



MINUTES
Shepreth Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 13th May 2023 at 7.30pm
at Shepreth Village Hall

Present: Cllr Stone, Cllr Bast, Cllr Cartmell, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Pankhurst, Cllr White, Parish Clerk and 15 members of the public

The meeting opened at 19.30

1. The Chair of Shepreth Parish Council (SPC), Cllr Turlough Stone, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. The minutes of the last APM meeting on 27th March 2023 were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Cllr Fisher and seconded by Cllr White, all in favour.
3. Parish Council accounts will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 20th May 2023. They will be available by request from the clerk or online.
4. Chairman Cllr Turlough Stone gave his report from the Parish Council over the past year and took questions from the meeting.
5.
 - a. Sustainable Shepreth
Elisabeth Spain gave a report (attached below) on the activities of Sustainable Shepreth.
 - b. Friends of the Shep
Steven Swain gave a report (see below) on the activities of the Friends of the Shep
 - c. Shepreth Village Hall
Ruth White, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, gave a report on the Village Hall. She noted that the nursery school intake is growing, which provides a steady income to the hall, and the hall has a number of regular evening and weekend users and is hired out for parties. The committee thanked Cllr Fisher for arranging the installation of solar panels and batteries. Future plans for the hall include the removal of the stage, installation of more storage so that they can accommodate a village archive, and replacement

of the windows with double glazed fittings. It was pointed out that the hall is run by a very small team, and new volunteers would be very welcome.

d. Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership (MSF CRP)

Sarah Grove gave a report (see below) on the activities of MSF CRP.

e. Shepreth Church

Malcolm Price gave a report (see below) on the activities of Shepreth Church. SPC seconded their thanks to Lynn and Donna Thomas who have taken over the running of the Parish Newsletter

f. Shepreth in Need

Malcolm Price gave a report (see below) on the activities of Shepreth in Need

g. Bowls Club

Pat Stigwood gave a brief report on the activities of the Bowls Club. She reported that the club had been founded in 1983, so recently celebrated its 40 anniversary. The club no longer plays in leagues as many of these closed down during the covid pandemic, and now just plays friendly matches. New players are always welcome.

h. Shepreth Schools Trust

Charles Cook gave a report (see below) on the activities of the Shepreth Schools Trust.

i. Village Events Committee

Wanja Mungai gave a brief report on the activities of the Village Events Committee, previously the Coronation Committee. It was reported that they had a small fund, currently being kept by SPC, to finance future events. The next event will be a community picnic on the Old School Field on 15th June 2024. SPC thanked the committee for all their hard work.

6. **OPEN FORUM** – everyone had the opportunity to ask questions that affect themselves and the village and local community

Please note: reports attached to this document

Annual Parish Meeting

13th May 2024



Working as a village to nurture our environment

Find us:

at <https://bit.ly/sustainableshepreth>

On Facebook

Join our mailing list:

sustainableshepreth@gmail.com

Our Story so Far - 2023



Proposal Jan - Feb 2023

With input from Steve Swain, Liz Todd, Teresa Smith, Roger Faires, Michelle Golder, Claire Mackenzie

Enthusiastically supported by the Parish Council

Logo, vision, online presence



Working as a village to nurture our environment

With thanks to Sandra at Shepreth Wildlife Park, Chris O'Brien, Louette Race

Constitution October 2023

Provide channels for learning and action

Highlight and support existing activities

Build the community

Develop resilience

Model

Groups

Wild Gardening / Seed swap

Waste and Recycling

Built Environment and Energy

Hedgehogs and Wildlife Conservation

Verges and Water Resources

L-Moor

Old School Field

Our Steering Team for 2024

1. Chair - Elisabeth Goodman Spain
2. Secretary / Membership - Carol Dutton
3. Treasurer - Tammy Ashwell
4. Wild Gardening & Old School Field - Carol Dutton / Patrick Fletcher
5. Waste & Recycling - Amanda Davis
6. Built Environment & Energy - Elisabeth Spain / vacancy¹
7. Hedgehogs & Wildlife Conservation - Felicity Norman
8. Verges & Water Resources - Nick Mann
9. L-Moor volunteer wardens² - Elisabeth Spain / Felicity Norman
10. Travel - vacancy
11. ForShep representation - Steve Swain
12. Cross-group Advice & Support - Professor Sir Tom Blundell

¹ Roger Faires is also acting as an advisor

² Bob Race is also a volunteer warden

Past event - 2nd April - Litter Pick



Nick and Elisabeth (from our Sustainable Shepreth Steering team) spent an enjoyable sunny hour collecting litter along the Meldreth Road stretch as far as the L-Moor. This was part of the Great British Spring Clean which ended on the 2nd April 2023.

Past event - 8th May at Shepreth Wildlife Park



Children's pledges for helping hedgehogs

Roger and Elisabeth spent an enjoyable day promoting Sustainable Shepreth at Shepreth Wildlife Park's Wildlife on your Doorstep event.

Past event - Barrington School Fete - 1st July



We had a stand at Barrington School Fete on 1st July. We had

Past event: Wild Gardening afternoon - Saturday 19th August 2-4 pm



SUSTAINABLE SHEPRETH WILD GARDENING AFTERNOON

Interested in wild gardening?

If you have questions to ask or knowledge you can share please come along and join us

Saturday 19th August
2 - 4 pm

at Riverside Cottage,
21 High Street, Shepreth

Tea and cakes will be available!

Past event: Barrington Repair Cafe - 7th October (Shepreth residents invited)



DO YOU HAVE STUFF THAT'S BROKEN OR DOESN'T WORK ANYMORE?

Bring it along to the Repair Cafe and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it!

BICYCLES - TOYS - CLOTHES - ELECTRICAL ITEMS - JEWELLERY

PDF

Repair cafe poster 2023

Barrington Eco group warmly invites Shepreth residents to join their Repair Cafe.

See the poster for more information and booking details.



2023 events

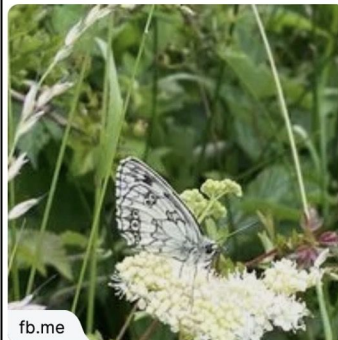


Thank you so much to everyone who stopped by our Sustainable Shepreth stand at the village's Coronation Celebration on Sunday

Past event - Guided walk on the L-Moor - 27th June 2023



Past event: L-Moor through your senses - Friday 18th August 6-7 pm



L-Moor through your senses

This was a repeat of the event we ran on the 11th August.

Past event: Shepreth Wildlife Park - Monday 28th August from 2:30 pm



facebook.com

Hedgehog Talk by Hugh Warwick at Shepreth Wildlife Park

Sustainable Shepreth had a stand in the Wildlife Park's Education

Past event - Working party on the L-Moor - Thur 9th Nov 12:30 - 3:30 pm



We held our first working party in November as part of our new volunteer arrangement with the Wildlife Trust. We did some 'tree popping': removing small saplings to preserve the special nature of the reserve.

2024 so far



Eco Fair January 2024

"Thank you so much for everything about today - it was exuberant, inspiring, so beautifully organized, fun... Gave me such a big feeling of hope!"

200+ speakers,
stallholders, attendees

Past event: Sustainable Shepreth AGM and Social - Tuesday 30th January, 7:30 - 9:00 pm at The Plough



Illustration courtesy of Friends of Barrington School Summer Fete 2023

Click on the links for the [minutes](#) and [slides](#) from the AGM.

Past event: Litter Picking - Saturday 10th February 10:30 - 12:30 pm, Shepreth Village Hall



Past event: Working parties on the L-Moor - second Thursday of every month: 11th January (cancelled), 8th February (cancelled), 14th March 12:30 - 3:00 pm



L-Moor in October

Join us for our monthly working

Shepreth Repair Café and Swish - Saturday 11th May, 2-5 pm



Repair Café & Swish posters

We are excited to be holding our very first Repair Café and Swish (clothes exchange) in Shepreth on Saturday 11th May at 2-5 pm.

Community Energy survey - Shepreth residents only.

Have you filled out the Shepreth Village energy survey?

Please tell us your thoughts and have your say!

Sustainable Shepreth and The Parish Council are working together to explore opportunities to keep energy bills down and reduce our reliance on expensive and damaging fossil fuels

Please help us by completing a survey about energy use in your homes

You can complete online at:
https://bit.ly/communityheating_1



Or fill out the paper copy included with this month's village newsletter and drop it into the Parish Council post box at the Village Hall.

Please return your survey by Thursday 22nd March

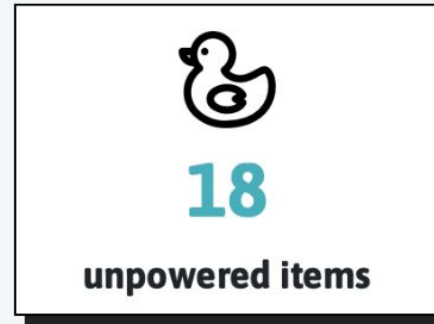
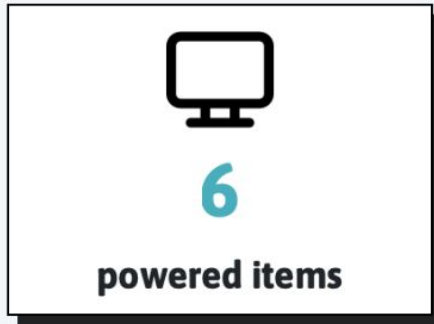


Notes:

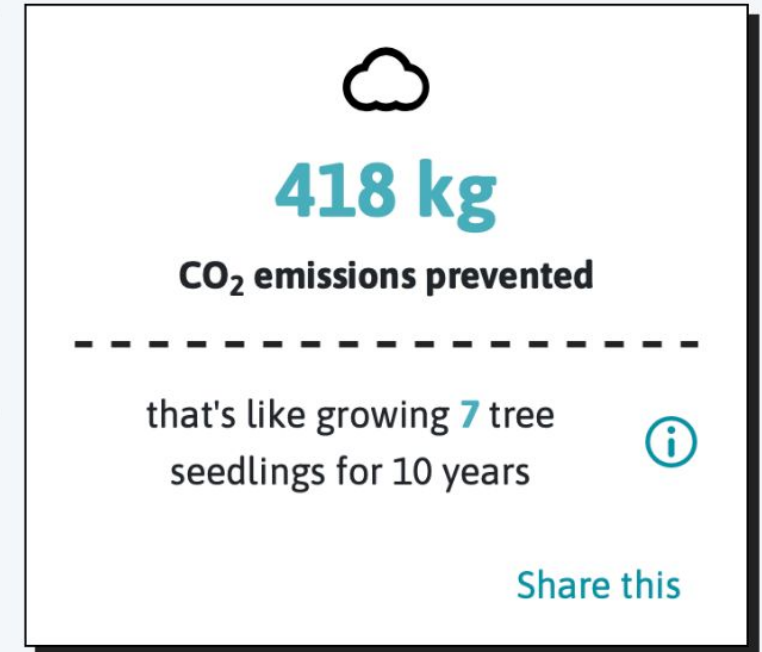
- Litter picking will be a quarterly event
- Working parties on the L-Moor will run October to March (weather permitting)
- Repair Café and Swish very successful - future plans t.b.d.
- Progressing next steps on Community Energy with the Parish Council
- Community consultation on plans for the Old School Field; progressing this further
- Thank you to the Parish Council for our annual grant

Environmental impact of Repair Cafe

Items fixed



Environmental impact ⓘ



Not counting toward this event's environmental impact are 3 items to be recycled and 11 items to be repaired.

A sample of the feedback



- Excellent quick mend of my necklace and [Halina] took away another piece of jewellery to re-string. Thrilled by all this and keen to do the same in my village (Foxton)
- Really impressed by Mark's knowledge and collection of spare parts. Heartened that something that was going to be taken to the dump (a donated sewing machine) may yet have a second life.
- Absolutely brilliant! [Hayter Hobby electric lawn mower bought in 1985 that others had said could not be fixed.]
- Really appreciated how Alex went out of his way to fix our garden fork - he took it home to fix it and then brought it back whilst we were there. Also shared some really useful information about it with us.



Aspirations and further plans for 2024



Aspirations

- Build village engagement
- Encourage intergenerational involvement
- Develop our resilience (e.g. food, cool & warm hubs, flood resistance)
- Enhance biodiversity
- Add a sustainable travel group¹
- Build our partner, sponsor, supporter network

Further plans for 2024

- Creativity on the L-Moor
- Summer Art Event at the Church
- Visit to Waterbeach Recycling Centre
- Develop our web site²

What else? Do help us to shape all of this

¹Already a “Station Adopter” with thanks to Sarah Grove

²Thanks to Jonathan Jouty for helping us with a new web site

Thank you



Working as a village to nurture our environment

How you can support us:

1. Share your ideas
2. Become a member (it's free)
3. Join our Facebook group
4. Come to and/or help with our events
5. Join one of our working groups
6. Join our Steering Team
7. Donate to help with miscellaneous costs

Find us:

at

<https://bit.ly/sustainableshepreth>

On Facebook

Join our mailing list:

sustainableshepreth@gmail.com

The Friends of the River Shep ('ForShep')

2024 Shepreth Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 13th May 2024 – Shepreth Village Hall



A Reminder of Our Aims ...

- To sustain and protect the River Shep
- To encourage and protect the biodiversity of the river's flora and fauna
- To encourage and promote the preservation and enhancement of the river



Summary of the Year...



Summary of the Year...



Regular Activities ...

- River work parties
- Guided river walk in the summer
- Pond-dipping
- Shepreth Village Boxing Day Walk
- Annual presentation at the Shepreth APM
- AGM



Tribute to Liz Kendrick ...



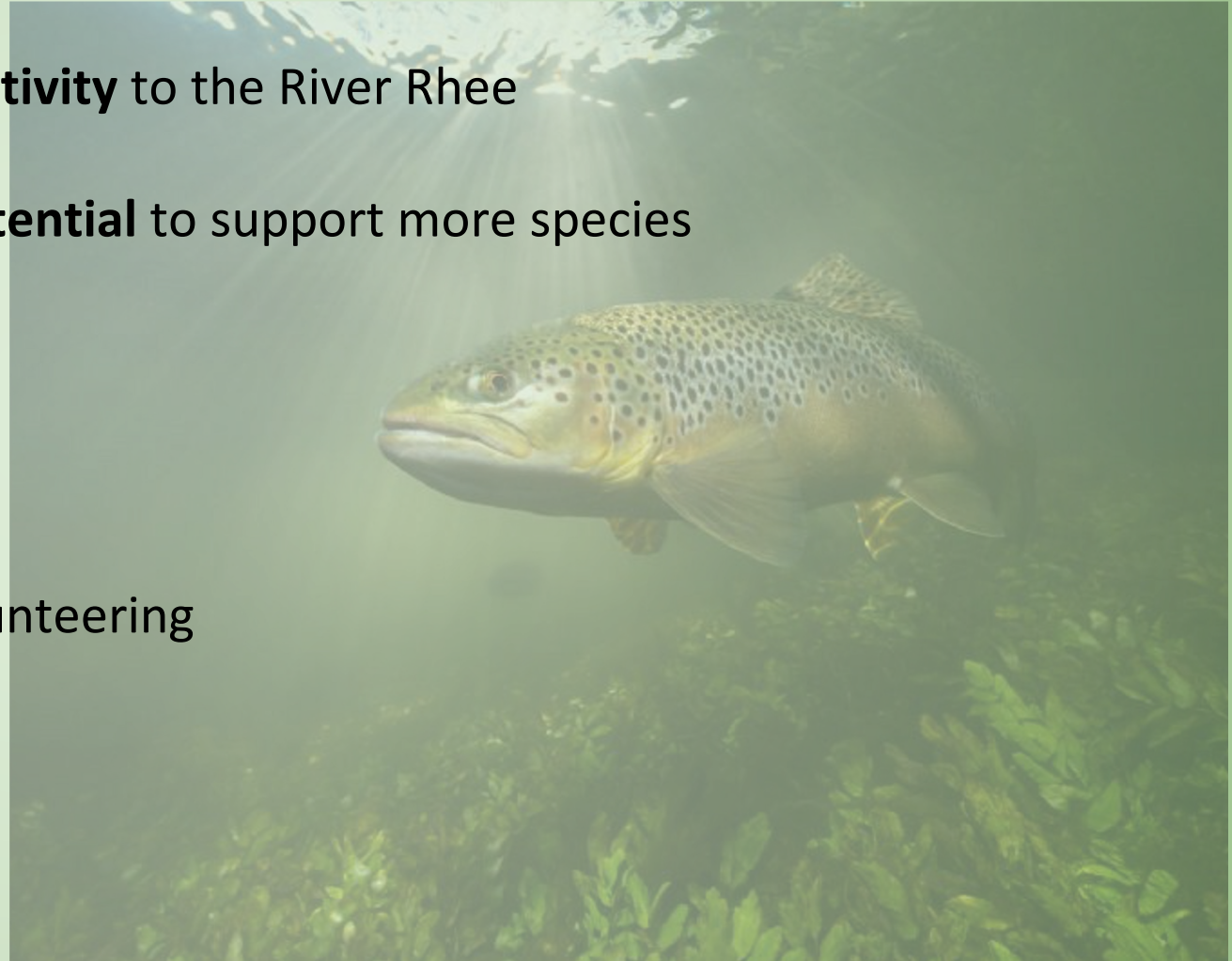
2024 and beyond...

- 25th Anniversary of ForShep celebrations
- Successful funding applications to be used ...
- Work party volunteers required for ...
- The ANGLE LANE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

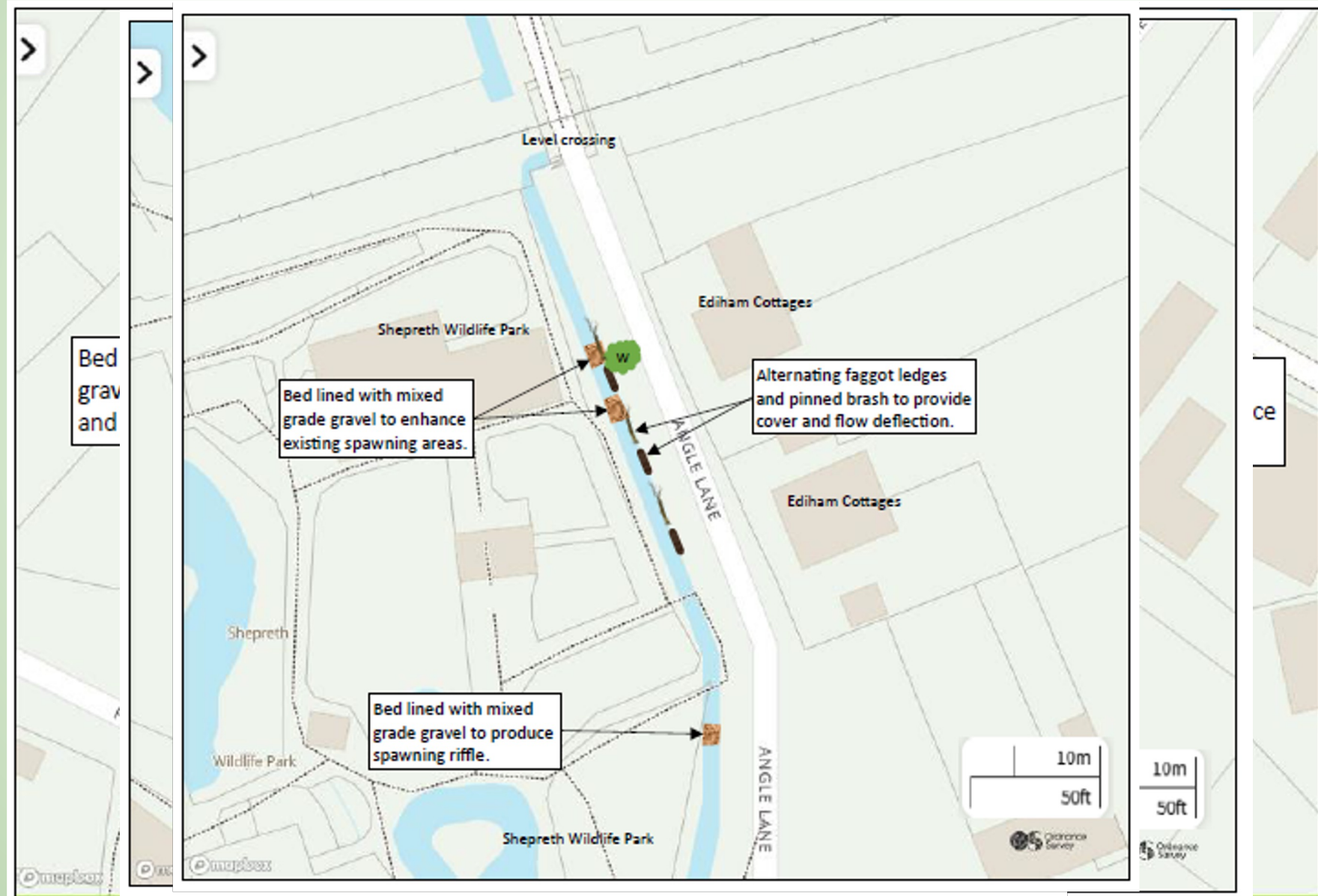


Angle Lane river habitat improvement project 2024

- Improve a length of river with **good connectivity** to the River Rhee
- Improve a length with excellent **habitat potential** to support more species
- Improve the setting of **our village**
- Opportunity to **train-up** new volunteers
- A chance to meet **new friends** through volunteering



What's to be done, and where?



What do I mean?



What do I mean?



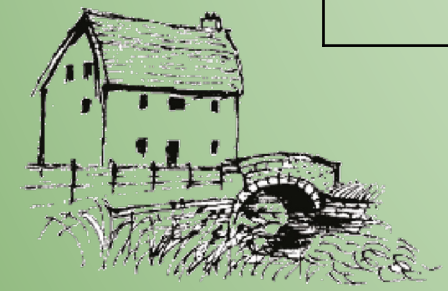
Get Involved ...

- Next Work Parties
 - Thursday 23rd May
 - and
 - Thursday 30th May
- 9.30am to 4pm
- Angle Lane
- Join the fun



How to keep informed and in touch ...

Where?	What?
<i>ForShep Members Updates</i>	<i>Regular monthly e-mail updates (members only)</i>
<i>ForShep Members Newsletter</i>	<i>Revived and revamped newsletter (members only)</i>
Facebook	Join the “Friends of the River Shep” Facebook Group
Website	https://forshep.wixsite.com/forshep
ForShep Noticeboard	By the river, High Street, near Riverside Cottage
Church & Village Newsletter	Monthly snippets in the Church & Village newsletter



Become a member ...

Why...

- Funds contribute to the essential river maintenance
- Members benefits include regular newsletters, river updates and invitations to events
- “Community spirit” and “feeling good 😊”

How....

- Membership is by household
- Membership is from £5.00 per year – or contribute more if you like!
- Joining instructions are found on our web page

<https://forshep.wixsite.com/forshep>

1. Set up an annual standing order to our bank account
2. E-mail us your contact details



Friends of the River Shep

ForShep is a voluntary group of local people interested in conserving their chalk stream, its habitat, and the village environment.

For a minimal annual contribution, you can become a member of the ForShep group and enjoy the benefits listed on our website <https://forshep.wixsite.com/forshep>

To become a member, follow the instructions below:

Step 1. Set up a regular payment/standing order with your bank to the ForShep account (details below)

- a. Please make an immediate payment and annually thereafter
- b. Our minimum contribution is £5 per household annually, you can of course contribute more
- c. For identification purposes please include your name in the payee reference

Bank:	Santander Business Banking, Bootle
Sort Code number:	09-01-54
Account:	Friends of the River Shep
Account No.:	32173285

Step 2. Email ForShep forshep4@gmail.com to confirm your intended membership, please include the following information:

- a. Name
- b. Full address
- c. Date of your first annual payment
- d. Preferred email address for the email updates

You will receive an email to confirm your membership once the initial payment has been received.

If you are not able to set up a standing order directly with your bank, please contact ForShep for an alternative method.

Everyone's support is valuable. We hope that members will enjoy one or more of the events arranged throughout the year, however it is not obligatory for our members to do anything - just to enjoy the river!

Any queries, please email forshep4@gmail.com, or call the Secretary on 07944 037130 or Treasurer on 07771 55 66 73

Thank-yous...

- Rob Mungovan – our environmental adviser
 - The Committee – for their hard work and dedication
 - All our amazing volunteers who give their time and energy
 - Our funding partners – for their grants and gifts
 - All the members of ForShep
-
- The people of Shepreth for supporting our work



Questions & Answers ...





Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Report for Shepreth Annual Parish Meeting

May 2024

Who we are

The Community Rail Partnership is hosted by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Community Rail Partnership Officer is Sarah Grove and her post is mostly funded by the Train Operating Company, Govia Thameslink Railway, with contributions from the Parish Councils where the stations are based in Foxton, Shepreth, Meldreth and Melbourn.

Our Community Rail Partnership links with schools, local businesses and community organisations to

- promote sustainable travel,
- enhance the station environments,
- improve transport links to the stations and
- promote the stations as destinations for tourism and leisure travel, supporting the local economy.

Wins this year

Our annual report is available to view on our website

(<https://meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MSFCRP-Annual-Report-2023-24-%E2%80%93-Digital.pdf>) but additional wins for this year include:

- Removal of the phone box at Shepreth Station. Working with Network Rail and Great Northern MSFCRP arranged for the disused phone box to be removed, which had been used for anti-social purposes.
- National Ticket Office Closure Consultation. MSFCRP responded to the consultation on behalf of the ticket office in Meldreth and encouraged residents to do the same. Transport Focus received 750,000 responses from individuals and organisations to the public consultation, containing powerful

and passionate concerns about the potential changes at stations and plans to close the ticket offices were scrapped.

- Consultation on Meldreth Road Level Crossing. MSFCRP submitted a strong objection to the upgrade of the half-barrier crossing at Meldreth Road Shepreth to full barriers. The objection was mentioned in the TWAO enquiry leading the inspector to conclude “the moderate safety benefits of the scheme would not outweigh the significant adverse impact likely to be caused to road users” and recommended that the upgrade not take place.
- Maintenance of the Cambridgeshire Student Connect Card, offering a 50% discount on season tickets for travel to school. MSFRP have campaigned annually for the discount, which is more generous than any other student discount in the country.
- Liaison with Greater Cambridge Partnership about local transport projects including the Greenways and the Foxton Travel Hub (currently on hold).

What we can offer

In addition to the kinds of work previously mentioned, MSFCRP can offer:

- Try a train trips – free trips for groups who may have barriers to travel or who may need additional confidence to travel – contact us to discuss your group’s needs.
- Platforms for Change – a programme of rail safety and station visits offered in conjunction with the Scouting Movement, leading up to a train trip and the award of a badge – visit <https://communityrail.org.uk/member-services/community-rail-education-network/platforms-for-change> for more information.
- Rail safety education – for schools and youth groups for young people to learn about being safe around the railway, at the station and at level crossings, including classroom workshops and free train trips.

We will also continue to take rail user and local resident concerns about rail services and station facilities to the rail industry.

Plans for this year

- Improved signage at Shepreth station, encouraging car owners to use the village hall car park instead of station road when the station car park is full.
- Working with Sustainable Shepreth to improve the memorial garden alongside the Cambridge Platform at the station.
- Publishing a “Rail and Ale Trail”, detailing all the pubs within a 30 minute walk of our three stations and also Shelford and Whittlesford Parkway.
- The opening of Cambridge South Station, which will be an opportunity for travellers at our stations to access Education, Employment and Healthcare.

Thanks

MSFCRP would like to extend thanks to the Parish Council for assistance with funding, and to all the gardeners and Sustainable Shepreth who take care of the pots and gardens at Shepreth Station.

Contact us

Email: sarahgrove.msfcrcp@gmail.com

Website: meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk

Twitter: @MSFCRP

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MSFCRP/>

Instagram: msf_crp

Church Report to the Annual Parish Meeting May 2024

In December our Rector Angela Melaniphy retired thus Shepreth and the other churches in the benefice are in Vacancy. We are part way through the recruitment process to appoint a new rector, whilst this process goes on our Associate priest Rev. David Lee is leading our services and looking after the spiritual needs of our congregation.

Church Fabric - During the last year no major tasks or changes have occurred and the church and churchyard are in a reasonable state of repair with no obvious defects or hazards which prevent or inhibit the everyday use and/or access to the premises.

Routine tasks have been carried out to preserve the premises and keep it fit to use. Safety inspections on the stability of the memorials (with particular emphasis on the crosses that can be moved on their bases) showed that there has been no deterioration. During the heavy winds a bough partially fell from one of the cherry trees, it was safely lowered to the ground and the tree was pruned to prevent any further wind falls.

The major projects that require doing, as reported last year have not yet started. We are preparing the faculty application (planning permission).

Closing the grave-yard –Last year I reported that we were preparing the paperwork to legally the graveyard as well as consulting with the Environmental Agency. To our surprise the EA informed us that provided that the average number of funerals per year did not increase they were happy that no significant ground water contamination would occur. The PCC on receiving this information reversed its decision close the churchyard and informed all who expected to be buried there. It must be stressed though that the numbers of grave spaces are limited, less than 30 and once these are used closure is inevitable.

The report would not be complete without mentioning the Shepreth Newsletter, which as you know is delivered free of charge to every household in Shepreth. Last year Matthew Clarke resigned as editor and for one edition a member of the PCC edited it, this was not sustainable, and plans were being drawn up to stop printing it. These plans were put on hold when Lynn and Donna Thomas volunteered to be joint editors.

The reason that we are able to keep it free to everyone is the volunteers who produce and deliver it (the only outlay is the printers). We wholeheartedly thank Matthew, Donna and Lynn for their editorship, those who deliver, the advertisers and just as importantly the contributors and readership.

Malcolm Price
Church Warden
10 May 2024

The Shepreth Relief in Need Charity

Report to Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

During 2023 our income totalled £8472.00p, a total of £4514.00p has been given out in grants in 2023, a full copy of our Annual Report is available for inspection and a copy will be given to the Parish Council on request.

During the year we were able to help many people in the Parish. However we are always on the lookout for those we might be able to help and welcome enquiries from villagers, either in regard to their own situation or suggestions regarding others. All enquirers are treated with the utmost confidence and can be made to any of our trustees.

The charity in November 2023 enrolled Mrs J Willes as a trustee.

Our Current trustees are Mrs P Stigwood, Mrs B Smith, Miss D McCabe, Mr M Price (Chairman), Mr N Lee (clerk) and Mrs J Willis.

SHEPRETH SCHOOL TRUST
Charity Number: 1062515

Annual Parish Meeting Report for 13 May 2024.

The Trust was set up following the sale of the village primary school to manage a proportion of the funds set aside for Shepreth residents.

Funding relies on income received by the Trust from its closely monitored investments especially during the recent inflation trends.

The Trust offers assistance within a number of provisions. These are for the advancement of education of children and adults, recreation facilities and other leisure or occupations that are in the interest of social welfare for the inhabitants of the village, including the protection of the village environment.

During the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the Trust received and approved nine applications from residents, schools and organisations with Shepreth connections, awarding a total of £3,735.00 for a range of needs including study materials, sport equipment, tuition, educational trips and environment enhancement.

Annual Return details of income and expenditure for the last year, to 31 March 2024, will be available on the Charity Commission website. later this year.

The current trustees are: Nick Lee, Caroline Pepper, Jeremy Hill, Peter McDonald and Steve Swain.

Applications for grants are invited throughout the year and should be submitted in writing either by email to sheprethschooltrust@gmail.com, or letter to any of the Trustees, or to the Trust Secretary at 14/16 High Street, Shepreth, SG8 6PP. These details are published in Shepreth's monthly church newsletter.

Charles Cook 13 May 2024
Secretary to the Trustees