
GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

After the long hot, summer, there is a definite wintry feel, the leaves are falling fast and the days drawing in, the Flood Alleviation Scheme is complete, but yet to be tested, however the Environment Agency invite all residents to a Celebration of its completion and we have an invite from them later in the News to which all villagers are welcome, where you can also raise any questions about it you may have.

At a recent meeting of the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum participants were advised by the EA that September's rainfall was 121% of the yearly average, but that considerable rain was required to fill the aquifers which will trigger the springs rising, possibly from February.

There have been two well attended meetings in connection with the planning application for the old football field, some notes from these by the Parish Council can be seen at [78b5fb_e6c11c069e714483abee1b7b8c13873e.pdf](#).

The first Christmas event taking place is the lighting of the Christmas Tree on 29th November at the Social Club, followed by Santa's Parade on Sunday 7th December.

I am hoping to produce a hard copy of the December (Christmas) news which will incorporate a contact list of village organisations and businesses and be delivered to all homes. I will need all material by 25th November at the latest - I am afraid this time there will be no exceptions as the layout will be done by a third party for it to be print-ready for submission to the printers. As there is a cost to this, I have asked the Parish Council for their support to enable this - I believe there may still be some funds remaining from the money left over when we started the digital editions. This is on the After Agenda for the Parish Council meeting on Monday 3rd November.

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Linda Bowden

Editor

Village Calendar November 2025

Saturday	1 st	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard tidy, St Mary's
Sunday	2 nd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Monday	3 rd	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Monday	3 rd	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council, Village Hall
Wednesday	5 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	6 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	7 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	8 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo & Raffle, Social Club
Monday	9 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Tuesday	11 th	5.15 p.m.	Environment Agency FA Celebration - School
Wednesday	12 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	13 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	14 th	9.30 a.m..	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	15 th	8.00 p.m.	It's a Knock Out, Social Club
Sunday	16 th	10.15 a.m.	Café Church, St Mary's
Monday	17 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	19 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	20 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	21 st	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Sunday	23 rd	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise, St Stephens, Shefford Woodlands
Monday	24 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	26 th	8.30 p.m.	Cheese Club, Social Club
Wednesday	26 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	27 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	28 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	29 th	TBA	Lighting of Village Xmas Tree, Social Club



November 2025 update

Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme

I would like to invite the community of Great Shefford as well as anyone else who would like to join us to come to our celebration evening.

We will tell the story of this scheme with a special focus on the construction process itself. This is a chance for us all to formally mark the occasion of the completion of the new scheme and we hope to see you there.

Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme Celebration Evening



Invitation to our event

- **Date:** Tuesday 11 November 2025
- **Time:** Doors open at 5:15pm
- **Presentation:** 5:30pm
- **Place:** Shefford CE Primary School, RG177DB
(Please do consider walking as parking will be limited. Thank you to the school for hosting us!)



Regards, Susan Servais, FCRM Advisor in the Partnership and Overview team for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. (23/10/2025)

P.S. Some reminders about flooding as the clock change:

- [Prepare for flooding: Protect yourself from future flooding - GOV.UK](#)
- To check on the flood warnings on the River Lambourn and surrounding areas? [Check for flooding in England - GOV.UK](#)



Great Shefford Under Fives

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk



What a busy half term we had! We displayed work at the Newbury Show plus made a scarecrow and collage to display at the Ploughing Match, near Hungerford. We welcomed Penny Locke, with her Hungerford Food Community "hat on", both to the Toddler group and the Pre-School. Penny spent time with the children making healthy pizzas, milling flour, coring apples and cooking apple fritters. This was such a success that she will return in the Spring term.



Our music teacher, Anouska, has visited each week plus we had a visit from 11-year-old Elise who played the cello for the children; what a treat! Our role play area has been a harvest shop and the parents kindly donated food to give as a donation to the Lambourn Junction Foodbank. The children carried items of tinned food to the



church where Rev's Mike and Matt met us, we sang together and Rev. Mike read a story. Everyone is the busy

now enjoying a well-earned rest before preparations for Christmas.

Our Monday morning Baby & Toddler busy with new families coming along children. Debbie and Kathryn welcome provide a caring, inclusive session activities and music.

group has been with the young everyone and with refreshments,

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 via the website www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

Denise Herrington

Local Lottery, season 2024-2025

Please remember this Lottery provides Educational and Sporting chances for local youngsters at Great Shefford Under fives and Welford Park Cricket Club. The results for September and October draws were as follows:-

September Draw no. 10

- £50 Stuart Jeffcott
- £25 Matt & Will Barker
- £15 Steve Holden
- £10 Caroline Pettman

The draw was made at the clubs end of season work party

October Draw no 11

- £50 Ian Herrington
- £25 Steve Holden
- £15 Denise Herrington
- £10 Roy Bailey

The draw was made by Penelope Gwynne during a club committee meeting at the five Bells

There is only one more draw to go in this season which will be made at the Cricket Clubs' AGM in late November. Hopefully, everyone who currently holds a number in the draw have been contacted regarding their renewal. If not or if you would like to have a number yourself, please contact Ian Herrington on 07879 204 696 and he would be more than happy to sell you one of the remaining numbers.

Don't forget the results page is on the Welford Park Cricket Club web site. You will be able to see a list of the current year's winners by following this link:-

https://welfordpark.play-cricket.com/web_pages/local_lottery_winners

News from Welford Park Cricket Club August to October

On the hill just to the West of St Gregory's Church cricket has been played at Welford Park since the late 1800s. And since 1955 the club have taken on an annual challenge from the President's XI. Thus on August 3rd Johnny Puxley raised a strong team to take on the club for the platinum anniversary match.

Opener Biffa Bacon's rapid century set up the President's XI for an eventual 344-7, Piers Langley the pick of the bowlers with 3-52. Will Herrington responded with a century of his own but he lacked support and the President's XI won with runs to spare. Nonetheless it was a great occasion with an excellent tea laid on by the Puxley family.



The following Sunday saw another special match for a very different reason. Paul Bowers had played for the club between 1989 and 1994 but is remembered by most current club members as umpire and Treasurer. His passing last winter was a huge loss and it was no surprise that plenty of people were eager to be involved in a memorial match in his honour. So much so that the game was twelve-a-side.



Alex Hutchinson and Ben Myers raised a past players' team; the *Paul Bowers XII*, challenging a current team captained by Suvo Datta. In the circumstances just being a part of the day was paramount but some excellent cricket was played too. Myers top scored for Paul Bowers XII with 32 in a total of 187. There were three wickets apiece for Greenslade and Van der Walt.

After a tea interval which included reminiscences and a toast to Paul it was captain Datta (63) who did the bulk of the early scoring. At 113-6 it was only Charlie Mabey (16) who had made another double figure contribution. But when Will Herrington (44) and JP (22*) came together the game moved on at a pace. Five huge sixes later, mostly off Hutchinson, the game was nearly done and although

Will was caught by Sidhu off Goldsworthy Welford Park Present reached their target seven wickets down. Paul's sister Mary, who had watched the game with several family members including Paul's great nieces Ella and Poppy, presented the trophy in an emotional ceremony.



Mary presents the trophy to Suvo

In the league the 1st XI won at Eversley on Aug 16th The club has several father and son pairings and it was young Viv Sharma who doubled his Dad Pawan's score with 18 valuable runs in partnership with JP Van der Walt to take The Park to the brink of victory, JP finishing things off with a fine 56. The late season was a struggle for the 2nd XI. There were no victories but the atmosphere remained positive and everyone enjoyed their cricket. Mike Brook stood out with 109 runs since the start of August at an average of 54.5.



Due to the holidays the only Under 13s match has been against West Ilsley. Olly Paphitis top scored with 19 and there were two wickets each for Olly, Finn Walters and Harry Baines but West Ilsley won by 33 runs.

At the end of September it was time for the end of season chores. Over 30 players and colts parents helped out with jobs such as levelling the outfield, painting the boundary fence, pruning the trees and much more besides.

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

West Berkshire Book Groups

Join a library book group or set up your own and borrow your books from us.

For more information: 01635 519900 or
email: library@westberks.gov.uk

www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

Great Shefford Under Fives
Christmas Wreath Workshop

Wednesday 3rd December

7-9pm

Great Shefford Village Hall

£35 – your wreath base, foliage and refreshments are included.

Please bring any festive extras to enhance your creation anything from baubles, ribbon to dried flowers.

Join us for a fun festive evening.

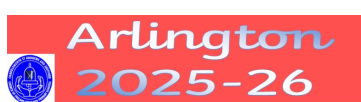
To book your place or for more information

contact Nicola on 07766050175

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

Here's an update from us at CSF for October:

Red Kites have been sharing their inspirational, engaging and persuasive leadership speeches. Our year 6 children were able to put themselves forward as candidates for our House Captain roles for the year, and subject leadership. Year 5s also had the opportunity to present their speeches to lead them into leadership roles across the school this year. Well done Red Kites!



Jess & Joseph



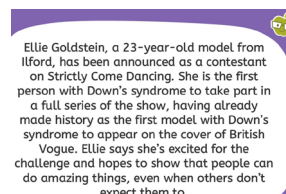
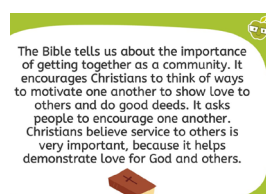
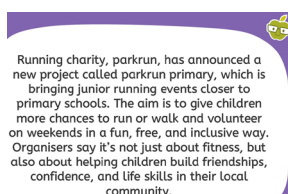
Sophie & Erin



Sullivan & Evie

(I think the pupils names are right, but not the photos ... Ed)

House captain elections... The persuasive leadership speeches were written, the speeches were shared with compassion and confidence, the teams listened carefully, considered their options, voted with pride and decided as a team! Introducing our House Captains for this academic year... We look forward to your leadership and support for the members of your team in all that we do whilst 'living life in all its fullness'..



Our week started with a real treat in our whole school worship, with musical performances from Amelia and Mr Crouter. Amelia wowed us with her confidence to perform in front of an audience and tuneful flute music. Then we were introduced to the selection of instruments that Mr Crouter plays and provides tuition for, including flute, p-bone and clarinet. What a great start to our week!



A BIG thank you for all your generous Harvest donations which will be gratefully received by West Berks Food Bank and shared with those in need.



Thank you to everyone who was able to join Mrs Higgins, Mrs Mirza and our school staff this week to explore the different ways of supporting and promoting reading with your children.

Welcome and Harvest church service...

It was super to see St Mary's church full of our children families and friends, thank you if you were able to join us



this week to celebrate Harvest and welcome our new starters. The service was led by Reverend Mike, who introduced Kingfishers to share their Harvest poem- they did so well with clear voices, well remembered words and actions! As always,



we enjoyed our interactive singing with Reverend Mike on guitar! Year 6 children were keen to share their welcoming

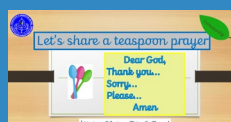


words with Robins and again we so confident to stand

up and share their

words of wisdom with everyone.

Reverend Matt introduced the Bible gifts that our new Robins were able to take home and share. The service came to a close with a celebration of Harvest donations and a group of year 5 children sharing a thoughtful teaspoon prayer...



Thank you, God, for all the food we eat,
for farmers who grow it,
and for the colours of Harvest time.

Sorry, God, for the times we waste food
or forget to share with others.

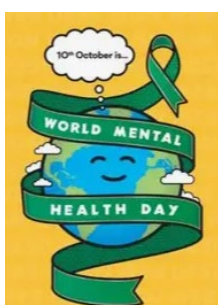
Please, God, help us to be kind
and generous,
and make sure everyone has enough to eat.
Amen.

World Mental Health Day

The "Hello Yellow" campaign is part of World Mental Health Day, which takes place

on October 10th each

year. This initiative encourages individuals to wear yellow to raise awareness for mental health support, particularly for children and young people who may be struggling. The colour yellow symbolises hope and positivity, making it a fitting choice for this important cause.



A team from Red Kites headed out for our first Sports Network event, travelling to Park House for the first Foot Golf festival. "What a lovely afternoon of Footgolf. We had 2 rounds of Footgolf and 2 rounds of skills games. Some activities were trickier than others but the team kept giving their all and encouraging each other. We were delighted to come second in the Footgolf and well done to Alfred who scored a hole in one- only one of two to ever do that!" Mrs Oberholzer

Our school leaders...

After Red Kites sharing their persuasive leadership speeches with us we knew we had great enthusiasm for many leadership roles in our school. It was wonderful to be able to introduce more leadership roles in our Sing and Celebrate worship on Friday...

Reading Leaders: Emily & Tuppence

Play Leaders: Lilly Rose & Kasey

Eco Warriors: Lilly Kate & Henry

Digital Leaders: Simon, Melody & Chase

Sports Leaders: Hollie, Amelia & Quinn

Worship Leaders: Eleanor & Ava-Rayne

Art Leaders: Alfred, Darcy & Ava

Music Leaders: Rosie & Josh



We were able to share our Christian Value Community leaves for: showing consideration for others, polite communication, being helpful to an adult, helping others tidy up and supporting younger children. We were also happy to celebrate; - William's football trophy for player of the week 'skills' focus! - The Footgolf group's silver medals, and Alfred's hole in one! - Otto's Rugby festival achievement! Well done everyone!

Chaddleworth St. Andrew's and Shefford
Church of England Federated Primary Schools



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and encouraged to thrive academically, socially and spiritually.



We would love to welcome you for a visit.

Come and meet our staff, see our classrooms and discover why
our families love being part of our community.

To book a visit, please contact our school office...

Tel. 01488 648657 Email. Office@csf.w-berks.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you!

**Parents of 3 or 4
Year Old Children**

Apply now for a
Reception Year
school place

For September 2026

Closing date for applications
15 January 2026



Contact details

Admissions Team, Council Offices, Market Street,
Newbury RG14 5LD
Office hours - 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday,
8.30am to 4.30pm Friday
Call 01635 551111 Email: admissions@westberks.gov.uk

**Applying for
a secondary
school place**

For September 2026

Closing date for applications
31 October 2025



Contact details

Admissions Team, Council Offices, Market Street,
Newbury RG14 5LD
Office hours - 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday,
8.30am to 4.30pm Friday
Call: 01635 551111 Email: admissions@westberks.gov.uk



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"A group of sporty Owls had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the Year 3 and 4 Hockey Festival at Henwick Astro! The children showcased brilliant teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship as they rotated around a series of fun hockey skill stations - dribbling, passing and shooting with growing confidence. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another and embracing every challenge with enthusiasm. A huge thank you to Mrs Brown for organising such a great sporting experience, and to our young athletes who made us all proud representing our school." Mrs Mirza



"A few of our KS1 children enjoyed a fun afternoon out at Park House School on Thursday, taking part in a range of exciting games including archery, speed stacking and golf! They competed against several other schools from across West Berkshire and we are so proud of their fantastic achievements. The children were thrilled with their impressive total of 207 points! It was also a pleasure to be guided by one of our formal pupils, Emily, who was helping as a sports leader. Well done, KS1!" Miss Carter



"Our group of Red Kites were set and ready for the Hungerford RFC tag rugby tournament, where the TREDs core values of Rugby were on display all afternoon. We saw fantastic running, passing, catching, determination and team work- well done to all who played. Henry was keen to share how proud he felt when he was able to score a try for his team!" Ms Munday

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RESPECT
ENJOYMENT
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More clothes - more funds for your organisation.
1 kg = £0.45

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18 NOVEMBER
TUESDAY

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WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

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Chaddleshworth and Shefford PTFA

Save the date for our annual

CHRISTMAS Fair

Saturday 6 Dec 2025
11 am - 2 pm

Shefford CE Primary
School, Great Shefford

Come and join us for
STALLS, GAMES, CAFÉ, CRAFTS
AND SANTA'S GROTTO!

Thank you, again!...

We are delighted to let you know that your Harvest Festival collection for West Berks Foodbank weighed in at 39.8kgs.

This is roughly the weight of a female reindeer and they're big!

More importantly, your donation is the equivalent of 83 meals for local people who are currently experiencing extreme hardship. That is so kind of you and your support is very much appreciated.



Fundraising...

Just a quick email to let you know that our pupil Grace is fundraising for Little Princess Trust. The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their hair due to cancer or other conditions. Grace would really appreciate your support.

You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking here

justgiving.com/page/grace

Grace's fundraiser for Little Princess Trust



Just Giving sends your donation straight to Little Princess Trust and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. Thank you for your support!



"The PTFA spent last Saturday at the NADAS annual ploughing match in Radley near Hungerford. We had such a fun day bringing the school out into the local community. Thank you to everyone who donated a cake. We sold out and were given many kind compliments about the delicious selection. The children enjoyed playing our games, pumpkin hoopla and finding the golden conker, as well as face painting."



including

We enjoyed seeing horses, the vintage tractor plough, donkeys, young farmers and the hounds.

Congratulations to Mr. Tuddenham for winning guessing the weight of the pumpkin with the closest guess of 8.3kg, the pumpkin weighed in at 7.95kg!

This event raised a brilliant total of £209.97 which will go towards funding the whole school pantomime.

trip next term. Thank you to all of the helpers at this event.

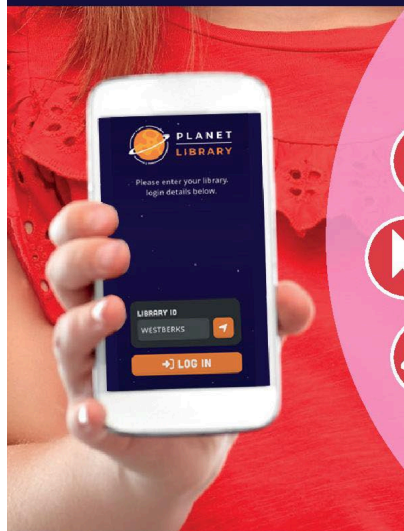
Also, Congratulations to Mrs Chrimes and Red Kites class, who created a beautiful autumn collage which received 3rd place at the show in the school art competition.” Mrs Liddiard



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 WestBerkshire
COUNCIL

Great Shefford Sports & Social Club

Visit us:

Wednesday 7:30pm - 11:00pm

Friday 7:30pm - 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)

Find us:

At the back of the village hall.

Opening Hours: Due to the sun taking a rest for the next few months, we are too.

Friday evening opening will now be from 7.30pm.

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!

* * * * *

FARMING NEWS

November the 5th, for many bonfire night, for the shepherd its tugging time.

Tugging is a term that refers to the mating season of sheep – the time when rams are put with ewes for breeding. The timing of tugging is crucial because we want lambs to be born in the spring, when the weather is better and pasture is growing.

Now, why November 5th specifically?

Seasonal considerations play a large part, sheep have a natural breeding cycle that is influenced by the shortening days of autumn. Late October to early November is a prime time for mating so that lambs will be born around March-April. This matches well with pasture availability.

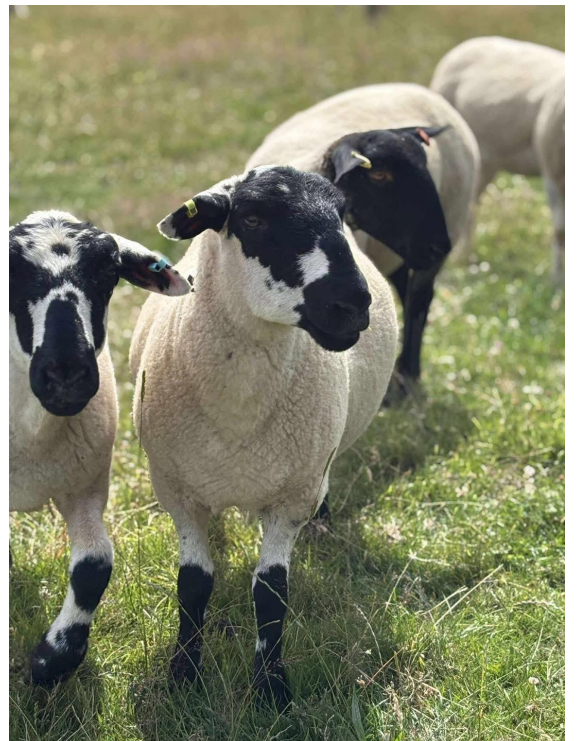
Traditional farming calendars in British and Irish farming traditions often use specific dates as reference points. November 5th could be a symbolic “start date” for tugging in certain regions, though it may vary depending on climate and sheep breed.

In short November 5th is called tugging time because it traditionally marks the start of the sheep breeding season in parts of Britain and Ireland, timed to produce spring lambs.

We will be putting the tups in this weekend, its time for Tumble, Chunk and Hercules to go to work. The boys and girls are being flushed currently.



Managing a sheep flock efficiently involves not only day-to-day husbandry but also strategic nutritional planning around the breeding season. Flushing plays a vital role in maximizing ewe fertility, improving lambing percentages, and ensuring overall flock productivity.



Flushing is the practice of increasing the plane of nutrition of ewes 2-4 weeks before and after mating to improve ovulation rates and conception success. It often involves grazing on high-quality pasture or providing supplemental feed. We plan years ahead for the nutritional grassland that the ewes and tups move onto allowing us to go 100% grass fed.



Ewes in good but not fat condition respond best, leading to higher pregnancy success and adequate energy and protein intake around mating support embryo development and reduce early losses.

Once the birds have finished off the remaining berries in the hedgerow we will be incrementally cutting them to provide a good, thick natural barrier against the elements whilst creating a huge area of nesting opportunities for our hedgerow birds.



This week we will be putting up the Barn owl boxes at the, now finished, barn in readiness for the winter. We will be shortly starting to landscape and plant up around the barn to encourage wildlife, the barn sits on a chalk seam that runs through from east to west giving us the opportunity to encourage a range of chalkland wild flower and associated insect life around the yard.

The weather has been a struggle this year, for sure, after the dry weather for months on end we had rain, rain brought a huge mass of green grass. This is great for pre winter but a lot of farmers have already eaten well into their winter feed stocks, lets see what the season has to offer and as always, adapt.

Until next time.

Ash





MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.30PM
at Great Shefford Village Hall

Present: Councillor Piers Storey (Chairman)
Councillors Miranda Armstrong, Steven Bullock, Tony
Coard, Jessica Copcutt and Carol Turner

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)
11 members of public

2025-10/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Louisa Freeman.
District Councillor Clive Hooker had advised that he was unable to
attend as he was unwell.

2025-10/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Armstrong declared an interest in agenda item number
7 (2025- 10/07), applications 25/01601/FUL & 25/01602/LBC –
Swan Inn, Newbury Road, as the proprietor.

2025-10/03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the
meetings held on 1st September 2025, 16th September 2025 and
23rd September 2025.

2025-10/04 OPEN FORUM

- i. A member of public enquired why a Vehicle Activated
Sign on Wantage Road was not working correctly and
was advised that this was being addressed with the
supplier.
- ii. District Councillor Clive Hooker was not present to provide a report.

2025-10/05 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Councillor Coard updated Council following a site meeting on 2nd October with two West
Berkshire Council Highways Officers, who had confirmed that Great Shefford would be
included in West Berkshire Council's 20mph programme assessment, scheduled for
consultation in 2026/27 or 2027/28, which would also provide an opportunity to highlight
other speeding concerns.

It was agreed at the site meeting to request that West Berkshire Council
assess potential relocation of the school bus stop, and improvements and
enhancements to road and highway signage.

**2025-10/06 PLANNING APPLICATION 25/01800/FULMAJ – LAND TO THE WEST OF
SPRING MEADOWS**

Following additional meetings on 16th and 23rd September 2025, to consider
planning application 25/01800/FULMAJ, the Chairman thanked residents for
their participation in the discussions, which had been considered when
drafting the Parish Council's consultee response to the planning application.

RESOLVED to object to planning application 25/01800/FULMAJ on the grounds set out in appendix I to these Minutes, and that the Parish Council shall be represented at public meetings of West Berkshire Council when the application is considered.

10 members of public left the meeting

2025-10/07 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Updates on new planning applications and decisions since the last meeting were noted, as detailed at the end of these minutes.

2025-10/08 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payee	Amount	Invoice reference / date	Description
Tactical Facilities Management	£253.86 (£211.55 + VAT)	SI-4286 24.09.2025	Waste removal & Litter Picking – September 2025
Tactical Facilities Management	£217.01 (£180.84 + VAT)	SI-4347 24.09.2025	Monthly grounds maintenance – September 2025
Fulfords Independent Traders	£225.50	GSPC1 03.10.2025	Creation and installation of noticeboard at recreation ground and repair of wooden shelter
Cllr T Coard	£53.98 (£44.98+VAT)		Expenses – Christmas tree lights
M Taylor	£50.45 (£42.03+VAT)		Parish Clerk's expenses reimbursement 'no dogs' + 'dog foul' signage
M Taylor	£468.60		Parish Clerk's Salary – September 2025

Councillors reviewed a budget report for the period 1st April 2025 – 30th September 2025, noting that the second of two precept payments had been received.

Councillors reviewed a first draft budget 2026/27, along with 3-year estimations. It was agreed to increase the draft grants budget to £2,000 and to review further at the next meeting.

The Parish Clerk provided an update on the long-running dispute with SSE regarding street lighting overcharges, advising that, following notification to SSE that the matter was to be referred to the Ombudsman, a new complaint handler had been in contact and had assured that the matter was being progressed. The Clerk also advised that the Broker for unmetered supplies had provided a quote from SSE and when requested for alternative supplier quotes, had advised that only SSE were able to quote.

2025-10/09 VILLAGE MATTERS

i. Traffic calming and speed awareness

It was noted that West Berkshire Council had not supported the Parish Council's application for Members' Bid funding for a replacement Vehicle Activated Sign on Hungerford Hill, in this tranche. The Parish Council's application had therefore been changed to play area maintenance.

Councillor Bullock reported that, following recent speed monitoring and data collection, Thames Valley Police had issued 58 letters to speeding motorists.

ii. Forthcoming roadwork notification

There were no forthcoming roadwork notifications to report.

iii. Village signage

Councillor Coard had 'no dog fouling' signage to install.

iv. Flood Alleviation Scheme and SAGLUV (Sewage Action Group for the Lambourn Upper Valley)

Councillor Coard advised that the next meeting was on 31st October 2025, with senior members of Thames Water, to receive updates and information on future proposals.

v. Village Events

Date of next Community Litter Pick – Sunday 12th October 2025, 10am – 12pm, meet at the Village Hall car park.

Councillor Turner reported that she had met with the Sports & Social Club to confirm details for the Halloween activity on 31st October 2025. It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide hot chocolate in the Village Hall at the Halloween activity.

RESOLVED to approve expenditure for providing refreshments.

The tree was scheduled to be delivered and sited on Friday 21st November, with the pre-school decorating on Monday 24th November. The lights switch-on event would be on Saturday 29th November.

RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £150 for the Christmas Tree.

vi. Village Communications – Website, Facebook etc

The new website was still work-in-progress but nearing completion.

It was agreed that a card or poster with the Parish Council's contact details would be useful; containing email address, website, social media etc.

vii. Remembrance Wreath

RESOLVED to approve expenditure for two Remembrance wreaths and Councillor Armstrong to purchase.

1 member of public left the meeting

2025-10/09 VILLAGE MATTERS continued

viii. Bulb Planting

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been successful in an application to North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust with an award of 1,500 bulbs as part of campaign to plant 40,000 spring-flowering bee-friendly bulbs across the landscape. It was agreed to invite the community to help plant the bulbs, meeting at the recreation ground at 10am on Sunday 19th October 2025.

2025-10/10 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

Following discussion at the last meeting regarding discarded used needles, the following response was received from the Neighbourhood Police Team: "Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I have disseminated to the team and will add to patrols. Please contact West Berks Council (WBC) as they will arrange the removal and safe disposal of discarded syringes from public places. WBC may have some leaflets or supply information for you to share with residents."

It was agreed to publish this advice on the website.

2025-10/11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

A member of public had requested that their correspondence with the Environment Agency regarding flood/drainage infrastructure be considered at a meeting of the Parish Council and it was agreed TO add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

A member of public had requested that highway safety be considered by the Parish Council at a future meeting, with regard to the closed board fencing of the pub, adjacent to the highway, and its effect on sight lines. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

'Village Security' carried forward from July 2025 meeting.

2025-10/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7.30pm.

Subsequent meeting dates for 2025/26: 3rd November 2025, 5th January 2026, 2nd February 2026, 2nd March 2026, 13th April 2026 (*) and 11th May 2026.

(*) previously advertised as 6th April, changed TO 13TH as 6TH is Easter Monday Bank Holiday

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.18pm.