

SHARNFORD NEWS



31st August 2010

Issue No 35

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

Excellent news for the Youth Club – at the July meeting of Blaby District Council, members agreed that the ownership of the Youth Club building and the land it stands on should pass to the Parish Council. The significance of this is that we can now make serious moves towards replacing the disgracefully shabby wooden shack with a purpose built brick building.

Blaby have attached some pretty stiff conditions to the transaction, not the least being that the existing structure must be demolished by January 2011 and the new building completed by January 2012!!! Failure to meet these targets could mean that the transaction is cancelled and ownership reverts to Blaby.

We can achieve this, but only if we treat it as a Community Project and as many people as possible from within the village become involved and give support. A joint committee of Parish Councillors and Youth Club Committee members has been formed to guide the project and Fraser Edge has agreed to be Project Manager, so anyone willing to offer help in any form is asked to contact either Fraser or me. A very encouraging number of tradesmen living within the village have volunteered to be involved and this is most important since any voluntary assistance can be ‘valued’ to represent the matched funding usually required when seeking grants; so come on anyone out there who can help – give us your support. And to the young people of the village especially, I would say this: Sorry that you are going to be without a place to meet for some time – but bear with us and join in to help whenever you can. It is you who will benefit in the long term.

The new burial ground makes slow progress, with the water supply now installed. John Brindley has kindly donated some large rocks to be set outside the gates and an application for further funding has been submitted to the Local Government Loans Fund which will enable us to complete all remaining work.

Finally, we can confirm that the actors from the Cheltenham Theatre group who performed Beauty and the Beast last year have confirmed our booking of their Cinderella for Wednesday 15 December in the Evergreen Hall – Get that date in your diaries now, tickets will be available towards the end of September.

Derek Gibbons

SHARNFORD IN HISTORY

As part of the development of the new burial ground in Mill Lane the Parish Council was required to obtain a (very expensive) Archaeological Survey of the site.

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In fact nothing of any significance was found on this occasion but in their report the survey team summarised the archaeological and historical background. Here follows a summary of their findings, giving just a hint of Sharnford's background:

“Prehistory activity in the vicinity of the site is represented by a scatter of Neolithic flints found about 600metres to the west-north-west, and another scatter of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flints about 450metres to the south-east. Aerial photographs held by the National Monuments Record have identified two circular cropmarks about 100metres south-west of the site, one approximately 35metres in diameter with a possible entrance in its western

side, and one 10metres in diameter, which may represent later prehistoric enclosures.

Romano-British activity nearby is represented by the discovery of a Roman brooch and probable seal-box lid as well as a mortarium rim found in the village about 450metres to the west-south-west. Two Roman roads, Fosse Way and Watling Street, also pass through the Parish. Fosse Way ran from Lincoln, through Leicester to Exeter and passes to the east of the village, while Watling Street ran from the Fort at Richborough to Chester, passing to the south of the village.

Archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in Sharnford is restricted to the discovery of a single brooch. However, the place name is Old English in origin, meaning 'dung/muck ford'. The village also appears in the Domesday Book of 1086, when the land was in the ownership of the Bishop of Lincoln, Hugh de Grandmesnil and Countess Judith.

Around 200metres to the south of the site lies the Parish Church, a Grade II listed building dedicated to St Helen. It has 13th Century elements surviving, but the spire was removed in 1772 and significant restorations were undertaken in 1846, 1854 and 1866, and also in 1985 following a fire.”

Derek Gibbons – Parish Council Chairman

SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

As the summer draws to a close, we can reflect on this year's activities.

The village fete/fun day is an important event for us, since it gives us the opportunity to meet those villagers who support us, chat about 'what's happening' and make a little money that **all** goes back to the village. Generally, a happy day, and this year was no exception. It really is worth all that hard work.

Many of you will have seen that we have completed the current work plans on Poors Meadow. The benches seem popular and we envisage many years of use. The group is still considering what can be done about the ditch, adjacent to the tarmac path, but until the hedge owner carries out work on the hedge, we are undecided about the next step.

We hope you like the hanging baskets this year; we think they look better than ever. Without those villagers who reliably and regularly water them, we couldn't achieve this result. We have recently talked to members of the 'Sapote in Bloom' project. Apparently they are envious of what we have achieved and hope to reach the same standard!

Some of the planters will need some "tlc" repairs this Autumn, as they are beginning to show their age. Many people have commented favourably on the new triple set by the road crossing - we like them too.

Bluebell Green will need a little more work than usual, after the summer, since some of the original plants are taking over. We will have to move some plants out and introduce new varieties. Nothing will be wasted though, since what is not needed will probably be used on the new burial ground. Also, the sun clock numbers need raising - could be a long job!

Now, can you help us? Our village sign project remains in the very early stages. It will take some time and lots of money to implement, but our biggest initial problem is in deciding where it should be sited. We have thought of Bluebell Green, the roadside area of Poors Meadow, and even having three - one at each of the village entrances. Whilst we are undecided, we cannot move forward since confirming the location is essential before we can finalise the design. If you have any comment to make about this, please contact any group member, or phone Mike on 272393, Dave on 272901 or Yvonne 274112. Your opinion is important to us.

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EVERGREEN CLUB NEWS

Our plant sale back in May was a great success and thank you to all those who supported us in raising just over £1700. Although the family fun day seems a long time ago now, we would also like to thank all those who donated cakes and pots of jam for sale on the day which added £214 to the fund.

Our club outing to Duxford was not blessed with fine weather but we all had a good day out since most of the exhibits were under cover. Seeing the aircraft close up added to our admiration for those who originally designed them and the pilots who flew them. A number of us were able to walk down memory lane, either looking at the military planes



of WW2 or the old commercial ones which took us on holiday in the 1960's. The next planned trip is to see "The King and I" at The Curve in Leicester in January.

On Saturday September 25th there will be another chance to sample our bacon butties as we again support the MacMillan's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Our Christmas Bazaar will be on December 4th and ladies please note that by popular request there will be another fashion show next February.

It will have been noticed by some that the kitchen at the Evergreen Hall is being refurbished and because of this, the first tea meeting scheduled for September 1st has been CANCELLED. Therefore, our opening meeting on September 15th will be the annual fish & chip supper and members are asked to arrive around 6pm as the meal will be served at 6.30.

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.

Christian Fellowship: 7.30p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. An informal time of bible study, friendship and prayer.

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.

Dear Friends

It is with a mixture of feelings that I bring the greetings of everyone concerned with the life and witness of the Methodist Chapel. As is well known around the village I shall be stepping down at the end of this month as Lay Pastor after a period of eight years. I originally accepted the position for five years so in some ways am well past my sell buy date.

My last service on August 29th will be a very emotional time for me and I hope a good number of friends are able to share it with me.

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To have had such a responsibility in the village of my birth and upbringing, amongst those who still remember me as “the lad” has been both daunting and yet a great privilege. Daunting, because there are those who remember all too well my warts and all of growing up, and a privilege to have ministered to people who were so much a part of my early days and have always surrounded me with love and encouragement.

I have met many of you for the first time as I have tried to bring some help at a time of difficulty or as I have officiated at a service of thanksgiving for the life of a loved one at a time of bereavement. If something I have done

or said over the years have helped then I am rewarded generously.

The Christian Ministry is always challenging, often demanding, but always a privilege! I shall look back over the years with feelings of achievement, but also failure, with joy but also disappointment.

A very distinguished Clergyman by the name of John Wesley who is credited with the founding of the Methodist Church always tried on every occasion to “Offer Christ” in ways and language that ordinary men and women could understand and respond to.

To offer Jesus Christ to the village of Sharnford has been my privilege and joy over the last eight years, may I continue to invite you to consider His life and death and resurrection and the part it may play in your own life.

And may I wish you all every blessing.

Harvest thanksgiving services are on Sept. 19th at 10.00a.m. and 6.00p.m. and all are welcome.

Malcolm Lapper, Lay Pastor

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

I am happy to say that this year the sun blessed most of our summer events. In June we were delighted by the success of our fruit and vegetable tombola at the Village Fun Day. This was mainly due to Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons who suggested the stall and then worked hard to make it so colourful (and profitable). In July the Explorers had another successful outing to Twin Lakes with all but two of the members being present. The Explorers are now in recess until the 12th September when they will meet again at the Evergreen Hall. We hope to see all existing members and any new members (children) would be very welcome if they came along.

In August we held our annual Songs of Praise evening and were privileged to welcome the Rt. Rev. Christopher Boyle, the Assistant Bishop of Leicester, as our guest speaker. Appropriately for a songs of praise service he preached about the joy of praise through hymn singing saying that every voice in song, high or low, thick or thin matters

to God. Did I imagine it or was the singing louder, firmer and more joyous after his sermon? In June Samuel Paul Holliland was welcomed into the flock by his baptism and in August we said goodbye to Joseph Brown when the Rector conducted his funeral service. Although Mr. Brown was full of years he will be sadly missed and we offer our condolences to his family.

The autumn will see our usual

events. The Ride and Stride in aid of the protection of historic churches will take place on the 11th September and the Harvest Festival will be on the 3rd October at 10.30 am.

We cannot end this article without offering our sincere and grateful thanks, firstly to The Evergreen Club for holding a 'bacon buttie' morning at the Evergreen Hall on the 14th August, which raised £350 to be donated to our toilet fund and secondly to Charlie Burford and Tony Allen for keeping the churchyard in such brilliant trim over the summer months. Their efforts and the good weather have made this place a perfect restful haven that pleases the eye and heartens the soul. Thank you Charlie and Tony.

Estelle Perrett, PCC Secretary

ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP

Photo taken of ladies from the Group on a visit to Bardon Quarries earlier this month.

Usual meetings are held at the home of Jean Ryan at 33 Park View on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8.00p.m. Visitors are welcome to all our meetings at a cost of £2 including coffee and raffle. If you would like more information on the Ladies Group please contact Pat Jordan on 272229 or Jean Ryan on 273828.



THE SHARNFORD VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

The Sharnford Village Produce Show on the 11th September will be opened at 2.30pm by the Chairman of Blaby District Council, Councillor Barry Garner. Exhibitors are reminded that they should submit their entry form to Tony Curtis at The Old Police House by 5pm on Wednesday 8th September. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organisers.

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Even if you do not enter come along on the 11th and see what is going on. The fantastic catering team at the Evergreen Hall will be in action with a warm welcome so come on down for a cuppa & slice of cake. Visit the website at www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford.

SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer term has again been very busy at Sharnford Primary School. Our year one and two children attended a multi-skills festival at Burbage Infant School, Children in Class Two received tennis coaching for 4 weeks and then attended a Festival at Hinckley Tennis Club with other local schools. Children in Reception, year 1 and 2 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at De Montfort Hall where they watched a production of 'Gruffalo Live'.



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A storytelling event was organised for children in years 1, 2, 3 and 4 at All Saints Primary School, Sapcote. The event was to celebrate the diversity of cultures, represented through story and dance.

Four children joined with pupils from All Saints Primary School to take part in the Summer Festival at De Montfort Hall. The children were part of a massed choir with children from surrounding schools. The children sang beautifully and everybody enjoyed their performance. Year 5 children enjoyed a day at Leicester Cathedral to enhance their understanding of their recent RE topic about religious buildings.

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a Pilgrimage walk through Leicester. They began their walk at Watermead Park, Thurmaston and walked along the river Soar towards Abbey Park, where they had lunch. Afterwards they crossed the river and joined the Grand Union Canal and on to the centre of the City to Leicester Cathedral. Once at the Cathedral they had time for reflection. The trip was very enjoyable for everyone. Year 6 also watched a French production at William Bradford Community College, "Le Bistro" an interactive education production including comedy, mime, French music, French community singing, ventriloquism, unicycling, juggling and balancing.

An end of term visit for year 6 children took place at Beaumanor Hall. The children had a go on a new high ropes course, an aerial trek, a walk along ropes and poles above the ground and a zip wire. Fun was had by all. Year 5 and 6 attended a 'Science Made Simple' event at All Saints Primary School. The morning gave the children a unique engineering adventure which included looking at a bloodhound supersonic car.

Area sports took place at Saffron Lane, Leicester and children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 attended and represented the federation with children from All Saints Primary School, Sapcote. Blaby District Council had a battery recycling week in June and Sharnford won the competition by collecting the most batteries. The School received a cheque for £200 which will be used for resources in school.

Councillor Ernie White and Mrs Allison Dawes, Head of School Improvement and Performance Service visit Sharnford School in June to look at the work of an established federation.

The following after school clubs have been running for the children this term; French, multi skills, athletics, street dance and homework club.

The PTA organised an end of term disco for the children which was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks go to the PTA for their continued support.

Volunteers give up their free time to help and support our school and thanks go to all of them. Thank you to everyone for sending in vouchers, items have been organised from Tesco's and Sainsbury's.

Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant

SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEEDED

The governing body for the federation of Sharnford Church of England Primary School with All Saints Church of England Primary School, Sapcote, needs new governors. At the end of summer term there were four vacancies for local residents under the age of 70. Two of the vacancies are for those who can represent the local Christian community and the other two are open to anyone with a willingness to learn and to contribute. By the time you read this one or two of the posts may be filled, but if you are interested and would like more information about the roles please contact either the Chair of Governors, Mrs Sheila Scott on 01455 272450 or myself -

Rev Mick Norman, on 01455 272215

WHY?

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

EVER WONDERED...

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
Why you don't ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?
Why 'abbreviated' is such a long word?
Why it is that doctors call what they do 'practice'?
Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavouring and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
Why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?
Why the time of day with the slowest traffic is called rush hour?
Why there isn't mouse-flavored cat food?
Why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
You know that indestructible black box that is used on aeroplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?
Why sheep don't shrink when it rains?
Why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?
Why, if flying is so safe, do they call the airport the terminal?

NEWS RELEASE



Battery haul leads to cash reward for primary school

Pupils at Sharnford Primary have been given £200 for their school after winning a battery recycling competition.

The challenge, set by Blaby District Council as part of National Recycle Week, was for schools to collect as many batteries per pupil as they could.



14 schools from across Blaby district collected 65 kilograms of batteries throughout the week with pupils at Sharnford Primary collecting an impressive nine kilograms. Our picture shows Lucy Wormleighton and Callum Riley with the Sharnford haul.

Councillor Guy Jackson, portfolio holder for the natural environment said: "We need to get young people thinking about recycling from an early age and running competitions like this

is a great way of doing that."

Residents in Blaby can put their used batteries in a clear bag next to their recycling boxes for collection.

For more information on recycling in Blaby call 0116 27 27 555 or email env.health@blaby.gov.uk

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SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

As the Youth Club members are always at a bit of a low during the school Summer break, we decided to close for a few weeks. However, a 'Picnic on the Park' organised on Friday 20th August went down well with delicious hot food including jacket potatoes, chilli and a varied buffet being laid on by Debbie March. Thanks for that Debs! A good, competitive game of Quick Cricket was enjoyed by parents and kids alike, followed by an enjoyable game of football as the rain held off just about long enough. The sum of approx £30 was raised through this event and thanks to all who supported us on the evening.

A joint committee of both Parish Councillors and Youth Club Committee members has been put together as the legal handover of the Youth Club building

and land is in its final stages from Blaby District Council. Funding and available grants must now be sought out with some urgency as Blaby DC has only given us until 1st January 2011 to demolish the existing building and 1st January 2012 in which to have a new building up and running. This will take some doing and alot of effort by all concerned.

We are, therefore, in the process of approaching all skilled workers in the village and putting together some form of financial report indicating just how many voluntary hours they are prepared to put in. This will be a great help when looking for match funding grants. Anyone who has a skill which they feel would be of use to us PLEASE get in touch. It would be greatly appreciated. Contact Julie or Frazer Edge on 271321.

The Youth Club Committee has managed to raise £4,400 so far this year through events etc. This includes £1,100 from the 'Sharnford Calender Boys' and an amazing £3,100 from the sponsored Snowdon Climb back in May, which included a £500 match donation from Zurich thanks to John Garner. A £200 donation was also made by the family and friends of the late Doug Bakewell earlier this year. Many thanks and good wishes to them.

Although we are hoping to get funding, volunteers and donations of materials from many sources, we still have to keep up with the major task of fund raising. Up and coming events in the pipeline are a Raffle (prizes including a brand new bike, toys, meal and garden centre vouchers and many more), a charity 'Belly Off', otherwise known as a sponsored weight loss. This is being done by 2 villagers, Andy March and Dave Kilbourn. Good Luck with that one Guys.

Ian Pickering has also kindly volunteered to run from Coventry's Ricoh Arena to Leicester's Walkers Stadium next February. He is hoping to be accompanied by Frazer

Edge peddling alongside him on his bike. His run will co-inside with the 2 teams playing each other and he will be passing directly through Sharnford at some point in the day. Here's hoping he will be well supported along the route with well wishers cheering him on.

We are also looking into having a 'Party on the Park' next May. This would be held in a large marquee on the park with a hog roast and live band. Sounds like a great night I'm sure you'll agree. More on this nearer the date.

On a final note, a Big Thank You to everyone who has either taken part or donated towards our fund raising cause. Together we can get what the youth of the village deserve - a place to call their own.

Julie Edge, Chairperson

THE SHARNFORD VILLAGE WEBSITE

Another milestone - with over 25,000 page hits per year the site is in the top 10 sites in the County. Recent additions to the site are: The Sharnford Arms, Ian Pickering, Angie Timson-Jones, St Helen's Church and Fosse Meadows.

There is also a project in progress to transfer all of the photos in Jean Philps' wonderful book, 'A Pictorial History of Sharnford' onto the website; so that they will be there for posterity. With something like 400 photos to be put on the website this project will be completed once the darker evenings set in and I have more time.

There are more new pages lined up for the coming months. Please tell your friends or relatives, particularly those who no longer live in Sharnford, that they can view The Sharnford News on line - it is now available in every corner of the world.

If you have a club, society or local business and want a free, no-strings-attached webpage then contact the site administrator Tony Curtis; visit the website at www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford for contact details.

ROUND LEICESTERSHIRE QUIZ

1. How many clocks has Leicester Clock Tower?
2. Find one word for a pack of foxhounds, a Leicester Street, and a Castle?
3. In which town did the famous 18th century historian John Nichols have a shop in Red Lion Court?
4. How many locks are there in the Foxton flight?
5. The Hinckley man, born in York, who designed the 'Pork Pie Chapel' in Belvoir St. Leicester is better known for a famous invention, who was he?
6. At which annual event is Hare Pie the traditional dish?
7. In which Leicester spa village early in the 20th century did accommodation at the Bath Hotel cost 4 shillings and eightpence a day?
8. Which Leicester village church has the highest spire:- Queniborough, Ibstock or Bottesford?
9. Which 19th century Prime Minister lived in Burbage for a short while?
10. Where in Leicestershire is the birthplace of the first English Bible, and who translated it from the Latin?

Answers are on the back page.

SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE COMMITTEE

Despite a wet start to the day the Fete kicked off at 12noon on 13th June with blue skies. The Rock and Roll theme was enthusiastically embraced by those taking part in the fancy dress competition, most of the stallholders and, perhaps most impressively, by the Redmoor High School Steel Band! The day went well, with a fantastic turn out and support by the village. The fire brigade arrived (by appointment) and again proved to be popular with children of all ages! The air display took most of us by surprise but was a very welcome addition to the programme. The raffle and duck races were successful and all prizes have now been distributed. Despite threats of rain we were lucky; the weather held off until literally the last tent peg was being removed....and a collective sigh was breathed by all involved.

A big thank you has to be made to an increasing number of people who contributed in a variety of ways to the smooth running of the fete, particular thanks goes to:

- Terry Clarke for delivering and collecting again the hay bales which helped bring the arena and stalls closer together
- Kingsmead Marquees for loaning us (and most importantly erecting and dismantling) a substantial marquee to house our bar and tea stalls.
- Councillor Sheila Scott for opening the Fete and judging the fancy dress competition
- All donators of prizes for the stalls and raffle
- AeroHeritage for their excellent, surprise display

With all the hard work that goes into putting on the Fete is pleasing once again that we can tell you the beneficiaries will this year each receive £300 to support their various projects in the village. This year there were 10 Village Causes which will benefit; The Appraisal Group (Sharnford News), The Environment Group, The Evergreen Hall, The Methodist Chapel, Playgroup, PTA, St Helen's Church, Sick and Divi,

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Sharnford Traffic Action Group (STAG) and The Youth Club.

Again we must say we could not do this without the help of the Village and always welcome new members on the Committee to help with the preparation for next year. You do not have to be affiliated to one of the village causes – doing it for the village is enough. We will start preparations for Fete 2011 in January with our AGM on the 27th January 2011. Next year the Fete will be held on the 12th June 2011, with a Country and Western theme. See you there!

SGJFC

HOVERCRAFTING EVENT FOR ST MARY'S WIGSTON PARVA APPEAL



The weekend of 25th and 26th September sees the final round of the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain National Championships at The Shade, Sharnford.

This year we will be hosting a fireworks celebration from 7.00pm on the Saturday evening, with refreshments and food available from 6.30pm. There will be curry and rice, Pork baps and hot dogs available for younger members.

Local residents are invited to enjoy both the racing and fireworks with free entry to both.

As usual, this event raises money for good causes and this year the charity collection will be made during the day and at the fireworks display in aid of the Bellcote appeal for St Mary's Church, Wigston Parva.

Come and have a fun day out and support St Mary's, one of your local churches

THE ASTON FLAMVILLE CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Aston Flamville Christmas Fair will be on the 20th November 10am-2pm, with Father Christmas paying a visit at some point during proceedings.

LOCAL DISTRICT (WALKING) NEWS

County Councillor and Leader of Blaby District Council Ernie White is embarking on the Leicestershire Round, a 100 mile walk around the county in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care over 11 days during September. Councillor White starts his walk at 10am on September 4th at Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre as part of Leicestershire's Walking Week event. He will be waved off by the Chairman of the County Council. Anyone wishing to join Ernie for the first 100 yards, mile, 10 miles or any part of the 100 miles is invited to do so. People suffering from or recovered/recovering from cancer are most welcome. If you would like to sponsor the walk you can do so at www.justgiving.com/ernie-white

Have you ever thought how long it would take to walk to the moon? During the month of October Voluntary Action Leicestershire are challenging you, along with many others from Leicestershire, to join together to walk the 250,000 miles to the moon. That is the same as walking from Leicester to Buckingham Palace every weekday for the rest of the year...and for the next 9 years after that! Walk to the Moon is a project organised by Voluntary Action LeicesterShire's Stronger Communities Team. Our work is all about showing communities that by working together they can achieve things that seem impossible and Walk to the Moon is just one of the ways we're helping to give people the opportunity to do so. You can walk, run, swim or even hop – all that matters is that you take part. Anywhere counts at school, at home or in the office. To register go to www.valonline.org.uk/walk-to-the-moon

BLABY SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM

The next ,meeting of the Blaby South Community Forum will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8th September at Sharnford Evergreen Hall , Leicester Road Sharnford
The proposed topics for the agenda currently include:-

- Review of the Service Co-ordination Event: A Focus on Planning.
- FAQs on the Personalisation of Adult Social Care
- Urgent Care Public Consultation – NHS
- PNA (pharmaceutical needs assessment) consultation which will take place from the 1 September to 30 October.



Four Winds

Four Winds Nurseries & Garden Centre

GETTING READY FOR AUTUMN

Autumn Basket Plants and Hanging Baskets- Shrubs, Trees Alpines, Perennials, Soft Fruit, Pansies (including a Brand New Trailing Variety), Violas, Wallflowers, Pot Primroses/Polyanthus, Colourful Cyclamen. A large selection of Houseplants for that special gift. Don't forget to check out the December edition for details of our Christmas range, which will include Xmas Trees, Table Decorations and Holly Wreaths, which are made by our fully trained staff.

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Age Concern News

In order to celebrate UK Older Persons Day and Active Ageing, get ready for Leicester-Shire & Rutland's Be Nifty Over Fifty Week! There will be a number of activities taking place 27th September – 3rd October in order to encourage anyone aged 50+ to

become more active. From walking and kurling to seated aerobics and Wii fun, there is an activity for all to enjoy. Activities are not just available for this week; physical activity programmes in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland provide regular activities that will benefit anyone. For more information visit www.lrspport.org.uk/niftyoverfifty or contact the Physical Activity Team on 01509 564870.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (WELL 116 ACTUALLY)

My name is Dave Hounslow and I've lived in Sharnford for nearly 20 years. I have always been into motorbikes and when I was made redundant from Aga in December 2007 I thought I would treat myself. The following February I spent a couple of weeks on a tour, on a hired motorbike, out in Thailand. It turned out to be a fantastic experience, so much so that I booked for the following February to Morocco. But before I even got to Morocco I saw an advert for the big one, Round The World 2009. So in November 2007 a deposit was paid and planning began, punctuated by the two-week trip to Morocco – always good to have more practice.



At that point, the 4th of June 2009 seemed an awful long way off, how quickly time flies. First job was to decide which bike. After much deliberation it came down to the

new BMW F800GS or the Yamaha Teneree, in the end the BMW won. To the basic bike you then have to source and fit all the panniers, crash bars, sump guard etc along with all the spares and personal equipment. Mike Dallaway, a friend who lives in Burbage, also signed up for the trip so the two bikes were modified almost identically.

At 7 a.m. on Thursday the 4th of June 2009 Mike and I set off to meet the rest of group at the Ace Café in London. There were 13 bikers and a support crew of 3 all set to go on a four-month adventure. Next stop Dover, although one of the group did get knocked off his bike within 2 miles of leaving the Ace Café, luckily no damage to man or bike. From the ferry it was a pleasant ride to our first stop, an English owned B&B in rural



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France. That night was, for most, spent in a dormitory room on camp beds. 11 guys, a number of them snoring loudly! What a way to start.

From France we went through beautiful scenery and high, mountain passes in Switzerland and Austria before heading to the first new country for most of us, the Czech Republic. In Prague we had a rest day that gave us time to look round the city, well worth a visit if you have never been. Many of the buildings are stunning and I found it surprising that they had not been destroyed during the war. From Prague we moved on for a morning stop at Kostnice and the church of bones. If you have seen The Long Way Round with Ewan McGreggor and Charlie Borman you will know what I mean. Most of the internal decoration is made up of human bones, a bit gruesome but interesting never the less. From there it was on to Olomouc, another great city in the east of the country, where we just had an overnight stop. The city has a fine central square and although not on the same scale as Prague, a very grand cathedral.

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without good reason*



It was then off to Slovakia and Hungary. Budapest was again a revelation with its wide river separating the two parts and wonderful architecture. The hotel was a little way out of the centre so we went in via the underground for the evening. When it was time to return we went into the subway only to be fined the equivalent of £20 for not having a ticket. Evidently it's a known scam, put tape over the ticket machines on the upper floor and then fine tourists when they come down looking for somewhere to buy a ticket as they are technically on the station without a ticket. You live and learn I suppose and although it was a little irritating it didn't detract from the enjoyable experiences and generally friendly people.

By the 14th of June we were entering Romania, the land of Dracula. We visited a castle in Bran, where the legend is supposed to have originated. Doug had a small Dracula puppet attached to his bike for the trip - it obviously had to be taken into the castle for pictures, like the one above. The locals must have thought we were nuts.

On we went, to Bulgaria, which was turning out to be a pleasant place but uneventful until to we left Velico Turnova (a nice town where I would have liked to spend more time) for the run to the border. Part way to the border the route was closed due to road works and we had to take a detour. There was a surprise a few kilometres later, as we turned a corner to find sculptures of hands holding flaming torches, with a massive old

Soviet listening post in the background. Unfortunately there just wasn't time to go up to it and have a look round, but we could have ended up in trouble if it is still in use.

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On leaving Bulgaria we crossed into Turkey and a long days ride through to Istanbul. I had thought traffic in the UK was bad but Istanbul took the biscuit - loads of traffic driving at speed seemingly without any regard for others, especially us motorcyclists! What a relief to finally get to the hotel. Strangely, although I was about 10th on the road when we came to the outskirts of Istanbul, I became separated from my small riding group and I ended up 3rd to arrive at the hotel. Others took at least another half an hour, and they had the map!

Istanbul was spectacular. A real mix of European and Eastern culture as you would expect, all set on the banks of the Bosphorus. The Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern (6th century Roman underground water storage chamber) and the Grand Bazaar were great places to visit, although you could probably spend a week there and still not see it all. It was then confirmed that we would not be able to travel through Iran due to the unrest after elections there. Plan B then, from eastern Turkey we would head north to go through Georgia and Azerbaijan before catching the "ferry" (more about this later) across the Caspian Sea to Turkmenistan, where we would re-join our original route.

From Istanbul we crossed the Bosphorus by ferry and headed east into the less travelled areas of Turkey. On route was Goreme, a town made up of newer traditional houses set amongst the cave houses built into the hillside and into mounds sticking up from the ground as a result of erosion. Our accommodation was in one of the cave houses, albeit with an outdoor swimming pool and wifi if you stood out on one of the balconies. Signals don't penetrate the walls very well but it was good to be able to update the blog. Still further east were the ruins at Ani. The first settlements began in the 4th millennium B.C. and it seemed as though many peoples and religions had made it their home from then on, all leaving their mark.

On the 24th of June we entered Georgia and into Tbilisi the capital. As it wasn't on the original route we didn't really know what to expect. Tbilisi showed the signs of recent conflicts in the area but was obviously recovering well. It was a pleasant place to spend a rest day and a chance to do some maintenance on the bikes. From here we headed for Azerbaijan and on approaching the border came across



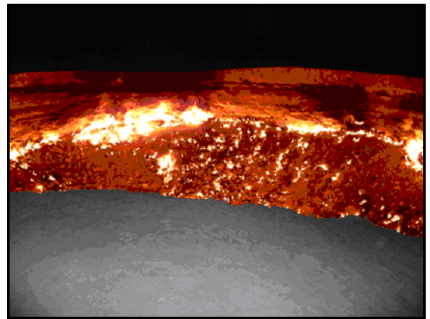
the sign shown in the picture. Seeing a sign like this does make you wonder what you are letting yourself in for.

The first few miles of “road” in Azerbaijan were really poor, simply a dirt track with large lumps of gravel and numerous potholes, very inviting when you are riding a heavily laden motorbike. Luckily this gave way to tarmac once we reached the first town. A night camping (about 28 nights were scheduled as rough camps during the trip) followed by a run into Baku, the capital on the shores of the Caspian Sea, let us see some of this interesting country. Back to that ferry...well actually it is just a ship that carries rail trucks between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan and takes a few passengers as a sideline. Sleeping accommodation was basic, 4 or 6 bunks to a room, and there was only one loo (in a terrible state) for all the passengers. Bearing in mind some of the group were having problems in that area, it made for an interesting crossing! Needless to say, it was a relief after 30 hours to finally get off the boat and check into our hotel.

We had a day off in Turkmenbashi (the port town), to both recover from the ferry crossing and do some servicing on the bikes, including changing over to more off-road tyres for what lay ahead. The end of our first month on the road saw us arriving in Ashgabat the capital of Turkmenistan. From here we headed north through the desert roads towards Uzbekistan. Unfortunately one of the group, who had been unwell, managed to fall asleep whilst riding his bike and only woke up as he hit the sand after travelling for 100 metres off the road. Both he and the bike were a little bruised and after some minor repairs to both they were able to continue. The BMW F800GS bikes were certainly looking to have been a good choice.

The night’s stop was at Darvaza where we camped. Once the tents were up we then had a 30-minute ride in an old Soviet- style worker’s bus to see the gas crater, pictured here. The crater is probably about 50-80 meters across and was supposedly caused by mining in the early 70s that resulted in an explosion causing the roof of the cavern to fall in. The authorities thought the fire would burn out in a few weeks so left it to burn. Nearly 40 years later it is still burning and showing no signs of going out anytime soon.

From Turkmenistan we travelled into Uzbekistan and the old Silk Road cities of Khiva, Bukara and Samakand, each one having grander buildings than the one we had just left. Unfortunately there just isn’t the space here to include pictures and small ones just wouldn’t do them justice. My favourite was Kiva as the others had grown into large cities so the ancient buildings tended to be interspersed with more modern structures and busy roads that detracted from the experience a bit. Leaving Samarkand we headed roughly north east on the road to Tashkent, the capital, only to be flagged down by the police who insisted we had been doing around 80mph when we were in fact doing about 60mph. They left me no option but to pay the \$100 fine (I was lead rider). Strange how the same bent copper fined another 6 of the group later as they came by, all \$100 apart from Lee, who he fined \$200, all mysteriously doing 80!



Leaving Uzbekistan we travelled on to Kyrgyzstan, a country of high mountains and spectacular beauty where we rode to almost 10,000 feet. It was here that I managed to drop the bike for the 4th time, 2 of them had been whilst stationary and the one in Turkey had made a bit of a mess of my near side pannier. It was the same pannier that took a beating again but no real harm done, although it was at a bit of a jaunty angle; it would be my last “off” on the trip, thankfully. This was unfortunately over-shadowed on the morning of the 11th of July when a minor accident saw one of our group, Neil, laying on the dirt road with both him and his bike bleeding. Our medic strapped him up and he spent the next 3 days travelling in the support truck with his bike in the trailer, only to find when we got to a hospital in Biskek, the capital, that he had broken both bones in his lower leg. Two days later and in a solemn mood we said our goodbyes and left Neil sorting out the Air Ambulance to get him home.



Still a little shell shocked at Neil’s departure we moved on to Kazakhstan, with it’s smaller version of the Grand Canyon, and on up to Russia. This would be our first short section in Russia, necessary to get around the tip of China and on into Mongolia. The Russian city of Barnaul was really what I had expected, a little grey and run down but it did give us a chance to experience a little bit of Russia and use more of our limited Russian language skills which Mike and I had derived from a course in Beginners Russian. It was also here that three of the group decided to buy new tents for themselves as the tents we had been supplied with were already having problems with breaking poles. Mike was one of the three and proceeded to erect his new tent in the hotel reception to check all was ok, thankfully without pegging it down.

Leaving Russia we headed for the Mongolian border and for many, including myself, the country we had been waiting for. Generally we didn’t ride as a whole group as it is far too awkward; we usually rode in small groups of 2 or 3. So it was on the 24th of July that Pete, Chris and I arrived first at the Russian border, to exit the country. After some confusion we eventually found the right people and started the process. I’d nearly



finished when the whole process was cut short and we were told to get on our bikes and get out of Russia pronto. It turned out it was time for lunch so they just let us go and closed the border, leaving the rest of the group still in Russia. Fancy doing that at Dover!

Once through the Mongolian border, after a short delay whilst they finished their lunch, we arrived in a small border settlement. We were immediately greeted by the locals, who were quite keen on looking over the bikes.

We let the kids sit on the bikes; the picture here shows a couple “riding” on my bike. You’ve just got to remember to check all the switches are where they are supposed to be once inquisitive hands have adjusted them!

After gesturing with the locals to see if there was anywhere we could get a cup of tea we were directed to an open door and invited into someone’s house. It was a small two room building with a stove and three beds in the first room and I saw more beds in the second room. Who knows how many people actually lived in this small house. We were invited to sit on the beds and an old lady proceeded to add animal droppings onto the fire to boil a pot of very milky tea. It tasted a little different, but was very welcome. It was a fantastic experience to sit there with the locals and try and communicate with them. It turned out that although Mongolia had been under Russian control, unlike other countries such as Hungary etc, the Mongolian people had not been required to learn and speak in Russian.

Once the others had got through the borders it was on to Olgiy and a couple of nights in a Ger. It’s basically a circular tent with arched wooden poles that lock into a central ring in the roof. Around this is wrapped insulation layers, usually of wool, followed by an outer waterproof layer. As you can see it can be very nice inside. The camp was located a



few kilometres outside the town near to a river, how idyllic! One of the jobs to be sorted on the rest day was the frame for my panniers. As a result of the two accidents, one side had a number of cracks at joints and without some remedial work these might easily fail.

So with my frame strapped to my back I rode into the local town to be guided to an old guy working out of a container. He had a very rudimentary arc welder and just sunglasses to protect his eyes but proceeded to do a fantastic job of re-welding the joints. In these sorts of places where nipping out to the dealer to get a new part just isn’t an option they are so adept at make do and mend.

As we left Olgiy we knew one of the biggest challenges on the trip lay ahead. At least 5 days of dirt and rocky roads, camping every night, before we would finally hit tarmac again on the outskirts of Ulaan Baatar, the capital, far to the east.

Although we had the support vehicle and trailer, the organisers had also contracted a pair of locals in an old Russian crew bus to shadow us for four of the five days in case of multiple breakdowns.

This part of the trip was too dangerous for small groups or individuals to ride on their own so instead we would stop every 30 to 45 minutes for the whole group to re-unite.

This allowed the more cautious riders and the out and out nutters (sorry - skilled off-rovers!) to ride at their own pace without getting too far apart. We hadn't got far on the first morning before the first unscheduled stop, a puncture on the support truck quickly followed by another on our Mongolian support truck. The day also saw the only (we hoped) river crossing. It was actually a set of three but only the first was so deep that we had to walk the bikes through. The locals were quite amused to see all the fuss, but then they don't ride around on 200kg heavily laden motorbikes. The pictures here show the river, and a couple of shots of the "road".



The fact that, other than the dirt track you are on, there can be no other signs of human existence for miles and miles is such a rare experience in our lives. I had felt it once before when on the Morocco trip but here it was on a whole new level. Many people may well freak out at the thought of being so remote from life as we know it but for me that was a major highlight of the adventure. The first nights camp only served to heighten the experience.

The next three days were basically more of the same. We would come across the occasional settlement where we could stock up on drinks etc. A key thing was also fuel. The 800s have a 16-litre tank and have such a good engine that on good roads at 60mph you could squeeze 250 miles on a single tank. Here, we didn't have good roads and we just had to fill up whenever fuel was available. Typically, we were getting around 190 miles to a tank, which was pretty good considering the tracks and the fact the fuel was only 80 octane!

The fourth night's camp was to be the last with our Mongolian duo and so, given we had fed them during the trip so far; they offered to arrange the night's meal. The setting was fantastic, rolling hills around us with our own private lake next to the camp. This idyllic scene was then shattered when a van drew up, out of which disgorged a local family along with a live and kicking sheep. Yes, you've guessed it, that was to be our meal. I won't go into detail or show any pictures here, but needless to say the animal was prepared for cooking, which was then done by placing it in a milk churn with hot





rocks and water and then putting the churn on the fire. With the top tied on, it was effectively a primitive pressure cooker. I can't say it was the best meal I have had but it was certainly an experience not to be missed.

The last two days riding into Ulaan Baatar were tough. We were all getting tired and some had fallen off numerous times, which only served to add to the fatigue. It was with a sense of relief, but even more so an overwhelming sense of

achievement, that we rolled into Ulaan Baatar on the evening of the 31st of July. For the first time on the trip we were going to have 3 nights in the same place. It felt strange to be riding in grid-locked traffic in a large city once again and although the thought of a shower and other such comforts was appealing, I couldn't help but think a quick U-turn and back into the wilderness would be better for the soul.

Our accommodation in Ulaan Baatar was in Gers at the Oasis Café and Guesthouse. The place was run by a European couple and situated on the eastern fringe of the city. For \$10 a night you get a bed in a Gers and use of the facilities. Included in the main building were showers, toilets, the café and a launderette run by the locals. For a small additional fee we were able to get our washing done, including washing our riding suits which after 2 months on the road were a little dirty! The place itself was all run on trust, you simply had what drinks etc you wanted from the fridges and marked it up on the board. Ulaan Baatar centre was like many other major cities we had been through but the outskirts showed the underlying poverty, although I enjoyed the walks in and out of town.



On leaving, we had one more night camping in Mongolia before heading for the Russian border. The camp was close to the border but even though we were up and on the road early we still arrived to find a long queue waiting for the border to open. Luckily, we were dealt with ahead of many of the locals and exited Mongolia with no major dramas.

Editor's note: Sorry to keep you waiting, but you will be able to read the next episode of Dave's adventure around the world in our Issue 36, due out on 1st December 2010.

Residents offered watchdog role

People living in Blaby are being urged to play their part in scrutinising the district council's decisions, its performance and the performance of its partners. The Council is

looking for people who may want to attend Scrutiny meetings or put forward topics to investigate.

A Scrutiny Commission, made up of 18 councillors, works to make sure all decisions taken by the Cabinet Executive are based on sound evidence and have a positive impact on people living in the district.

For more information about Scrutiny, questions about topics and how to get involved call Linda McBean on 0116 272 7708.

Bargain Wills

Around twenty five firms of local Solicitors have agreed to reduce their Will Writing charges to £35+VAT for a single uncomplicated Will – a huge reduction of around £100 with no strings attached. In earlier years, however, some people have chosen to recognise needy local older people by leaving a legacy to the charity or making a donation.

The offer is available from 1st September until 31st October. Last year, hundreds of people took advantage of this superb, low cost deal and received invaluable advice and the necessary protection afforded by properly drawn up wills.

Commenting, the Executive Director of Age Concern, Mr Anthony Donovan said, “Most people appreciate that it is extremely important to make a Will, but either never get round to it or continue to put it off on the basis that they are too young and it is something that they will do when they are much older. Unfortunately 7 out of 10 people die without sorting it out, in spite of the clear benefits. By making a Will you take the pressure off those nearest and dearest to you who will receive your money and property, rather than it being left to the rules of law to decide.”

“Even if you have made a will, perhaps it was so long ago that it is time to consider whether it needs revising. Don’t miss this opportunity to put matters straight! Ring 0116 2992233.”

Blaby Throws Open The Books

Blaby District Council are the first local authority in Leicestershire to put details of all spending above £500 online.

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles wrote to all councils last month stating that their spending records should be made available online by 2011, but Blaby got their data live by the end of July, six months before the deadline.

Everything the Council has spent since April 2010 above the £500 threshold is now listed on their website at www.blaby.gov.uk/councilspending.

Councillor John Hudson, portfolio holder for finance and efficiency said: “We are determined to be open and honest with our residents so they know how their money is



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being spent in supporting the delivery of local services. Getting this data online so quickly shows our commitment to that transparency.”

The information provided sets out the Council’s suppliers, how much money they were paid and a short description of the goods or services that were bought.

Don’t lose your right to Vote

People are being asked to confirm or update the details of all members of their household to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote is included on the electoral register. Blaby District Council has begun sending electoral registration

forms to all homes in the district as part of its annual canvas.

Residents are required by law to complete and return the form for all eligible persons living at the property on 15 October 2010. Failure to do so could result in prosecution and also may affect a person's ability to access credit facilities.

Anyone who does not appear on the register will not be able to vote at parliamentary or European parliamentary elections or the local government elections in May 2011. The form will show the names of people who already appear on the register at that address. If no changes are needed residents can confirm the details by freephone, text or internet using the security code provided. People confirming their details by freephone and internet will be given the option to be included or excluded in the edited register.

If there are new names to be added or other alterations to make then the form must be completed and returned to the council offices in the envelope provided.

People using the automated system do not need to post the form back to the Council. For more information contact Electoral Services on 0116 272 7560.

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) 1 clock, 4 faces, (2) Belvoir, (3)Hinckley, (4) 10, (5) J.A. Hansom, (6) Hallaton/Medbourne Bottle kicking on Easter Monday, (7) Shearsby, (8) Bottesford, (9) George Canning, (10) Lutterworth/John Wycliffe.