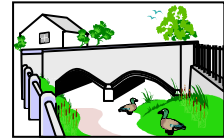


# SHARNFORD NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> December 2010

Issue No 36



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

This issue of the Sharnford News has a record 28 pages and celebrates our 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. The editors wish to thank all their contributors and advertisers for their support and wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## **‘GREEN’ WASTE PLANT GETS THE GO-AHEAD**

This was the headline in the Leicester Mercury and it affects us all in Sharnford. The anaerobic digester at Sutton Lodge Farm, just off the Fosse Way, would run 24hrs a day, with 23 lorries going to and from the site daily. The application was approved at a meeting in County Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Sheila Scott, our district councillor, said “Many lorries will find it easier to come off the M69 and through Sapcote, Sharnford and Stoney Stanton, rumbling through the villages every ten minutes. We were very disappointed by the committee’s decision – to say the least.”

Further comments by the Sharnford Parish Council appear next.

## **SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council has experienced a particularly busy time since the last edition of Sharnford News, with mixed outcomes.



On 9<sup>th</sup> October the new Burial Ground was dedicated by Chairman of Blaby District Council, Barry Garner, an occasion marked by the planting of two walnut trees by members of the family of farmer Ian Fulford, from whom the land was purchased. Councillor Garner and our two local representatives Sheila Scott and Ernie White have all generously donated shrubs to aid the landscaping scheme. The Burial Ground is therefore now ready for use as soon as certain elements of paperwork are completed by Blaby. A prolonged challenge by the Parish Council to the planners’ insistence that we should pay for the widening of Mill Lane has been successful, saving the village some £10,000.

In contrast, a County Hall meeting of the County Development Board on 18<sup>th</sup> November regrettably gave approval to a scheme to build an Anaerobic Digester Waste Plant on land off the Fosse Way at Guthlaxton Gap. This is a huge disappointment for the Parish Council and STAG as we joined the very active consortium of local villages that has been

struggling for 18 months to prevent this development which is expected to bring another 20,000 HGV movements a year on to local roads. Unfortunately all our efforts have been in vain as the planning officers ignored all our arguments and recommended approval. It seems certain that we have managed to influence some of the limitations placed on the developer, but unfortunately not the final outcome.

Further disappointment faces us at present as we try to complete refurbishment of the children's play area in Park View recreation ground. Everything has been done to prepare for the painting of the swings and the laying of new safety surfaces but the weather has so far prevented this work being completed.

Great progress is being made towards getting the new Youth & Community Centre under way. Plans for the new building have been submitted to Blaby and, by the time this edition of Sharnford News is distributed, the old wooden shack should have been demolished and site clearance begun.

Following the recent death of Gordon Dale, there are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council as Clive Attard has resigned for personal & family reasons. Notices of the vacancies and the procedure for becoming a candidate in a bye-election are posted around the village. Alternatively, a letter to the Parish Clerk could lead to consideration for co-option, awaiting a fresh round of elections in May.

**CINDERELLA in the EVERGREEN HALL**  
**15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm**  
**Tickets: Adult £7 Children & Pensioners £4**  
**Family £20 Phone: 272401**

THERE WILL BE NO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER.

*Derek Gibbons*

### **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL**

We have ended this year by completing our refurbishment programme. We have completely insulated the hall and repainted and we have a new very workable kitchen. The work has been done by our local builders and thanks to Fraser Edge for his help. The work cost almost £21,000. We raised £10,000 ourselves over the last 4 years and obtained grants for just over £11,000. We hope that everyone will now be warmer and that our heating costs will be greatly reduced over the coming years.

It has been very hard work to bring the Hall up to date and we wish to thank all who have helped along the way. We hope that all the villagers and groups will enjoy the new facilities. Our next project is to install a loop sound system in the hall and to lay a new heavy duty carpet in the lobby. We also hope to resurface the car park in the future.

Don't Forget to support our Bazaar on the 4<sup>th</sup> December –We have invited the old gentleman from the north pole to visit us !

On the 23rd February we are holding another popular Fashion Show and Sale which this time will be in aid of Help for Heroes and the Alzheimer Society. We look forward to your continued support for these two worthy charities.

*Rosemarie Simpson*

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

Our new year started with a smashing Fish & Chip supper in September provided by the Countryman followed by games organised by Beryl. The game "Call my Bluff" certainly took on a new look after that! We have had our usual fortnightly tea meetings which, now that the darker nights are here, are in the afternoons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on the 27<sup>th</sup> November provided by Kaye and Andrew Wormleighton – a real highlight in the winter months and there will be entertainment after. At our last 2010 tea meeting on the 8th December we shall enjoy our Christmas Bingo afternoon with refreshments.

In January we are going to the Curve theatre in Leicester to see the King & I – a real treat. We do not meet in January and our first tea meeting is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

We are now planning visits during 2011 – again we will try to organise something new and different.

*Rosemarie Simpson*

## SHARNFORD PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

What a fantastic term we've had! We've welcomed new children to the setting and have been busy learning 'all about me'. We have made hand and footprints to measure how much we grow over the year and learned all about who lives in our house and the places that other people live in. At the end of November we took part in National Road Safety week and have been learning how to cross the road safely. Don't forget to check our website and see our picture with our favourite lollipop man!

[www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford).

**SHARNFORD EVERGREEN  
VILLAGE HALL**



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We also learned about the different types of vehicles that are on the roads, and this will be our topic of discussion next term!

All our Parents have been kept really busy too! Parent and Toddler Group received a visit from Leicestershire County Council Love Food, Hate Waste Team, and they gave us a free cookery lesson, demonstrating how to use leftovers. Everyone who took part had fun and will be trying out these new recipes at home! We were interviewed by Radio Leicester's breakfast show and our photo may be appearing on their website! While the Parents had their cookery lesson, the children were kept busy and entertained painting and playing.

At the beginning of November, Playgroup held a very successful 'Bring your Man to playgroup session'. Lots of Dads, Uncles and Grandads came along and had fun with us, painting, baking and playing games. Thank

you to everyone who took part and made it such a successful session. We will be looking to do this again as it worked so well. It was a fantastic display of partnership between us and the families and look out for the photos on our website.

John James Photography took some lovely photographs of the children, look out for our class photo on the notice board soon. The 8<sup>th</sup> December will see us off to the Snow dome at Tamworth again for our winter trip. The children (and Alison) are very excited about this and can't wait to get tobogganing like last year!

We have an end of term play called The Snowman at Sunset which will be shown on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. All Parents and families are welcome.

We are very excited to announce that we now have a Parent, Teachers and Friends Association set up (PTFA) and they are busy raising funds to help us improve our outside area. Duck racing and cake sales were very successful so please come along and help us raise those much needed funds.

We still have a few spaces left at playgroup and are continuing our offer of £20 cash back for an introduction to us. Remember to recommend our playgroup to friends and people you meet with young children and you could benefit from our cash back scheme!

Parents and Tots group are looking for new parents to come and join us. We meet on Tuesday mornings in the Evergreen Hall at 9.15am, and we have weekly activities including baking, crafts, messy play plus much more. Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat. We look forward to meeting you. We close on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and re-open on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Wishing you all a lovely holiday time.

*Alison, Cath, Karen, Lyn and Rachel*

## **SHARNFORD PLAYGROUP PARENT TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

We would like to introduce the newly-formed PTFA for the Playgroup whose role will be fund raising for the playgroup to further improve the experience of the children during their time at the playgroup. This term we have been fund raising to cover the cost of the bus for the children's end of term visit to the Snow dome in Tamworth and also to provide small gifts for the children.

Whilst the committee was only formed this term we have got off to a good start with a successful duck race and the first of our monthly coffee afternoons; thank you to all those who either bought ducks or came to the coffee afternoon.

Future dates for coffee afternoons that will include cake and second hand toy stalls and activities for the children such as music or crafts, are as follows. The afternoons run from 1:30-3pm at the Evergreen Hall. 13<sup>th</sup> December, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March. There will be other activities planned and these will be advertised nearer the time around the village.

*Kathy Bryan*

<p><b>MISSING</b> – Large long haired black muted male CAT named 'Bubble', with white bib and paws. He was last seen in the Park View area of Sharnford. If seen, please contact Stephen Franklin on 07803 941057. Please look in your sheds etc.</p>
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## SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the start of the autumn term we welcomed 12 children to Sharnford School and they have settled in to school life very well.

In September 38 children from the federation went on a residential to a Kingswood Centre in Staffordshire. The five day visit started at RAF Cosford Air Museum where the children made rockets and competed to see who's would fly the furthest and then carried out experiments in the "Fun and Flight" exhibition. They then travelled to Kingswood where they enjoyed non stop activities including abseiling, aeroball, quad biking, orienteering, problem solving, animation and much much more. Year five and six had the opportunity to take part in Cycle4life training and also attend a basketball festival at John Cleveland College. Years three, four and five had just finished six weeks of swimming at Hinckley Leisure Centre. Year one and two children were very lucky to avoid the rain during their visit to Warwick Castle where they saw a knight and many suits of armour in the Great Hall and watched the trebuchet being fired.

Mrs Freer has been funded by Blaby District Council to run Forest School which she has been able to do since February this year. During this time our younger children have spent time at Fosse Meadows where they have enjoyed den building, pond and bird watching and much more. Mrs Freer has also worked with some of our older children in the school grounds. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, this initiative will no longer continue.

The children grew a number of vegetables this year and were able to enter them in the Sharnford Village show. The leeks and peppers came first and the celery second, everyone was delighted with the results.

Parents and carers were invited to "Meet the Teacher" evening at the start of term where staff talked about "Brainbuilders" a new approach to homework. Year six parents/carers were invited to a SATS evening at All Saints which enabled staff to give them information to help their children at home and they also had the opportunity to have a go at some sample papers.

Family and friends joined us for our Harvest assembly which was led by class two and money was donated for Tearfund. This term, classes one and three have also led a class assembly.

School Food Support, who supply our school meals, provided our children with the opportunity of a Diwali lunch during November. A new menu including traditional and tasty top ten favourites of Leicestershire children starts at the end of November. The service has introduced farm assured meat to the menu, continuing their commitment to the environment and carbon footprint.

After school sports clubs are running for all children along with Bollywood sessions for years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children and French club,



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run by Mrs Waite for year's 2 – 6 children. Homework club is available and football training at All Saints.

The PTA have organised a Disco and Christmas workshop for our children. They continue to help raise much needed funds for our school.

Thank you to everyone for sending in vouchers and to all the volunteers who help us.

***Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant***

## **SHARNFORD SCHOOL PTA**

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

### **School Events**

- **Christmas Disco** will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> December further details will be available via the school newsletter
- **Christmas Workshop** is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December and again further details will be available through the school's newsletter.

### **Community Events**

#### **Carol Singing – Thursday 23rd December 2010**

We will once again be carol singing around the village with the children and a real live donkey!!! We would be very happy if you could join us, we will meet at the Youth Club **at 6.00pm**

The planned route is as follows :- (Approximate times only)

6.00pm Youth Club

6.15pm Brookfield/Halls Crescent corner

6.30pm Halls Crescent/Brookfield corner

6.45pm Brookfield/Henson Way corner

7.00pm Parkview (outside no. 12)

7.15pm Chapel Street (outside Hardy's Cottage)

7.30pm Sharnbrook Gardens

7.45pm Fosse Close

8.00pm The Countryman for mince pies and mulled wine

*Any donations made will this year be given to Rainbows*

#### **Annual Quiz – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

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

***Kathy Bryan***

## ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

The coming of autumn brought our usual events. In September the Ride and Stride raised the sum of £201, to be divided between the Society for the Preservation of Historic Churches and our own church. In October we held our annual Harvest Festival service when the children brought their gifts and also took part in a charming little play about the creation of the world. The gifts were duly sent to the Hinckley homeless via Laurence House and The Wykin Project. A collection at the church and the school, which raised the sum of £250, was once again sent to Tearfund. On the 7th November we met the Explorers on their home territory when we held the family service at the Evergreen Hall and were delighted to see many parents attending too. On Remembrance Sunday members of the church and people from the village gathered at our own small 'cenotaph' in the churchyard to remember and to pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, not only in the two world wars but also in conflicts still continuing today.

On the 5th September we welcomed Nicholas Burbage to our flock in a well-attended baptismal service and on a much sadder occasion on 22nd of that month we said goodbye to Geoff Kibble. Our sympathies are with his widow, Freda, and all his other relatives.

We recently learnt of the death of Mr Jack Carty. Jack spent his childhood and youth living in a cottage which stood on the site of Bluebell Green. Up until his death he lived in Enderby, but he always had a great love for Sharnford and so his ashes will be interred in St Helens churchyard, in the village he loved so well.

And so to Christmas (how can it be that time already? where has the year gone?)

**12th December 10** Service of lessons and carols at 6.30 pm

**19th December 10** Christingle and Nativity play 9.15am.

**24th December 10** Midnight Communion 11.00 pm at **All Saint's Church, Sapcote.**

**25th December 10** Morning Worship 9.15pm

We would be delighted if you could attend at least one of the above services and we take this opportunity to wish you all a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS.**

*Estelle Perrett, PCC secretary*

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## ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP

After the very enjoyable visit to Croft Quarry in August, the Ladies Group have had an informal social evening in September and an excellent meal at the Countryman for their Annual Dinner. Beverley and Alison from Fizzy Pink joined us in November to inform and demonstrate to us the benefits of Swedish Massage. A few members agreed to be 'guinea pigs' for this and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Flowers for Remembrance were arranged in the church.

Meetings have been held at the home of Jean Ryan for a number of years, but, due to her impending move to Burbage, the Christmas 'Bring and Share' Social evening, and future meetings, will be held at West View, Leicester Road, the home of Pat Jordan. Old and new members are always welcome. If interested contact Pat Jordan on 272229.

**Jean Ryan**

## SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

Things are moving slowly but surely on our re-building project. The Planning Application has been submitted by the Parish Council and all we can do now is sit back and wait with baited breath for their decision. In the meantime we will continue to carry on the Youth Club as normal up until 'Demolition Day'.

The lock-up at the side of the existing building has hopefully had a much needed 'clear out' by the time you read this. This will allow us to store any salvageable items from within the Youth Club ie Table Tennis Table, Pool Table etc during the building project. It has also made the Fete equipment easier to get to. Thanks for everyone who helped on the day.

As the existing building is due to be demolished over the Christmas period, we are obviously going to be without a weekly Youth Club until the weather picks up and we can lay on outdoor activities on the park. We are, however, hoping to get various activities and trips arranged throughout this period on a monthly basis. We will, of course, keep all members and Sharnford Primary School informed so everyone can join in.

Our yearly visit to the Tamworth Snowdome will take place on Friday December 3rd.

This involves tobogganing followed by a chip supper back at the Youth Club. Places will be limited on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to those who are regular attenders to the Youth Club. More information on this will be passed out during November.

Well that's it from The Youth Club Committee for now, and here's hoping you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Fun Packed New Year.

**Julie Edge – Chairperson 01455 271321**

## SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Our AGM in October opened with a mark of respect for Gordon Dale, a founder-member of the Group, who sadly died in September. You will find a detailed obituary elsewhere in this issue but we would like to express our particular thanks for the work he did in support of our cause over the past eight years. We will greatly miss his guidance with our planning and his physical endeavour on our projects.



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At the AGM the outgoing Chairman Mike Bishop said the Group had maintained a high level of commitment in support of the village, which had been recognized by a nomination from the Parish Council to the Blaby DC Achievement Awards. This had resulted in the receipt of a framed certificate and £250 to Group funds, presented at the annual BDC Awards Evening at the Leicester Marriott Hotel in October. See photo. He thanked everyone for their efforts during the past two years.

Our new Chairman is Margaret Grewcock. David Sewell continues in the role of Treasurer and until a new Secretary can be found, Mike Bishop will take over that role. If you are a local student and fancy honing your minute-taking skills we would love to hear from you (tel: 272393).

Work is ongoing to refresh the planters with winter/spring flowers and plants. You will



probably have noticed the colourful display in the triple planter by the road crossing. This was put in place by Class 3 from the School. Here are some photos to prove it. The children had an instructive time preparing the soil and planting up, under the supervision of parent Kaye Wormleighton and school staff Mrs Wright and Mrs Morgan. You will notice that the children's enthusiasm allowed Kaye to get some help with her own winter displays, too.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Boyd Hope, the School's Deputy Headmistress to our November meeting, when ways of generating closer cooperation with the school were discussed and agreement was reached on a variety of joint activities for the future. The School is now equipped with its own greenhouse which will be used to provide plants for our road-side planters. The children will now be able to experience both the theory and practice of horticulture and make their



own contribution to village enhancement.



The recent death of Mr Jack Carty, mentioned in the St Helen's Church report, means the loss of a good friend to our Group. Together with his sisters and brother, Jack has been a significant benefactor to our cause, particularly with the ongoing development of Bluebell Green, which was the site of their cottage upbringing in Sharnford. We will miss his support. The photo of Jack was taken at the opening of Bluebell Green in 2008.

Our efforts to provide a user-friendly path across Poors Meadow are now being tested in the wetter weather. The condition of the path looks to be very satisfactory, as is the avenue of new trees. We are hopeful of doing some additional work on Poors Meadow, particularly behind the tarmac path and behind the new benches, but there are still some areas of responsibility to be resolved with the Parish Council.

We have had a few enquiries from villagers asking "can we purchase self-watering hanging baskets, like those in the village?" If there is a genuine take-up on this suggestion we can purchase some 'on a group buy', they cost about £30 each. If anyone is interested please contact Dave Sewell on 272901.

We will report our plans for 2011 in the next issue of Sharnford News. In the meantime, we send our thanks to all the villagers, young and old, who have assisted us this year. A Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all.

### **GORDON DALE – 1933-2010**



We were saddened by the sudden death of Gordon Dale in September. A well-known member of the Parish Council for some seven years, Gordon was a genuine pillar of our community.

Born in Sheffield, Gordon left school at 16 to join the Fleet Air Arm as an apprentice, based at Torpoint in Devon. Before leaving Sheffield, however, he had met and courted a 15 year old schoolgirl, Jean, and the couple married some five years later. They lived in various married quarters around the country for the next nine years, during which time their children were born.

At the age of 30 Gordon decided that the time had come to leave the Services to start a civilian career and provide a settled life for the children. He moved to Bristol Siddeley as a technical author and they bought their first house. Later, the family moved to Warrington when Gordon was appointed as a planning engineer with a company developing equipment for the atomic energy industry, with whom he stayed until his retirement in 1998.

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Since coming to live in Sharnford in 1998, Gordon has made a major contribution to the enhancement of our village life. In 2001 he joined the newly-formed Appraisal Group and helped to devise the questionnaire, its subsequent distribution, collection and analysis, and wrote parts of the Report.

Passionate about the quality of local life, Gordon was a founder member of the Environment Group and has played an active part in the planning and effort involved in the projects undertaken by the Group over the past eight years, with a particular attachment to the Bluebell Green development.

He was a keen supporter of another Appraisal outcome, The Sharnford News. Gordon has distributed the News to Brookfield and Hall's Crescent for almost every Issue. In 2003 he became a member of the Parish Council and played an important role in the many discussions which have led to the development of the new Burial Ground, the monitoring of the drainage systems, the changes to Poors Meadow and so many other issues over the years.

The Evergreen Club and the Hall Committee will also miss Gordon's help and advice, which they have called upon many times over the years. When property problems arose, the Club Secretary, Gordon's wife Jean, was wont to say "I'll go home and ask Gordon". Gordon's response in word and deed resulted in him becoming an honorary member of staff, as the odd-job man. At The Evergreen he will always be remembered as a willing, reliable friend, sharing his expertise and faithfully climbing the ladder twice a year to change the clock.

Sharnford has much to thank him for – he will be missed by many people.

## **SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW**

The first Village Produce Show since WW11 was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September with some trepidation on the part of both organisers and exhibitors. Would there be enough entries, would there be too many & not enough tables, would anyone turn up in the afternoon?

In the end we had plenty of entries to fill the hall, in the case of the pictures and crafts, full to overflowing. What a talented lot you all are! The ladies of the Evergreen Hall did us proud with refreshments. We were lucky with the weather so it was possible to sit outside. The Chair of Blaby District Council Barry Garner opened the show.

We guessed that the preserves and chutneys section would be well supported and you gave our judge plenty to sample. The children's decorated plates gave a wow factor as you entered the room and despite the strange weather we had this summer you managed some good fruit, veg & flower entries.

We had 59 individuals entering, plus the school and playgroup. We had 135 visitors. Winners for each section received a silver salver for the year. (and yes we want them back next year) The winners were :-

- Best Vegetable: Kirk Pyatt for 6 runner beans
- Best Fruit: William Higginbotham for 3 pears
- Best Flowers: Janet Curtis for a flowering pot plant
- Best Home Produce: Andrew Wormleighton for a Fruit Cake
- Best Handicrafts: Lucy Wilson An item of Handicraft
- Children under 7: Sharnford Playgroup for an animal made from Veg & Fruit
- Children under 12: Gemma Wormleighton for a decorated egg
- Children under 16: Georgia Smith for an item of handicraft



The photos show the organisers, judges and guests and the Flower displays

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for the raffle and tombola prizes which were worth hundreds of pounds, thanks to the Evergreen Committee, Four Winds Nursery, Ian Pickering Photography, Sapcote Garden Centre, Sharnford Horticultural & Sharnford Post Office, Boots the Chemists, Britvic, Disney Stores and Vow UK.

A big thank you to all who took part from Barbara & John Proctor, Kaye & Andrew Wormleighton, Janet & Tony Curtis. See you all at next years Show on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Website [www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/sharnford-produce-show](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/sharnford-produce-show)

## **BLABY DC CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT**

Enderby Youth Band will be entertaining guests at Blaby District Council's Christmas Carol Concert this year.

The concert is being held in the Council Chamber on Desford Road, Narborough, and will also include singing by children from The Pastures Primary School, Narborough, a raffle to support the chairman's charity (Vista Society for the Blind) and mince pies and mulled wine for afters.

Councillor Barry Garner, Chairman of the Council, said: "The annual carol concert is always a fantastic occasion and a wonderful way to celebrate the festive season. I would like to take the opportunity to invite members of the Blaby District community to come along, join in the singing and celebrate with us".

The concert starts at 7.30pm on 8th December. Admission is free but by ticket only. To reserve tickets call 0116 272 7512.

## THE COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND – ALIVE AND WELL!!!!!!

A new committee has been formed to continue the good work of the Countryman Sick and Dividend Benevolent Fund. The new committee consists of – Paul Clough (Landlord Countryman) Chairman – Miss Stacey Clapham Secretary – Mrs June Feast Treasurer and 3 other committee members.

Various companies and villagers have been contacted already, and we hope that their generosity will bear fruit in the way of prizes for the raffle as in previous years, to enable the committee to distribute the Christmas goody bags to the pensioners and widows of Sharnford once again. Chairman Paul Clough is generously donating chickens for this year's bags.

Anyone wishing to donate a prize can contact Paul at The Countryman on 01455 272268 or phone Jack Feast on 274165, we can collect if preferred. The draw will take place at The Countryman on December 17<sup>th</sup> and the distribution on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Paul Clough*

## AROUND THE WORLD – PART TWO

In Issue 35 we gave you the first part of a “round the world epic” penned by villager Dave Hounslow, describing his adventures with a dozen other bikers in a journey lasting four months. Having crossed most of Europe, these intrepid travellers finally arrived in Turkey, where East really does meet West. After savouring the delights of Istanbul, the group made their way north to Georgia and on into Azerbaijan, crossed the Caspian Sea by ferry to Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, tracing the old Silk Road to Samarkand. A short detour into Russia and then a long ride east across Mongolia finds the bikers in Ulaan Baatar, the capital, for a three night stay. This was a welcome break, after two thousand miles of poor road conditions since Istanbul. After one more night camping in Mongolia they crossed the border into Russia again. Now read on .....

On arrival at the Russian border there were all the usual formalities with which we were now familiar. It's not something you can rush, it has its pace and you just have to get used to it. The original idea was to stop for lunch just after the border but a couple of us decided to skip lunch and head for our hotel in Ulan Ude.

The roads were good once again and we managed to stay ahead of the approaching rain clouds all the way in to the hotel. Those following weren't quite so lucky. Kevin, of falling asleep whilst riding



*Ian Pickering*  
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fame, had an accident that resulted in his engine bars smashing a hole in part of his engine casing. Kevin himself was ok apart from heavy bruising that came out over the next couple of days. Due to the accident and the time taken to load it onto the support trailer many of the group got caught in the bad weather and turned up at the hotel late into the evening very wet and very tired. Luckily the following day was to be another rest day.

During the morning, a local took Kevin to a garage that also did alloy wheel repairs where a 15 year old along with his 12 year old brother managed to repair the engine casing. I took the opportunity whilst he was away to have a walk down into the main part of the town. A nice place, with interesting shops and somewhere to buy yet more sun glasses. I'd lost one pair down a drain earlier in the trip and the replacements had simply broken. Hopefully this set would last the distance! I found a great coffee house for lunch before heading off back to the hotel to see what progress Kevin had made.

With the engine casing repaired and fitted, that left the mangled engine bars. Kevin



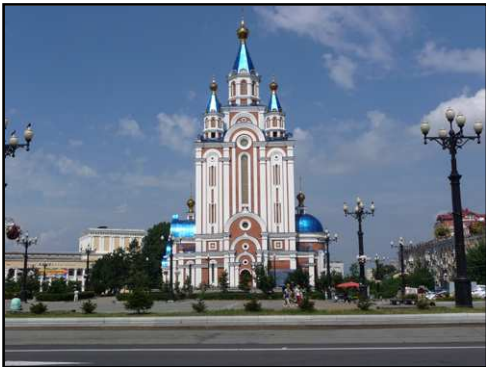
*Where will you be  
When RMS Sharnford  
Hits the Iceberg  
On New Year's Eve?*

thought that taking them to the same place was worth a go and, given mine were the same make, I took him on the back of my bike so we could use my bars as a template. Again, a fantastic job was completed, just as the heavens opened up producing rain the likes of which I had never seen before. By the time we were ready to return to the hotel the city's electricity had failed and the streets were running like rivers, a foot deep in water. Guess who had to ride back through the torrents!

Luckily, by the following day the waters had subsided and we could make our way out of the city and start the 7-day ride to Vladivostock in eastern Russia. Almost every day was to be over 300 miles, which may not sound a lot, but when the roads degenerate to rough gravel or worse still, roadworks Russian style, it makes for very hard work. All the nights were scheduled to be spent camping and, but for the problematic tents and mosquitoes, that would have been fine. On the third morning

we encountered a novel twist on our journey, a thick mist cutting visibility to a few bike lengths and speeds to little more than walking pace in places.

The morning of the fifth day brought a new problem. The medic, Craig, and the mechanic, Naill, had been ill all night. This meant a change of plan. The decision was made to cancel the next two nights camping and stay in a hotel in Khabarovsk to provide some recovery time for them and others who weren't in much better shape. This would also mean doing a final big day, nearly 500 miles, to Vladivostock.



Khabarovsk was a revelation. Barnaul and Ulan Ude (to a lesser extent) had been what I had expected of Russian cities, a little grey and slightly run-down. But not Khabarovsk! The local biker bar proved a good place to let off some steam. Unusually for me, I left our group and spent most of the night talking to two Russians and their friends. They could both speak a little English and with the odd word from me in Russian it was a great night, sorry early morning, with

thick head to follow. The following day was spent visiting the local military museum and walking by the beach area alongside the river. Needless to say, it was early to bed that night.

The ride to Vladivostock took over 12 hours, but at least we made it. The following couple of days were spent getting the bikes jet washed and an oil change along with a change of tyres. As we had supposedly done the last of the non-tarmac sections, the idea was that we changed back to our old road tyres and disposed of the, by now pretty worn out, off-road tyres. Vladivostock was another vibrant town with bars alongside the beach and generally lots going on. Hard to believe it was a closed city, even to Russians, until the 1990s.

A 5 o'clock alarm was set on the 14<sup>th</sup> August to enable us to get down the ferry port 160 miles further down the coast. It's on this section that we came across 3 or 4 bits of rough road. One section in particular was made of white quarry stone that created dust clouds as cars drove over it creating major problems with visibility. Ten weeks earlier I would have



tackled these sections, even on off-road tyres, with feet out doing 10mph, whereas now I was doing 50mph on well worn road tyres, overtaking cars, buses and lorries and thoroughly enjoying it; what a difference! It not only brought home the distance we had come in miles but also in our riding skills and confidence.

Once the border formalities were done, it was just a case of loading the bikes onto the ferry and saying a final farewell to Russia and experiences that changed all our lives.



Next stop South Korea.

We docked in Sokcho, South Korea at around 11:00 am the next morning anticipating maybe a couple of hour's formalities then heading off to the hotel. Unfortunately the South Koreans had other ideas and it was gone 5 before they would release our bikes after charging us a very large temporary import duty for the privilege. The hotel was done on a London theme (a bit over the top for my tastes) with double decker

buses and the works. Lee and I chose to wander down the road once we had checked in and got food from a local "restaurant". No after effects, so it couldn't have been that dodgy!

We had another couple of days riding round the peninsular before heading back up to Seoul itself. To be honest, I think I would have preferred to skip the rides, as the roads were just full of traffic and not much fun at all. The last 25 miles into Seoul took nearly two hours and my bike had developed a problem whereby it would cut out momentarily. It was therefore with much relief that we arrived at our hotel (which turned out to be more like an apartment) and the odd beer.



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The following day was designated for getting our bikes to the shippers so they could be air freighted over to the States. The first group of six went in the morning whilst I took the opportunity to have a look around. Around lunch we got the call to say that the shippers were ready for us, so the remaining six of us set off.



The shippers were around 12 miles away and my tank was showing 20 miles range, which looked about perfect. That was until my bike shuddered to a halt with 3 miles to go. No it wasn't fuel, just the same



problem as the day before, so it started again after a couple of tries. Unfortunately by this point the others had got ahead and I ended up on my own. Now in South Korea motorbikes aren't allowed on the expressways, which was a shame as that is exactly where I found myself a short while later. 3 miles fuel range, no documents (as they had gone ahead) and pulled up by the police, oh joy. It must have been a funny sight, them trying to use hand gestures to say "no bikes on the expressway", and me trying to say I was running on fumes. In the end they escorted me to the next off ramp and sent me on my way. Luckily there was also a fuel station about a mile down the road – phew! Needless to say, another few beers were required that night.

The following morning Mike, with whom I was sharing, left for the airport as he had booked a flight with a stopover in Hawaii. The rest of us had a couple more days and nights to explore the city before it was time for us to fly to Seattle.



So on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August it was time to make our way to the airport. The support truck and the organising company's motorbike, along with our medic Craig, would also be leaving us at this point and making their



separate ways back to the UK. It was a shame that the organising company had decided to cut corners and not allow Craig to accompany us all the way, as the risks in the wilds of Alaska and Canada didn't appear any less daunting than areas already visited.

A number of us were booked on the same flight, travelling via Asiana Airlines to Tokyo, Japan and then a United Airlines flight to Seattle, crossing the international dateline into our second Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> ! On arrival we were met with the news that six of the bikes (mine included) had been shipped to Vancouver. I suppose I did want an adventure!

The solution to this little mix-up was to transport six of us up to Vancouver the next day via mini van, where we would spend a couple of nights, whilst the others stayed in Seattle. We would all meet up for the ferry to Vancouver Island. First job though was to unpack and re-assemble the bikes. Well



actually, the first job was to get the paperwork done and get customs clearance. The customs office was round the corner from the shipping agents. We were told that the paperwork would take a couple of hours at least, but to come back just before closing to see if it would be ready, or if we would have to wait until the following day. Luckily, there was a café, so we made ourselves at home only for the customs officer to walk in a

while later to let us know the paperwork was done – could you imagine that level of service here in the UK?

So, an unexpected day in Vancouver doing the tourist bit. It's a great city, with loads to see and do. It was then off to meet up with the others and catch the ferry over to Vancouver Island. Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> saw us travelling the 274 miles up the length of the island. Although it was an easy ride it was still early to bed, as we needed to be up and at the Inner Passage ferry terminal by 5:30am. Once on the boat I met a nice French-Canadian lady and we ended up on the outside deck all day spotting wildlife. Most of the other passengers appeared to want to stay inside, but it was just too good to miss. During the day we saw humpback, killer and minke whales and dolphins, along with loads of fish leaping clear out of the water. Add to that some spectacular scenery and you have an



experience you won't forget.

Once off the ferry our route took us via Stewart and off up to Watson Lake. Just after one of the early fuel stops I went round a corner to find a number of the guys who had stopped. It turned out that Pete had come flying round the bend whereupon some geese that had been sitting in the road had tried to take off to get out of the way. Pete was going so fast that he caught one of them up and they both ended up in a heap on the

floor. Although the bike and Pete were a bit of a mess at least they could continue, unfortunately the goose won't be flying around any more.

From Watson Lake we headed for Whitehorse then Beaver Creek before turning west and crossing into Alaska for the run to Anchorage. This completed 13 weeks on the road and I have to say I was enjoying it more and more, does it really have to stop! The following day was designated a rest day, but



in actual fact we spent most of the day organising tyres and doing maintenance on the bikes. The people at Alaska Leather (mainly bike riding gear) were extremely helpful and managed to get us sorted, even though it was the end of the season. Can't

## **MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND**

January 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> 2011

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thank you enough guys! We did have time for a walk along the coast and round the back into town. Such beautiful scenery! It was just one spectacular view after another.

As I was usually the first to be up and ready to go, I tended to ride by myself through most of North America. Obviously if people caught me up, or were ready at the same time, then I would ride with them. Riding on your own through fantastic scenery with no people or manmade structures as far as the eye can see, is such a wonderful experience. I know there are those who would find it intimidating or downright frightening, but to me it's something so rare and precious in this hectic world of ours.

Another long day up to Fairbanks was next on the agenda, meaning another cold, early start. It was more than made up for by the scenery, which was getting just more and more jaw dropping. The views towards Mt. McKinley all covered in snow, with the foreground in all the shades of autumn colours and glorious weather to boot – just a privilege to be there!

In theory Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September was going to be another rest day, but five of us



decided that we couldn't be so close to the famous Dalton Highway, taking you right up past the Arctic Circle, without making the most of it. It's about 200 miles up to the Arctic Circle with only one "fuel station" on route. The road itself is mostly gravel or compacted earth, but nothing we hadn't already experienced. It just had to be done!

After another night in Fairbanks it was back into Canada via the Top of The World Highway. Don't get the wrong impression! It's more of a track - not some fancy six lane highway. Fantastic views all day, every corner bringing on more and more. Our stop for the night was Dawson City. You've seen the old time western films, well this place was just like it. The streets were just dirt with wooden sidewalks, you just kept expecting to see cowboys riding in at any moment. It even had a gambling hall (called Diamond Tooth Gerties) with dancing girls and everything!

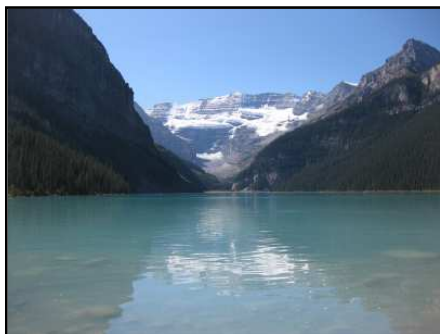
The following day was mainly grey and overcast with little in the way of

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scenic views, but this was easily made up for by the amount of wildlife we spotted, you'd have thought it had been planned that way. During the day I saw buffalo ( a single and two herds), caribou and a bear with two cubs. Fantastic!

Our route then took us through Fort Nelson and Dawson Creek before our next day off at Jasper. I've been to Jasper before whilst touring with the family so many of the sights were familiar but it's a great place to be, nevertheless. I spent the morning just doing bike maintenance and helping others. In the afternoon a couple of us rode up to the Whistler cable car station and took a ride up. It's then a bit of a climb up to the top. Funny, I seem to remember that being a lot easier. Suppose it was 19 years ago! That's what age does for you I guess.

From Jasper it was down the Ice Field Parkway, and yet more jaw dropping scenery, and on to the USA.



Once in the States it really felt like the trip was coming to an end. New York was at least in the same country and, with only 9 days riding left, inevitably people's thoughts turned to home and loved ones who were flying out to meet them. That didn't detract from some highlights on the way. The first of these came as soon as we had got into the States. Most of us took the option of a scenic detour on the "Going to the Sun Highway", well worth the \$12. A stunning climb through a national park and a mountain pass across the continental divide.

The following days were mainly across open plains in Montana and South Dakota although we did get the chance to call in and see where the Battle of Little Bighorn took place. Not a lot to see really but quite interesting. From there it was a 280 mile ride down to Mount Rushmore and our overnight stop. Mount Rushmore itself is a well setup tourist attraction with plenty of information boards and displays. It did feel a little awkward clomping around in my big (and squeaky)



motorcycle boots, but no matter. Some of the lads didn't get to the hotel until after 8:30, we were beginning to think they had got lost.

We had a day off in Chicago which I spent just walking around. Some great buildings and nice walks down near the lakefront. Some of the others spent most of the day in bed, possibly due to excesses the night before – surely not! A further couple of days riding and we again crossed the border into Canada. We really just nipped over the border for the night so we could stay at Niagra Falls. Most of us took the chance to have a look round the falls which are pretty spectacular. Three of us went on one of the Maid of the Mist boats and got a bit soaked but it was good fun.

On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September we finally arrived in New York. The last 15 miles to get into New York was terrible, mainly due to big meetings at the UN and Obama being in town. Roads were blocked off and traffic was all snarled up. Finally we arrived very hot and bothered at our hotel in Queens just over the bridge from Manhattan.

The final ride was the following morning when we had to get the bikes to the shippers. This was supposed to be a relatively simple task - stop by the bridge for a photo shoot, catch the ferry to bypass having to ride through Manhattan and drop the bikes at the shippers out near the airport. We stopped by the bridge and got some great “End of Tour” photos, although a bride and groom turned up with their wedding photographer and ended up using the bikes as props, but good fun really. From there we went up and over the bridge.



At the far end of the bridge I was stopped by a policeman. Half the bikes had gone past him already and the other half went past after I had stopped, leaving me on my own. He wanted to know what I was up to. So I told him we were tourists and that we had just finished a tour and were taking the bikes to the shippers. He looked me and the bike over then said the bikes number plate was illegal. I said it was an English plate and quite legal but he seemed to think we needed to get US plates - obviously not very well informed. He

kept me there for a good ten minutes complaining about what documents I had and again about the number plate, before announcing that the reason I had been stopped was that they had been swamped by 911 calls from concerned citizens, who thought there was a group of terrorists on motorbikes with strange number plates, coming across the bridge. That explained why he had been so keen to check out the contents of the panniers - just in case they contained a bomb!

So we had been round the world in some strange and wondrous places, only to be suspected of being terrorists in what should have been the easy bit.

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USA paranoia rules OK!

I spent the final day doing the tourist bit visiting the Empire State Building, ground zero etc. One highlight was catching the ferry to Liberty Island and then on to Ellis Island. On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, almost 4 months after leaving, we caught our flight back to the UK and a meeting with my wife Carol and friends and family.

When we were in New York one of the lads asked me if I had done with travelling for a good while. My answer may surprise some, but probably not those who know me. Other than wanting to see my wife, friends and family I would have loved to just get back to the UK, head down to the Ace Café in London, get on the bike and do it all over again!

Since getting back there has been a certain amount of itchy feet and numerous other trips are being discussed. Hopefully, a trip round

Europe in the summer of 2010 with Carol and a three week trip to South America later in the year will come off!

*Dave Hounslow*

### **SHARNFORD METHODIST CHURCH**

*Minister: Revd. Barbara Bircumshaw*

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 – alternate Sundays.

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

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

Christian Fellowship: 7.30p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

As you will know from the last newsletter changes have happened at the chapel. The Rev. Barbara Fairburn has moved on to pastures new and Malcolm Lapper has retired as our Lay Pastor. It was special for Malcolm, and for us, that two of his last acts 'in charge' were to welcome Melisa & Anthony Richings back to the village for the baptism of their daughter, Ella May, and to welcome Ria Harris who has transferred her membership from

South Africa. We thank Malcolm for all he has done in 'offering Christ' to us as a congregation and to the village community as a whole.

We now join the Methodist churches at Burbage, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton under the care of the Rev. Barbara Bircumshaw. Our Sunday morning services continue at 10am as before. Evening services at 6pm are now held on alternate Sundays.

We continue to meet for 'Thursday at Ten' on the last Thursday of the month, for a time of quiet prayer, reflection and fellowship. Coffee mornings, 10 – 11.30am on the first Saturday of the month continue to help us help others. Over the last quarter we have raised funds for a horse sanctuary in Wales, Operation Christmas Child and UNICEF. In December we will be supporting 'Rainbows'.

The United Christian Fellowship continue to meet on the second and fourth Thursday's at 7.30pm and the singing group every Thursday at 7pm. The craft group have almost completed the making up of shoeboxes for this year, there fortnightly meetings will begin again on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in February 2011.

If you want more details of any of our 'goings on', Beryl Devenyi, our Church Council Secretary, can be contacted on 273740. With Advent upon us we wish you all the joy of Christmas with Christ at its centre can bring.

*Maureen Butcher*

### **THE LADIES OF SHARNFORD**

Many of you will remember the fabulous men of Sharnford baring all for our 2010 calender, well now it's the ladies turn. 12 very brave, and somewhat nervous, ladies have been roped in (I mean they have volunteered) to partake in a very professional photoshoot with Ian Pickering Photography to produce a 2011 version. It is based on a Burlesque theme and should be a lot of fun and the perfect gift for someone who has everything. All donations will go to the Sharnford Youth and Community Hall funds. Last year the lads managed to raise £1,100 from sales and sponsorship of their calender. Our aim is to beat this and show them how it's done! Calenders will be on sale at The Post Office, The Countryman, The Sharnford Arms and from Julie Edge (271321) from early December at a cost of £8 each or 2 for £15. Numbers are limited, so I advise you to get one quick!

### **SHARNFORD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP**

Our monthly Monday meetings will take place in the Nellie Veasey Room at the Evergreen Hall on the following dates. Everyone is welcome.

10 January, 14 February, 14 March, 11 April, 09 May, 13 June, 11 July, 08 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November, 12 December.

*Teresa Lee STAG*

### **Conkers After-School Club**

All Saints Church Hall, Sapcote

Waiting lists now open for September

Registrations

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 3pm – 6pm

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[www.leicestershirevillages/sapcote](http://www.leicestershirevillages/sapcote)

Call Alison for details on 01455 213779

**SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE  
FETE COMMITTEE**

Following the success of the Fete earlier this year our thoughts are now turning to preparations for Fete 2011, these will begin with our Annual General Meeting which will be held on 27th January 2011, 7:30pm at the Evergreen Hall.

The Fete provides a good opportunity for the village to come together and have a good time whilst raising money for village causes. We always welcome any support that people can offer so if you would like to come and help from the outset, please join us at the meeting.

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**SEASONAL QUIZ**

**Christmas Words**

1. Elizabeth sews up the dress
2. Rats helped the Three Wise Men
3. Thick fog blocks out the foot extremities
4. Edible country
5. Children's seaside transport

**Christmas Connections**

6. Who lived at Crinkly Bottom?
7. In what lane did the Great Fire of London start
8. What was the surname of the actress who played Dorian Green in 'Birds of a Feather'?
9. In the nursery rhyme, which contrary child had a garden?
10. Which Beatle was the first to become a grandfather?
11. What was the pen name of the author Charles Ludwig Dodgson?
12. What was the name of the Radio Norwich DJ played by Steve Coogan?

**Carols and Christmas Songs**

**Write the first line of the carol or song in which these lines appear**

13. Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
14. The Angel of the Lord Came Down
15. You would even say it glows
16. There's a new King born today
17. Above the deep and dreamless sleep
18. Come and behold him, born the King of Angels
19. Oh what fun it is to ride
20. Got to keep on plodding onward with your precious load

If you need them, the answers are on page 27



## BIRTHDAY CARD COMPETITION

Blaby DC have launched a competition for people to design a birthday card encouraging 18-year-olds to vote. The chosen design will win a £50 iTunes voucher and the card will be sent to each person who turns 18 in Blaby district for the following 12 months.

Liz Read, democratic services manager at Blaby District Council said: "When young adults reach the age of 18 they are given all kinds of extra rights and responsibilities including the right to vote in elections, referenda and polls and to stand as a local councillor. It's important that we encourage young people to play their part in the democratic process and this is a friendly way of reminding people to exercise their right to vote."

The competition is open for anyone to enter and will be judged in the most democratic way, as with all elections. Entries must be made by 17th December and can be submitted in electronic format to :-

democratic.services@blaby.gov.uk or by post to Liz Read, Democratic Services Manager, Blaby District Council, Freepost, Narborough, LE19 2BZ. Winner(s) will be notified by the end of December with full results posted on [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk). For more information call 0116 272 7560 or email democratic.services@blaby.gov.uk

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

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ALL WELCOME—CLOSED DURING JANUARY but start again 1st Wednesday in February. Afternoons in the Winter and Evenings in the summer SUBS £2 per week (teas, trips and meals included)

FOR MORE INFORMATION RING JEAN ON 01455 274472

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Could Sharnford benefit from a scheme, similar to the one which is so successful in Burbage? Have a look at [leicestershirevillages.com/Burbage/neighbourhoodwatch](http://leicestershirevillages.com/Burbage/neighbourhoodwatch) for the detail. The aim of Neighbourhood Watch is to create a partnership between the local community, the police and the local authority.

Most crime is opportunist, therefore a community working together is a preventative and reduces the scope for criminal activity. Anti-social behaviour and vandalism are far less likely to occur. A zero tolerance by villagers to the first signs of problems works very well. Not only would you reduce the cost of your household insurance but perhaps we would all feel safer being part of a national scheme.

Certainly our sheltered housing area would benefit, if only to prevent cold callers. As a community we must do all we can to protect our most vulnerable.

Is it possible that our Parish Council could invite the Crime Prevention Co-coordinator, also someone from Trading Standards (who will provide help free of charge) to discuss the implications for each householder, and invite the village community to an open meeting? I believe these professionals would give advice and talk about the free offers available for each house, which would improve security.

A good community is one where everyone works together, so please let's hear everyone's point of view?

*Stella Woodier*, Cobblers Cottage, Chapel Street



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### **BLABY DISTRICT BIN DAYS 2011**

Refuse and recycling collection days in Blaby district will not rotate after New Year following consultation with residents over the summer.

Traditionally the day people have their bins collected has rotated after December 31, but over the last festive period the Council trialled a new system leaving a two week gap between refuse collections and not rotating the collection days, with the aim of avoiding confusion and reducing costs. Residents were then asked which method they preferred, and the option not to rotate the collection days proved most popular.

As a result the refuse and recycling service will close down on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and reopen on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 with everyone remaining on the same scheduled collection day as before. Any additional refuse people have will be collected week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> January, with extra recycling being collected on their first collection day of the New Year.

For more information contact Refuse and Recycling on 0116 272 7555.

## CALLING ALL CROCHETERS AND KNITTERS!

Grab your hooks and needles and help Inspire LeicesterShire & Lionheart Project create a 'London 2012 inspired' pledge blanket in aid of Age Concern, Leicester Shire & Rutland. We need your help to crochet or knit 6" squares to your own design, which we can join together to create the largest blanket Leicestershire has ever seen. A blanket so big, we will cover a building with it to celebrate the Games in 2012 and inspire all ages to learn new skills. Each square counts as one pledge, so the more you pledge the bigger the blanket gets. Simply drop your completed square or squares into any Age Concern charity shop in Leicestershire & Rutland. Join in and be a part of the 2012 Games. To find out more and how you can get involved go to: [www.inspireleics.org.uk/patchworkpledge](http://www.inspireleics.org.uk/patchworkpledge)

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### ARE YOU A HOME OWNER OR TENANT LIVING WITHIN BLABY DISTRICT?

Would you like to improve energy efficiency, cut down on fuel bills whilst reducing your carbon footprint? For advice and to find out more about grants for Cavity Wall, Loft Insulation and for Energy Efficiency Advice please call the Affordable Warmth Freephone line: 0800 043 6320 or [www.blaby.gov.uk/affordablewarmth](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/affordablewarmth).

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. Bethlehem, 2. Star, 3. Misteltoe, 4. Turkey, 5. Donkey, 6. Noel Edmonds, 7. Pudding Lane, 8. Joseph, 9. Mary, 10. Ringo Starr, 11. Lewis Carroll, 12. Alan Partridge, 13. Hark the Herald Angels Sing, 14. While Shepherds Watched their flocks by night, 15. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, 16. Come and join the celebration. 17. O Little town of Bethlehem.. 18. O Come all ye faithful, 19. Jingle Bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way, 20. Little Donkey, Little Donkey.

## A NEW LOCAL BEAUTY SPOT

We are always happy to promote new local businesses and here's one for the ladies, in particular.

'Natural Nails by Chloe' is a three year old business now based just a stones throw away in Frolesworth. The salon offers established beauty treatments, Bio Sculpture Gel nails and Minx nails but with an interesting addition – fish therapy for your feet! This idea, a popular beauty treatment in Asia for many years, uses tiny fish to remove dead skin, leaving your feet smooth and revitalised.

Chloe Hiorns and Helen Fountain of Natural Nails are very excited to bring fish therapy to rural Leicestershire and believe it is important for everyone to look after their feet. "Winter can be very punishing on our feet. It is easy to forget about your feet when you are hiding them away in socks and boots but it's essential that we all look after them. Fish therapy is an enjoyable and relaxing way to remove a build up of dead skin and maintain smooth, good looking feet all year round." says Chloe, the founder of Natural Nails.



treatments in the salon at Manor Farm Courtyard, Main Street, Frolesworth, LE17 5EE, where there is ample free parking for clients. Give Chloe a ring on 07795 841933 or Helen on 07855 330781. As always, we ask you to support our advertisers.



**NATURAL  
NAILS**  
— by chloë —

*Introducing the latest spa treatment  
The 'Garra Rufa Fish Pedicure'  
A relaxing way to remove dead skin,  
leaving your feet smooth & revitalised.  
£10 for 20 minutes*

ALSO our usual services that include:-  
**Bio Sculpture Gel** Nail Care  
in clear, French and over 100 colours.  
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Manor Farm Courtyard, Main Street,  
Frolesworth [www.naturalnails.org.uk](http://www.naturalnails.org.uk)

**Chloe 07795 841933 Helen 07855 330781**

These miniature pedicurists, called Garra Rufa fish are known to have been perfecting the feet of bathers for centuries. Found naturally in hot springs near Kangal, Turkey, it is believed they secrete an enzyme - diathanol - that improves skin regeneration. Fish therapy has been used to treat skin conditions such as psoriasis and is suitable for anyone suffering from dry skin.

For the curious among you the fish do their good work in filtered water, which is continuously fed with oxygen to ensure cleanliness and a healthy environment for the fish. The pool is sterilized using ultraviolet lights.

Chloe says "Once you have taken the plunge into fishy water you'll be a definite convert" You can try it, together with other wondrous beauty