

GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

Good to see the sunshine after so much rain, hopefully spring isn't far away.

I have continued with the format I used in the February edition - i.e. inserting the articles into the News as they become available as this saves a considerable amount of time re-formatting the layout.

There are a number of events happening in the village this month for you to enjoy, and we also have advance details of Greenfest and an Easter event being organised to support the Under 5s place next month.

The Ladies Group are holding a Table Top Sale in aid of the Under 5s. An opportunity to get rid of outgrown clothes, books you have read, surplus household items etc or to purchase these items at a bargain price whilst helping raise funds, and enjoy some home made cake and a cuppa whilst you are there.

Towards the end of the month we have the return of the popular Lent Lunch, an opportunity to meet informally with friends over a light lunch whilst raising funds for our local churches.

Please see the notice from the surgery, which will be closed on the afternoon of Thursday 6th March, including the phone lines.

Lots of news from our regular contributors as well as items on the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum,

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

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Linda Bowden

Editor

Village Calendar March 2025

Saturday	1 st	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard working party, St Mary's Church
Saturday	1 st	7.00 p.m.	Curry Quiz, Village Hall
Sunday	2 nd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Monday	3 rd	6.15 p.m.	Yoga 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
Sunday	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Communion by Extension, St Mary's GS
Monday	10 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
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
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
Saturday	22 nd	1.00 p.m.	Ladies Group Table Top Sale, Village Hall
Sunday	23 rd	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise, St Stephens, Sh Woodlands
Monday	24 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	26 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Wednesday	26 th	7.30 p.m.	Cheese Club, Social Club
Thursday	27 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	28 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Friday	28 th	12.30 p.m.	Lent Lunch, Village Hall
Sunday	30 th	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise, St Stephen's, Shefford Woodlands

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Happy Spring! We hope you're as excited as we are for warmer days ahead. After the cold of Winter and flooding on site, we're more than ready for the sun to start shining.

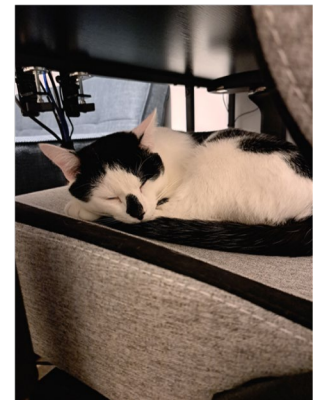
We're kicking off March with our online Spring auction. Grab yourself a fantastic deal this Easter, all whilst supporting the charity you love. Available online on our Facebook group, Trindledown Treasures.



We also have the brilliant Russell Kane coming to our centre Saturday 22nd March for a book signing and comedy show promoting his new book 'Pet Selector.' Laugh along as he takes you on a fun-filled turn around the animal kingdom, exploring a selection of typical and not so typical household pets and learning about their wants, needs and even cuddling capabilities. Every £15 ticket includes a copy of Russell's 112 page fully illustrated book, which he will happily sign for you at the end of the show. Add on tickets, without a copy of the book are

also available with purchase of a main event ticket. Tickets are available on our online shop here: <https://bit.ly/4hUgpBI>

In February we said goodbye to so many wonderful faces, including Adam, who has since been renamed Gizmo. His new family got in touch to update us on his progress since going home. When here at the centre Gizmo was very shy but now in his new home, he's getting more and more confident every day, even stealing the desk chair in the office!



Still with us and waiting for their forever homes are Olive and Bon, a pair of 18-month-old, Netherland dwarf rabbits. Whilst they are indoor bunnies, they still love their time in the garden in the Summer and are suitable to go to a home with a younger child. If interested, check out their profile on our website: www.nawt.org.uk/rehoming/

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

Thank you again to everyone for your continued support in 2024!

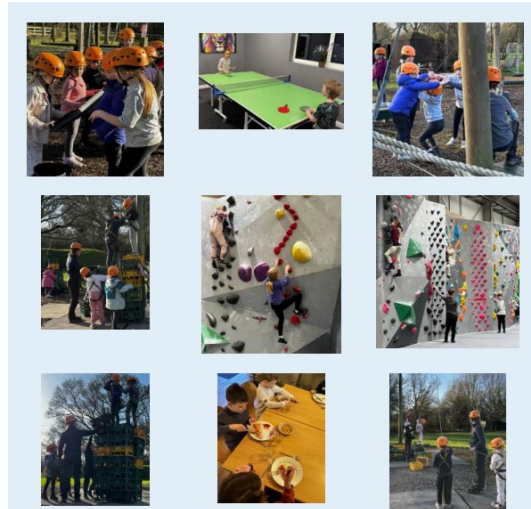
As always, don't forget to follow us on Facebook (@nawt.berkshire) and Instagram (@nawtberkshire) to stay up to date on all our latest news.

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

Here's an update from us at CSF for February...

Oakwood Residential...

We could not be prouder of the Owl's children who joined us on residential this week! We embraced a packed 2 days of adventurous, exciting and challenging activities. With comments such as, 'This is the best day of my life EVER!', 'I want to do it all over again', 'I didn't realise I'd love this activity so much' and 'when can we come back?' I think we can understand some of the fun and enjoyment that went on!



First Aid for Red Kites...

This term Red Kites have been learning basic First

Aid skills and this week's session focused on what to do in an emergency situation, how to help someone who is unresponsive by putting them in the recovery position, and performing CPR.

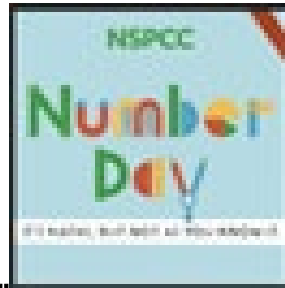
Lego club...

Every Monday Lego club's love for Lego has been literally been building and building! From starting off with two Lego boxes and using our



imaginations to construct, we have now introduced sets of Lego and we absolutely love it! From under the sea creations to Star Wars spaceships, a Lamborghini in the making and two Lego technic constructions! But we also still enjoy using our imaginations to take us wherever our imagination goes and with Lego celebrating its 65th birthday this week, there is no better time to celebrate the wonderful world of Lego! If anyone is happy to donate any complete Lego sets or mixed Lego blocks to us we are always happy to receive them.





NSPCC Number Day 2025 ...

Another fun filled day of Maths!

Marvellous Maths inspired clothing and costumes were on display around the school...



We enjoyed varied Maths games using cards and dice...



Children's Mental Health Awareness week...

Our Monday worship focus was to introduce the focus of 'Mental Health Awareness'.



The characters from Disney's 'Inside Out' films supported our thinking about the emotions we each have and how we might describe and name them.

Red Kites feedback comments included;

'I found the assembly quite helpful because now I know more about mental health and how I can help control my emotions.'

'I found the assembly a useful source of information.'

'I found the assembly useful and interesting.'

'I will now use the information given to help manage my emotions, have a go at a mindfulness activity and express my feelings.'

In classes we've joined together to embrace varied activities to support our understanding and acknowledgement of feelings and emotions.

Some of us have enjoyed some 'BBC Moodboosters' using movement to help us understand emotions and manage feelings, there are some family versions to try together at home-

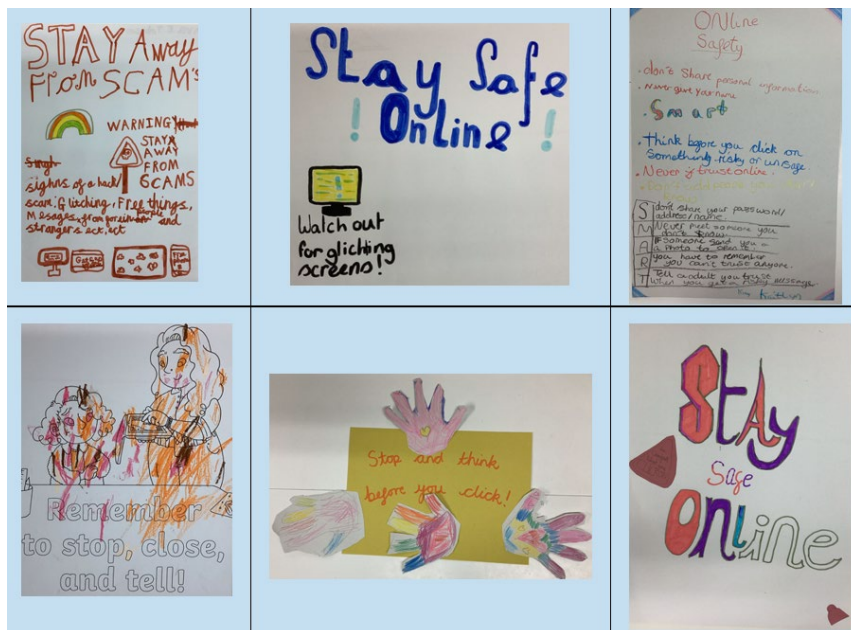
[Family Moodboosters](#)

Online communication and activities...

We would like to draw family's attention to 'The National College', <https://nationalcollege.com>



which has a long list of guides to help parents and carers make decisions about whether to allow or not allow access to games, starting with age ratings and then explaining why the age rating is in place. For example, did you know that Fortnite is rated a PEGI 12 and WhatsApp age guide is 13+.

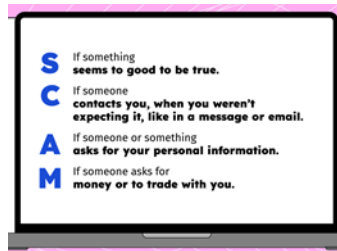
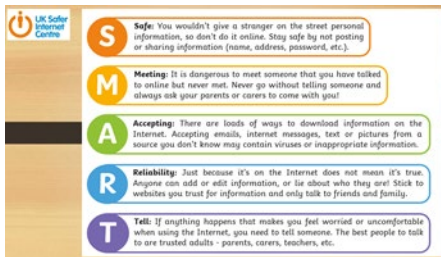


Drumming assembly...

We were treated to drumming performance assembly from our children who are learning with 'Drum with Alex' each week. WOW- our drummers did not disappoint! What super performances we were treated to.

Safer Internet Day...

Tuesday 11th February brought us all together to share our understanding about 'Safer Internet Day' with our learning and discussions based around the theme 'Too good to be true - Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.



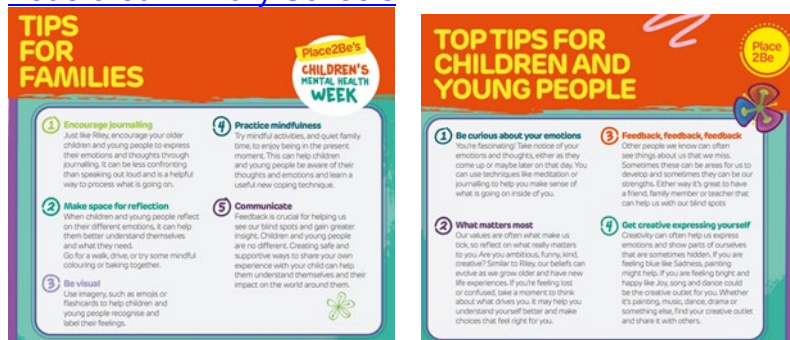
It also gave an opportunity for house meetings to share the important online safety messages we've been learning about...

Mental Health and Wellbeing...

At Chaddleworth St. Andrew's and Shefford Primary Schools, we recognise the importance of supporting our whole school community in creating an open environment where Wellbeing and Mental Health needs are discussed and shared.

Mrs Higgins has been busy researching and creating our new information page which is now live on our school website...

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Support - Chaddleworth St. Andrew's & Shefford - C.E. Federated Primary Schools](#)



Our worship focus this term has been the Christian value of 'Courage'...

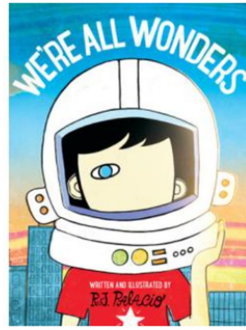
This term we've shared lots of picture books that have helped us to explore our understanding of courage in others and ourselves.

Some of our favourites have been;

<https://www.youtube.com/TheDot>



<https://www.youtube.com/watchALittleBitBrave>



<https://www.youtube.com/we'reallwonders>

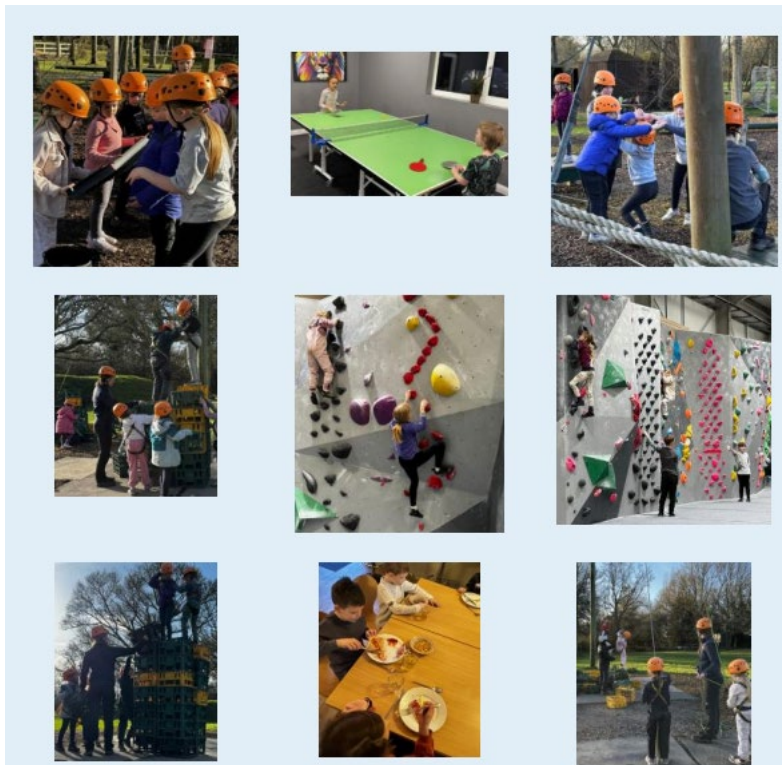
We have also shared Bible stories and discussions with some BIG questions to consider...

"Moses and the Burning Bush"

Courage: Big Question... 'What do you recognise in Moses that we sometimes see in our selves?'

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Courage: Big Question... 'When have you needed the biggest amounts of your own courage?'



It's been a busy month!

Kind regards,

Debbie Munday

Acting Headteacher & DSL

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

'Living life in all its fullness'

Shefford site RG17 7DB

01488 648657



We are delighted to announce that a wonderful free event, [GreenFest](#), will be held on Saturday 5 April 2025 at St Bartholomew's School in Newbury.

What is GreenFest?

Run entirely by volunteers, GreenFest is an inspirational, interactive and fun festival, helping people make a positive impact on climate and nature in West Berkshire and beyond.

With stalls, talks, demonstrations, experts to chat to, refreshments and music, this will be a fantastic day for the

whole West Berkshire community to come together to make a difference for climate and nature.

We hope that people will :

- ▮ Be inspired to take meaningful action for the planet.
- ▮ Discover local organisations and services making a difference.
- ▮ Connect with local environmental groups and like-minded changemakers.
- ▮ Enjoy live music, hands-on crafts, nature-inspired activities.
- ▮ Build lasting relationships and support networks to continue making an impact beyond the event

West Berkshire Council is an important participant, and GreenFest is being shared through its [Environmental Newsletter](#) and through the Town and Parish Climate Forum.

Volunteers needed! If anyone would like to [volunteer to help on the day or beforehand here's the link to do that](#) - please do share this link <https://forms.gle/dSoYqBMW9ABQya8H9>

Come along on the day of course! We hope people from right across our West Berkshire Community will join us.



Dear Patients,

LAMBOURN SURGERY will be **CLOSED** for staff training on **THURSDAY** the **6th MARCH** between 13:00 and 18.30

The telephone lines will also be **CLOSED**.

The out of hours service will be providing cover during this time. If you need help or treatment please call NHS 111

We will reopen as usual on **Friday the 7th March at 8.00 am**.

Thank you for your understanding

Great Shefford ladies group
Table Top Sale
Saturday 22nd March 1-4pm
Great Shefford village hall
Face painting Tea, coffee, cake
Pre loves clothes, books, homeware, baby items and much more.



Support Great Shefford under fives

Great Shefford Ladies Group are holding a **TABLE TOP SALE** - come along and get some bargains, find something new and preloved.

There will be some face painting for the children and tea and cake available and all proceeds will go to Great Shefford under fives.

If you have things to sell and would like to have a table, Tables are £10 and are payable in advance.

Please get in touch with Nicola Liddiard on 07766050175.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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Churchyard Working Parties at St Mary's



Our Churchyard working party Volunteers gathered on Saturday 1st February for our first Churchyard tidy up of the year. Most of the volunteers worked under the Lime trees, picking up the twigs and branches that had fallen from the trees during the winter storms, with the remaining volunteers paying attention to the hedge in the new section of the graveyard and trimmed this back before any birds start to nest in it.

We had 7 volunteers who shared and completed the tasks in a timely manner, leaving us with extra time for a treat of Coffee and Flapjacks, it is one of the reasons some of the working party volunteers turn up, the flapjacks are highly recommended.

We would welcome any new volunteers to join our next working party on Saturday 1st March, 10 am to 12 pm, in the Churchyard.

Melinda Webb

NEWS FROM THE WEST DOWNLAND BENIFICE

Dear Friends,

Across the benefice this past month we have been thinking about preparing for lent. Because Easter is so later this year, we have an opportunity to really dig into how we will use this season of the church's year to help us to grow as Christians and as community.

We are taking for our Lent Course this year the Living Hope resource from the Church of England. The themes for this each week are:

- Before Lent - What is hope?
- Week 1: Imperfect
- Week 2: Together
- Week 3: Trusting
- Week 4: Noticing
- Week 5: Courage
- Week 6 - Holy Week: Transformed



Ash Wednesday (The start of Lent) is on the 5th March this year and the regular 7pm Service of Holy Communion in Chaddleworth will be our Benefice Ash Wednesday Service. The Lent themes will then be explored in our services following the regular service pattern. We will be exploring the theme of "Noticing" together as we celebrate Mothering Sunday on 30th March.

Over the coming weeks there are a number of Lent Lunches being held in different churches. These are:

- Tuesday, 11th March in Leckhampstead Village Hall
- Wednesday, 19th March in Chaddleworth Village Hall



One final date for the diary is to note that as Lent comes to an end, and we move into Holy Week, Trevor the Donkey (Who you might have met at the Chaddleworth Christmas Market in the Ilex last year) will be making a starring return for the 10:30am Palm Sunday service in Brightwalton on Sunday, 13th April 2025. Hope to see you there!

Rev Mike

With my love and prayers,

x

The Lambourn Valley Flood Forum (LVFF) - Who we are and what we do

You may have heard of our group:

The LVFF was formed with support from West Berkshire Council (WBC) in the wake of serious flooding in 2014, which caused significant damage to property and left many people out of their homes for several months. It is one of a number of flood forums around the country that exist to help residents and businesses become more resilient.

Its membership is made up of representatives of communities throughout the valley, and we have been fortunate in recent years to have had leadership provided by two WBC Councillors, our current Chairman being Howard Woollaston, who represents Lambourn. Our own District Councillor for Downlands, Clive Hooker, is also a regular attendee. Meetings are held virtually about once a quarter.

The current representatives on behalf of the people of Great Shefford are: Louisa Freeman from the Parish Council; Linda Bowden and David Blundell from the Emergency Management Team and Nick Voysey, who acts as Secretary for the LVFF.

The LVFF provides a forum for representatives of communities to engage directly with responsible staff from WBC, Thames Water (TW) and the Environment Agency (EA), to assist them by highlighting issues and encouraging solutions. To date a bund based flood alleviation scheme has been completed for Eastbury, and Thames Water have been investing very significant sums in improving the infrastructure and providing emergency support, such as tankers across the valley. A major upgrade to the sewage system in the upper Lambourn was completed last year, and in our Village they have carried out lining of the sewage network to reduce groundwater ingress.

We have been engaging regularly with the EA regarding the Wantage Road Flood Alleviation Scheme, which should be completed this spring. This will be the largest flood alleviation measure in the Lambourn Valley during the lifetime of the LVFF, and should bring direct benefit and relief to many people. Grateful thanks are due to all those who contributed funds to provide the community contribution, without which it would not have progressed.

Whilst being concerned with improving the overall situation regarding flooding, and its consequences, we also engage concerning the environment and the need to improve the quality of the water in the river, particularly given its designation as a site of special scientific interest.

The LVFF exists to help bring about long term change, it is not the place to go for emergency help, as we do not have the resources or qualifications to provide it. WBC, The EA, and Thames Water all have help lines and websites for reporting incidents, and of, course there are also the Emergency Services.

If you would like more information about the LVFF, then go to our Website. There is also an email address for questions. The documents will be found under the heading of 'Media'. When looking at the dashboard, the most relevant borehole is Northfield Farm.

The links are: <https://adoddle.org/app/projects/5952/lambourn-valley-flood-forum>
lambournvalleyfloodforum@outlook.com

Nick Voysey



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.

The **Pre-School** children have waked to the church to look at the snowdrops and have made some wonderful pictures to reflect this. One afternoon we met Judith Orpen, the organist, who explained that the organ is a musical instrument and played nursery rhymes for us plus the wedding march! Everyone had great fun singing, dancing and marching along the aisle.



We also welcomed pianist, Tracy Ball, to Pre-School.

Tracy brought her electric piano plus lots of small instruments for the children and created a wonderful song about jumping in a muddy puddle! These musical opportunities are so enriching for the children, and we are very grateful that Judith and Tracy gave their time and expertise.



Indoors the children have enjoyed a wonderful range of activities including painting, playdough, roleplay, small world play plus climbing frame, bikes and ball skills. The hall is a busy hub of early learning and a credit to everyone involved.

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

Lent Lunch

**From 12.30pm, Friday 28th March
@ Great Shefford Village Hall**



**Everyone is
welcome to
share delicious
home-made soups
and bread.**

Just come on in!

***Donations to support the preservation of our
parish churches.***



West Downland Benefice

The Church of England in Bughton & Catmole,
Chiddlow, Ewley, Great Shefford & Shefford
Woodlands, Leckhampstead and Welford & Wickham.

All villagers are invited to “drop in” at the Village hall from 12.30pm to 2.30pm on Friday 28th March to have a soup and bread Lent Lunch. This is an informal gathering, come along when you are available and share a simple lunch with friends. There is no charge but any donations will support the preservation of our parish churches.



PTFA News!

This term our parents, carers and children have been busily baking for our PTFA House Bake Sale competition! Two of the school houses (Anvil and Arlington) have already brought in delicious bakes, which the PTFA have sold after school to raise money for school cookery equipment.

These have been greatly enjoyed by families and teachers alike, who have appreciated a sweet treat at the end of a busy week at school. Watermill will be the final house to bring in bakes on Friday 28th February.

The winning house (which raises the most money) will be announced during assembly the following week, and the children will receive a break time reward for their fundraising efforts.



On Valentine's Day the PTFA held a movie night for the children to mark the last day of the February half term. The children voted for the film they wanted to watch (all had a food-theme to support our cookery equipment fundraiser) and the winner was Ratatouille! Everyone spent the school day in their comfiest pyjamas, before settling down to enjoy the film with their friends. The PTFA provided the refreshments, blankets, cushions and bean bags, and a great time was had by all!



We have lots of events planned for our PTFA 2025 calendar, so please make a note of them in your diaries!

We have lots of events planned for our PTFA 2025 calendar, so please make a note of them in your diaries!

- Watermill house bake sale - Friday 28th February
- Non-school uniform day - Friday 4th March
- Mother's Day Gift Market - Friday 28th March
- School Easter peg hunt - Friday 4th April
- Great Shefford village Easter trail - Easter holidays
- Bags2school collection - Wednesday 30th April

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th March, at 7.30pm at the Queen's Arms in East Garston. All are welcome.

GREAT SHEFFORD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY



We are fortunate to have an allotment site just outside the village, a sheltered site with its own water supply. Plots are available to rent to anyone living within a 5 mile radius of the village hall.

Looking to have a fresh supply of fruit and vegetables this season? Now is the time to start your preparations, and get some fresh air and exercise at the same time, a couple of the vacant plots come with fruit bushes, rhubarb etc already insitu.

There are currently several vacant plots and these can be viewed by contacting one of the joint Chairpersons:- Paul Akers on 07977 585971 or Linda Bowden 07850 643952. Membership paid now will be carried forward for the 2025/26 year. The charge for a half plot is £20.00 + £5.00 to join the Society. Further information can be found on the village website at www.greatshefford.org.uk/allotment-society

FARMING NEWS

Some lovely spring feeling days recently, however, winter isn't over. We had Candlemas at the beginning of February and some may remember it for its glorious sunshine and lack of rain, it holds a special day for the church as it does for agriculture. There are many passed down farming sayings, none more than Candlemas.

If Candlemas Day is clear and bright, winter will have another bite.

If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter is gone and won't come again.

For centuries, farmers have observed the natural world to guide their planting, harvesting, and daily lives. Long before modern meteorology and scientific farming techniques, agricultural folklore and sayings were essential tools for predicting weather, understanding seasonal changes, and ensuring a successful harvest. These proverbs, often passed down through generations, reflect a deep connection between farmers and nature.

Farmers have always relied on nature's signals to predict weather patterns. Many traditional sayings reflect these observations:

"Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in morning, sailor's warning."

This well-known proverb is used not just by sailors but also by farmers. A red sky at sunset often indicates stable weather ahead, while a red sky at sunrise can signal an approaching storm.

"When March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb."

This saying suggests that if early March is stormy and harsh, the end of the month will be mild. The opposite is also believed to be true—if March begins gently, it may end with rough weather.

Timing is everything in agriculture, and many traditional sayings focus on the best times to plant or reap:

"Plant corn when oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear."

Instead of relying on the calendar, this saying advises farmers to observe tree growth. When oak leaves reach a certain size, the soil is warm enough for corn to

germinate.

“One for the blackbird, one for the crow, one for the soil, and one to grow.”

This rhyme reminds farmers to plant extra seeds, accounting for losses to birds, pests, or bad weather.

Though science has replaced many of these traditional methods, agricultural folklore remains valuable. We still observe nature’s patterns, and some of these sayings hold kernels of truth, reflecting real climatic trends. Whether used for fun, wisdom, or tradition, these old sayings continue to link us to the rhythms of the natural world.

I remember talking with an old boy down in Devon who asked his father for a cab on his old grey Fergie to which his father said “If you need a cab to shield you from the weather then you shouldn’t be working the land” that has stuck with me for years.



As some of you may have seen, our new barn started arriving today, not the best ground conditions but needs must. We are erecting a sustainable timber barn in place of the poor unfortunate black barn that has had a turbulent local history but we will be putting a dark grey 3" tin roof on to reflect the

history of the old derelict barn. We will be erecting owl boxes for our resident barn owls giving them new nesting possibilities as well as bat roosts and harvesting rainwater capture for a sustainable chemical free solution for our water usage.

Until next time
Ash



GREAT SHEFFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Current Opening Hours:

Friday 5:30pm - 11:00pm

Saturday 12:00pm - 4:00pm & 7:30pm - 11:00pm (with extended opening for Six Nations matches)

Sunday 12:00pm - 4:30pm (with extended opening for Six Nations matches)

Contact us:

Email: greatsheffordsocialclub@gmail.com

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

Phone (Sandra): 07748403778

The Great Shefford Sports & Social Club (GSSSC) 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.

We will be open for every 6 Nations England match plus many more. Look on our Facebook page for updates.

- Sunday 9th March - England v Italy - 3:00pm
- Saturday 15th March - Wales v England - 4:45pm

Other events to add to your diaries are the monthly Bingo and Raffle nights, held on the second Saturday of every month.

- Saturday 8th March - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm
- Saturday 12th April - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm

We have 4 games with £10 line prizes and £25 cash House Prizes PLUS a special Flyer game with a £50 CASH PRIZE! These are in addition to the Big Raffle so there are lots of chances to win on the night! If anybody has any Raffle Prizes to donate we would be extremely grateful to receive these.....please drop them at the club, bring them along on the night or contact us to arrange for somebody to collect them from you.

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!



March 2025 update

Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme

The pipeline section for the Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme was completed at the end of January 2025 and the final element is now under construction (currently 15% complete). This is the “offtake”, which is the connection between the Great Shefford Stream - just upstream of where the stream goes under the Wantage Road - and the new pipeline and is a key part of the scheme. (See Figure 1 on the next page for a layout of the scheme as well as a key to where the photographs in this article are located.)

It is worth remembering that this scheme is designed to be passive - there will be no need for any pumping to make the water flow from the Great Shefford Stream upstream of the Wantage Road into the new offtake and down the pipeline.

For the design event, the flow down the Great Shefford Stream will be restricted to a maximum of $0.33\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ (at the point immediately under the culvert under Wantage Road) and the flow down the pipeline is designed to carry up to $2\text{m}^3/\text{s}$. The bank raising just upstream of the culvert under the Wantage Road is also part of the design. The 1.35m diameter pipeline and culvert section is 715m long with an approximately 200m long open channel section which outfalls in the River Lambourn. The way that this works (once complete) is that when the water level is high enough in the Great Shefford Stream it will start flowing down the pipeline and bypass the village. Assuming there is flow, there will always be some flow down the stream itself.

The high groundwater levels this winter have made conditions on site difficult and slowed down the construction process, but the end is now very much in sight. We are continuing to keep a close eye on the levels within the Great Shefford Stream as well as on the Northfield Farm borehole. The latest update from the groundwater team on the 25 February reads as follows [Flood alert for Groundwater flooding in the Great Shefford area - GOV.UK](#):

“Groundwater levels are high but currently stable at our Northfield Farm borehole in the Great Shefford area. Groundwater levels are above normal for this time of year and have now reached a level where communities may be affected by groundwater flooding. We expect levels to remain high for the rest of the winter period and sensitive to further sustained periods of rainfall. Low-lying land, roads and cellars will therefore continue to be at risk of flooding. We are continuing to monitor groundwater levels and will update this message next week, by 04/03/2025, or as the situation changes.”

Please note that the diversion of the footpath opposite Blakeney Fields will remain in place for the time being. There is still more to do in terms of landscaping, but we are currently expecting the construction team to be able to demobilise towards the end of May 2025.

I would like to remind everyone that the flood alleviation scheme will not reduce the risk of rising groundwater and residents will therefore need to take this into account and act accordingly. Surface water will also continue to be an ongoing risk.

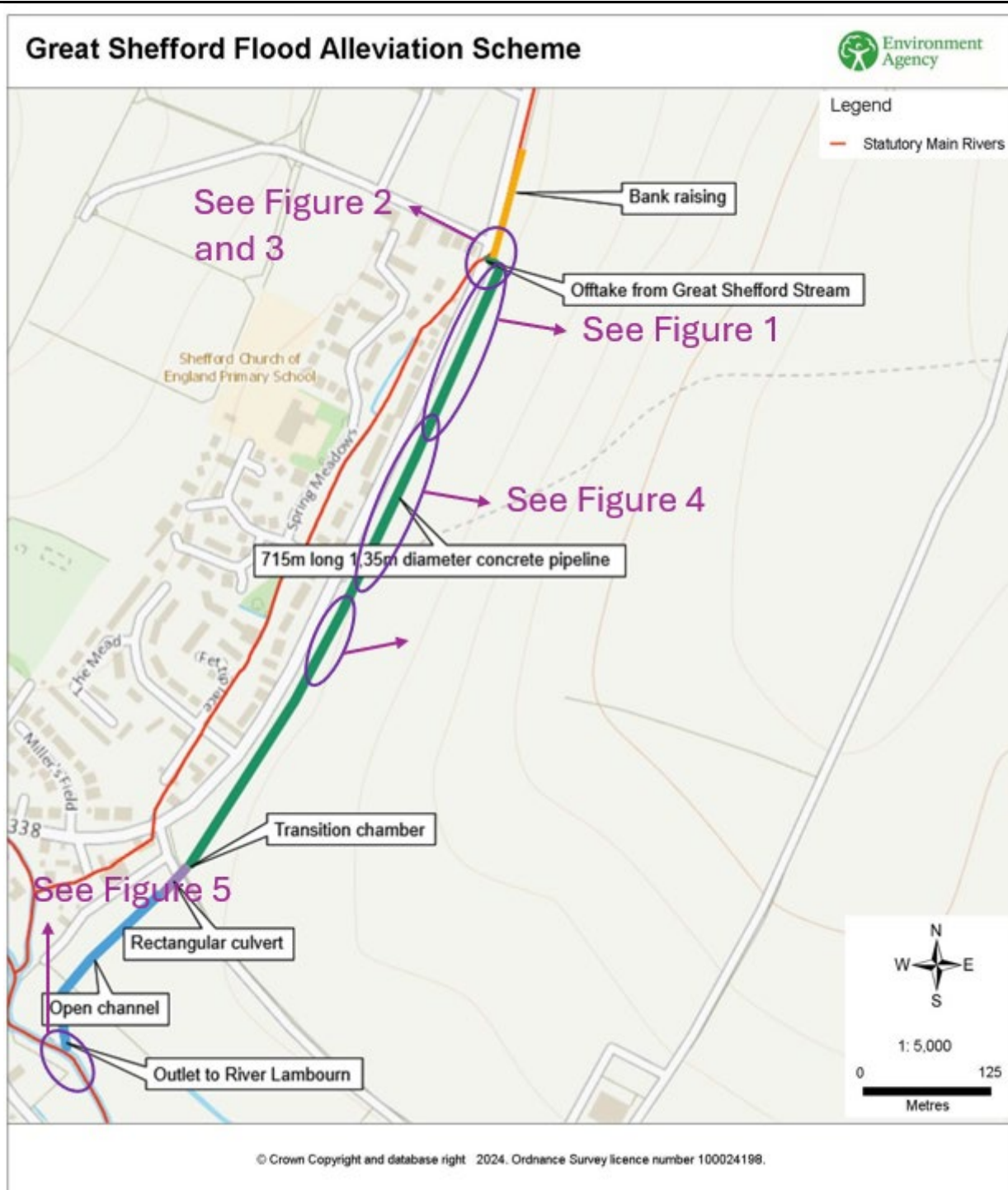


Figure 1: Key showing approximate locations of scheme elements

Over the last few weeks the focus of construction has been on completing the pipeline and starting work on the offtake works between the Great Shefford Stream and the pipeline.

Figure 2 shows the site looking downstream from the top end of the village. The Great Shefford Stream is visible in the foreground between the Wantage Road and the yellow digger. Just behind the temporary sheetpiling is the first pipe visible in the pipeline run. Running parallel to the road and into the distance is the location of the pipeline. The

temporary footpath which ran along the edge of the site (on the roadside) is in the process of being removed and the land rehabilitated. Once the offtake works are complete, the temporary haul road will also be reinstated and the community footpath which has been diverted will be re-opened just as soon as site are able to release it.



Figure 2: Looking downhill towards the River Lambourn. The construction of the offtake works is visible in the foreground (highlighted with the white arrow and outline). The drone footage was taken on 19 February 2025.



Figure 3: The left photo is drone footage taken on 19 February 2025. I took the right photo on the 25 February 2025 with progress having been made on the concrete slabs. The yellow arrow on the left shows the location of the new 1.35m diameter pipeline. The much smaller West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme pipeline is indicated in both photos using a black arrow. The offtake of the flood scheme is being constructed to pass over the older pipeline. The water in the foreground of the right photo is groundwater which continues to seep into the construction site.



Figure 4: Drone footage halfway down the pipeline. Work on one of the manholes is visible near the vehicles in the photograph.



Figure 5: This is taken on the left bank of the River Lambourn downstream of the new outfall and wetland. The green tubes visible in the photo are protecting the new vegetation that has been planted over the last few months with the new wetland located behind the two trees in the middle distance.

Questions about the project? Email us: GreatSheffordFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Concerns during construction?

Email us at the above address or call us: 03708 506 506 and quote “Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme, Thames Area”

General questions? Email us: Enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

Report an environmental incident?

Call 0800 80 70 60 And for more info: [Report an environmental incident - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident)

To check on the flood warnings on the River Lambourn and surrounding areas?

[Check for flooding in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/check-for-flooding-in-england)

Latest information with regards to the groundwater?

[Thames: groundwater situation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/thames-groundwater-situation) (This was updated on the 25 February 2025)

Please remember that neither the permanent scheme nor any temporary measures will protect from groundwater rising beneath properties.

Regards from Susan, 27/02/2025

25th February 2025

Email: clerk@greatsheffordparish.gov.uk



Members of Great Shefford Parish Council you are summoned to a Parish Council Meeting on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30pm in Great Shefford Village Hall, Station Road, RG17 7DR.

Mel Taylor
Locum Clerk to Great Shefford Parish Council

AGENDA

1. CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors and all those present are reminded that this meeting will be conducted in line with the Council's Code of Conduct, details of which are published on the Council's website.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interest. Members are reminded they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered in this agenda.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To consider approving the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2025.

5. OPEN FORUM

- i. To receive any questions, comments, or representations from the public. **The meeting will be suspended for a maximum of 15 minutes. Each member of the public is limited to 2 minutes.** No decisions can be made by the Council during public question time.

After this period, the meeting will be resumed, and members of the public may only speak when invited to do so.

- ii. To receive an update from District Councillor Clive Hooker.

6. SERVICE DELIVERY OFFERS FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Following consideration at the last meeting, to note that no information has been received regarding dog or litter bins in the parish that are maintained by West Berkshire Council, it is therefore presumed that there are no bins.

Further information is awaited on the possibility of hosting a regular 'pop-up library' and will be reported to a future meeting of the Parish Council for consideration.

7. NUISANCE AND OBSTRUCTION - OVERHANGING VEGETATION

To consider a proposal from West Berkshire Council for the Parish Council to provide assistance in relation to vegetation overhanging the highway from private property.

West Berkshire District Council would consent to a Parish/ Town Council to administer the sending of letters, in the form approved by the Council, relating to nuisance and obstruction, in particular overhanging vegetation, with the exception that any formal or final notices must be served by West Berkshire Council, this function being reserved to the principal authority pursuant to the highways legislation.

Holybrook Parish Council successfully took on this process in April 2022.

8. TRAFFIC CALMING AND SPEED AWARENESS

- i. The Parish Council's application via Cllr Clive Hooker for Members' Bid funding for a replacement Vehicle Activated Sign has received an award of £2,232 (a little less than the £3,266 applied for). The total project cost is £4,666, thereby requiring the Parish Council to contribute £2,434, which can be funded from CIL contributions. **Council is asked if it wishes to accept the grant award and thereby agree to contribute £2,434 towards the purchase and installation.**

- ii. To receive any updates on the Speed Awareness Scheme.
- iii. To give further consideration to enhanced village signage and traffic calming measures.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To note the following updates since the last meeting:

Application No.	Address	Details	Status (at time of agenda publication)	GSPC response
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24/02716/HOUSE	Shefford House Newbury Road	Relocation of swimming pool	Awaiting Decision	Nil at time of agenda publication
24/02156/FUL	East Shefford House	Part retrospective installation of solar panel	Awaiting Decision	Nil at time of agenda publication

24/02566/COND	Northfield Farm Industrial Estate Wantage Road	Approval of details reserved by Condition 3 (CEMP) of planning permission 24/01172/FUL	Approved	Nil
23/02975/FUL	Mount Pleasant Wantage Road	Two storey rear extension, single storey side extension, replacement ancillary buildings	Approved	Support
24/02355/FUL	Land at 15 The Mead	New 3 bedroom dwelling	Withdrawn	Support
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, at time of agenda publication
24/02724/HOUSE	3 The Old Railway Station Road	Demolition of existing porch and erection of single storey porch, replacement windows/alterations	Approved	Nil, at time of agenda publication

10. FINANCE

- i. To approve and authorise payments as presented by the RFO.
- ii. To note that multiple communication has been sent to SSE regarding the incorrect contract charges and no response has been received to date. The Clerk will now pursue via a formal complaint process.

11. RECRUITMENT OF A PARISH CLERK

To consider a draft job description and consider delegating authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to recruit and appoint a permanent Parish Clerk.

12. PROPOSED NEW WEBSITE

To consider a proposal to commission a new Parish Council website to support and enhance local information sharing and communication.

13. VILLAGE MATTERS

To consider any updates on the following village matters:

- i. Village Events
- ii. Village Communications - Website, Facebook and coordinated communications, including production of a flyer and posters for distribution around the village promoting the website etc.

- iii. Update on the Asset of Community Value (ACV) application for The Great Shefford
 - iv. Future Councillor 'Meet & Greet'
- 14. **FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME and SAGLUV (Sewage Action Group for the Lambourn Upper Valley)**
To receive any updates.
- 15. **COUNCILLORS BUSINESS**
To receive updates from Councillors.
- 16. **MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**
Including items raised during the Open Forum, agenda item 5.
- 17. **PLAY AREA & RECREATION GROUND REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**
To receive the annual play area inspection report (to be considered further under agenda item number 20).
- 18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 7th April 2025, 7.30pm.**
Subsequent meeting dates 2025: 12th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 8th September, 6th October and 3rd November.
- 19. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
To resolve that, in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw.
- 20. **PLAY AREA & RECREATION GROUND REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**
To consider costs for repairs highlighted in the annual inspection report and confirm repairs to be undertaken.



GREAT SHEFFORD UNDER FIVES'

EASTER CRAFT MORNING!



Wednesday 9th April 2025
10am – 12pm



In the Great Shefford Village Hall

£3 per child, or £5 per family

Come and join us for Easter and spring
crafts, alongside coffee, cake and
refreshments on sale.

Bring your own Easter bonnet to enter into
our competition!

All children must be supervised by an adult.

ALL PROCEEDS TO GREAT SHEFFORD UNDER
FIVES REG. CHARITY #1033744

