

GREAT SHEFFORD

PARISH NEWS

May 2026

Welcome to the May edition of the Parish News!

A much smaller edition this month, think contributors have been too busy enjoying the lovely weather to want to go inside and sit at a computer.

We have news of the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly to which all residents of the Parish are invited.

The Social Club have finished their decorating and invite villagers to take a look at the work they have completed, with several events to attend and notice of the Club's AGM later in the month.

I believe the Village Hall AGM is due to take place this month, but sadly no details of this have been supplied. Hopefully we will have a report on proceedings for the next edition.

If you read the request for a new Editor for this News and thought someone else would take this on, sadly everyone seems to have had the same thought and at the moment it is looking like June's edition will be the last.

The Parish Council have offered to put items on their website but of course, this is dependent on readers checking in regularly to see what new information is provided and contributors being responsible for providing the information in the first place.

The News 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. If you would like to know more, drop a line to the current Editor, Linda Bowden at gtsheffordnews@gmail.com.

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 and I don't have time to chase contributors – if something is missing you like to read about, have a word with those responsible now to get their article in in good time for the June edition.

EVENTS CALENDAR MAY

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday 1 st	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 2 nd	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard Tidying	St Mary's
Sunday 3 rd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Mary's
Wednesday 6 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 7 th	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Friday 8 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 9 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo	Social Club
Tuesday 12 th	8.00 p.m.	Social Club AGM	Social Club
Wednesday 13 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 14 th	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Friday 15 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 16 th	7.30 p.m.	Race night	Social Club
Sunday 17 th	10.15 a.m.	Café Church	St Mary's
Wednesday 20 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 21 st	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Thursday 21 st	7.00 p.m.	Annual parish Assembly	Village Hall
Thursday 21 st	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council	Village Hall
Friday 22 nd	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Saturday 23 rd	7.45 p.m.	It's a Knock Out - Pool	Social Club
Sunday 24 th	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise	St Stephens - S.W.
Wednesday 27 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing	St Mary's
Thursday 28 th	5.15 p.m.	Pilates	Village Hall
Friday 29 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club	Village Hall
Friday 29 th	8.00 p.m.	Cheese Club	Social Club
Saturday 30 th	8.00 p.m.	It's a Knock Out - Darts	Social Club

**Great Shefford
Parish Council - 13th April Meeting Update**

Councillors Present: Steve Bullock, Paul Carter, Tony Coard, Nick Pearson and Carol Turner, along with District Councillor Clive Hooker and members of the public.

Apologies from: Councillors Miranda Armstrong and Jesicca Copcutt

Residents raised concerns about newly installed wooden posts near a public footpath off Wantage Road and the potential impact on access to St Thomas Church. The District Council had confirmed that a public footpath order is in place. The situation will be monitored locally. A question was raised about the increase in the Parish Council's share of Council Tax, which was explained as necessary to meet rising costs, particularly for maintaining ageing play equipment.

The Parish Council is considering taking on responsibility for three village defibrillators. Two of the units are nearing the end of their lifespan and will need replacing later this year.

Repairs to a fence adjacent to Newbury Road are scheduled for late April/early May, at a cost of up to £1,600.

Due to a significant increase in waste collection and litter picking costs, effective from 1st May 2026, the Parish Council must reduce the frequency of grass cutting to remain within budget.

Playground repairs are due to take place in May, and plans are progressing for a wider refurbishment project of the play area and recreation ground.

Community Speedwatch continues to operate regularly, with positive feedback from residents. The collected data will support any future proposals to reduce speed limits. Work is also ongoing with local groups and Thames Water regarding flood alleviation and sewage issues.

Looking ahead, the village Christmas tree will remain at the Village Hall / Social Club, with local schools helping to decorate it ahead of a switch-on event on Saturday 5th December. The Parish Council is also encouraging residents to take part in informal litter picking, with support available.

Finally, the Editor of the Parish Newsletter is stepping down. If no successor comes forward, the Parish Council will look to provide updates via its website.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 21st May.

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

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

SHEFFORD CRAFT CLUB

What fun we had in April, creating these cute teddies from wait for it... socks! Most did not quite finish and took them home to complete. One of our members had learned how to do it on a



cruise but it was a clever exercise cutting the toe off and then using the shaped heel to create the bears snout. The cut off toe piece was itself cut in two to make the arms and the sock was cut from the ankle band down to make the legs. Whoever thought that one up was really cunning!

On the subject of teddies, some of our more expert knitters have been busy over the last year or two using up left over wool to knit "Comfort Teddies" to be sent to children in Ukraine. It is wonderful to be able to

put our crafting skills of some of our members to good use.

We will be meeting every Friday during May in Great Shefford Village Hall between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

Very best wishes from all at the craft group.



LET'S LOVE WHERE WE LIVE!

We know there can sometimes be a bit of uncertainty about whether residents might get into trouble for helping out with small jobs around the village. We want to squash that misconception! Great Shefford Parish Council is always keen to support anyone who wants to lend a hand to support their village and community. We can provide the equipment you need and make sure everything's covered so you can get involved with confidence.

We're going to be posting regularly about opportunities around the village, if you see something that's of interest to you, all we ask is that you drop an email to clerk@greatsheffordparish.gov.uk with who you are, what you want to do and where, wait for our response before you start, and we'll take care of the rest. This can be anything from cutting back vegetation, weeding, litter picking, cleaning signs, flower planting, all the things that make our village look and feel loved.

Or maybe you've got an idea of a local service or activity you'd love to see in the village, to complement the existing wonderful opportunities that we have; maybe a walking group or a talk on a topic of interest, whatever it may be, we really want to hear about. We'll work with our partners and if we can make it happen, we will!

To kick off, we're looking for local litter pickers!

If you're walking the dog, doing the school run, or just enjoying some fresh air in your street or around the village, why not take a litter picker with you?

A few minutes here and there really helps keep our community looking its best, and if we all do a little bit, it all adds up!

We can provide you with a litter picker and some bags, so it's easy to get involved. Just drop us a message to arrange collection or delivery of a litter picker at a time that suits you, **and you can keep it**, so it's always on hand whenever you're heading out.

Every piece picked up makes a difference. Thank you for helping keep our lovely village clean and tidy.

GREAT SHEFFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Great Shefford Sports & Social Club has recently undergone renovation, and we would be delighted to welcome members of the village to come and take a look and join us for a drink. We host a variety of events throughout the year, including Bingo on the second Saturday of every month, as well as race nights, barbecues, summer parties, and much more. We are also looking to establish darts, pool and potentially snooker teams. If you are interested in getting



involved, please feel free to contact us or pop in and see us.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 12th May. The Club will be open from 7.30 p.m. with the meeting commencing at 8.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Bingo takes place on the second Saturday of each month, with doors opening at 7.30 p.m. and "eyes down" at 8.00 p.m. We also host "It's a Knockout" competitions on the last Saturday of every

month, alternating between Pool and Darts. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. with matches starting at 8.00 p.m.

In addition we hold a Cheese Night on the last Friday of each month - simply bring long a piece of cheese to take part and enjoy the evening.

Stuart Cope - Chairman

Flower Festival and Cup Cake Bake Off

July 4th 2026

St Thomas' Church Great Shefford

Music from Wantage Silver Band @ 2:00pm

**Service @ 3:00pm Conducted by Rev. Mike &
Matthew**

Afterwards...

Music, Pimms, Refreshments

Winner Announcements of the Cup Cake Bake Off!

Silent Auction Winners Announcement

All proceeds raised for the Church Conservation Trust

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Chaddleworth and Shefford Federated CE Primary School

We welcomed in our HMI Ofsted Inspectors for a full Ofsted inspection of both Chaddleworth and Shefford schools at the beginning of term. The inspection followed the new Ofsted Framework, which was published in September 2025. The new framework has introduced significant changes to school inspection and reporting including;

- Use of a five-point grading scale, ranging from 'exceptional' to 'urgent improvement', grading applied across six core evaluation areas including inclusion, curriculum, achievement, attendance, personal development, and leadership.
- No overall effectiveness grade for any school inspected under the new framework, with safeguarding evaluated on a 'met' or 'not met' scale.
- The new inspection model will also feature updated report cards and focus on key areas such as behaviour, well-being, and inclusion.

These changes have been aimed to enhance the inspection process and provide clearer evaluations of educational providers. In preparation for our published report, which will share our inspection outcomes, we would like to sign post a guide to help understand what the report card will look like and the information it will share.

School staff changes...

We wanted to update you with some recent and up coming school staff changes.

Mr Withers has stepped away from his roles within our schools. It has been a pleasure working with Mr Withers and we are very grateful for all the time and support he has given to our school over his time working with us.

Mrs Bell has left her role of admin and finance assistant in our school and has been a great support to us all with organisation and support through her admin roles and day to day communications with our families. We are very grateful for all the time and support Mrs Bell has shared with us all while working in our school.

This term we have welcomed Mrs Tallack as our school minibuss driver. Thank you to our staff, children and families who have made her feel very welcome to her role in our

school.

PTFA news and updates...

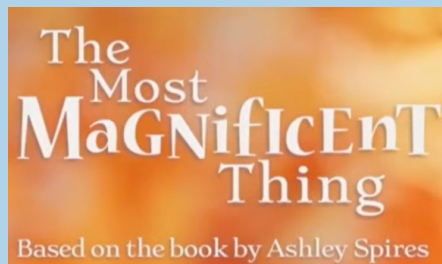
The PTFA plans to hold termly pre-loved uniform sales. If anyone has items to donate, please pass them to the school office. If any items are needed before a sale, please contact us on chair@csptfa.org.uk and we will do our best to help.

Whole school worship...

This term our Christian value focus is all about 'perseverance'. We have shared our understanding of this word as;

- Things might be tricky, that's OK- don't give up!
- We learn from our mistakes
- We learn to manage our distractions
- We keep on trying our best

This week we shared the story of 'The Most Magnificent Thing' written by Ashley Spires. A story about creativity, perseverance, and the rewards of determination. There has been now been an animation created, based on the book. We shared just a short section in our worship time. Click on the title below to take a look at home together to enjoy the whole animated story...





St Thomas' Cupcake Competition

Entry is free!



DATE & VENUE: Saturday 4th July
At St Thomas' Church

Entries must be presented by **11:30am**



REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:

- Full Name
- Age if under 16 years
- Contact email/Contact Number



THE BAKE:

- Please produce and display **8 decorated cup cakes &** a post card size label with your name only on one side and for the under 16s your age on the other.

This is to be placed in front of your cakes on the day.

Name down!



JUDGING: Blind judging at **12:30pm** by Ruth from Priscillas and the winner from each category will receive a small prize.

After judging, the cakes will be offered alongside the teas & coffees at the event.



Happy Baking...