

GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

AUGUST 2025

It is 50 years since we had a summer like this, whilst it is great for the sun lovers, not so for those dependent on rain for crops to reach their full potential, with harvest on farms either complete, or nearly so, in an average year, farmers would only just really getting going with the harvesting, whilst those growing fruit and vegetables are either irrigating or seeing their crops such as strawberries and raspberries over ahead of time. So far this area has escaped a hosepipe ban, but with a further heatwave forecast for later in August this could still affect us.

We welcome Rev Mike's new assistant Matt(hew) to the village together with his wife Jenny and their dog Roddy, Matt tells us a little about himself and them in the Benefice News this month.

It is great to read of the success of the School's visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park funded entirely as a result of the funds raised by the PTFA, a fitting end to Kathleen Stockwell's time as Chairperson.

For many it is holiday season, but there are still activities going on in the village with the Parish Council organising a Community Clean-up Day for Friday 1st August, meet from 1000 in the Recreation Ground, further details below. Saturday 2nd sees the monthly Churchyard Working Party again from 1000 and the Pigs are back - fun for the children in the village (and the young at heart).

At the time of writing, no Parish Council minutes for the 7th July meeting have been received, hopefully they will appear on the Parish website www.greatshefford.org.uk soon.

As there is no Parish Council meeting in August (June's minutes gave the date of the next one as 8th September), the School and Under 5s are closed and to give contributors a break, there will be no September Parish News. Copy for October to be received by 25th September. If you have something you think might be of interest to readers, please submit for publication by this date to gtsheffordnews@gmail.com.

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Linda Bowden

Editor

Village Calendar August 2025

Friday	1 st	10.00 a.m.	Community Clean-up, Recreation Ground
Saturday	2 nd	10.00 a.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Sunday	3 rd	9.30 a.m.	Communion by Extension, St Mary's GS
Monday	4 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	6 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	7 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	8 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	9 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo & Raffle, Social Club
Monday	11 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	13 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	14 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	15 th	9.30 a.m..	Craft Club, Village Hall
Sunday	17 th	10.15 a.m.	Café Church, St Mary's
Monday	18 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	20 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	21 st	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	22 nd	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	23 rd	7.30 p.m.	It's a Knock Out - Social Club
Sunday	24 TH	4.00 p.m.	St Stephens, Shefford Woodlands
Wednesday	27 th	8.30 p.m.	Cheese Club, Social Club
Wednesday	27 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	28 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	29 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	30 th		It's a Knock Out, Social Club



COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY!

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR VILLAGE A CLEANER,
GREENER PLACE - EVERY HAND MAKES A DIFFERENCE!
THERE'LL BE A VARIETY OF TASKS TO SUIT ALL AGES & ABILITIES

FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2025

10AM - 3PM

(DROP IN / OUT TO SUIT YOUR AVAILABILITY)

MEET AT GREAT SHEFFORD RECREATION GROUND

EQUIPMENT CAN BE PROVIDED, BUT PLEASE BRING YOUR
OWN IF YOU CAN

BRING LUNCH FOR A GROUP PICNIC 12PM- 1PM

● **YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!** ●
Become a Parish Councillor
Join Great Shefford Parish Council

Do you care about your community? Want to make a real difference where you live?
Now's your chance to get involved.

 BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

As a local Councillor, you'll become a **voice for your community** – helping shape decisions, support local projects, and improve the lives of residents. Local Councillors are champions of their communities, investing time and energy to create positive change.

What do Parish Councillors do?

Local Councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- **Decision-making** – influencing and setting direction on local matters
 - **Monitoring** – ensuring services are delivered effectively
- **Getting involved locally** – supporting residents, groups and businesses

Why get involved?

- ✓ Address local issues
- ✓ Work with district and borough councils
- ✓ Progress important projects
- ✓ Help shape the future of Great Shefford

Whether you're passionate about the environment, facilities, planning, or simply want to give back—your voice matters.

 Interested?

For more information on how to apply, contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@greatsheffordparish.gov.uk

Make a difference. Be the change. Serve your community.
#GreatShefford #ParishCouncillor #MakeADifference

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



This scheme is operated under the umbrella of Thames Valley Police by volunteers who have undertaken online training.

The village now has four active sites approved by the police for speed monitoring, Volunteers have carried out eight speedwatch sessions during July at the four approved sites in the village, resulting in 60 drivers being reported to Thames Valley Police for excessive speed. The highest speed recorded was 71mph in a 40 mph limit.

We are looking for additional volunteers, particularly those available during the “rush hour”. Have you recently moved to the village and looking to get involved in the community? Are you retired and have some time available

in the day when you could support this scheme? or maybe the speeding vehicles through the village annoy you - rather than just complaining on social media, you could do something to actively help by becoming a volunteer? We are permitted to operate 7 days a week, during daylight hours, so plenty of opportunities outside work or family commitments to take part, even one hour a week, would be a great help. Training is done initially on-line and then with the support of existing volunteers.

Linda Bowden, Group Co-ordinator can answer any questions you may have and explain the scheme further, she can be contacted on 07850 643952.

THE READING AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden



Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

West Berkshire
LIBRARIES

1 July – 15 September

Sign up in your local library for your **FREE** booklet and start collecting stickers.
Medals for everyone who completes their reading challenge!

West Berkshire
COUNCIL

AUGUST 2025



PTFA News!



What a super summer of fundraising the PTFA have had! Our goal this term was to raise £1800 to go towards a whole school trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, as a brilliant treat for the children and staff, as well as linking to the learning they have been doing this term.



Our biggest event was the summer fete, held on Saturday 28th June, a scorchingly hot day! Thank you to everyone who came along and enjoyed the fun, with special thanks to the Great Shefford Sports and Social Club, our local PCSOs, and Ruth from Priscilla's Kitchen, for coming along to be part of the day! Thanks also to the team of parent and staff volunteers who made it all possible!

We were delighted to smash our fundraising total, enabling the PTFA to fund the Cotswold Wildlife Park trip, from the coaches and park entrance tickets, right down to the ice lollies, park train rides, and educational talks from the keepers. A super day was had by all when the school visited on Friday 18th July, another super sunny day!



Our final event of the academic year was our school discos, one for early years and key stage 1 classes, and a second 'Leaver's Ball' for key stage 2 classes and our leaving cohort of year 6 pupils. Thanks to DJ Carl for keeping the children dancing all night, and the staff and parent volunteers who joined the conga



line and made the evening possible.

As an ongoing fundraising effort from the spring term, our PTFA charity is one of the chosen recipients of the blue tokens in Tescos Hungerford. Please collect your tokens after shopping and keep an eye out for our Chaddleworth & Shefford schools donation box.

Thank you as always for your continued support!
Wishing everyone a super summer holiday!



**Please support our school by collecting blue tokens
at Tescos Hungerford!**



We could raise up to **£1500** to support the school's '**plot to plate**' initiative, enabling the children to plant and grow their own produce, while funding cookery equipment and appliances to be used in lessons.



Please look out for our Stronger Starts charity box from the **first week in July, through to the end of September**. Thank you!

NEWS FROM THE WEST DOWNLAND BENIFICE

Dear Friends,

Last week I needed to get something in the post quite urgently. (You may have noticed that admin is not a gift of mine, postage can often become quite urgent!!) I drove around quite a bit, looking for a postbox that had a collection at 5pm rather than 9am (as most seem to these days in the villages.) In the end, I found one at Sainsbury's in Newbury. It tickled me to read that someone had placed a printed message below the aperture that read "MORE LOVE LETTERS PLEASE".



Wouldn't that be lovely? More love letters please. When was the last time you sent a love letter? Or received one?

Over the summer months I have the joy and delight of conducting many weddings. I think we see something of God's love for us in the love that is so visible between a bride and groom on their wedding day. I wonder how many love letters have been sent and received before they reached their wedding day?!

I was asked this week how I would summarise the Gospel (meaning "Good News") in two sentences. I said something about each of us being God's dear children and God giving up everything to make a way for us to know that forever. When I asked what they had said, they simply replied "Love". What a brilliant answer?! They expanded to say that it's all about unconditional love for all, and we must go out and share that love because that's how the world gets transformed. I'm totally up for that!

One of my favourite passages from the bible is [Romans 12:9-end](#). In a particular version it starts: "Love from the centre of who you are, don't fake it". How might we all demonstrate more love in the communities in which we live, so that our little corner of the world may be transformed? I'm going to enjoy finding out!

Rev Mike
x

It's a pleasure to be with you in the Benefice of West Downland, which is rapidly making a name for itself for all the right reasons.

I am Matt, or Matthew - either will do.

Having trained for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and St Mary's Church, Chalgrove, south Oxfordshire, I was ordained as deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford a few weeks ago.



Before that I was a magazine and website editor as well as a communications executive for a large automotive company. Previously I was a secondary school teacher in various comprehensives in England and Scotland.

I have come to Great Shefford with my wife, Jenny and our dog, Roddy. Jenny is a colour consultant and works for various big businesses, including paint manufacturers, trend agencies and shoe brands. She is a continual inspiration to me through her hard work and faith.

Roddy is a lurcher. We think he was a poacher before he came to us from a

Buckinghamshire animal rescue centre. He promises that his criminal ways are behind him, but I'm not so sure. You will notice us walking him around Shefford as he looks like Greyhound or Saluki and has an imperious air to him, so much so, we call him Regal Roddy.

I must thank you for the warm welcome we have received from you. It has been truly heartwarming. I look forward to working with you and Mike and learning from you all.

Matthew Clark - Assistant Curate

Office Contact Details

www.westdownland.co.uk

Email office@westdownland.co.uk

Telephone 07954 117093

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

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

We have recently been so lucky to welcome several work experience students from local secondary schools who were wanting to find out more about the primary school working environment. All the students have been incredibly helpful to staff and children and been fully immersed in each school day, a big thank you to Willow, Eva, Lily and Sophie.



Our Christian value this term has brought us to consider the meaning of, reasons for and ways of sharing 'Thankfulness'. Our whole school worship times have shared our gratitude for our families, friends and so many important features of the world we live in. This week's focus brought us to consider the books we are grateful to have shared and enjoyed,

the books that have made us think, taught us something new and that we want to go back to again and again.



Author visit...

On Wednesday Red Kites were delighted to welcome author Geraldine McCaughrean to talk about the inspiration for her book, *Under A Fire-Red Sky*, which is being read in class to support learning across the curriculum- especially WWII history. There were lots of questions asked about her characters, and the process of writing and publishing a book.



WWII Evacuation Day...

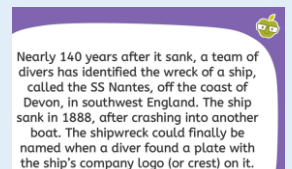
Red Kites were immersed in their history learning today – from themed clothing to filling in evacuee labels, 1930's style arithmetic lesson, an Air Raid Siren demonstration and discussion with our visitor, Mick, from the RAF Welford Historical Society, to war time food tasting, walking to St Mary's Church to ring the bells, and a visit to the War Memorial to read the names of the men from Great Shefford who lost their lives in WWII. All culminating in learning about the Dig for Victory campaign and designing propaganda posters to encourage people to grow their own food! Thank you to Mrs Chrimes for organising such an amazing learning experience day for our children!



Our class worship Picture News focus...

BIG question

'Why do people explore the past?'



Sports Day...

We started our Tuesday with a whole school assembly introducing our day of sport and fun! Our sports day leaders had already been preparing our field activities and were gearing up ready for a whole school warm up. However, house meetings first gave an opportunity for supportive words, and creativity on posters, banners and flags to be displayed through the day. The children were then fueled by a generous donation of tasty fresh fruit from Tesco's. The warm up then began with stretches and a warm up jog around the track, closely followed by a morning packed with field events involving challenges for all the sports skills we've been learning and using through our PE lessons of running, jumping, throwing, balance as well as a huge helping of sportspersonship too!





We were then all able to picnic with our family vistoris in the shade of the trees on the back field, before the challenge of track events through the afternoon!

And what an afternoon it was!

There was resilience, perserverance, encouragement and support galore for everyone’s fantatic efforts in sprinting, hurdles,

and egg and spoon races.



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As we came to the end of the track events we had brave school staff volunteer their demonstration skills for the introduction of a new adult challenge- the water relay! Followed by



our parent race volunteers too! What fun!

A HUGE 'well done' to everyone involved through the day from competitors, to supporters to organisers. Oh, and big 'congratulations' to Watermill who hold the cup for their team efforts this year!

Year 6 took some time to reflect on their last sports day with us and reflected...

"Watermill all tried their best. It was fun watching people enjoy themselves and express themselves and have fun doing sports" Stanley and Isabella F.

"It was really really fun, we all tried our best- even though it was really hot" Tayla

"I enjoyed the carousel activities and my favourite was the basket ball and the running jump" Isabelle

"I enjoyed helping Anvil try to win and watching everyone trying to do their best. I did like the basketball challenge as I got 5 hoops out of 5 shots" Ashley

Well done...

We were so grateful to the children who shared fantastic achievements and experiences with us in worship on Monday. Tuppence and Eleanor's swimming challenges, Aster's gymnastic achievement, Quinn's cheer competition medals, Sophie and Evey's Brownie camp adventures, and Charlie and Rosie's fantastic work helping to renovate their new home! Well done everyone!



Whole school trip...

After a smooth journey to the Cotswold Wildlife Park we all headed off in our class groups to explore.



The penguins were a popular spot to see the 11am feeding time! Owls and Red Kites were then invited to their educational talks about animal classification. With the lemur feeding and talk in Madagascar then being popular too.

We all looked for shady spots on the lawn for our lunchtime picnic. After which everyone was able to enjoy a cooling ice lolly.

Everyone then had their plans to see a few more animals and explore a little more before our visit came to an end. Kingfishers and Robins were able to enjoy their train ride around the park whilst spotting even more animals; tapir, zebra, rhinos, giraffe, camels and the giant tortoises!

Our journey back had bonus entertainment (for those still awake!) from the Red arrows formation fly by!

It was lovely to hear some families were able to tune in to the park's live stream and spot us enjoying the day!

Thank you to volunteers who were able to join us, and to Mrs Bell for the fantastic behind the scenes organisation.

A huge thank you to our PTFA for all their fundraising efforts towards our whole school trip- what a wonderful, fully funded, end of year treat for everyone!

Some



The popular penguins!



Terrific tortoise!



Wild woodland wolves!



Toot, toot train ride!

reflections from the day included;

"The lions were my favourite, with their yellow fur" Freya

"My favourites were the wolves, they were a bit like dogs, they were sleeping" Tuppence

"I liked the squirrel monkeys, they were so sweet" Mrs Chapman

"I loved the giant tortoises as I saw one give a hug to its keeper!" Miss Carter

"I liked the baby monkeys because they were snuggling with their mummy!" Ava Rayne

"I liked seeing the penguins swimming" Violet

"My favourite was the anaconda in the reptile house" Harry

"I liked the penguins swimming" Rosie

"I love the flamingos!" Ellie

Red Kites performance...

Props.... Lights.... action! The whole of the Red Kites team was so excited to share their performances of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' through this week. Everyone has worked so incredibly hard! From their first auditions, to learning their lines, practising their songs, perfecting their costumes, organising props, considering stage directions, to coping with stage nerves. And, WOW, they did not disappoint. With wall to wall comdey, amazing collaboration and team work, and fantastic audiences- every performance was a huge success!



A BIG thank you to Lawrence for his support, time and efforts to transform our school hall into a theatre! Thank you to Miss Carter, Mrs O and Mr Withers (and Mr Withers senior) for the support with staging and props. Thank you and well done to the Owls team who supported with the chorus and stage setup. And a HUGE well done, and thank you, to Mrs Chrimes the director and organiser extraordinaire!



Multi skills...

'On Tuesday 18th July, 7 children from Kingfishers went to Park House for the last sporting event of the year. It was multi skills. The children all tried their very best. There were throwing activities, golfing activities, cup stacking and even archery. All the children's effort and team work meant that they came first place out of seven schools, each bringing home a gold medal! Well done to them all!' *Mrs Harris*

**History focus...**

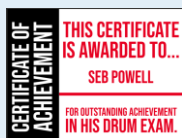
'This week Kingfishers carried out a variety of activities linked to the Great Fire of London. To start off they made bread, just like Thomas Farriner in the bakery on Pudding lane. Then children they all created a house to add to a large-scale collage of a London street, like Pudding Lane. The next activity was to turn a nice calm collage into one with lots of fire! The children all had a go at working on a large scale, painting together. We think you will agree, the art looks amazing! To finish off we had some water races using cups and squirters to try and put out a pretend fire.'



Mrs Harris

Well done...

...to Baker in his achievement in golf. He scored his first ever hole in one at Deanwood Park golf course during his practice round. 6 years old but loving the game!



...to Seb who recently sat his first drum exam and scored a Distinction with 90/100! He's shown real commitment to his drumming this year and grown in confidence and musicality.

Our end of year church service...

Reverend Mike welcomed us all into St Mary's Church in Great Shefford for our end of year Leavers Service. It was great that our surprise guest, Mrs Stephenson, was able to join us too! The service brought us the year 6's favourite hymns, reflections of children from each class about their school year and a moment for the year 6 children to discover the church gift pack of 'Very Important Things' to take on their journeys to secondary school, and a final teaspoon prayer and blessing. Thank you to Reverend Mike for his support for us all throughout this academic year.

**Year 6 leavers...**

The end of the last day of term brought us to our year 6 Leavers Assembly.

There were smiles shared and tears shed.

The year 6's shared their personal speeches to the school and their families, Mrs Chrimes presented awards to each child and every year 6 received a Bible from the school as a gift to take home.

Each leaver then took their turn to ring the school bell as a final farewell before confetti cannons on the hill!

It was an emotional close to the term!



PTFA disco and leavers ball...

What a wonderful event to close the year with!

Thanks again to our fantastic PTFA who organised the music, the treats, the balloons, and the fun for everyone!



Dear Parents and Carers,

School staff would like to share their thanks and appreciation for your kind words, cards and gifts that you and your children have kindly brought in.

We say a fond farewell to our year 6 children, we also wish them luck as they move on to their secondary schools,

“Year 6 you’ve brought together or school **COMMUNITY** through your leadership and support.

You have all shared your **COMPASSION** through kindness, thoughtful words and actions and your helpfulness.

Your **COURAGE** has been unfailing through challenge, change and tricky times.

You’ve shown true **TRUST** in yourselves, each other and our school- thank you.

Each one of you have been able to approach this year with **PERSEVERANCE** and your positive ‘can do’ attitude!

Take that with you on your journey and to all that you do.

Finally, we want to share our **THANKFULNESS** for all you have given and shared with us over your time at Chaddleworth and Shefford Primary School.

Good Luck to each and every one of you as you move on to your secondary schools, new challenges and further adventures. We will miss you!”



Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break!

Ms Munday Acting Headteacher

CRAFT CLUB

We have had a successful few meetings despite the heat and have been delighted to welcome three new members over the last few months. In July we made "Deco Gift Baskets". One of our members learnt to do this on a cruise and brought back the instructions for us to have a go. Not everyone had time to finish in one session but you can see from those that did, that the final results are very attractive and unusual.,



The previous month we made another storage solution . This was woven paper baskets. Our member who led us in this one could remember making these at school. and had since shared it with her granddaughters and finally taught us "oldies" too! Lovely for small favours at parties or for keeping "Bits and bobs" in on a dressing table or



desk.

Do feel free to pop in on a Friday morning sometime to see what we get up to. Lots of different crafting but lots of tea/coffee and chat too!

Stevie

Great Shefford Sports & Social Club

Current Opening Hours:

Friday 5:30pm - 11:00pm

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

Sunday 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Contact us:

Email: greatsheffordsocialclub@gmail.com

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

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

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

Upcoming events to add to your diaries:

- Saturday 9th August - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm
- Wednesday 27th August - Cheese Club. Around 8.30pm - 9pm, bring a piece of cheese along to share in a sociable nibble
- Saturday 30th August - It's a Knockout!

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

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!

News from Welford Park Cricket Club

What is a Leaning Jowler? And what about a Double Snouter? How might these strange terms be connected to Welford Park Cricket Club? Perhaps you'd guess that a Leaning Jowler is an inspired new shot from the T20 Blast. Perhaps a Double Snouter is an over with two nose high bouncers?

Well if you thought that I'm afraid you'd be wrong. They are, in fact, scoring positions in the dice game Pass The Pigs, one of the games marketed by Winning Moves UK and their connection with Welford Park CC is a new three year kit sponsorship.



Meantime there have been more victories for both teams in the Thames Valley League. The 1st XI beat Farley Hill by nine runs thanks to an opening stand of 130 between Sameer Andagi (106) and Suvo Datta (52) and some tight bowling at the end from Ian Herrington (3-44).



The 2nd XI beat Bradfield by 4 wickets thanks to a five wicket haul from Manu Mohan and an undefeated seventh wicket partnership of 44 between Marc Greenslade (38*) and Prabhu Ramraj (19*).

The following day the Sunday team travelled to Avebury, affording some of the team the chance to sightsee the Neolithic stones. And perhaps the recent highlight



on Sundays was the excellent start against Reading Lions when youngsters Frankie Marangio and Oscar Angus opened the bowling superbly. Frankie had figures of 4-1-14-0 (an economy of just 3.5 runs per over) and Oscar Angus 6-0-24-2, dismissing both of the Lions' openers.

The Avebury pavilion roof is a little the worse for wear after a Sarfraz Abassi six. It's a good job it wasn't from the other end or the ancient stones may not have survived in tact

On July 2nd the



Under 13s won at West Reading, an undefeated captain's innings of 17 from Olly Paphitis seeing the juniors home. Liam Edwards (23* against Chieveley) and Alfie Mabey (innings of 28 and 29 both against Sonning) have also been batting well and there has been some stand out fielding from Charlie Quaintance-Blackford. In the bowling its tight at the top. Seb Jones has seven wickets for the season with Finn Walters and Noah Horton just behind on six.

Parents enjoy the U13s match at home to Chieveley

There are some special matches ahead. On Thursday July 31st it's the biannual match Vs The MCC. On Sunday August 3rd it's the annual match Vs The President's XI and on Sunday August 10th the club pay respects to Paul Bowers with a Welford Park Past Vs Present memorial match in his honour.

Finally Mike Harrison and Mark Jurgens joined Paul Allen to talk about the club on his Berkshire Villages podcast. If you'd like to hear it the link is at: [Paul Presents Podcasts | West Berkshire Villagers](#)

Contact

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



Great Shefford Under Fives

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk



Great Shefford Pre-School and Baby & Toddler groups are now closed for the summer. Our end of term was celebrated with parents at the village park, with sports for the children, races for the parents, presentation of the medals the children made, plus books for the children who are off to primary school in September. Thirteen children have left to local schools; we send them all our best wishes for their next adventures.

We have had a fantastic year and have provided a wide range of educational and enrichment opportunities for young children. Thank you to



everyone who supports the Under Fives, we could not offer so much without the community support.

Our new term starts on Tuesday September 9th when we will welcome some new starters.

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

Have a wonderful summer,

Denise Herrington





August 2025 update

Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme

It has been sometime since I have been able to send an update to the Great Shefford Parish News so I am really pleased to be able to send you one this month.

We finished work on the flood alleviation scheme for Great Shefford in May 2025 and I finally managed to get to see it for myself early in July. What a difference a year has made so I thought that in this newsletter I would include a short recap and share some of the photos of the completed scheme.

Here is a reminder of the steps taken to get this project to where it is today:

- The need for a permanent scheme to be developed by the Environment Agency was identified after the **2013/2014 winter flooding**. This caused flooding to residential properties as well as closing the Wantage Road for a few days. The team working on the project at the time produced the Strategic Outline Case in June 2017 - this phase of the project identified the various options available to reduce flood risk.
- In June 2017 the proposed scheme was presented to the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee - the result was that the community were required to provide a contribution to the scheme. The **Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Association** was established by the community and set up as a charity to help with the fund-raising and grant applications with the aim of reducing flood risk within Great Shefford. A total of £87,000 was raised by October 2019 which included a promise of match funding of £30,000 from The Good Exchange. The Environment Agency required £80,000 with the remaining funds required for administration costs. (Note that the contribution was finally paid to the Environment Agency July 2024 once construction had started on the scheme.)
- Work continued to find the preferred option which we shared with the village in November 2017, but the journey from design to construction has been a labour of love from all involved.
- This scheme will reduce flooding to 26 residential properties, 7 commercial properties as well as the Wantage Road from the Great Shefford stream. Some risk will remain including the risk both from surface water and rising groundwater underneath properties.
- We received approval for the design and construction contract in Autumn 2022, applied for planning permission in March 2024 and **planning permission was granted** on 29 January 2024.
- We **started construction** in late May 2024 with and expected to have completed the key elements before the start of the winter. However with all the rain in September 2024, the groundwater started to rise a lot quicker than we expected. The heavy rainfall and raised groundwater levels slowed down progress considerably.
- **Construction was completed** in May 2025 and included the new offtake from the Great Shefford Stream, a crossing over the West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme, 720m of pipes, 180m of open channels and two new trashscreens.
- The scheme is **designed** to both hold back the floodwater as well as divert it so that it is discharged in to the River Lambourn in a controlled way.

- As the River Lambourn is a Site of Scientific Interest and also a Special Area of Conservation, we had to take great care during the construction process.
- The scheme will be maintained by the Environment Agency.

What the scheme does:

- It reduces the risk of groundwater-fed fluvial flooding from the Great Shefford Stream.
- This is a passive scheme which transfers the excess floodwater from the offtake just upstream of the village on the Wantage Road across to the River Lambourn.
- A new orifice plate on the existing culvert just downstream of the new offtake ensures that water will always flow down the stream and through the village up to a volume of $0.33\text{m}^3/\text{s}$. The pipeline is designed up to a capacity of $2.0\text{m}^3/\text{s}$.



Figure 1: Left - Great Shefford Stream - looking downstream (May 2025). Right - looking towards the offtake - original culvert on the right of this photo (July 2025)



Figure 2: Looking upstream along the pipeline. The fencing in the middle distance is on of the manholes needed for maintenance. (May 2025)



Figure 3: Left - looking downstream at the new open channel. Right - looking upstream towards the transition chamber and stilling basin. (May 2025)



Figure 4: Left - Looking downstream near the new backwater into the river Lambourn. New planting on the left - protected in plastic sleeves. Right - Looking upstream at the new open channel. (May 2025)



Figure 4: Standing just downstream of where the scheme joins the River Lambourn. I think this is the newest chalk stream in the world! (May 2025)



Figure 5: One final photo of the offtake area -as a reminder of some of the really tough conditions faced on site (February 2025)

I would like to thank all the people involved in this project. This includes all the residents from Great Shefford and the road users of the Wantage Road for their patience during the construction process. I would especially like to thank all the Environment Agency staff, our contractors BAM Nuttall, the designers Stantec, Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Association (especially Steve), West Berkshire Council staff, Linda who has allowed us to communicate with you in your Parish Magazine, and indeed everyone who has contributed over the years.

We will be hosting a **celebration evening** later in the Autumn but as yet we have not secured a venue or decided on a date. We will advertise the date in the next Parish News.

Questions about the project?

Email us: GreatSheffordFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

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)

Regards
Susan
31/7/2025

