

GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

April 2026

Welcome to the April edition of the Parish News!

With the clocks going forward comes the longer evenings which kickstart outdoor activities. One of the highlights of the village activities is always the duck derby and river flow has subsided sufficiently for it to take place this year on Easter Saturday as usual. We have details of a number of other church activities over the weekend, so stay local for your entertainment and save money.

Social Club members have been very busy transforming the club and would be pleased to see you to take a look at progress.

The Parish Council have recently done a soft launch of their new website – this is the Parish Council website, not a community one, although many of the community groups are mentioned. It is however, far more user friendly than its predecessor with clearly laid out menus and contact email details for all the Parish Councillors. Speaking of which we welcome two new Councillors – Paul Carter who has lived in the village for many years and whose son Jim is a past Chairman. Also joining is Nick Pearson who has owned a property here for some time and has recently returned to live full-time. Take a look at www.greatsheffordparish.gov.uk to learn more.

Welford Cricket Club's is preparing for the upcoming season and it is good to see the encouragement they are giving to the younger generation.

I have been editing the Parish News since 2020 so it is time for me to step down and let someone else have a go.

It needs re-invigorating – as the key means of sharing what is happening, has happened and may happen if villagers get involved it needs new ideas. I do not have the computer skills to do what is required or access to the training to work with modern programmes. Details further down.

For those with children, or even the adults who like to see the lambs, we have news of the impending start of this spring's lambing. Also details of a revision to the laws around dogs and livestock.

If you have news you would like to share , please email it to gtsheffordnews@gmail.com

Whilst the cut off date for contributions is the 25th of each month, please don't wait until the last minute to submit yours! As this is a voluntary job, I fit it in around my other commitments.

EVENTS CALENDAR APRIL

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday 1 st	10.00 a.m.	Easter Cake & Craft Under 5s	Village Hall
Wednesday 1 st	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 2 nd	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Friday 3 rd	10.30 a.m.	All aged fun - Easter Garden	St Mary's
Saturday 4 th	3.00 p.m.	Duck Derby & tea	East Shefford Farm & Village Hall
Sunday 5 th	10.30 a.m.	Easter Sunday All Aged Service	St Mary's
Sunday 5 th	11.30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt	Walled Garden, Chaddleworth Church
Tuesday 7 th	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard tidying	St Mary's
Wednesday 8 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 9 th	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Friday 10 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 11 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo	Social Club
Monday 13 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wednesday 15 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Friday 17 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 18 th	7.30 p.m.	Race night	Social Club
Sunday 19 th	10.15 a.m.	Café Church	St Mary's
Wednesday 22 nd	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 23 rd	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Friday 24 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Friday 24 th	8.00 p.m.	Cheese Club	Social Club
Saturday 25 th	7.45 p.m.	It's a Knock Out - Pool	Social Club
Sunday 26 th	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise	St Stephens - S.W.
Wednesday 29 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 30 th	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall

Great Shefford

Parish Council – March

Meeting Update

Councillors Present: Cllr Miranda Armstrong, Cllr Steve Bullock, Cllr Tony Coard (Chairman) and Cllr Jessica Copcutt and subsequently Cllr Paul Carter and Cllr Nick Pearson.

New Councillors Welcomed
Two new Parish Councillors, Paul Carter and Nick Pearson, were co-opted to fill recent vacancies following the resignations of Louisa Freeman and Piers Storey. Both joined the meeting after formally accepting office.

Community Issue – Dog Fouling
A resident raised ongoing concerns about dog fouling. The Council agreed that education remains the most practical approach rather than enforcement measures such as surveillance. Residents can expect regular reminders via social media and the newsletter, including information on local dog bin locations.

Update from District Councillor Clive Hooker
The West Berkshire Council budget for 2026/27 has been approved, including a significant loan to support finances. A proposal to pass more services to parish councils was not approved. There is still no update on the Spring Meadows planning application, which remains under consideration.

Fence Repairs on Newbury Road
The Council agreed to proceed with repairs to a damaged fence on Newbury Road at an estimated cost of £1,600. Work will follow hedge

cutting by the adjacent property owner to allow access and reduce pressure on the structure.

Planning Matters
Planning applications decisions were reported, including:

- Approval of a solar panel installation at East Shefford House
- Approval of a residential extension at Manor Cottage
- Refusal (now under appeal) of an agricultural barn at Trindledown Farm

Finance Update
Routine payments for grounds maintenance, waste services and staff salary were approved. A budget update was noted, along with a Public Interest Report from the External Auditor. This arose because Council income slightly exceeded the audit exemption threshold due to a transfer of funds for supplementary flood alleviation work.

Play Area Repairs
Following a recent inspection, repairs to play equipment totalling £1,692.56 were approved. Additional minor repairs at the recreation ground are also being investigated.

Traffic and Speeding Concerns
Speed data from Wantage Road shows continued issues with speeding. Community Speedwatch is

being encouraged at key times and another Councillor has volunteered for training. Overgrown vegetation obscuring a 30mph sign will also be reported.

Flooding and Environment

The Council noted no current sewage issues, although water levels were high in some areas.

Village Events and Improvements

Plans are being considered for fundraising events to support improvements to the play area and recreation ground. A draft project plan will be presented at the next meeting.

Communications

A new Parish Council website is now live at: www.greatsheffordparish.gov.uk

Next

Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.30pm** at Great Shefford Village Hall.

Residents are encouraged to stay engaged with Parish matters and look out for updates via the new website and community social media channels.

This is a summary of the meeting, the full Minutes can be found at:

<https://www.greatsheffordparish.gov.uk/Meetings.aspx>



The second half of the Spring term is always so busy with so many events to take part in and celebrate. We talked to the children about how their mums helped them and what they would like to thank them for, then each child made a Mother's Day card and



put together a small posie of flowers. World Book Day saw Sarah Baillie dressed in a

giant dinosaur outfit to celebrate her love of dinosaur stories; some of the children weren't too sure about that! We also joined in some Red Nose Day fun to support Comic Relief and hopefully help families a little less fortunate than ourselves.

Now we are learning about Easter and the joy that it brings. We have made bunting to



hang in the church, put together a large Easter garden, read stories, met Revs. Mike and Matt at St. Mary's to share the good news of Easter, baked hot cross buns and Easter chocolate nests, decorated Easter baskets and will end the term with an

Easter egg hunt at the park.



Our "drop in" Monday **Baby & Toddler group**, has continued this term thanks to the hard work of Kathryn and her mum, Sally. Debbie has taken time to recover from an operation but is looking forward to being back in the summer term. Many new parents, carers and their very young children have come along to enjoy the wide range of well-planned activities. The group runs on Monday mornings from 9.30 – 11am for £3 including refreshments for all so please come along with your little ones.

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

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

Best wishes,

Denise Herrington

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

SHEFFORD CRAFT CLUB

Our February workshop was to try our hands at Manx quilting. This a traditional form of patchwork from the Isle of Man. It uses folded fabric strips hand sewn onto a foundation square. The block sizes are traditionally measured by hand. Although most of us did not finish our square in one session, a couple were so pleased with their finished result that they sewed them on to cushions as shown.



In March we revisited flower making using coloured chenille pipe cleaners. This time we made larger daisy style flowers and roses. Most of us decided to donate our flowers to create an arrangement to decorate the



village hall.

We will be meeting again on Fridays between 9.30 and 12.00 during April with the exception of Good Friday when we will be closed.

Do pop in to our friendly club to see what crafts we all do, and in the meantime have a very happy Easter.



Duck Derby 2026

3pm on Easter Eve, Saturday 4th April.

We are delighted that the village Duck Derby is back again, with Easter tea and cakes afterwards in the Village Hall. The race takes place in the idyllic surroundings of at East Shefford House, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Povey. Please walk up the track by the petrol station or there is a small amount of parking at the venue.

We will tip 1000 plastic ducks into the river and they will race their way to the finish line. The first 5 ducks win prizes of £200, £100, £50, £30, £20 and **winners are announced at the teas.**

Denise is selling tickets, £2 per lucky duck. Do give her a call on 07867 934 387 or there will be some to buy at the race.

The monies raised will maintain and preserve our historic parish churches.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the race, it should be a fantastic day. Thank you for your support.

NEWS FROM WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

Dear Friends,

April begins in the middle of Holy Week this year so I hope you will receive this article in time to engage in all the exciting things we have coming up!!

Easter is not just a single Sunday — it's a journey, and this year across the West Downland Benefice, we're inviting everyone to walk that journey together, step by step, from the noise of Palm Sunday to the breathtaking joy of Easter morning.

It begins on Palm Sunday (29th March) with something rather special — a real, live procession from Leckhampstead Village Hall, hopefully accompanied by Trevor the Donkey! Feel what it might have been like to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem as we make our way to church together, palm crosses in hand.

As Holy Week unfolds, there are quieter, more reflective moments to treasure too — candlelit Evening Prayers at Wickham and Fawley, and the deeply moving Maundy Thursday gathering at Welford, where we'll share a bring-and-share supper together, recreating the intimacy of that Last Meal, before keeping watch as the church is stripped bare in readiness for what comes next.

Good Friday (3rd April) offers something for everyone. Families are warmly welcomed to Great Shefford at 10:30am for a hands-on celebration of the Easter story with crafts, hot cross bun making, and singing. Later, at 2pm in Wickham, the traditional Last Hour service brings us to the foot of the cross in prayer and hymns, ending in profound silence at 3pm.

Then on Easter Eve, gather at Leckhampstead around a fire pit for chilli and community as darkness falls — before the Easter candles are lit and the church fills with light. It's a moment you won't forget.

And on Easter Day, join us at 9am in Fawley for Holy Communion or Great Shefford at 10:30am for a joyful All Age Communion including a Baptism. In and around that,



don't miss the Duck Derby at East Shefford Farm (Saturday 4th, 3pm) and Easter Egg Hunt at Chaddleworth (Sunday 5th, 11:30am) for family fun!

Hope to see you there!

With my love and prayers,

Rev Mike
x

Office Contact Details

www.westdownland.co.uk

Email office@westdownland.co.uk

Telephone 07954 117093

WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE					
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026					
 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	 <i>Monday to Wednesday</i>	 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	 <i>Good Friday</i>	 <i>Easter Eve</i>	 <i>Easter Day</i>
9am Holy Communion Shefford Woodlands Holy Communion & lively hosannahs with the blessing of our Palm Crosses and including the reading of 'The Passion'. 10:30 Holy Communion Leckhampstead Starting at the Village Green and processing to the church (Hopefully with Trevor the Donkey with our Palm Crosses for a service of Holy Communion).	7pm Monday Wickham Candlelit Evening Prayer 9:30am Tuesday Chaddleworth Said Holy Communion. 7pm Tuesday Fawley Candlelit Evening Prayer 7pm Wednesday Chaddleworth Said Holy Communion by candlelight.	7pm Bring and share meal, The Last Supper and The Watch Welford We will gather at 7pm for a bring and share suppe, remembering Jesus' last meal with his friends, and sharing Holy Communion around the table. After this has completed, we will move towards the front of the church as our attention switches to the Garden of Gethsemane and the church is stripped as we prepare for The Watch.	10:30 am All Age Easter Celebration Great Shefford A fun-filled celebration of the Easter story with crafts, making hot cross buns, food, singing and designing this year's Easter Garden. 2pm The Last Hour Wickham A traditional service of Readings and Hymns at the foot of The Cross. This service will end in silence at 3pm.	7pm Celebrating the Light Leckhampstead Gather around the fire pit and enjoy a bowl of chilli (Vegetarian and gluten free options available) as we wait for the sun to set. Then, in the dark church, we will begin our contemporary Easter Celebrations as the Easter Candles for each parish are lit from the fire and fill the church with the light of Easter.	9am Easter Holy Communion Fawley Our Benefice Easter Day Holy Communion Service with joyful Easter hymns and the Hallelujah Chorus! 10:30 Easter Holy Communion with Baptism Great Shefford Suitable for All Ages, this joyful Easter celebration will include Holy Communion

IN THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

GREAT SHEFFORD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

We recently held our very well attended Annual General Meeting and were pleased to welcome many of our members.

During the year ownership of the site has passed to our Chairman, Paul Akers which secures the site for the foreseeable future. Paul is a very enthusiastic and helpful head Landlord and has already put in place a number of improvements at the site, with more planned. The Society operates the site via the Parish Council who are the leaseholder.

At the Annual General Meeting the outgoing committee were unanimously re-elected with Paul Akers as Chairman, Juliet Steynor as Secretary, Linda Bowden retaining the roles of Treasurer and assembling Seed Orders, all assisted by Committee Member Steve Hale. Some minor amendments to the club rules were also agreed and going forward we are likely to be stricter with the rules governing cultivation of plots as it is not fair on those wanting a plot if

those fortunate to have one, do not make full use of it.

A big step forward for the Society is that for the first time for many years, all plots are taken and we have opened a waiting list.

If you are interested in a plot, please don't be put off by having to join a waiting list as you never know when a plot might become vacant.



SITUATION VACANT

Parish News

Editor

After 5 years it is time for someone else to take over this role. Applicants will need access to a computer and wifi, a good command of the English language and spelling. Ideas to re-vamp and invigorate the News will be welcomed. Hours are minimal and to suit the candidate. Role to commence this coming June.

Applications to and more info from: gtsheffordnews@gmail.com

News from Welford Park Cricket Club

At this time of year it's all about roots. No, not England's world class batting star Joe, nor his brother Billy. Welford Park's John Fletcher and Ian Herrington have been hollow tining the square (I don't know either - it's a groundsman thing). Apparently it will mean that air will get to the grass roots and produce a top quality wicket.

And now that the roots have had time to aereate many of the club members have been taking turns to do jobs around the ground including rolling the square.



*It can't be a billiard table, there's a mower on it!
It's not all about you Joe!*



The outfield mower that was purchased last season has been in good use too and the ground is looking in excellent shape. Once again, a huge thank you to all those who donated or sponsored the club to enable it's purchase.

The club have two Saturday teams, a Sunday team, an Under 13s team and, new for the coming season, a midweek Development XI to support our older juniors to make the transition to senior cricket. And we have a junior coaching session on Friday evenings for children from school Y1 up to and including the Under 13s.

It means that running costs are a constant challenge. Ground preparation, match balls and general upkeep all come at a cost and, this year, there are still sponsorship opportunities available. If you would like to consider being a sponsor the contact details are at the foot of this article.



*Alfie Mabey: top batter
with 89 runs*

The Under 13s play a mixture of conventional cricket (when you're out you're out) and pairs (everyone bats for a number of overs and if they are out they lose five runs but continue). This means there is a bit of work required to assimilate the season's stats but the figures have now been produced. The whole squad played, well coming second in the Berkshire Challenge Tier 2, but particular congratulations go to : Charlie Quaintance-Blackford, top fielder with 3 catches and 2 run outs and to Alfie and Finn (both pictured).

In January many of the adult team got together for an intra club indoor double-header. In two exciting games Charles Anthony's team defeated Sarfraz Abbasi's. Top batting performance was Charles himself with 48 not out. And perhaps the best bowling performance was young Charlie Mabey whose wickets included two superb caught & bowleds.

There is great excitement that the season is nearly upon us. For the senior teams matches begin with home friendlies; versus Abingdon Vale on Saturday 18th April and Woodley on Sunday 19th. And the U13s have been invited to start their season at Hungerford on April 26th at which they will be part of the Hungerford Cricket Club event to celebrate their new artificial wicket.

The club are always keen to welcome new players, umpires, scorers and coaches.

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



Finn Walters: top bowler with 8 wickets

Local Lottery, season 2025-2026 – latest draw results

The new season of the Local Lottery draws were started in December. Welford Park Cricket Club and Great Shefford Under Fives would like to thank everyone who was kind enough to purchase a ticket in the draw for the current season. The winners for the latest draw were:-

February Draw results

- £50 Donna Folland
- £25 Vicki Reeves
- £15 Roger Thornton
- £10 Adrian Bean

The draw was made by Andrew Bennett, head of Marketing of a new sponsor for the cricket club.

Just remember, the results of each draw can be found on the Welford Park Cricket Club web site at https://welfordpark.play-cricket.com/web_pages/local_lottery_winners and they are also published here in the parish magazine.

Many thanks for your support.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE

I was chewing the cud with the owner of my neighbouring farm the other week and it turns out I have been a little remiss and am conspicuous by my absence so I feel compelled to put pen to paper this month.

There has been a lot going on in the run up to lambing, trying to keep up with the needs and welfare of the sheep whilst planning a year ahead into what forage we are going to need to see us through winter. Nobody knows what sort of year we will have so trying to judge that is in nature's court I'm afraid, all we can hope for is a good season to grow crop and a dry period at harvest time.

Last year gave us a very dry spell with all forage being down by at least 65% which has driven costs up considerably to the farmers that are short of feed for the animals.

This last week we have been preparing the ground around Black Barn to eradicate weed and landscape the area into a picture of horticultural beauty.

By the time you read this lambing will be fully underway, the Derbyshire Gritstones by the barn will be lambing around the 6th April give or take.



We stagger the lambing groups as we can't be everywhere at once. Always a lovely time of year, sleep deprivation can be hard to adjust to but it'll all be over in six weeks... please feel free to stop and chat to a grumpy shepherd that's had 4 hours sleep and is running on coffee and mother in laws fantastic cakes.

The dogs go into a bit of a quiet time now as we reinforce bale training, the dogs are put on a bale stack watching over the ewes and lambs and aren't allowed off until told to, this gives them a

little mental stimulation.



I will tap out the next snippet whilst sat in the lambing shed.

Until next time.

Ash

DOGS (PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK) (AMENDMENT) ACT 2025

A reminder that the law relating to dogs and livestock in the countryside was updated on 18th March with the maximum penalties for an offence increasing from a fine of up to £1,000 to an “unlimited” fine, to act as a deterrent and give police powers to detain dogs believed to pose an ongoing threat to livestock.

The police now have greater powers and can investigate incidents more effectively under the new laws as part of the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025. These include entering premises to secure evidence or animal DNA, helping to prevent future incidents. Alongside this, Courts will also be able to require offenders to cover the costs of seizing and caring for a detained dog.

These changes will reduce the emotional and financial strain placed on farming communities from these dangerous attacks. While these incidents can unfold in moments, they leave lasting damage, harm businesses, affect livelihoods and cause considerable stress in rural communities. The new law brings much needed stronger powers to address the problem.

The Act extends protection to incidents that happen on roads and paths, recognising that incidents can occur when farmers move their livestock, for example along a road to another field or milking parlour. It also expands the definition of livestock to include camelids such as llamas and alpacas.

The changes are designed to crack down on instances of livestock worrying

and support the safety and wellbeing of rural communities. Farmers will have greater confidence that incidents will be investigated properly and that irresponsible dog owners can be held to account.

Please keep your dogs on a lead when walking in the countryside - they could put up a deer, rabbit or hare - no dog is infallible.

Editor

GREAT SHEFFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club renovations:

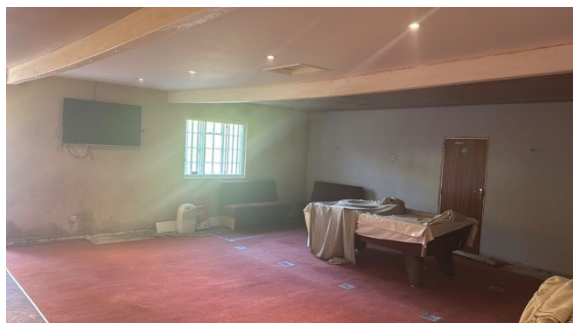
BIG things have been happening at the social club as you may be aware. It's been a really long month with lots of



volunteers working late nights and weekends but we are finally starting to see a real turn around. Walls have been stripped, ceilings have been smoothed, paint has been tested, skirting boards ripped off, furnishings removed



and there has been an extreme amount of cleaning and tidying so we can remain open between each work shift. If you have not popped in to see the current progress then pop by and have a drink.



As usual we have our Monthly Bingo on the second Saturday of the month, Cheese club on the last Friday of the month and Knockout competitions on the last Saturday of the month - this month it's pool so come along and join in.

We also have the ever popular Race Night planned for 18th April. Tables can be booked via Facebook, in the club via QR codes or text Amy on 07771474767.

Our AGM will be held on May 12th so make sure to pop that in your diary as well.

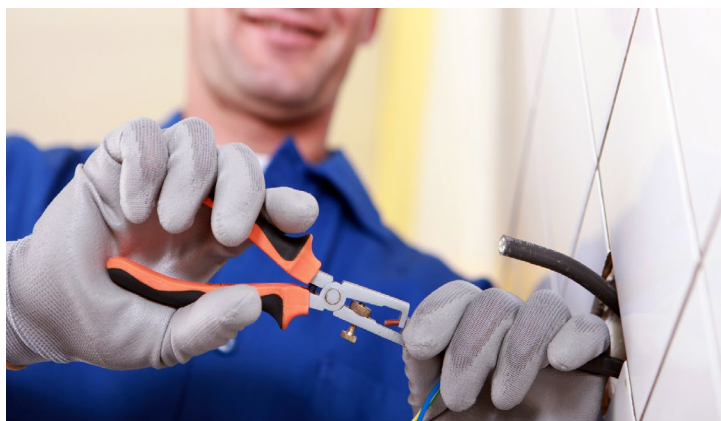
As you know the social club is run by volunteers and is a non-profit establishment. If you feel you could help in the renovations in any way at all please do contact us. We do have a go fund me page also if you feel you can help financially : <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/renovate-and-redecorate-our-community-led-social-club>

Thanks to all our supporters. Remember it's your Social Club so come get involved.

Stuart, Amy, Steve, Sandra, Paul, Tony, Chloe, Katie - Your club committee.

Certified Not Sorry: Stay Safe with Registered Electricians

Electrical safety is no place to cut corners. Using unregistered individuals for Part P notifiable work can lead to serious risks, including uncertified installations that may cause issues when selling your home. Electrical safety regulations, introduced in 2005 and updated in 2013, ensure work meets modern standards. However, work completed before 2005 is exempt from these rules if deemed safe for use.



Hiring registered electricians guarantees compliance, quality, and peace of mind. Many professionals offer guarantees, and schemes like NICEIC or NAPIT provide insurance-backed protection. Avoid costly repairs and potential hazards by choosing certified experts.

Concerned about unsafe electrical work?

Contact Trading Standards at 01635 519930 or tsadvice@westberks.gov.uk. For certification checks, visit NICEIC or the Electrical Competent Person Register.

Don't take risks—be certified, not sorry.

Always prioritize safety when it comes to electricity.



NICEIC – Find a Contractor

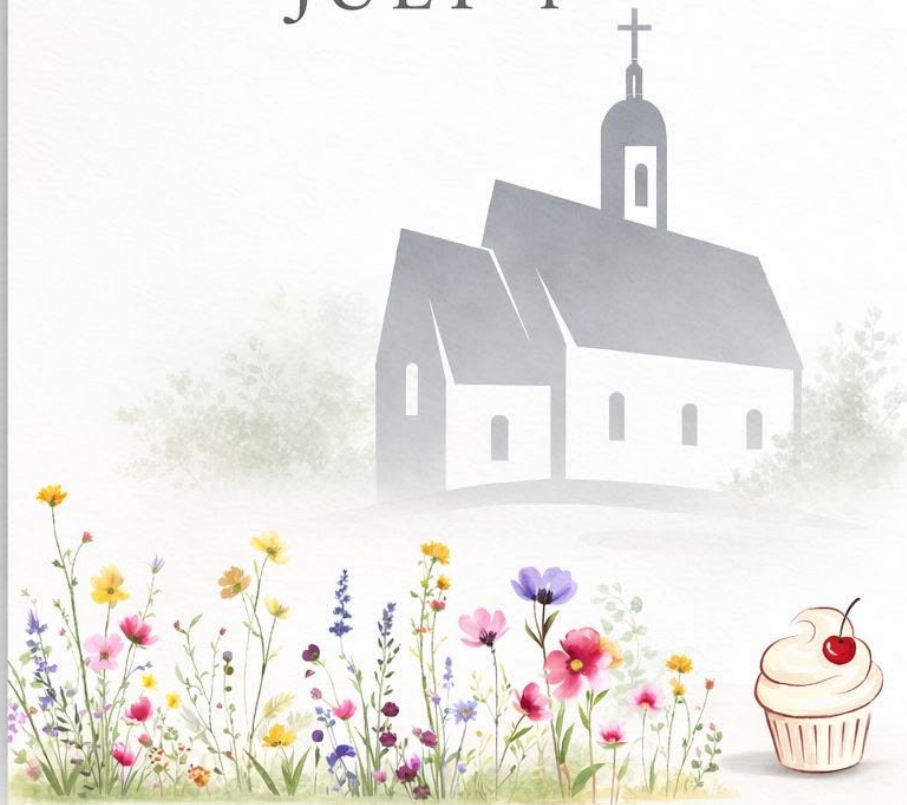


Electrical Competent Person

Save the Date

SATURDAY

JULY 4TH



More details next month

Chaddlesworth and Shefford Federated CE Primary School

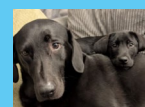
Thank you to everyone for your support and enthusiasm for our World Book Day celebrations this week, the 'Book in a Jar' entries were spectacular and children's costumes were fantastic! We were so lucky to meet a



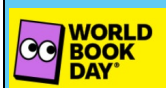
real, live author on the day. Thank you to Mrs Mirza for her organisation of our day and for Leon Mitchell and Glinda for joining us!



Friday morning brought some more exciting news, this time from Rascal! We were so happy to be able to introduce a new member of our team, Rascal's puppy nephew, Storm! Storm will be learning the ropes from our much loved Rascal and starting to join us occasionally to support our well-being and learning in school.



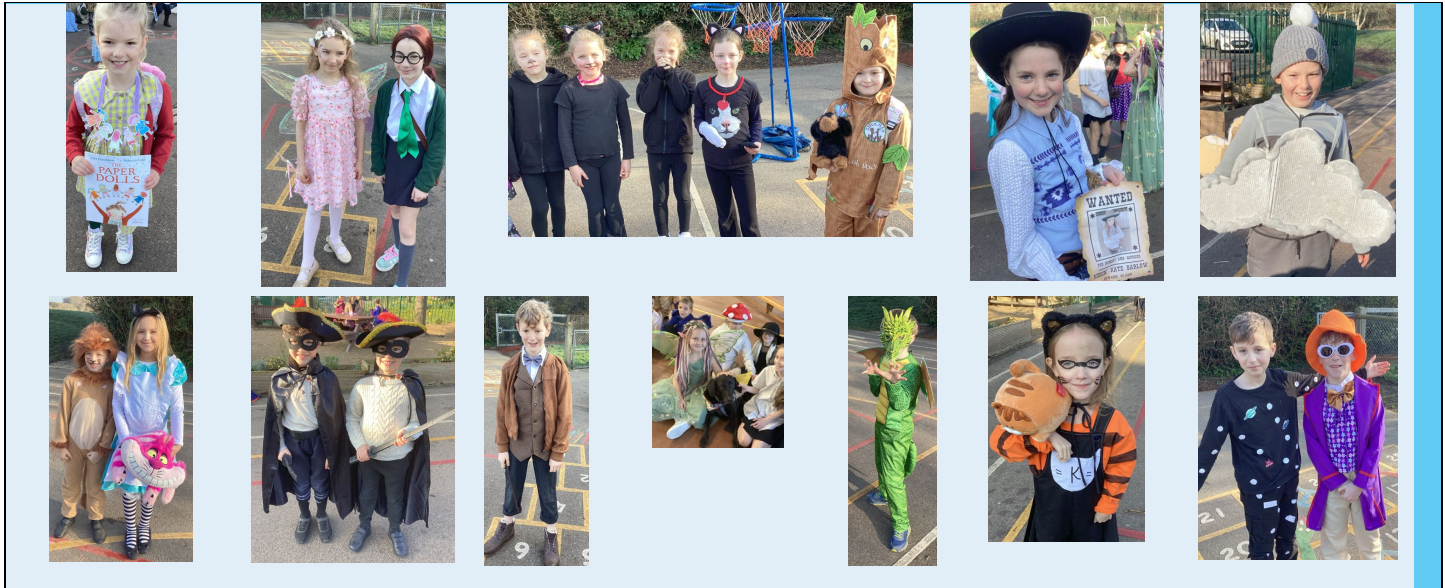
World Book Day...



The anticipation had been building through the week, we were so excited as preparations were underway (in school and at home!) for this year's World Book Day, and what a day it was!



As we all gathered together at the start of the day it was fantastic to see the creativity, imagination and inspiration our children had taken from the books that they love. Our whole school assembly gave opportunity for the children to identify different characters and stories that had inspired the day's clothing....what amazing costumes the children enjoyed wearing and explaining!



Audiobooks are another brilliant way of enjoying books being read aloud, whether you're sharing them with family or friends, or listening on your own. The World Book Day team welcomes everyone to their audiobook library, where you can enjoy our selection of books for FREE.

[World of Stories Audiobooks - World Book Day](#)

Newbury cross country...

"Owls and Red Kites attended the cross-country event at Newbury Showground this week, where the children showed great enthusiasm and determination. We are incredibly proud of everyone, with particular note for placings for Elizabeth L's 17th place, Sullivan's 81st place Erin's 47th place, Reuben's 99th placing and Sophie SJ's 87th place in their respective races! What fantastic and well-deserved achievements! Congratulations to all the children who took part for their resilience, effort and excellent sportsmanship." Mrs Mirza & Mrs Chapman.

Kingfishers STEAM trip...

"On Thursday Year 1 and Year 2 went to STEAM in Swindon. All the children were very excited as we set off on the coach! We went to find out about the building of the railways. There was so much to look at. We had the opportunity to look underneath a train, have a go at changing the train signals in the signal box and see inside the Royal Carriage which was built for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

After lunch, the children enjoyed a workshop where they learnt about how and why the railways were built. They found out about Isambard Kingdom



Brunel and George and Robert Stephenson. There was lots of dressing up and role play. The children then had the opportunity to build different wooden trains. The ladies running the workshop commented on how well the children listened - Well done Year 1 and Year 2! We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and staff who helped out with the trip."
Mrs Harris

Owls Ufton Court trip...

"Owls Class had a fantastic day at Ufton Court, where the children were fully immersed in life during Tudor times. They took part in a range of hands-on activities, including bow making, learning traditional Tudor skills, and acting out a crime and punishment scenario. The children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day, bringing their learning to life in a meaningful and memorable way." Mrs Mirza



Girls touch rugby...

"We had a fabulous morning at the Newbury Girl's Touch Rugby Festival on Thursday morning, with the sun shining and 6 other teams to play in a round-robin.

Our 10-strong team of year 5/6 girls did us proud, working brilliantly together, passing down the line and defending brilliantly and only

conceding one loss! They came second overall and earned themselves a silver medal. We are so proud of them!" Mrs Chrimes

