you'd like to.

Just come along to the Church, we look forward to meeting you!



News from Welford Park Cricket Club

Nearing the end of May the cricket season is in full flight and, including friendlies, it's the sixth week of fixtures as we go to press. There is always friendly rivalry for the annual batting and bowling awards. Can you guess how many runs the leading scorer has so far? And what about the top wicket taker? More on that later.

In 2025 it is the first season for the club in the Thames Valley League (having previously played in the Berkshire league). The first moment of success in the new league came when fifteen year old Charlie Mabey took the club's first league wicket of the season, away at Bracknell. The junior coaches are delighted to see young Frankie Marangio and Devon Farrant also involved in league games. It bodes well for further promising youngsters to come through. For example, Charlie and Frankie both have siblings currently involved in the club's first season in the Berkshire Under 13 League. And in the senior league captain Mike Harrison has introduced a weekly man of the match award for which Frankie was the recipient against Falkland, the first such award having been won by the somewhat more senior Jacob Griffiths for his excellent boundary fielding.



Jacob Griffiths receives the man of the match award from skipper Mike Harrison for his performance against Fleet

Sundays are reserved for friendlies. These are often social occasions and, most recently, there was a carnival atmosphere as Welford Park hosted Newbury Stags, an opposition formed from his community group by the club's own Anbu Batumalai.



Newbury Stags Vs Welford Park



Newbury Stags' cheer leaders make it a carnival occasion

And perhaps the most exciting game of the season so far was also on a Sunday when Welford Park hosted Binfield. Three wickets for Marc Greenslade helped to contain the visitors to 212-6 and, in response, the game seemed in the bag at 161-3 with Majid Saeed on 93 but a flurry of wickets denied Majid his century and left Welford reeling at 197-7. Calm heads were called for! Mike Harrison and Kev Tarrier steadied the ship and saw things through for a Park win by three wickets!

So what about those stats? Well firstly the Under 13s. Liam Edwards and Olly Paphitis lead the batting with 24 runs each so far. In the bowling it's Noah Horton with 2 wickets.

And for the adults Ian Herrington has 13 wickets after his excellent 6-35 against Wokingham and Mike Harrison is tight on his heels with 12. In the batting Majid Saeed leads the way with 213. Sarfraz Abbasi and Suvo Datta are close behind with 195 and 187 respectively.



NOAH HORTON HAS 2 WICKETS FOR THE U13S 1

To contact the club about participation in any of these activities it's: Ian Herrington: lanherro810@gmail.com 07879 204696.

Great Shefford Sports & Social Club

Current Opening Hours:

Friday 5:30pm - 11:00pm

Saturday 12:00pm - 4:00pm & 7:30pm - 11:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Contact us:

Email: greatsheffordsocialclub@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567726790943>

Phone (Sandra): [07748403778](tel:07748403778)

The Great Shefford Sports & Social Club is located behind the Village Hall on Station Road in the heart of our village. We are a friendly, committee run club and we are working hard to develop events for our local community to enjoy in addition to opening extended hours for our members as often as possible.

The **2025 Annual General Meeting** was held on Tuesday 13th May, attended by 20 members. We have had another successful year. Thanks must be extended to our hard working committee members who give up their free time to run the club for the benefit of the community, and thanks also to the members and villagers who support the club, whether that's by regularly attending club open hours or coming to our events.

Special thanks to Linda, Tor, Debbie, Patch and Vic for all the work that goes on with bar service, cleaning, Bingo ticket sales and maintenance.

The committee said goodbye to Kirsty Harris and Ellie Angell this year (thank you both for all you have done) and welcomed five new members (Tor, Amy, Steve, Chloe and Katie). We now have 11 committee members - looking forward to a great year with plenty of fresh ideas to take the club onwards and upwards!!

Upcoming events to add to your diaries:

- Saturday 14th June - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm
- Wednesday 25th June - Cheese Club. Around 8.30pm - 9pm, bring a piece of cheese along to share in a sociable nibble
- Saturday 12th July - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm

Additional events will be publicised via Facebook and posters around the village.

And now a request... In the interests of being a good neighbour to nearby residents, we are stopping outside noise at 10pm, so please avoid using the car park door for smoke/vape breaks after 10pm and instead use the door to the path, and kindly keep noise down when you head home.

If you haven't been to the club before, we would love you to welcome you for a drink and/or our upcoming events. If you have any comments, suggestions and/or

questions about GSSSC please contact us & we look forward to seeing you at the club soon!



Flower Festival at St Thomas Church

Unique to our Village is the tucked away pre-Norman church of St Thomas'. In conjunction with the Church Conservation Trust, Historic Open Days, we are celebrating our little Church's 500 years of history on the afternoon of 14th June to raise funds for its ongoing maintenance, so join us then for;

"Hymns and Pimms"

The church has been beautifully decorated with an abundance of flowers and cakes, Pimms, teas and coffees will be available. Bring your own picnic and whatever refreshments you wish to relax in the tranquil church meadow, where facilities will be available and a beautiful afternoon can be had by everyone. Dogs are more than welcome, but due to grazing sheep, lead only please.

For those that wish, **a service will be held at 2.00pm** by Rev Mike, our wonderful and jolly vicar. Perhaps he may grace us with his musical skills and beautiful baritone in the church field as well?

Looking forward to seeing all of us there!

WELCOMING OUR NEW PARISH CLERK:



MEL TAYLOR - PARISH CLERK

I have worked in the local council sector for over 23 years, including the last 8 years as a Clerk. I was appointed to the role of Clerk to Great Shefford Parish Council on 1st April 2025 and I'm delighted to be part of this vibrant and welcoming community.

I particularly enjoy the community aspect of the role and the opportunity to support both Councillors and residents in helping the village thrive. Parish councils play a vital part in representing local interests, delivering services, and supporting community well-being, and I'm proud to contribute to that work.

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know the village and its residents. If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch at: clerk@greatsheffordparish.gov.uk

Kind Regards
Mel

NEWS FROM THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

Dear Friends,

Do you ever have those moments in life when it seems like every conversation is somehow linked together. Like there is a golden thread that connects all of the parts of your life and you find yourself having the same conversation over and over again. That has been happening for me over these past few weeks. At every turn, I seem to be having discussions about volunteers. Needing more volunteers, people wanting to volunteer, people with ideas to start something new if only they could find a few willing volunteers....



This is true in every community. Churches, village fete committees, allotment societies, parish councils, village halls, wherever people gather, volunteers are needed. They are vital!!! So if you are already volunteering in our communities - Thank

you!! You are making this place where we live better and we all appreciate that!

If you Google for 'Bible' and 'Volunteers' there are a myriad of different passages that speak of the value and importance of using our gifts, talents, experiences, time and resources for the good of others. One I particularly liked was Ephesians 2:10 which says "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Do you feel like a masterpiece today? God says that you are. Chosen and dearly loved. Gifted with a unique set of talents that only you can bring. I wonder, over this next month, if there is something that would bring you joy and life to get involved with. Anywhere in the community. That's how we change the world. How we play our part in building the Kingdom of God. By being the best version of ourselves and giving what we have for the good of others. Where might you "Join In"? With my love and prayers,

Rev Mike
x

www.westdownland.co.uk
office@westdownland.co.uk

FARMING NEWS



Since I last wrote, we have been busy lambing, a boring time for the dogs as they just want to work, so we take the opportunity to do patience training. This simply involves putting the dogs on a hay rack or some such bale and teaching them that they can't be running all the time, sometimes they just need to sit and watch. The weather has been very favourable to aid with lambing however we have been praying for rain to get the grass growing. We

have had a fairly consistent 1 mm per night rainfall. As I write this last night we had 4 mm and I am now sat as a little bit more significant rain is coming through.

We have had a very successful lambing as I hope most people have, a good crop of lambs out on the ground which bodes well for a good supply of local quality lamb. Lambing gives us a lot of hours work and can be disheartening at times, you get general mortality but overall we've had it good this year.

Our barn is progressing well. The sides are now starting to go up and we have finished concreting the floor so we hope to finish within four weeks.





The herbal ley is doing fantastically and is designed for this dry weather in fact it's a very resilient mix which will cope with an awful lot.

Mary and I spent a night camping at the top of the field and although cold the stars were stunning, we are fortunate to live in a very beautiful part of the country. We spent several hours watching the wildlife around us, it is the first time I have been aware of the lesser white throat bird.

We have unfortunately had a little bit of petty theft around black barn which puts a slight dampener on proceedings however whoever has done this knows they've done it and they have to live with themselves.

We took some time out and got together as a family. In fact my father came up from Guildford and we went to the spring working along by The Hare at Lambourn, really



good local show, if people haven't been I would recommend it. I spotted our neighbours old steam engine which was used for working the amusements and their fairground business. It's a really good chance for locals, farmers and family to catch up and have a good local country show. Dad and I managed to chew the cud over a hog roast and a pint of beer, all in all a very good show.

Until next time
Ash



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 12TH MAY 2025 AT 9.20PM**

**(following the Annual Parish Meeting)
at Great Shefford Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Tony Coard, Jessica Copcutt, Louisa Freeman, Piers Storey and Carol Turner

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)

2025-05/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Miranda Armstrong.

2025-05/02 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Piers Storey be elected Chairman of Great Shefford Parish Council and Councillor Tony Coard be elected Vice Chairman of Great Shefford Parish Council for the municipal year 2025/26 [it was acknowledged that Councillor Storey may resign from the Council before the end of the municipal year].

2025-05/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

2025-05/04 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2025.

2025-05/05 OPEN FORUM

There were no members of public present and District Councillor Hooker had presented his annual report to the Annual Parish Meeting that preceded this meeting.

There were no matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting that required consideration by the Parish Council.

2025-05/06 ANNUAL ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED to adopt the following documents, as presented:

- i. Standing Orders
- ii. Financial Regulations
- iii. Asset Register

2025-05/07 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/26

RESOLVED to confirm the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2025/26 as follows:
2nd June 2025, 7th July 2025, 1st September 2025, 6th October 2025,
3rd November 2025, 5th January 2026, 2nd February 2026, 2nd March 2026,
6th April 2026 and 11th May 2026, commencing at 7.30pm at Great Shefford Village Hall.

2025-05/08 BALC / NALC AFFILIATION 2025/26

RESOLVED not to renew affiliation to the Berkshire Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils for the year 2025/26.

2025-05/09 PLAY AREA COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS PROGRAMME

Councillors considered details of Sovereign Play Equipment's play area compliance programme, at a one-off cost of £399 for 5-years, comprising 2 operational inspections per year.

Following complaints of dog's being exercised in the recreation ground, it was agreed to review and potentially increase signage.

RESOLVED to sign up to Sovereign Play Equipment's compliance programme at a cost of £399 for 5-years, to complement the existing monthly visual inspections and annual safety inspection.

2025-05/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Updates on new planning applications and decisions since the last meeting were noted, as per appendix I to these minutes.

2025-05/11 FINANCE

It was agreed to update the bank mandate, to add Councillor Armstrong and the Parish Clerk and to remove former Councillor Eunice Tweedie. It was also agreed to pursue a formal complaint against SSE regarding overcharges. Budget reports would be presented to future meetings.

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payee	Amount	Invoice reference / date	Description
Tactical Facilities Management	£217.01	3366 24.04.2025	Monthly maintenance – April 2025
Tactical Facilities Management	£253.86	3413 24.04.2025	Waste removal & Litter Picking – April 2025
Westcotec	£6,103.20	15790-1 15.04.2025	Replacement VAS Wantage Road
M Taylor	£308.61		Parish Clerk's Salary – April 2025

2025-05/12 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

Councillor Turner discussed the village Christmas tree for 2025 and it was agreed that this should again be sited at the social club, which had been a success in 2024. It was proposed that the tree would be delivered and erected around 21st November 2025, with a 'lights switch on event' in the first week of December. The likely cost for the tree, new lights and decorations would be £250 and it was agreed to review budget availability.

2025-05/13 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Speed Awareness Group – Councillor Copcutt to advise on dates for scheduled data collection activities.

2025-05/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7.30pm.

Subsequent meeting dates for 2025/26: 7th July, 8th September, 6th October, 3rd November, 5th January, 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April and 11th May.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.57pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Appendix I

Application No.	Address	Details	Status (at time of agenda publication)	GSPC response
24/01903/HOUSE	Rowan House Wantage Road	Proposed single-storey side and rear extension with associated alterations and proposed detached car port	Awaiting decision	Nil
24/02156/FUL	East Shefford House	Part retrospective installation of solar panel	Approved	Nil
25/00567/FUL	Land East of The Old Post House Newbury Road Shefford Woodlands	Erection of an Agricultural Barn with storage	Awaiting decision	Nil
25/00672/NONMAT	3 The Old Railway Station Station Road	Revised windows and door configuration on north and west elevations	Approved	Nil
25/00742/AGRIC	Access track west of East Shefford Farm, footpath 17	To determine if prior approval is required for proposed new road for agricultural or forestry use	Awaiting decision	Nil
25/00888/HOUSE	29 Spring Meadows	Two-storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory	Awaiting decision	Nil