



THE PTA NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2018

ON YER BIKE!

The PTA's Winter Bike Sale and Café takes place this coming Saturday, October 13th, 8am-noon, in Great Shelford Memorial Hall. At the time of writing, 20 top-quality second-hand bikes have



been entered for the sale, in addition to existing stock. We hope to see you there!

PTA CHAIR 'REGENERATES'

Like a certain TV-based Doctor who returned to our screens last weekend, the PTA goes through regular times of change and renewal. And like the owner of the TARDIS, who from last Sunday is being played by a woman for the first time in 55 years, it turns out that the PTA Chair has also been a gender-fluid role over its history. Despite the fact that the Chair has been a well-organised and efficient lady for as long as anyone currently on the PTA can remember, we learned from old PTA alumni during the school's recent 175th anniversary celebrations (of which more overleaf) that a few decades ago, the PTA Chair was always a man, because, well... Chairmen *had* to be men back then. Apparently, though, the Chairman was just a figurehead for ceremonial purposes during those times, and all the hard work was *actually* carried out behind the scenes by the PTA Secretary, who was... a well-organised and efficient lady. There's a message there for all of us...!

Anyway, during the PTA's Annual General Meeting, which took place last Wednesday, outgoing Chair Maria Lazarus, having overseen a record-breaking year of fundraising for the PTA, concluding with a brilliant and heroic finale helping to organise and oversee the school anniversary celebrations and vanquishing several Daleks*, handed over the

* ...OK, so that bit's not true. At all

ceremonial PTA clipboard and bum-bag of power, hung up her spreadsheets and sonic screwdriver, and regenerated into existing Committee member Alison Melton, following a unanimous election. Our thanks go to Maria for all her incredibly hard work for the school over the past year, and we're pleased to say that unlike the old Doctor, she wasn't zapped by Cybermen — she's staying on as the PTA rep for the School Council, a new post designed to get the children more involved with fundraising.



The PTA Chair yesterday (following a complete cellular renewal).

Meanwhile, the Chair's existing companions, Treasurer Holly Gregory and Secretary Matt Bell, were re-elected and will continue to travel through time and space for another year with Alison steering the PTA ship to new adventures, hopefully without too much running up and down (school?) corridors and screaming. The Secretary will be content to avoid the fate of 1980s male Doctor Who companion Adric, who was obliterated when he smashed a spaceship into prehistoric Earth and was eaten by tyrannosaurs. So please don't bring any of those to next year's Campout.

SHELFORD SCHOOL PTA REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1110813

NOW WE ARE 175

Saturday September 29th marked the 175th anniversary of Great and Little Shelford school, which is known to have opened at Michaelmas 1843. Events celebrating the anniversary began on Friday September 28th at 7:30am, when BBC Radio Cambridgeshire reporter Andy Lake arrived at the school and interviewed Head Teacher Chris Grey and PTA Secretary Matt Bell about the celebrations and how school life (and school fund-raising) has changed in 175 years. As Friday 28th also happened to be BBC Music Day, Andy Lake stayed for school choir practice in the main hall, recorded a run-through of the



choir practising 'Joshua Fit The Battle Of Jericho', and then spoke to several members of the choir about what music means to them. The interview with the Head was broadcast on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's Breakfast show at 8:30, and the choir rehearsal at 8:50. The interviews with the children in the choir went out later in the day, on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's Drivetime show shortly before 6pm. All of these radio excerpts can now be heard via links on the school home page at www.shelfordschool.org.uk or at the PTA page at <https://tinyurl.com/BBCShelford175th>, which also contains pictures of the event. A full archive of pictures from both days can be seen at: <http://tinyurl.com/Shelford175>.

Friday continued with a special celebratory church service at 9:30am attended by the whole school and numerous education-related officials

from the Diocese of Ely, as well as many adults and parents from both Shelfords. After the final prayers of thanksgiving, school pupils, assisted by representatives from the school Governors and PTA, laid flowers on the grave of the first schoolmistress of Shelford School, Susannah Hopkins, in the churchyard.

From 10:30 until noon, the school was open to parents and school alumni so that Keystage 2 children could exhibit the vintage objects they have been collating since the beginning of the school year. The 'school museum' project was officially opened by Mr Grey ringing the old school bell, which is only now ever done on special occasions. The children's exhibits from the past ranged from prehistoric flint spearheads to Victorian bibles given as school prizes, old photographs, Victorian and 20th century toys and clothing, and even a vintage school cane once used for disciplining naughty pupils!

The whole school was blessed with beautifully sunny and warm early Autumn weather for the celebrations the next day, which saw the school thrown open to the public from 1:30pm. After a celebratory peal of bells from Great Shelford church, school pupils danced around the maypole at 2pm, a school tradition that verifiably dates



back to the 1890s, and possibly even all the way back to the founding of the school in 1843. The head of the school diocese (*continued overleaf*)

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NOW WE ARE 175 (continued)

(continued from previous page) Bishop Stephen of Ely, gave an address, and then, following the



cutting of a celebratory 175th anniversary cake, helped to plant a ceremonial tree in the school grounds with assistance from some of the schoolchildren and the Reverend Simon Talbott of Great Shelford church. Inside the school, the children's historical exhibits in the main hall were joined by

a Governors' exhibit on the history of the school in the Year 1 classroom, where children were also invited to try using a genuine pedal-powered Victorian sewing machine. The celebrations continued in the fine weather until 4pm, with the refreshment tent proving particularly busy, Local butcher Barker Bros, who also celebrate their

175th anniversary this year and had a stand selling their limited-edition 175th anniversary sausage, sold out all of their stock. The event raised just under a thousand pounds for the school in total, getting the Governors' fund-raising for the 175th year off to a fine start. The celebrations



were also covered in the Cambridge News (see: tinyurl.com/ShelfordSchool175CambridgeNews) on the following Monday.

Thanks to all of the children, Governors, PTA members and parents who made the anniversary such a success!

ONTO A DINNER

As you may have seen on Classlist and at the school gate by the time you read this, tickets for the PTA's Autumn 2018 Dinner Dance are now on sale. The

Dinner Dance is being held on Saturday, November 3rd from 7:30pm at the Red Lion, Whittlesford (super-conveniently situated next to Whittlesford Parkway station for ease of access from Shelford and late return via train). Tickets



cost £35 per person and include welcome drinks and a two-course meal, plus the option to hit the dancefloor until late (well, until the last train home at after midnight, anyway!). To book tickets, speak to Anna Sidders on Classlist or at the school gate, or email pta@shelfordschool.org.uk.

Ts MADE

Orders are still being accepted for children's House T-shirts until next Monday, October 15th. As already noted on Classlist, please be aware that this is your one chance to buy House T-shirts this year — there will be no more orders until Autumn next year. Please complete the form sent home in your children's book bags last week, enclose payment by cash or cheque, and post the forms in the PTA box in the school office. Spare order forms are available from the office in case yours has gone astray since last week...

Please also note that the original printed book-bag form contained an error: cheques for T-shirt payments should be made out to 'Shelford School PTA', NOT 'Shelford School' as stated on the original form.

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