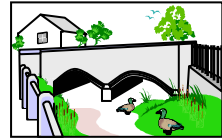


SHARNFORD NEWS

1st March 2010

Issue No 33



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

There is an ancient far-eastern curse which goes “May you live in interesting times!”. We can only assume that someone has issued that curse against the Parish Council, for the past few months have certainly given us some interesting times.

Not all of them bad, it must be said.

First, a very successful promotion of Beauty & the Beast was achieved in December when the Arts Council sponsored group from the Fairgame Theatre, Cheltenham performed in the Evergreen Hall. The hall was full to capacity and everyone – including the actors – had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Thanks to the Arts Council and funding from Leicestershire and Blaby Councils all costs were met so the event was mounted with no cost to the Parish Council. We will be looking to present a similar event this year.



Second, the development of the new Burial ground progresses and with any good fortune, by the time this edition of Sharnford News is being read, the car park will have been completed. That good fortune really is needed though, since the intervention of the weather has seriously delayed both the start and the progress of the work. The snow and the rain made conditions quite impossible for the heavy equipment to get onto the ground and also highlighted deficiencies in the drainage plans. However, both

have been overcome through a lot of hard work on behalf of the contractor and, once again, the goodwill of farmer Ian Fulford.

And third in our collection of major involvements is the story of the ANAEROBIC DIGESTER!! Just as we thought the work of STAG and the Parish Council had made a successful impression on County Highways officers and extracted an agreement that a bypass was needed – even if lack of funding was likely to delay it until 2014 – we were hit by the threat of up to 20,000 more vehicles a year being routed through our village. At the time of writing it is still not clear when a decision will be taken regarding this planning application but be assured that we shall be there!! The Public Meeting held in Broughton Astley on 3rd February was most encouraging. More than 200 people attended from all of the surrounding villages and a fair estimate is that nearly half were from Sharnford. Strong presentations were made to the County Councillors and planning officers as to why this

development should not be approved in this location. The appeal for as many people as possible to write letters of protest to the planners has clearly borne fruit for it is clear that many village residents have done so. Many have sent copies of their letter to me and I really am pleased to see them but I hope you will understand that I cannot acknowledge them all individually so hope you will accept this report as your acknowledgement, but a huge thank you for all the support that has been forthcoming.

Work has continued on preparing a case to persuade Blaby District Council to transfer ownership of the Youth Club and the children's play area to the Parish Council and it is highly probable that the next edition of Sharnford News will carry a report that all is in hand to start a proper refurbishment of that corner of Park View Recreation Ground, including a new Youth & Community Centre – BUT WATCH THIS SPACE!!

Derek Gibbons

ALL SEWN UP!



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SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Poors Meadow - Great News! We have been successful with our grant applications and we now have the money to start the work in this area; we are just waiting for the weather to improve. Some of the bulbs planted by the schoolchildren are just 'peeping through' - a sure sign Spring isn't so far away. In December we planted 10 Field Maple trees along the line of the new footpath, due to be installed in March. (see photo)

Hanging Baskets and Planters - Another success story. Voluntary Action Leicestershire has given us an award from their Grassroots Fund. This money will enable us to provide all the necessary plants, materials and maintenance sundries for 2010. It will be nice to be able to plan the activity against a known budget.

Open Gardens Weekend, June 26th and 27th -

We have quite a list of villagers willing to open up their gardens, but there is room for more, if you would like to join them. Although final details have yet to be made, we propose to commence each day at 12 noon, running through until 5pm. Administration will be based at the Evergreen Hall, where refreshments will be available, with profits going in support of the toilet facilities in St. Helen's Church. There will be a small admission fee, against the issue of a location map for the gardens. Please contact Clive on



272280 or Yvonne 274112 if you are interested in joining this venture. All those villagers who have already expressed an interest will be contacted nearer the time.

And finally – in December a villager donated a Christmas tree, already in its pot. We purchased solar lights for this and installed it on BlueBell Green. We hope you noticed it. We intend to do the same this year, when we will have more

time to plan some improved decorations, if we can squeeze them into the budget. If you would like to make any comments about this, please contact Tony Curtis on 272532.



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CONTAMINATION OF THE SOARBROOK

Over a number of years there has been sporadic leakage of domestic central heating oil into the Soarbrook. The source has been traced to a storm drain which enters the brook on the Park. According to the Environment Agency, the line of this drain is almost certainly a pipe which was laid in a ditch when Park View was constructed.

The frequency of the leakage suggests that oil is flowing into the pipe when a tank is filled above the level of a leak point in the tank or the delivery piping. **Are you feeding expensive oil into the brook?** It is also possible that a disused tank with oil remaining in it is leaking on occasions, for a variety of reasons.

So, **if you live in Park View or the bottom end of Henson Way** and you use oil heating or have a disused tank on your property, would you please thoroughly check the installation. The Environment Agency's guidelines on prevention of pollution at oil installations (their leaflet PPG2) is available on request at 08708 506 506.

Please do check, even if you need to wait until it is warmer!

Sharnford Environment Group

EVERGREEN CLUB NEWS

First of all we would like to thank all those who came to our Christmas Bazaar when we raised the magnificent sum of £1,871. We do appreciate your support, particularly since times have not been easy for many of us, and the money will be a great help towards the upgrading of the Evergreen Hall.

All of us enjoyed our Christmas dinner which was again served by Andrew and Kay. This was followed by entertainment provided by members of the committee, their talents much appreciated by the audience and the few technical hitches only added to the performance.

In January we all slithered down to the Evergreen to meet the coach which took us to see the musical Peter Pan at The Curve theatre in Leicester. Not only was the show spectacular but the theatre itself and the seats were spacious and comfortable which helped us all forget the cold weather outside.

Our Bacon Buttie morning at the end of January also helped to cheer us up and provided an occasion for many to meet friends and have a chat after a very cold spell which had kept us indoors. It also enabled us to appreciate the improvements i.e. new panelling, paintwork and blinds and the added insulation which means a much warmer hall. As grants and money become available more work is planned throughout the coming year which is all being carried out by Fraser and his team.

On March 6th there will be another Fair Trade coffee and Bacon Buttie morning which we hope will be well supported.

On Friday March 19th we are holding another Fashion Show, starting at 7.30 p.m. which this time is in aid of the Air Ambulance.

On Saturday May 22nd there will be our annual plant sale.

Our fortnightly tea-meetings on Wednesday afternoons start at 2.30 p.m. and new members are always welcome to join us to share friendship and games followed by cakes and sandwiches. Our next outing is to the Black Country Museum in May.

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. 1st 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.

We are all looking forward to putting Winter behind us and enjoying longer days and warmer weather with the promise of Spring .The Christian Church in it's worship now concentrates on the spiritual journey through Lent to Good Friday and then the great celebration of Easter day with it's message of resurrection and new life.

The united Lent group meetings this year are again being held alternately at the Chapel and St.Helens. Meetings are at 7.30p.m. on Thursday evenings with the theme being "When I Survey..... Christ's cross and ours". The meetings are open to all who wish to come and will be brought to a close with an informal sharing of "The Lord's Supper" on Maunday Thursday at St.Helens.

An act of worship will be shared at the Chapel on Good Friday at 10.00a.m.

The two coffee mornings so far this year have raised £50 for Home Mission funds and £90 for Operation Christmas Child

The first Friday in March traditionally is celebrated around the world as "Women's World Day of Prayer". This year is no exception and the evening of Friday March 5th. is the date. The Chapel will again host the celebration which this year is prepared by the

Christian women of Cameroon. The service will be led by Mrs. Pat Gibbs and the speaker is Revd. Barbara Fairburn.

As always a warm invitation is extended to any of the events and acts of worship held at the Chapel.

May every blessing be yours

Malcolm Lapper Lay Pastor

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ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

January is usually a quiet month for our church but this year it was in danger of becoming too quiet, for though the sharp frost and thick ice produced a magical effect for our midnight communion and simulated a white Christmas, the following morning the snow that followed could have closed the church completely. Fortunately our intrepid minister and our loyal, determined congregation fought their ways through the inclement weather and the Sunday services were celebrated as usual.

There have been some sad losses during this last quarter. In December, in the chapel at the crematorium, the Reverend Norman conducted a funeral service for Michael Plowman. The sudden death of this young husband and father shocked everyone and their hearts were filled with loving compassion for the young wife and son left behind. In February a funeral service was conducted for David Arnold. June Preston, a lady from this village but lately living in Cornwall was, after her death, returned to Sharnford for her interment in St. Helen's churchyard. There was also a funeral service for Doreen (Babs) King, Babs (as she preferred to be called) was a much loved member of many groups in the village and not only did she attend church regularly but she also worked hard and cheerfully at any task she was given - although she usually volunteered before she could be asked. She had a lovely personality and we could honestly say we never heard her say a bad word about anyone. She will be greatly missed. We send our heartfelt condolences to all friends and relatives of those above who have died.

On a happier note in November we welcomed Henry Frederick Apps and in February Archie David Edward McGunigle into our flock by their baptisms.

Now to future events: -

March 5th - Women's World Day of Prayer. Service at the Chapel at 7pm.

March 6th - Fair Trade Coffee Morning. Evergreen Hall 9.30am – 12 noon.

March 7th -Family Service, Evergreen Hall at 9.15am.

March 14th – Service (with the children) for Mothering Sunday. St. Helen's, 9.15am.

Maundy Thursday - Service at St. Helen's Church at 7.30pm

Good Friday - Meeting at the Methodist Chapel at 10am.

Easter Day - Family Holy Communion, St. Helen's at 9.15am

April 25th - Memorial Service at 6.30pm

In addition to the above, Holy Communion will be celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9.30am from the 17th February until Easter. Lent House Groups will be held every Thursday from the 18th February until Maundy Thursday. These will be alternated between the Chapel and the Church. The first meeting will be at St. Helen's Church at 7.30pm.

You are most welcome to come to all or any of the above. We would love to see you.
Estelle Perrett P.C.C. Secretary

SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE COMMITTEE

Sharnford Family Fun Day

Our AGM was held on the 28th January 2010; the officers were elected and the worthy village causes were also nominated and unanimously agreed. The causes for this year are The Appraisal Group (Sharnford News), Conkers, The Environment Group, The Evergreen Club, The Methodist Chapel, Playgroup, PTA, St Helen's, Sick and Divi, Sharnford Traffic Action Group (STAG) and The Youth Club. This year sees the addition of a new cause, Conkers, a group which will be providing an after school club facility for children of the village up to the age of 11.

Plans are now developing apace for this year's Sharnford Family Fun Day to be held on 13th June. The theme of which is Rock 'n' Roll, the 1950s, which should provide plenty of scope for the stalls and participants in the fancy dress competition!

Amongst the items we are working on is the collection of raffle prizes for the prize draw. We recognise that a number of our stalls could not hope to be as successful as they have been in the past without the generous donations made by the inhabitants of Sharnford and there will be the opportunity to donate bottles, tins, books etc nearer the time. However if there are any local businesses who feel able to donate prizes for the raffle we

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would love to hear from them, please contact Kathy on 272335 or Emma on 271048.

We welcome all offers of help both in the run up to the big day and on the day itself. As we have stated many times before, without our army of helpers on the day we would not be able to achieve what we do. If you would like to come and help before the day our next meeting will be on the 4th March, 7:30pm at the Evergreen Hall.

SGJC

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WINNER MASTER PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2009

East Midlands FSB Member photographer Ian Pickering, scoops major award



Ian being awarded one of his “Oscars” - From Left to right
Mike Osman, comedian. Ian Pickering, Stuart Grieb, Towergate insurance (sponsors)

Sharnford, Leicestershire based photographer Ian Pickering has achieved an Award of Excellence in a major national professional photography competition.

Ian was placed in the Commercial Photography category in the Master Photography Awards 2009. Ian beat off competition from other leading professional photographers from across Britain, winning him the title of 'UK Commercial Photographer of the year 2009'. Not only that, he came second overall Nation-wide after winning first place for the Midlands, in the Wedding Photography Category.

Hundreds of professional photographers from around the world were joined by representatives from the major photographic companies at a glittering Awards ceremony held on 11th October at the Hilton Hotel in Newcastle.

The Awards, run by the Master Photographers Association (MPA), is one of the most prestigious within the photographic profession. Membership of the Association is restricted to full time professional photographers who must qualify to the minimum required Licentiate standard. The organisation exists to promote and maintain standards of excellence and professionalism within the photographic industry.

MPA Chief Executive, Colin Buck was delighted with this year's entries and paid tribute to Ian's success: "There was a great diversity of imagery, and all were judged on the same criteria: artistic merit, good use of lighting, composition and print quality - all the winners were of a very high overall standard. Winning a Master Photography Award is a huge honour for any photographer and I'm delighted for Ian. I'm sure this award will help Ian to further his career."

Ian, who runs his photographic business from his studio based in Sharnford, is said to be delighted with his recent success "I still can't quite believe it. To be recognized by all my peers is just great. My business is going from strength to strength, and all the hard work is now starting to pay off, hopefully this award will help me gain some new business, which is very exciting".

Ian has been chosen as one of the countries top 5 photographers, to feature in an TV program, "A Day in the life of a professional photographer", of which he was filmed for last week, on location at one of his clients, Quartzelec, in Rugby, and then back in the

studio in Sharnford, finishing with an interview about his career. It was mentioned that he will be asked to take part in a new TV Quiz show, to be piloted next summer, called "Hotshots". 'It's all a bit mad', said Ian.

For further information on Ian Pickering, please visit www.ianpickering.com or call 01455 271371

May we add our own congratulations to Ian – Ed.

Ian Pickering
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www.ianpickering.com

ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP

On December 9th lots of friends joined us for the evening at the Evergreen Hall. Anne Hughes entertained us with a very interesting and amusing tale of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". We all enjoyed Anne's sense of humour and fine singing voice. She has been invited to entertain us again next year.

In January, Linda Smith of Waterside Nursery in Sharnford, gave us an illustrated talk on Pondlife. She recommended the best plants to grow in and around the pond to attract wildlife – such as dragonflies, amphibians and pond skaters.

Linda will be exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show this year, for the first time. We wish her all success in her venture.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the home of Jean Ryan, 33 Park View, at 8pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Jean on 273828 for further information.

SHARNFORD PRE- SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

In March we will be concentrating on welcoming spring, and the changes that it brings for animals and their young. This will then become the focus for next terms topic. We are delighted to be having some chickens and their chicks coming in to visit us on Monday 22nd March. This will lead us to go on an Egg hunt in our home made bonnets! Everyone is welcome to join us in this *eggciting* hunt on Friday 26th March at 11.30am and then see all the children wearing their bonnets. Last year we had some *eggstremely* good creations!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising attempts this year, with just over £400 raised. We spent £180 on the Coach to the Snowdome, £90 some new CD's, £50 on a new rug and just need a few more pennies to purchase the replacement dressing up stand. Our final fundraiser of the year is the Fashion Show, held on Friday 16th April at Sapcote Social Club. Tickets go on sale after the half term holiday. This year, there is a scrap gold collector coming and cash will be given for any old unwanted jewellery, so hunt out those odd earrings, broken necklaces and unwanted items and you may be surprised at how much you get for them!

In May, we have KidsKlub Video Company visiting us, where they create a DVD of your child in a background such as Safari or WildWest. Places are limited and it produces a fantastic keepsake of your child. Bookings will be taken in the new term.

Our Summer Playscheme takes place 2nd – 13th August. Posters will be put up advertising them and confirming dates and times in the new term and notes sent home with Children from Playgroup and School. Places are limited, so please book early to guarantee a space, as we had to turn people away last year!

Everyone at Playgroup has been busy learning this year, and not just the Children! Alison won an award for Student of the Year for her NVQ3, and also Outstanding Student of the Year for her Advanced Diploma in Holistic Therapies. She is currently studying for her Early Years Degree. Karen and Lyn are now nearing completion of their NVQ3 and Cath has been responsible for

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keeping us up to date and on board with changes to the Early Years Curriculum, along with all the planning involved! Well done to everyone!

Playgroup is nearly full, with only 2 spaces left on a Monday for the summer term, as we have 3 new starters! If you need a space for your child, please contact either Cath or Alison on 01455 213779.

Conkers Afterschool Club is nearly ready to start for children aged 4 - 11, with venues secured in both Sharnford and Sapcote. Government Legislation requires each child to have access to a provision until 6pm from 2010, and Governors at the Schools voted in favour of us having our own, rather than using neighbouring village's provisions. The success and sustainability is reliant upon your usage and so we look forward to seeing as many children as possible at Conkers. Full details will shortly be advertised, and we very much hope to be open after Easter.

Alison, Cath, Karen & Lyn

TOURIST PRAYER

Heavenly Father, look down on us your humble, obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, sending postcards and buying souvenirs. We beseech you O Lord to see that our coach is not hi-jacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed by our driver. Give us this day divine guidance in our selection of hotels. We pray that the telephones work and that the operators speak our language.

Lead us to good, inexpensive restaurants where the wine is included in the price of the meal. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in the currency we do not understand. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods. Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals and palaces and, if we skip an historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, protect our wives from bargains they don't need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation, for they know not what they do. Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us. Above all, please do not forgive them their trespasses, for they know exactly what they do. When our voyage is over, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our holiday snaps and listen to our stories so that our lives as tourist will now (NOT?) have been in vain.

Amen

SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL – PTA

In the last edition we drew your attention to a number of events planned for December and January and now seems like a good time to let you know how they went!

School Events

The Christmas Disco and the Christmas Workshop were both well attended and successful with a good time being had by all. The Disco has allowed us to raise funds that we will be channelling into both future events and back to Sharnford Primary School for projects that they identify.

Fund raising last year also allowed us to arrange for a travelling zoo to come into the school on the last day of the Christmas term. All who took part, adults and children alike, had a fabulous time during the two organised sessions with children being able to learn about and in some cases touch a number of different animals including snakes and a parrot.

Community Events

We are pleased to report that the two community events organised were also successful.

The Annual Carol Singing took place on 21st December. Particular thanks is due to Mr Peter Stocker who again turned out on a very cold and frosty evening to provide the musical accompaniment to our singing. We should also thank Isaac the Donkey who behaved impeccably and Sarah and Terry for bringing him.

Thank you to all those who came out and supported us and lent their voices to our singing or made donations; whilst it was well attended there is always room for more and we look forward to seeing you there this year! During the course of the evening we raised £95 in aid of Tommy's Baby Charity.

The Annual Quiz, held on the 29th January saw the largest number of teams yet! Of

course, it would not have been possible without the hard work of a number of people, not least of all Phil and Sue Stanley who compiled the quiz, compered it, scored it and kept us all in order! The food was again ably provided by Debbie March and our thanks go to her.

Future Events

As time does not stand still we are busy planning events for later this year. For the primary school children there will again be an Easter Disco on the **19th March**.

We are also looking to plan some events which will be open to the Community some time in **May**; as usual we will advertise these around the village nearer the time.

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SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

Phew! What a hectic few months the Youth Club Committee and volunteers have had.

Firstly, the annual Christmas trip to the Tamworth Snowdome went very well and was enjoyed by everyone, including the participating parents. On our return we were greeted by much appreciated and delicious hot food to warm us all up, before having a good old boogie to the sounds of DJ Simon. Thanks to all who helped on the night.

On a more serious note, although the snow was good whilst it lasted, it did bring with it the unfortunate problem of major burst water pipes inside the Youth Club. Volunteers managed to bucket out as much water as possible at the time, and a dehumidifier was set up. Fortunately, no lasting damage seems to have been caused.

The Youth Club Committee hopes that you have all managed to purchase your "Sharnford Calendar Boys" 2010 calendar,- all proceeds from which will go to the proposed new hall. Our sincere thanks go to all involved, both in front and behind the camera. A particular "thank you" must go to Ian Pickering, who had the unfortunate job of making the guys look so good! A big "thank you" must also go to The Sharnford Arms and Anthony Gill for getting the volunteers together in the first place.

Anthony, whose late brother Daemon was a keen supporter and volunteer for many years at the Youth Club, is on a mission to raise as much money as possible in order to provide us with a better and safer environment to hold the current Youth Club. He has already donated £200 to the cause through a charity Golf Day, and is also proposing a sponsored climb up Snowdon in May of this year. He will be joined by other supporters of the Youth Club on his climb. Anyone else interested in joining them and helping us raise both money and awareness for our cause, please telephone Julie Edge on 271321 for more details.

With regards to our commitment to making the re-building of the Youth Club become a reality, we have had on-going communications with both the Parish and Blaby District Council regarding the handover of the land ownership. In order that funding/grants can be applied for, the Parish rather than Blaby District Council need to own the current building. A Business Plan has been drawn up and sent to Blaby District Council for initial approval with a view to submitting it to the Full Council Cabinet Meeting in March. Fingers crossed this will be approved - we will, of course, keep you all informed of our progress.

Finally, if there are any new members wishing to join the Youth Club, please feel free to pop along. We are currently open on a Friday evening 6.30- 8pm for ages 5-18 years (under 8's to be accompanied by an adult). We are hoping, however, that the Blaby District Youth Workers will return soon on a Tuesday evening for the 11+ age range.

You can ring me on the above number for more information.

Julie Edge, Chairperson

Easter Egg Hunt Week **27th March – 3rd April**



**&
Garden
Centre**

Now in its fifth year and due to popular demand we will be holding another Easter Egg Hunt for any children coming into the centre to take part in. They will also have the opportunity to have a go at planting up a 'Strawberry Hanging Basket', which will be free of charge and is an engaging project for children to take part in. For the adults there will be a Free Prize Draw plus free refreshments will be on offer on the opening day of the Egg Hunt Week on Saturday 27th March.

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LEICESTERSHIRE VILLAGES WEBSITE

This website, which has existed for several years seems to have totally bypassed Sharnford. It's just a pity that it's the website doing that and not the heavy lorries!

This site can hold such a mass of information for use by villagers. Forthcoming events, clubs, local business can all feature on the website and for FREE.

I have put a few items on the site already. I hope by the time that you read this article that you will be able to view the current and back issues of the Sharnford News. It will not then matter if you accidentally throw away that back copy you meant to save.

So if you advertise in the Sharnford News why not also advertise for free on *leicestershirevillages.com* website? If you run a playgroup, youth club, pub, club, garage, local society, social group, etc then let me have an A4 sheet with the details you want publishing. My intention is to set up a page for you or your group and thereafter transfer ownership of the page to you. If you are not computer literate I will do my best to help you.

Our village site had 268 'hits' in the last week alone. That is with limited content so just think what a dynamic site it will be when there is lots of local information on the site to look at.

Tony Curtis, The Old Police House, Halls Crescent, Sharnford, tc-123@tiscali.co.uk

COLOURFUL WORLDS QUIZ FOR SHARNFORD NEWS

All of the answers contain a colour. (answers on back page if you need them!)
e.g. to the clue "She was attacked by a wolf", the answer is Red Riding Hood.

1. *Relief Organisation*
2. *The foam on a wave*
3. *Bubonic Plague*
4. *Army policeman*
5. *Mercury*
6. *Murderer who killed his wives*
7. *Plaza in Moscow*
8. *1920's dance*
9. *Motion pictures*
10. *New York's Bohemia*
11. *To make something or someone appear good*
12. *Golf course charge*
13. *Illegal sale of goods*
14. *The name of the schooner on the Canadian dime*
15. *First prize*
16. *Seller of vegetables*
17. *Well-born person*
18. *Architect's plans*
19. *Fib or small untruth*
20. *British soldier of the past*

NATURE CALENDAR

Bird Song

Early spring is a great time to hear birds singing, and it is often easier to see them without the leaves on the trees. Join the Watermead Rangers on Sunday 16th. May for a Dawn Chorus Walk and learn how to identify bird songs. (Watermead Country Park is off Wanlip Road, near Syston, LE7 1PD. Tel: 0116 305 5434).

Squirrel Dreys

Whilst trees are bare of leaves, it's easier to spot squirrel nests, called dreys. About the size of a football, they are much bigger and messier than birds' nests, and they have a roof!

Woodpeckers

On a warm day, take a walk through woodland with plenty of large, old trees, and listen for woodpeckers drumming against hollow, dead or dying trees. It's the males who make the noise in order to defend their territory and attract a mate. They drum their beak into the wood at about 40 pecks a second!

Hedgehogs

The number of hedgehogs in Britain is declining due to loss of habitat and lack of food. Why not make your garden more hedgehog-friendly by: not using slug pellets, as these can kill a healthy hedgehog; make a compost heap where hedgehogs can find food; put out a shallow bowl of fresh clean drinking water.

Things to look out for in the coming months:

March:

The male Goat Willow flower-heads with Golden Anthers come out this month. **See photo.**

The Brimstone butterfly comes out of hibernation in late February to early March.

In sheltered places the Lesser Periwinkle starts to flower.

`Mad March` Hares can be

seen chasing one another around meadows and farm fields. Look out for the females boxing the males to test their determination.

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April:

Snails start to wake from hibernation.

The Primrose flowers now. The Latin name means `First Rose`.

Cowslips flower. In the Middle Ages ointment was made from the petals and used to cure spots.

Frogs lay their eggs in the water—often 5,000 are laid at once. After about 3 weeks the tiny tadpoles hatch out.

Orange Tip Butterflies can be seen; males have bright orange tips of the front wings.

May:

Flowering Bluebells create beautiful carpets of colour in woods.

Over-wintering Brimstone butterflies emerge and lay their eggs on Buckthorn and Alder Blackthorn, the plant food for their green caterpillars. **See photo**

The Common Blue butterfly emerge. They lay their eggs on Birdsfoot Trefoil.



Thanks to Sue Hayes of the Countryside Team at Leicestershire County Council for allowing use of her article in the Events Guide and for use of the photos. If you would like a current copy:

Email: eventsguide@leics.gov.uk OR Go on the website: www.leics.gov.uk/events where you can view a copy or order your own copy online. Or call 0116 305 6988.

COMMUNITY GROUPS GET CHRISTMAS CASH BOOST

Christmas came early for community groups across Blaby last week as more than £30,000 in funding was handed out from the district council.

The grants, ranging from £200 - £5,000 were given to 20 different organisations in total, with sports clubs, environment groups and community coffee bars all getting a cash boost.



Narborough and Littlethorpe Football Club received £5,000 which will help them replace their rundown changing room and put in extra facilities to accommodate all the teams that use the ground on match days.

Sharnford Environment Group collected a cheque for £950, towards the planned improvements to Poors Meadow. See photo on left.

Several new projects were also given funding including C@fe Latte, a community coffee bar based in Croft, and Mum's Teapot Stop, a mother and toddler group which is being set up in Enderby.

Cheques were given to representatives of each organisation by Councillor Alan Bailey, chairman of the council, he said: "These grants allow local groups to continue their excellent work. There are so many people doing amazing things throughout Blaby district so it's great that they're being supported."

The grants, which are given to not-for-profit community groups that want to expand or develop their services are funded by Blaby District Council and allocated by Voluntary Action Blaby District (VABD) on their behalf.

So far this year nearly £60,000 has been awarded to community groups and there is still money left to be allocated in the final quarter of this year. Anyone wanting to apply for a community grant should contact VABD on 0116 272 7669.

VOLUNTEERS – GOD BLESS YOU

Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgement nears,
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and foot stools;
Where there's no committee chairman,
No group leaders or car pools.
No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no cake sale;
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.
Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a fingersnap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
And rare drinks fit for a king.
You ask "Who'll serve these privileged few,
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on earth!!
Gene Aleth

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

CHARITY EVENT

I am in the early stages of organising an "Event" to be held at Sapcote Playing Fields and (probably) Stoney Cove in aid of Cancer Research UK. It is planned to take place on Saturday 14th August 2010. We so far have a number of headline participants, including Carol Machin, Manjit Singh (the Iron Man), Bob Dawson (Leicestershires International bodybuilder), The Marine Display Team and Hinckley Fencing Club. If any of your

readers are able to sponsor, help out or have an idea for inclusion in the programme I would be pleased to hear from them.

Chris Gunn 01455 272994

SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The end of the autumn term in school was very busy with the whole school performing two productions of 'A Christmas Celebration'. The children were excellent and donations received totalled £100.46. This amount was forwarded to RSPCA.

Year 6 children enjoyed a visit from Warning Zone, the Crimebeat Safety Centre in Leicester. The children had an opportunity to take part in various safety scenarios including fire safety, road safety, arson and criminal damage.

Year 5 and 6 children visited Donington Le Heath Manor House for a Tudor Christmas experience which enhanced the children's understanding of their history topic on the Tudors.

Year 2 children attended Charnwood Museum and enjoyed investigating toys from the past.

Our year 5 children attended and enjoyed a basketball festival at John Cleveland College which was organised by Hinckley and Bosworth School Sports Partnership.

The whole school travelled to All Saints Primary School and enjoyed a production of 'A Very Chinese Puzzle' and to celebrate Chinese New Year, school food support produced a Chinese meal of pork chow mien, stir fry vegetables in black bean sauce, egg fried rice and sweetcorn.

First steps training has started for children in year one which teaches the children how to cross the road safely.

Over the next few weeks our year 1 and 2 children are taking part in a Forest School project spending either a morning or afternoon each week at Fosse Meadows. The children are involved in science work, art and craftwork, problem solving activities and much more.

The school was able to secure funding from the Go See and Inspire project and an animation day for children in classes 2 and 3 took place. The children created a number of incredible animations and they are now available to view on youtube under the heading Sharnford animations.

The school council were visited in school by Councillor Alan Bailey who talked to the children about the work of the county council. We hope that the school council will be able to visit the council chambers later in the year.

Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are working with staff and Mrs Ramshaw from Leicestershire Arts to produce a musical 'Animal Antics'. The children will present

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this to parents at the end of this half term.

The PTA has a supply of tea towels featuring each child in school. These are available from the PTA or school at a cost of £3.50.

We are collecting box top vouchers and welcome any spare vouchers you may have.

Many thanks, to all of our volunteers who give up their free time to help and support our school.

Mrs Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant

BLABY SHINES IN 'QUALITY OF LIFE' SURVEY

Blaby is the second best place to live outside the south of England according to a new report. Places in the south of the country made up 28 of the top 30 local authority areas offering the best quality of life, according to a Halifax survey. Blaby was ranked number 23 in the list, beating Kensington and Chelsea (24), Richmond upon Thames (25) and Windsor (49). Only Rutland (20) scored higher in the whole of the East Midlands.

The study of 408 local authority areas measured criteria such as average weekly earnings, employment rates, number of burglaries, carbon emissions and life expectancy. Blaby's employment rate was ranked joint third in the country at 85.7% and the district also had the nation's second highest owner-occupation rate at 87%.

Ernie White, Leader of Blaby District Council said: "I have known that Blaby is a fantastic place to live and work for many years and this report just confirms that. The council has always offered great support to its residents - especially through the recession - and now we are seeing the rewards."

AGE CONCERN - CHARITY BOOK COLLECTION HOPES AND FEARS.

Whilst all of their 26 shops sell books, the success of the 5 specialist bookshops in High Street East, Uppingham, 16 The Square, Market Harborough, 3 Wards End, Loughborough, 6 Loseby Lane, Leicester and 74 Queens Road, Leicester has necessitated Age Concern Leicester Shire & Rutland issuing an urgent appeal for help to replenish stocks.

Commenting, the Executive Director of Age Concern, Mr Anthony Donovan, said "From the outset the philosophy was to provide quality books at bargain prices for people of all backgrounds and ages. The sale of DVDs, videos, CDs and vinyl records is also proving popular. Whilst I am delighted that the shops are so popular, the ongoing success of the shops is dependent upon donations from the general public. "

Whilst items can be taken direct to the bookshops or any of our other outlets, especially for larger quantities we are always happy to pick up from donors homes or places of work if we have someone in the area.

Please ring John Adcock or Peter Ralphs on 0116 2237344 (who for example can personally cover the Vale of Belvoir and the A47 Eastern Corridor as far as East Norton)

THE COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND BENEVOLENT FUND

The AGM will be held at the Countryman on Sunday March 28th at 8pm.

The current committee will not be seeking re-election.

Anyone interested in taking over the running of the society in its present form, should attend this meeting.

Dave Barber, Secretary

TALENTED YOUTH CHARITY CONCERT

A concert is being held to showcase the artistic talents of young people in our communities at South Wigston High School & Performing Arts College on Thursday 22nd April 2010 starting at 7.00pm.

The Talented Youth concert, organised jointly by Blaby District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, is an opportunity for people to celebrate and enjoy the many and varied talents of the younger members of our community and to applaud them for their enthusiasm and dedication to the performing arts.

Councillor Alan Bailey, Chairman of Blaby District Council said: “As Chairman I have

seen a huge array of young people perform at various events that I’ve attended. Their tremendous skill and ability to really throw themselves into doing their best performance never ceases to amaze me. It has been my wish to put on an event that gives gifted youngsters an opportunity to shine like stars and show off their wonderful abilities, whilst at the same time giving our community the chance to watch and celebrate the excellent talent that Blaby District and Oadby & Wigston Borough have right here on our doorstep”.

Junior groups that have agreed to perform as

part of the evening’s entertainment so far include:

Enderby Youth Band – brass & percussion band

Bushloe High School – singing & instrumental group

Junior HATS (Huncote Amateur Theatrical Society) - drama sketch & singing

Hathi Productions – musical theatre

Musical Village – community youth choir

South Wigston High School & Performing Arts College – Didgeridoo group

Countesthorpe College – dance extract from Chicago

Leicester School of Dance – ballet & musical, theatre & modern, jazz & solo

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £3 for under 10 year olds. Proceeds from the night will be split between Community Action Blaby District Befrienders Scheme and Oadby & Wigston Lions Club, the Chairman and Mayor’s respective charities whilst in office.



The
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Pub

Free car parking will be available and soft drinks will be available to purchase for a nominal cost during the interval.

For more information or to buy tickets please contact Lucy Wheeler, Events Officer at Blaby District Council on 0116 272 7512, email ljw@blaby.gov.uk or Debbie Watson, Civic Officer at Oadby & Wigston Borough Council on 0116 257 2643, e-mail deborah.watson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

HINCKLEY BULLOCKERS IN SHARNFORD.



On Saturday 9th January 2010, the 24th Annual Plough Tour took place through the villages of Sharnford, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton. Despite heavy snow, they performed their traditional Molly Dances on the Countryman Car Park with plenty of enthusiasm, even though a few men slipped over.

The annual farm labourers' tradition of conveying a clean, sharp and decorated plough through the villages, signifies readiness for the coming season. The men perform Molly Dances, a tradition native to this area since the 16th Century.

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. Red Cross, 2. White Horses, 3. Black death, 4. Red Cap, 5. Quicksilver, 6. Blackbeard, 7. Red Square, 8. Black Bottom, 9. Silver Screen, 10. Greenwich Village, 11. White Wash, 12. Green Fees, 13. Black market, 14. Blue Nose, 15. Gold Medal, 16. Greengrocer, 17. Blue blood, 18. Blue prints, 19. White lie, 20. Redcoat