

# SHARNFORD NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> December 2009

Issue No 32



A project supported by the Leicestershire Rural Projects Fund, Leicestershire County Council, The Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council and Blaby District Council

## SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Major progress has been made by the Parish Council in recent months and the next few weeks should see much of it reaching fruition.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> will see a production of Beauty & the Beast performed in the Evergreen Hall by a touring group of professional actors sponsored by The Arts Council and supported by funds from Leicestershire County and Blaby District Councils. The show is fully sold out and thanks are due to all who have brought this opportunity to see professional live theatre into the heart of the village.

Also in December, subject to weather conditions, we can expect to see the next significant step forward in the development of the new burial ground in Mill Lane. All being well, the road at the entrance will be re-surfaced, the car park area and internal footpaths will be laid and the entrance gates will be fitted. Contracts have been placed and the work is due to begin immediately. We have been greatly assisted in this move by the kind offer by farmer Ian Fulford to fund the drainage work needed to keep the area from flooding. Tony Curtis's tree planting and ground levelling activities have continued apace so that by early Spring we shall have an area to be proud of. The provision of a shelter and the widening of a section of Mill Lane are next on the agenda and should be undertaken during 2010.

Progress towards improving the Youth Club facilities continues to be slow but efforts are undiminished either from the Parish Council or the Youth Club committee. Negotiations with Blaby D.C. are ongoing in an effort to persuade them to transfer ownership of the premises to the village in order that applications for grants can be initiated.

Naturally the Parish Council continues to oversee the general well-being of the village. Attention has been drawn to a number of road drains which are blocked, the bus shelter has been re-roofed, we are seeking to have the brook cleared and we have a sub-committee examining how to effect a make-over of the children's play area in Park View. There are some concerns about a number of privately owned hedges around the village that are encroaching on to footpaths and hindering people's progress. If you have such a hedge, **PLEASE** ensure it is cut back to the edge of your property.

Finally, many congratulations, and thanks, to Mike Bishop on his being given an Outstanding Achievement Award for Selfless Service to the Community – well deserved!!

**Derek Gibbons, Sharnford Parish Council**

*Editors note: See article re Mike Bishop's award later in this issue*

## ST HELEN'S CHURCH

Our first event of the autumn season was the 'Ride and Stride' in September. The sum of £222 was raised and then equally divided between the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust and St. Helen's Church. The next event, the Harvest Festival, was well attended and the gifts of preservable food were once again donated to the Hinckley homeless and the Wykin project. The collection on that day plus other gifts of money (totalling £200 plus) went to Tearfund. Later that same day, October 4th,

Karen and Sophia, two members of our congregation, were confirmed at St. Mary's Church, Hinckley and at our family service on the 1st of November, Rev. Norman presented each of them with a gift of the New Testament written in a modern form.

On the 8th November a service of remembrance was held at the war memorial, where 30 people (at least) participated in the short service and observed the two minutes' silence.

During this last quarter funerals have been conducted for Roger John Neal, Ken Withers and Bernard Roughton. We also heard of the death of John Beale and were able to view and admire his beautiful floral tributes when they found their way into our churchyard. We extend our deepest sympathies to all who have been touched by the loss of these loved ones.

We are coming up to the Christmas season; the dates of our services and celebrations have now been announced: On the 13<sup>th</sup> December the Explorers' Christmas party will commence at 9.15am and the Carol Service will begin at 6.30pm. On the 20<sup>th</sup> December the Christingle and Nativity service will begin at 9.15am. On the 24<sup>th</sup> December the Midnight Communion service will begin at 11.15pm. On the 25<sup>th</sup> December Family Holy Communion will be held at 9.15 am.

As you may be aware the big project for the church is to provide a toilet within its walls and we have already received generous gifts for this project (again our grateful thanks to all who have donated) the most recent being the sum of £50 raised on the coach holiday organised by Margaret Hubbard. The holiday makers were 'fined' 10p each time they said the words 'bus' or 'driver' and, bless them, they all paid up faithfully if they did so. Thank you friends, we really do appreciate your gift and the spirit in which it was raised. With such goodwill the toilet may well be a reality sooner than we dared to hope.

*Estelle Perrett (PCC secretary)*

## ALL SEWN UP!



CLOTHES ALTERED  
TO SUIT YOU



Most alterations and repairs  
undertaken Curtains shortened

For a friendly, professional  
service

**Tel: Tracey Avis in Sharnford  
on 01455 274833**



### STANTON TAXIS

(of Stoney Stanton)

01455 27-21-89

Local & Long Distance    Holiday Destinations  
Airports, Seaports        4-8 Seats Available

[stantontaxis@btconnect.com](mailto:stantontaxis@btconnect.com) 07961-324-136

## SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP



The last three months have been busy for the group so here's what we have been up to:

Poors Meadow: We are delighted to report that the two senior classes of the village school joined us for a bulb planting session, late last month (see photo). A large variety of bulbs were planted, mostly of the woodland type. These bulbs were donated by the parents, so our appreciation goes to the families who donated, but especially to the children, who did an excellent job. So look out for a more colourful patch next Spring on Poors Meadow. On this same site, we have now met up with the Environment Agency relating to tree planting and the proposed new path. The tree planting (10 Field Maple) will take place in early December and is close to where the new bulbs are. In the same vicinity will be the new

path, this will be curved running from the road gate to the existing tarmac path and will be flush with the grass height. This is in accordance with the Environment Agency guidelines, but also makes for easier mowing! We are now in discussion with various organisations in order to raise the necessary money. The village sign will be a separate project, as the group agreed that it would be more manageable this way.

Planters: You will have noticed that the two planters by the village sign on the Coventry Road, have now been re-sited. We had hoped to put them either side of the sign on the Aston lane, but this was not possible due to a large manhole cover (probably needed for the nearby works) on the grass verge. We now have two 'spare' planters that will be redesigned to make a more attractive triple set for siting by the pedestrian crossing. After replacing with new plants in the existing planters, we have found some rotten wood work that needs renewing, hence the delay in completing the planting. Our thanks to Terry Clark for his assistance with the moving of those very heavy items.

Bus Stop Aston Lane: Regretfully we are not able to undertake this task (although we were willing!). After further investigation by the Parish Council, they were advised by Leicestershire County Council, Highways section that should a paved area be required, the LCC would have to do the work, and the Parish Council pay for it.

Over the winter months, we shall continue to care for BlueBell Green with bird feeding and a little weeding. We must look to the Spring for moneys for next years hanging baskets, plus Poors Meadow. There is always something happening and to plan for. It is a busy time for us all as Christmas approaches. The group sincerely hope that it is a peaceful and happy time for everyone so ENJOY!

### NEEDLES & PINS

For all your sewing & knitting needs

74-76 Astley Court, Main Street  
Broughton Astley  
Leicester, LE9 6RD  
01455 285800

[needles-pins@btconnect.com](mailto:needles-pins@btconnect.com)  
[www.needles-pins.co.uk](http://www.needles-pins.co.uk)



## BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Category B Award – Selfless service to a voluntary body or the community  
2009 Winner - Mike Bishop



Our own Editor, Mike Bishop, was presented with an ‘Outstanding Achievement Award’ at the BDC Awards Ceremony held at the Leicester Marriott Hotel on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. His particular award was for ‘Selfless service to a voluntary body or the community’.

On presenting Mike with his award (see photo – Mike is on the right), Mark Gibbons from Bardon Aggregates - the Sponsor for that particular award, paid the following tribute to Mike. “Mike has worked tirelessly as a volunteer to help the community of Sharnford over many years, and in so many ways. He has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort for the benefit of everyone who lives in Sharnford. Mike is Chairman of the Sharnford

*Appraisal Group, Editor of the village newspaper Sharnford News, Chairman of the Sharnford Environment Group, Treasurer of the Sharnford Golden Jubilee Committee, Member of the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council and a member of the Lions Club International. He will nearly always volunteer to take a leading role in whatever he becomes involved in and can be relied upon to meet any timescales set. His contribution to the improvement in many aspects of community life in Sharnford has been appreciated by everyone, although he often lets others ‘claim the accolades’”*

I know all our readers of Sharnford News would like to add their own appreciation of all the hard work that Mike continues to put in for our community and especially as Editor of Sharnford News.

Well done and CONGRATULATIONS on your award.

**Dave Sewell**

Tel 01455 272268

Good Food, Fine Ales & the Best Company

**OPEN ALL DAY**

Don't forget – still 50p off a pint until 6.30pm

**Happy Mondays! All Day – Every Monday 50p off a pint!**

Lite bites, 1 course - £3.95, 2 courses - £5.45, 3 courses - £6.95

Mon – Sat 12 – 2, Tues – Sat 6 – Late, Sun 12 - 3

**EARLY BIRDS Tue–Sat 6–8pm Two meals for £8 from a Selected Menu**

**LOOK OUT FOR OUR CHRISTMAS ADVERTS**



## CHRISTMAS CAROL QUIZ 2009

1. Listen! Sounds like heavenly news
2. Greeted, not for the second time.
3. Ballad of the evergreens.
4. Terrible lullaby? You'll be sent here!
5. Sainly Stephen's story
6. Yon small habitation of David's?
7. In Latin rejoice sweetly
8. Get Tommy Walsh to make wood lobbies?
9. Shh! It's past your bedtime!
10. Campanology for the vertigo free
11. My Lords, Ladies and calling birds?
12. Gere knew this? Try sorting this out!

Answers are on the back page – if you need them!

## EVERGREEN CLUB NEWS

At our recent A.G.M. it was generally agreed that our club has had a very good year fund raising and socially. Thanks were given to all those who have helped our cause and the same officers were elected to serve another year. We have welcomed two new members to our committee, Jill and Dawn, who will in time be helping with our tea meetings. During the winter months we meet on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. and would welcome new members.

In September, after our summer break, we had our traditional "fish and chip" supper provided by "The Countryman" followed by games. We shall soon be enjoying our Christmas dinner again, served by Kay and Andrew Wormleighton, which this year will be followed by entertainment provided by the Evergreen committee members. We are assured that "It will be alright on the night!"

On December 5th is our Christmas Bazaar and, as usual, Santa will be there to meet the children. There will be a variety of stalls which will have something for everyone. Thank you in advance for all the support you give to this event which begins at 2 p.m.

In January we are off to see "Peter Pan" at The Curve in Leicester for our annual pantomime outing. On Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Bacon Buttie and Mini Market in the morning to help brighten up the winter blues, so please come and join us.

On Saturday March 6th there will be the Fair Trade coffee morning which is always a

### Classic Will Services

Locally based company of Professional Will Writers Established 1995

## Your Will For only £49.50

**No Hidden Extras** A qualified consultant will visit you at a convenient time to offer advice and take your instructions. Please call any time to receive your free information pack or make an appointment. Freephone 0800 068 4797 or 0116 2706975 email [tony@classicwills.co.uk](mailto:tony@classicwills.co.uk)

Other services include Probate Help, Securing Storage, Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, Trusts for Property and Inheritance Tax Planning via your will [www.classicwills.co.uk](http://www.classicwills.co.uk) 216 Queens Road, Clarendon Park, Leicester LE2 3FT

**Member of The Society of Will Writers**



good social event and on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> there will be another Fashion Show which will, this year, contribute to the Air Ambulance fund. Our plant sale will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and it was noted at our meeting that many of the plants bought last May are still flourishing and flowering. A sure sign of quality!

Last September we held our first Macmillan's Biggest Coffee Morning which raised £173 for this worthy cause. We shall be holding another one next year on Saturday September 25th.

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Ken Withers, a popular member of our club, who will be missed at the card table. We all extend our sympathy to Peggy and her family.

*Beryl Devenyi*

## SHARNFORD METHODIST CHURCH

*Minister: Revd. Barbara Fairburn(01455 842139)*

*Lay Pastor Malcolm Lapper (01455 843130)*

Regular Activities to which all are welcome:-

Sunday Worship : 10 a.m. All age worship with children's activities. 6 p.m. Traditional Evening worship.

Thursday At Ten: 10 - 10.30a.m. A short act of worship with time for quiet prayer and reflection, as well as friendship, on the last Thursday of each month.

Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.

Craft Group: 7.30 p.m. 1st. and 3rd Thursday of each month supporting Operation Christmas Child's annual shoebox appeal.

Singing Group 7.00 p.m. every Thursday. Learning new songs for worship.

The chapel was open on Saturday Sept 12th to receive the participants in the annual historic churches cycle ride. As always this was a pleasant experience with visitors from different parts of the county calling for a break and refreshment on their sponsored journeys.

Harvest Festival thanksgiving services at the chapel were on Sept 20th. Donations on the day in lieu of harvest gifts went to "Water Aid" and the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

This year for the first time the Festival of All Saints was celebrated with a special celebratory weekend. The chapel was open to visitors all weekend when various floral displays were shown depicting the lives of several well known saints. Tea and light refreshments were served with a cake stall doing a good trade. It was good to see so many friends both old and new. The Services on the Sunday were led by Malcolm Lapper with the evening one providing an opportunity to share in an act of remembering.

The proceeds of £80 from the November



The  
Top  
Pub

Coffee morning were for "Operation Christmas Child" and at the morning service of November 15th a token amount of shoeboxes were brought to chapel for an act of dedication. Many hundreds of shoe boxes will be going from our area again this year to various destinations where the gifts they contain will bring great joy to the children who receive them.

The Chapel congregation joined in the annual act of remembrance at the war memorial on November 8th. A good number were present to hear the names of the fallen of two world wars read. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded, and a wreath laid on behalf of the British Legion.

With Christmas approaching rapidly may we invite everyone to join in the Carol Service at the Chapel on December 20th. at 4.00p.m. to be led by Malcolm Lapper.

May every blessing be yours

*Malcolm Lapper Lay Pastor*

### **SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE COMMITTEE**

We would like to remind everyone that it will soon be time to start thinking about next year's Fete and begin the preparations for it.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7:30pm at the Evergreen Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and anyone who would like to help with the next Fete or propose a worthy Village group to share in the profits should also come along. Newcomers with fresh ideas and offers of help are what we really need! The meeting will be advertised on all the village noticeboards nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you there.

*SGJC*

### **ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP**

Members continue to meet at the home of Jean Ryan at 33 Park View for formal and informal meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8.00p.m. Visitors are welcome to all our meetings at a cost of £2 including coffee and raffle. Since April we have had 2 film

nights and a 'bring and share' social evening. A Mystery Treasure Hunt around Hinckley ending with a lovely supper in the Concordia Theatre Spotlight Bar was very enjoyable. We also had a lovely evening with a BBQ at the home of Jan Sewell in July. Due to unforeseen circumstances the chosen venue for the Annual Dinner in October had to be changed, but a very good meal was had at the Chequers Inn, Ullesthorpe. For a change the December meeting will be at the Evergreen Hall on December 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 8.00p.m. This is an open meeting at a cost of £2, which includes mince pies and mulled

#### **SHARNFORD POST OFFICE AND VILLAGE STORE**

Convenience Store, Newsagents  
Agents for Dry Cleaning and Shoe  
Repairs

Gay and Eric welcome your Custom

**Grocery orders taken for free  
home delivery**

**Open 7 days  
Tel. 01455 272210**

wine/soft drink when the speaker, Anne Hughes, will tell the story, with music, of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. Anne is a very entertaining lady and you are promised a super evening. If you wish to join us for this meeting, and to help with an idea of numbers, please would you contact Kathy Bryan on 272335.

*Jean Ryan*

## **SHARNFORD PRE- SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

We've had a fantastic autumn term, enjoying our new soft play and making friends with our new children. We have made scarecrows out of straw and learned how to bake bread, make apple crumble and fairy cakes. The children enjoyed our party, which was very popular with everyone in fancy dress and playing party games.

Fundraising this term was to raise funds to cover the cost for the Coach for the Snow Dome trip and also to buy us a new rug for our quiet, reading corner. We are delighted to advise that our sponsored toddle raised over £170, and the coffee and cake morning raised a further £60 towards our goal of £400. Our final event is a Christmas Hamper raffle that the Staff at playgroup have kindly created, full of food and non food items, and raffle tickets are now available at £1 a strip. This will hopefully reach our goal.

These final few weeks finds us busy learning songs for our school nativity play. We may need some help finalising the costumes, so any offers of assistance would be welcomed. The play will commence at 11am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December and all parents/grandparents etc are most welcome. We permit the use of cameras/videos.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December is our much anticipated trip to the Snow Dome, Tamworth, and families travelling by coach should be waiting in the car park by 10.15am. Please remember that the Village Hall only owns the car park immediately in front of the Hall. The larger car park belongs to the Countryman public house, and prior permission should be obtained before leaving your car there.

Our topic next term is "colours" and fundraising activities include the cake raffle and the Fashion Show. We are now taking registrations for new starters and extra days for 2010. Please speak to Cath or Alison as soon as possible if you want extra sessions as spaces are limited and demand is high.

Playgroup closes Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, to allow the Village Hall to have cavity wall insulation installed. Congratulations to Rosemarie and all on the Evergreen committee for raising substantial funds to allow this to progress.

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

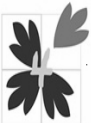
*Alison, Cath, Karen & Lyn*

## **SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Sharnford Primary School has welcomed 13 new children to the school during the Autumn term, our total now is 55.

During September a group of year 3 and 4 children from Sharnford and All Saints Primary School spent 3 days, 2 nights at Beaumanor Hall, Leicestershire. Some of the





Four Winds  
Nurseries

## *And Garden Centre Getting Ready for... Christmas Wide Selection of Christmas Trees*

*Freshly Made Holly Wreaths Now In Stock. Also a Great Choice of Primroses,  
Winter Flowering Shrubs, plus a Wonderful Selection of Plants in our  
Houseplant/Conservatory Area, including Orchids, Poinsettia and Cyclamen  
Plus a great choice of handmade Bowls & Baskets - wonderful Christmas presents*

*National Garden Gift Tokens available*

*www.fourwindsnurseries.co.uk Email: info@fourwindsnurseries.co.uk*

**Coventry Road, Sharnford Tel 01455 221005**

**Open 7 days - Mon - Sat 9-5.30, Sun 10.30-430**

activities that the children took part in were canoeing, archery, climbing and survival skills. The weather was good and the children behaved very well and had a good time.

Parents were invited to a 'Meet the teacher' session during September where the class teacher was able to explain the weekly routine, homework arrangements, expectations, the curriculum and the targets for the term. Parents evening will take place at the beginning of December.

There is a number of clubs taking place this term. Monday is French club for children in years 2 to 6, Bollywood Dance takes place on a Tuesday for children in years 3 to 6, Wednesday is multi skills sports club for children in Reception to year 4 and on a Thursday children in years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to join Choir club.

The school nurse visited school and talked to the children in years 5 and 6 about personal hygiene and carried out a hand washing session with children in reception, year one and two.

Harvest assembly took place on Friday 16th October and this was led by Class two. A collection took place for Tearfund and £56.09 was raised. To enhance the children's learning in geography the children in reception, year one and year two enjoyed a walk around the village.

Following a successful bid, children in years 5 and 6 travelled to All Saints Primary School to join their peers and had the opportunity to experience the BAE Systems Roadshow and a Royal Air Force in-school event. Year 6 children took part in a workshop in which they programmed a Lego mindstorm robot around a track.

Parents kindly donated bulbs to the school following a letter on behalf of the school council and these have been planted in Poors Meadow.

The PTA have organised a Christmas Disco and Christmas workshop for the children and continue to raise much needed money for school.

Thank you to everyone for sending in vouchers. We have received 8 PE CD's and new hoola hoops from the Sainsbury voucher scheme and a nest box, bird table, insect habitat, ladybird house, frog and toad house, hop sacks and mark making tools from the Tesco Scheme.

The children and staff are now busy rehearsing for their Christmas production which they will be performing on Tuesday 8th and 15th December.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to support us in so many different ways.

***Mrs Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant***

## SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL – PTA

The PTA is again planning a number of events to involve both the school and the community of Sharnford. In the next couple of months there will be a Christmas Disco and Christmas Workshop for the children at the school and additionally Carol Singing and the Annual Quiz. Community events will be advertised around the Village prior to the day so please come along and support us.

### School Events

- Christmas Disco will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> December further details will be available via the school newsletter.
- Christmas Workshop is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December and again further details will be available through the school's newsletter.

### Community Events

Carol Singing – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009 We will once again be carol singing around the village with the children and (hopefully) a real live donkey!!! We would be very happy if you could join us, we will meet at the Youth Club at 6.00pm. The planned route is as follows :- (Times approximate) 6.00pm Youth Club, 6.15pm Brookfield/Halls Crescent corner, 6.30pm Halls Crescent/Brookfield corner, 6.45pm Brookfield/Henson Way corner, 7.00pm Parkview (outside no. 12), 7.15pm Chapel Street (outside Hardy's Cottage), 7.30pm Sharnbrook Gardens, 7.45pm Fosse Close and finally 8.00pm The Countryman for mince pies and mulled wine. *All donations made will this year be given to Tommy's Baby Charity.*

Annual Quiz – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Look out for posters around the village for details. Tickets will be available from the school and the cost per head will be £6. Teams should be no bigger than 4 but if you don't have a team don't worry come along and join in anyway and have a laugh!

### **Sharnford Garage Ltd**

**M.O.T. WHILE - U - WAIT**

**We test cars, light vans,  
motorbikes and 3 wheelers**

**Full Service & Repairs on  
all makes Petrol and Diesel**

**Courtesy Cars Available**

**Leicester Road, Sharnford -  
01455 272336**

## SHARNFORD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

As I predicted in my last article STAG have been kept rather busy over the last few months so I would firstly like to say thanks to all the volunteers for their efforts.

Speedwatch was carried out at the beginning of September. We were hampered by some rainy days but persevered and managed to clock up 12 hours of monitoring. Generally things do seem to have improved since our last Speedwatch programme in 2007. We only record vehicles travelling at +34mph. The results were as follows;

- 198 vehicles exceeding 34mph
- Aston Lane average of speeding vehicles 37.8mph. Highest recorded speed 44mph

- Leicester Road/ Coventry Road average of speeding vehicles 38.7mph.

Highest recorded speed 54mph

The application for the Bio-digester plant at Old Fosse Way Bridge was objected to by Sapcote, Stoney Stanton, Sharnford and Broughton Astley, based on the road infrastructure being unable cope with the volume of heavy vehicles the scheme would bring to the area. To date we are unaware of a further application being made.

STAG carried out its Pollution Monitoring at the end of September/ beginning of October. We are paying for a professional to assess and analyse the data. By the next newsletter we will be able to give you an idea of the findings. As a group we decided that the results, if controversial, will not be made available to the media, as we have to think of the impact on the village with regards to people selling houses etc. The results will only be used as a negotiating tool with the authorities.

STAG members attended the recent Parish Council Meeting, along with Ian Veers and David East from Highways. They were putting forward the results of a lorry management scheme that was being considered for Sharnford. It was based on a similar scheme in Dorset. It involved signs that would stop vehicles if a heavy goods vehicle was coming the opposite way on the narrow section of Leicester Road. When two HGV's pass on that section, one HGV will generally have to mount the pavement to avoid clipping each other.

Their results found that the system would not work for Sharnford due to the volume of traffic passing through! We could have a situation where over 25 vehicles would be standing stationary for a period of time. This would in turn create a noise and pollution problem.

STAG and the Parish Council are in agreement that any scheme needs to keep traffic moving through the village. We again put forward the implementation of a 20mph limit in

the village. This would slow the vehicles down but keep them moving. Also, a vehicle travelling at 20mph will create less pollution than one travelling at +30mph.

The meeting also gave us a chance to ask what Leicestershire County Council and Highways official statement on the Sharnford Bypass is. Disappointingly, due to lack of funding, the bypass is now to be considered in the 2014 - 2019 budget, unless funding can be found from elsewhere. It is also now part of a larger South West Leicestershire sustainable traffic scheme, which deals with the traffic problems for Narborough, Enderby, Lutterworth and Hinckley.

This means that STAG have to keep pushing for short term options to help the village until a bypass can be funded. Highways assured us that the village is being monitored on a regular basis with

## **Sharnford Pre-school Playgroup**

**Evergreen Village Hall,  
Sharnford, Leicestershire**

Telephone Alison on **01455 213779**

OFSTED Registered  
Early Years Foundation Stage  
Curriculum

Fully Qualified Staff  
First Aider on Premises  
Award winning location

Free car parking  
Funding available for 3 – 4 year olds

Open everyday for 2 – 5 year olds

Weekly Mums and Tots Group

regards to volume of traffic and speed of vehicles. We again asked about an improved road surface to reduce the noise of heavy vehicles passing through. That is being considered for next year's budget from April 2010.

The year has been one of progress, hard work to gain evidence and information and the frustration of the time it takes to get results. STAG *have* to be in this for the long term and 2010 will bring continued efforts from all our members to seek the solutions that this village needs.

Thank you to the Parish Council and to all residents of Sharnford for your support. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

*Angie. Chair STAG*

## SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club committee continue their plight to obtain a new youth club building. Our next stage is to draw up a business plan to present to Blaby District Council, which basically has to show that the building will be used on a regular basis. The youth club itself with the limited number of volunteers could only open 2-3 times a week. We are therefore looking to the village for any people who would like to start any new groups or clubs within the building, eg. brownies, guides, cubs, scouts. Anybody fancy starting dance groups, computer classes, any kind of class? We are also including into the new plan an outside all weather pitch, so anyone interested in running football teams both junior and senior? Not just football, we could use the facility for any other sport!

We do need to make this happen, however to do this we need your help. So come on all you past youth club members, villagers, anyone!! Anyone interested please contact Julie Edge on 01455 271321. Please let's make this new building a reality not a dream.

Our club continues to open on a Friday evening between 6.30 and 8.00pm. We now have new floodlights which have recently been installed, so the dark nights don't stop the children and youth playing football and being outside.

Our Christmas trip to the Snowdome is now confirmed to go tobogganing. This will take place on Saturday 19th December; the coach will be leaving Sharnford at 4.30pm and

returning around 7.30pm. There will be food back at the Youth Club and also a disco until approx. 9.30pm. The total cost for this should be approx. £10.00 per person. More details will be given to youth club members. All children under 10 years of age will have to be accompanied by a responsible adult, 18 or over.

Finally the youth club committee would like to thank all its volunteers who turn up to help on a regular basis, parents and last but not least the children and youth of the Youth Club for their continued support! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!!

*Karen Smith*

<b>ELIZABETH HEXTALL</b>
<b>Woodwind and Keyboard Tuition</b>
<b>Flute ~ Clarinet ~ Saxophone ~ Recorders Electric Keyboard</b>
<b>Theory of Music ~ All Ages ~</b>
<b>All Stages ~</b>
<b>All Exam Boards Catered for</b>
<b>~ Established 1990</b>
<b>7 Coventry Road Sharnford</b>
<b>LE10 3PG</b>
<b>Tel 01455 271233</b>

## OPERATION SUNSHINE

For 3 years now the people of Sharnford and this area of Leicestershire have sent a variety of goods to the headquarters of Operation Sunshine at Folkestone to be shipped to various countries in Africa where people are struggling to survive. On 13<sup>th</sup>. October three strong men packed an army truck full of tools, candles, bedding and cooking pots and on 15<sup>th</sup> it rolled into Operation Sunshine HQ for the last time, ready for packing into a container bound for Rokon in the Sudan.

It has been a privilege to be the contact person for Leicestershire for this time and to be able to deliver such useful items. Thank you to all who supported this venture but especially Dave Sewell, who gave unstintingly of his time and expertise to repair broken tools. Thanks also go to my close neighbours who appreciated the importance of the work of cleaning up rusted tools and did not complain about the noise of my drill on summer evenings.

Unfortunately I am unable to continue this charitable work, so request that instead of leaving your gifts outside my door, you contact `Tools for Self-Reliance`, who also send used tools to Africa.



The two photos show tools and housewares being distributed to the needy in Africa.  
*Veronica Smyth*

## GUIDE DOG PUPPIES IN SHARNFORD

For five consecutive Thursday afternoons in August and September a group of puppy walkers from the surrounding area, together with their puppies, began a successful training programme at the Evergreen Hall .

Ten puppies took part, aged between four and ten months: 3 Golden Retrievers – Benny, Laska and Vespa; 6 Labradors – Belvoir (pronounced Beaver), Freda, Gus, Reggie, Sam and Vance, and my puppy Nadia, a curly coat Retriever cross Labrador.

In the guide dog world, each litter of puppies is named after the same letter of the alphabet and Nadia has five sisters and three brothers all with names beginning with N. During the course of a year over 1000 puppies are named in this way – only the letter X is omitted.

Emma, our puppy walking Supervisor was there each week to put us through our paces. We had a talk from Karen, the Guide Dog Welfare Officer, who stressed the importance of diet and briefed us on the health problems which can occur in overweight dogs. Terry Smith, a Guide Dog Puppy Walking Manager, paid us a visit and was impressed by the facilities offered in the village.



The object of puppy classes is to teach best practice in their care and to begin learning the skills a puppy will need to become a working dog. We practice sit and wait, down and stay, walking at different speeds and recall. Puppies are taught to weave through cones (guide dogs have many obstacles to negotiate during their working lives). They learn to walk over low obstacles, to teach concentration on where they put their feet

and to sit and wait before passing through gates and doors.

Distraction training is very important. Each puppy is assessed on how quickly they recover their level of concentration when being distracted by other dogs, people and objects and how quickly the puppy responds to stimulus to regain their attention, using voice commands, treats or toys.

Sometimes nothing goes to plan and pups can be very naughty but it is great fun and very enjoyable. At the end of each session the puppies are allowed to socialize and we have a good natter over welcome refreshments! More training sessions are booked for 2010, beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Guide dogs have been giving freedom and independence to the visually impaired for over 50 years. They are provided by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, a registered charity run entirely on voluntary donations. The working life of a dog is about six and a half years and many owners have several dogs during their lifetime.

The cost to breed, train and care for each dog is about £10 per day. The Charity employs 900 professional people in the UK and is supported by 10,000 volunteers, including puppy walkers, breeding stock holders, dog boarders and thousands of local fundraisers. You can find out more at [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk).

*Margaret Grewcock*

## **CRY FROM THE HEART...**

**We Must Stop This Immediately!**

Have you noticed that stairs are getting steeper. Groceries are heavier. And everything is farther away. Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to discover how long our street had become! And, you know, people are less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in whispers - all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same silent message until they're red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader? I also think they are much younger than I was at the same age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't even

recognize me. I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection. Well, REALLY NOW - even mirrors are not made the way they used to be!

Another thing, everyone drives so fast these days! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull onto the freeway in front of them. All I can say is, their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I see them screech and swerve in my rear view mirror.

Clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days. Why else would they suddenly start labelling a size 10 or 12 dress as 18 or 20? Do they think no one notices? The people who make bathroom scales are pulling the same prank. Do they think I actually "believe" the number I see on that dial? HA! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling?

I'd like to call up someone in authority to report what's going on -- but the telephone company is in on the conspiracy too: they've printed the phone books in such small type that no one could ever find a number in there!

All I can do is pass along this warning: WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

Unless something drastic happens, pretty soon everyone will have to suffer these awful indignities. PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN GET THIS CONSPIRACY STOPPED!

PS: I am sending this to you in a larger font size, because something has happened to my computer's fonts - they are smaller than they once were.

**Ian Pickering**  
p h o t o g r a p h y  
portraits weddings commercial  
t. 01455 271371 e. ian@ianpickering.com  
**www.ianpickering.com**

## THE COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND BENEVOLENT FUND

Delivery of the Christmas gifts this year will take place on the morning of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December between 9 and 12 o'clock.

The society AGM will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010. It is the intention of the present committee to cease activities from this date. Any interested parties who wish to maintain the society in its present form should attend this meeting.

*Dave Barber, Secretary*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir, Shopping At Broughton Astley

The demise of Hinckley as a shopping centre is plain for all to see. However, we are fortunate to have a good selection of shops on our doorstep, but in another direction. I am talking about Broughton Astley, where the various traders are close together and there are

no hills to climb. Unfortunately, there is a major disadvantage for us – there is no public transport between here and there.

I know that other villages in the area are provided with bus services to Broughton, some of which are timed to allow a couple of hours of shopping, once a week or more often.

I intend to make an approach to the transport office at County Hall to see if something can be done for Sharnford. However, the first question they are likely to ask is what the demand from Sharnford might be. So would anyone who might be interested in using a bus service to Broughton once a week, or more often, please contact me on 272125 or put a note through my door at No.5 Coventry Road, preferably in the next couple of weeks.

Yours sincerely, *Margaret Hubbard*

**W J EDGE & SON  
BUILDERS LTD**

**33 Henson Way  
Sharnford Leics**

All types of building work and  
renovations undertaken

For a free estimate call us on  
Home 01455 271321 or Mobile  
07831 181079

Dear Sir,

I am considering organising a Village Show for 2010. A traditional show with classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, houseplants, cakes, handicraft, photographs, children's sections etc. Probably early September as that is the best month for produce shows.

Janet & myself are 2 years into a 3 year course to become RHS accredited show judges. We have visited many village shows over the last 2 years and feel that it is time to resurrect a show in Sharnford.

We can find qualified judges, indeed we have such talent in the village already. What we need is practical help and to form a working group. So if any one out there is interested let me know.

Tony Curtis, The Old Police House, Halls Crescent tel 272532

To advertise in the next issue of Sharnford News please contact  
Mike Bishop on 272393

**SHARNFORD NEWS**

Editorial Team Jean Ryan 273828

Mike Bishop 272393 and Dave Sewell 272901

Answers to Quiz 1. Hark the Herald Angels Sing 2. The First Nowell 3. The Holly and the Ivy 4. Coventry Caro 5. Good King Wencelas 6. O Little Town of Bethlehem 7. In Dulci Jubilo 8. Deck the Hall 9. Silent Nigh 10. Ding Dong, Merrily on High 11. The Twelve Days of Christmas 12. We Three Kings