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Available at www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/Sharnford-News-online.

HELP FOR HEROES AT THE SHARNFORD ARMS

On Tuesday 15th February the Sharnford Arms hosted a very successful fundraising event in aid of the charity Help for Heroes. The star of the evening was professional singer Frankie Martin, who is in the middle of an engagement in which he plans to sing every night for a whole year. He aims to raise a substantial amount of money in support of injured soldiers who are unable to return to active service. Frankie arrived in the village having already completed 102 consecutive engagements, amassing £100,073 for the cause.

The Sharnford Arms, ably assisted by many generous local folk and businesses, had organized an array of high quality items for an auction and a raffle. The evening was attended by a large group of people, among who were parents and other relatives of local servicemen about to go to Afghanistan or already there. After two hours of splendid musical entertainment by Frankie, many other generous people bid for the lots in a friendly, competitive spirit. Some excellent once-in-a-lifetime opportunities were acquired to fly in planes and helicopters and among a super range of other goodies there were some “specials” kindly donated by the Aston Martin Company and by Ullesthorpe Court Hotel and Golf. The raffle of “top of the range” prizes proved very popular and allowed Jane and Steve to declare a figure of £2566.77 to be donated to Help for Heroes, after an evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who were there.



Our photo shows Jane and Steve with Frankie at a point just after the first count. Mine Hosts were delighted to be told that this was the highest amount achieved on any single evening in Frankie's tour to date – a wonderful testament to the generous good nature of folk in these parts. Further donations immediately afterwards raised this figure to £2601.77. **Well done, The Sharnford Arms.**

SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Feb 2011

The Parish Council are pleased to be able to report significant progress with the new Burial Ground, allowing us to declare that it is completed and ready for use. The outstanding matters have finally been signed off by Blaby District Council planners, so we can officially say that the facility is OPEN! The installation of a memorial bench in the name of the late David Gibbs has taken place. Many residents will recall that David was Chairman of the Parish Council some twenty years ago, when it was decided to begin the process of arranging a new Burial Ground. Further enhancement is planned to be made with the provision of a fine new shelter.

Equally, we were able to get the areas around the play equipment resurfaced in the Park View Recreation Ground so progress was made there but the November snow and further onset of winter prevented the painting work that is required. However, that is in hand and will be completed just as soon as the weather allows.

The Youth Club project proceeds apace and is more fully described in the Youth Club report later on.

Parish Council Elections

Participate in how your Village is run!

- Nominations for prospective members of the Parish Council will be required very soon
- There are SEVEN places available
- Papers will be available from 25th March from the Returning Officer of Blaby District Council
- They must be returned by 4th April
- Election Day will be 5th May

Councillors serve for three years and meetings are generally held on every third Thursday of the month. Have your say on how things are done in Sharnford – the Burial Ground, the Parks, the Youth Club Building, the Children's Play Areas, the Street Signs, the Traffic problems, the drains and the hedges are all matters dealt with by the Parish Council in recent years; how much better could they have been done if YOU had been handling them?

The situation relating to the proposed Biodigester on the Fosse Way remains unresolved. The consortium of local Parishes that has spent the past 18 months campaigning against this development on this site has prepared a detailed document which raises a large number of issues regarding the way in which the planning application was handled, both by the officers and the Development Board of the County. This document has been presented to the County Council and, depending upon its response, may well be forwarded to the Ministry with a call for a review of the decision-making process.

Parishes that constitute the South Blaby Forum (which includes Sharnford) have been invited to participate in the Government's Big Society by becoming a pilot group in

the Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard Scheme. In theory, it would appear, the group would be in a position to make recommendations on planning and development issues that directly affect us, and Blaby would be expected to adopt those recommendations into their own planning strategies. This is all at a very early stage, but so far we have expressed an interest!!!

The Parish Council's promotion of the December production of Cinderella by the Fair Game Theatre group was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by a capacity audience in the Evergreen Hall. We hope that a further show will be possible this year.

Finally, this will be the last issue of Sharnford News before the elections on 5th May – so now is the time for us to urge more of you to come forward as candidates!! Put yourself up for election and join the Parish Council!! Take the opportunity to have your say on how this village is run.

Derek Gibbons

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL

Now that the hall has been mainly refurbished, we are turning our attention to the outside and aiming to raise funds to resurface the tarmac area outside. We have also installed a sound system in the hall.

Forthcoming Events

5th March – Fairtrade Coffee Morning 9.30 am

2nd April- Bacon Buttie morning and mini market – 9.30 am

21st May – Annual Plant sale with bacon butties

We look forward to seeing you.

Rosemarie Simpson

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

The New Year started with the very sad news that Jean Philips, one of our longest serving members, had passed away. Jean joined the Evergreen Club in 1963 and since that date she had played a leading role in the running of the Club. She especially enjoyed the plays, where she always brought a smile to our faces. She was, indeed, the life and soul of our social events. We will sorely miss her presence.

Our trip to the Curve Theatre in January to see “The King and I” was enjoyed by all our members and committee. The costumes and music were a delight for everyone.

Our tea meetings have now started and run every fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in the Evergreen Hall. Any new members would be warmly welcomed. For further details please see our advertisement above.

Our new loop sound system has now been fully installed. I am sure this will benefit all of us; it will certainly make life easier calling out the bingo at Christmas! A big “thank you” is due to Mr Dave Hazlewood of Sapcote, who fitted the system without charge - a truly generous gesture.

In addition to the functions given in the Evergreen Hall report on page 3 you may also wish to put the following dates in your diary:

May 25th Trip to Stamford with Afternoon Tea . 11.30am pick-up at the Hall.

September 7th: Fish and Chip Supper 6.30 pm.
October 19th: Evergreen AGM 2.30pm.
November 26th: Christmas Dinner 6.30pm.
December 3rd: Christmas Bazaar 2.00pm.

Karen Smith

Easter Egg Hunt Weekend

16th & 17th April



&
Garden
Centre

Now in its sixth year and due to popular demand we will be holding another Easter Egg Hunt for any children coming into the centre to take part in. They will also be able to have a go at planting up a 'Royal Wedding Pot', which will be free of charge and is an engaging project for children to take part in. For the adults there will be a **Free Prize Draw**, free refreshments and an opportunity to have a look round at some of the changes we have made and new stock that is available.

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JEAN ROSEMARY PHILPS 1943-2011

"Life Without Jean"

More than 200 family and friends said goodbye to Jean at the Celebration Service at St Helen's Church on the 20th January. Jean was a Sharnford girl through and through. Her family were the local village butchers. She married Ken in 1965 and son Lee was born in 1972. She was widowed in 1988. She always lived in the village and was the heart and soul of many organisations here.

She was a life long member of St Helen's and served as Church Warden for over 20 years. She was a bell ringer for many years and helped organise the Church Fete. Following the Thanksgiving Service, local bell ringers, in tribute to Jean, rang 1296 changes called 'Cambridge Surprise Minor', half muffled bells. It was a glorious sound – a wonderful salute to a lady who was always welcoming in church and very willing to help anyone. She also attended the Methodist church in the village and was a fundamental part of the many shared activities of the two churches. She

!!SHOCK NEWS!!

SHARNFORD REWRITES HISTORY

According to everyone involved,
RMS Titanic sank the Iceberg.

(Wireless message received at
RMS Sharnford 0010 hours
GMT 01/01/11)

enjoyed singing and regularly sang with groups, especially performing Gilbert and Sullivan.

She was a member of the Evergreen Club and Hall committee since 1963. She was part of the team that raised the money and built the Hall in the village in the early 1960's. She played a strong active role in the organisation and provided many a good tea for members to enjoy. She always had a starring role in the many Christmas Evergreen Thespian productions. Along with her Aunt Jean, she always brought the house down with their funny renditions. The shows originally meant for



members of the Club became so popular that there were always extra performances put on for the village and they were always a sell out. She was still performing just over a year ago – funny and talented, especially doing the ‘Two Ronnies’ sketches. Her marmalades and rum truffles were always a highlight of the Christmas Bazaar.

Jean was instrumental in the publishing of a local book ‘A Pictorial History of Sharnford during the 20th Century’. On publication day, over 500 copies were sold by lunchtime. This was a great legacy for the village and even now, the book is being included on our village website. For her efforts Jean was awarded the Jubilee Cup. She was one of only three people to be awarded the cup twice, the first time in 1993 for her work in the village.

Jean was always organised – her notes were legendary. Life around her was always happy – she could always see the funny side of things. She usually had a ‘twinkle’ in her eye and loved a ‘naughty’ story line. She always found time to help others with a kind and willing heart. She had a great fund of local and village knowledge and often contributed articles in the local newspapers.

We will all miss Jean in our own way and Sharnford will be a sadder place without her.

Rosemarie Simpson and Bill Higginbotham.

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**SHARNFORD PRE-SCHOOL
PLAYGROUP - Spring Term 2011**

We have been busy finding out about transport over these past few months and have been counting how many different types of vehicles we can see. We have counted them on our tallies and have made some traffic light biscuits which were great fun! Have a look at our pictures on our website!

On March 16th, Kids Club video company are visiting us, where they create a DVD of the children. This year the theme we've chosen is Dinosaurs! Everyone is welcome to have their DVD made, but places need to be booked, so contact Alison if you're not a member of playgroup.

We will then focus more on Dinosaurs, taking us into the Easter term when we will be going on a Dinosaur egg hunt with the children. We would appreciate some help making a dinosaur, so please can you start saving up cardboard and yoghurt pots to help make us a junk model dinosaur. The PTFA will be fundraising this term to buy all the children a chocolate dinosaur egg, so your support for them is gratefully received. We are in need of some replacement musical instruments, P.E equipment and beanbags and cushions. If you know of anyone who has some spare, please think of us.

Rachel, our volunteer has made some great displays of the children's work and has fitted in really well to the Team. We are excited that our new volunteer, Aurelie is joining us after half term on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, so please welcome her to our playgroup too.

We have just received confirmation that the County Council are again looking to support our Summer Play scheme. This is our 4th year and has proven an extremely popular resource for the community and the Council have awarded us 'Excellent' at each annual inspection. Posters will be put up after Easter advertising the play schemes and confirming dates and times.

We are hopeful to offer the 2 play schemes the same as last year, one at Sharnford and one at Sapcote, so watch this space! Places are limited, so please book early to guarantee a space, as we had to turn people away again last year!

Conkers Afterschool Club is getting ready to celebrate its 1 year anniversary since opening. Lynn and Sadie are based at All

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Saints Church Hall in Sapcote and look after children aged 4 – 11 years from both Sharnford and Sapcote Schools. We have just a few places remaining on Mondays. Have a look on our website for pictures and further information.

Alison, Cath, Karen and Lyn, Rachel and Aurelie

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SHARNFORD PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP PTF

Spring Term News. This half term has seen a successful Ragtex collection, raising funds for us and the fire fighters charity, and another enjoyable coffee afternoon.

With the coffee afternoon falling on Valentine's Day it seemed only fit to mark this. So Cream Teas, sweets and hearts were the order of the day, providing a variety of cakes and sweets to eat there or take away. We were delighted to welcome back those who had attended previously and it was also very pleasing to see new faces. Thank you to all who came and supported us. The funds raised will go towards future events and to projects put forward by the Playgroup.

Future Events

Spring Term. The next Coffee Afternoon will be in the second half of term on Monday 11th April 2011, at the Evergreen Hall, and will have an Easter theme. This will include a mouth-watering cake stall, a book stall and crafts for the children. Tracey will be providing a musical session for the children too. Please come and join us. Entry is £1 per person which includes coffee, tea or squash (with free refills).

Summer Term. We will be organising a sponsored treasure hunt for the children to take part in, time and date to be agreed. Any further events will be advertised around the village and on the village website.

Kathy Bryan

SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

At present there are 61 children on roll at Sharnford C E Primary School, 24 children in class one (reception, year 1 and 2), 19 in class two (year 3 and 4) and 18 in class three (year 5 and 6).

Christmas was a very busy time in school. The PTA organised a Disco and workshop where the children made a present to take home for someone special, sold calendars featuring a picture of the children on the month that their birthday occurs. Christmas lunch was enjoyed by many of the children and staff, two Christmas productions took place but unfortunately many children were poorly that week and missed the occasion. We received a lovely Christmas tree from Mr & Mrs Wray who donate this to school in memory of their daughter.

We have had several occasions where the school has raised money. At our Harvest service we collected £52.41 for tearfund, £91.03 for Children in Need, £68.85 from the sale of Christmas teddies on behalf of Loros, £114.60 was collected from our two Christmas Productions and this was forwarded to the Laura Centre, poppies were sold and we received £65.00 from Ragtex following a collection of clothing for a charity that collects old clothes, shoes, sheets, handbags etc and sends them to developing countries, 9 shoeboxes on behalf of Blaby Rotary Club were also sent for children in Eastern Europe.

A special service took place at All Saints Church, Sapcote for both schools when a 'Held Together' carving was received.

The carving is travelling around all church schools across the Diocese to celebrate two hundred years of church schools. Members of the school council along with Mrs Allsopp and Miss Prokipczuk attended another school to pass on the carving. Our school council is very active and two members enjoyed attending training at Beaumanor Hall.

Two new members joined our Governing Body and we hope they will enjoy their time working with us. The Governing Body meet twice each term and individual Governors visit school to fulfil their monitoring role. We have vacancies at present and if you are interested in joining our Governing Body please contact the school office on 01455 272456.

Our school website is now up and running and you are able to access this by visiting www.sharnford.leics.sch.uk.

The School was successful in a bid to offer our year 5 & 6 children the opportunity to experience the BAE Systems Roadshow and Royal Air Force in-school event. The children enjoyed the workshop involving the engineering concept of biomimicry (how nature influences solutions to engineering problems). They also visited the Curve Theatre and year 5 will be attending a hockey festival this week. Children in years 3 and 4 visited the Rotten Resource Centre in Lount and year 1 & 2 children walked around Sharnford village to help familiarise themselves with their surrounding area. A Life Education Caravan spent the day at school. This is a specially designed mobile classroom used to create a special and memorable environment used to talk to the children. Class one children were talking about my wonderful body, class two, meet the brain and class three, friends.

An HMI/Ofsted visit took place across the Federation last week and the finding will be made available in a few weeks time.

We are again collecting Sainsbury's vouchers and nestle box tops. Please send any spare vouchers in to school.

We appreciate all the help we receive from volunteers and send our thanks.

Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant



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SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be on 24th February so if you feel able to help organise the fete please come along. If any local companies would like to donate raffle prizes please do contact us.
SGJFC

SHARNFORD FAMILY FUN DAY 12TH JUNE 2011

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AROUND BRITAIN QUIZ

1. What is the longest river in Scotland?
2. In which English county is the textile town of Nelson?
3. In which country is the highest waterfall in the British Isles?
4. In which English city is the National Railway Museum?
5. In which London Borough are the Houses of Parliament situated?
6. Which part of London is famous for a power station and a dog's home?
7. Where, in Scotland, are the best known Highland Games held?
8. Where is Lizard Point?
9. Which strait separates the Isle of Wight and Hampshire?
10. Which English county is nicknamed 'Garden of England'?
11. Verulamium is the Roman name for which English city?
12. Which Scottish city is known as 'The Granite City'?
13. Where is the Clifton Suspension Bridge?
14. Which U.K. National trail runs from Edale to Kirk Yelholm?
15. Which is the longest river in Northern Ireland?
16. What nationality was the explorer Mungo Park?
17. What is the capital of Wales?
18. On which river does the city of Manchester stand?
19. In which English county is Stonehenge?
20. What name is given to the basalt columns on the coast of Antrim, Northern Ireland?

If you need them, the answers are on the last page

SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL - PTA

Since the last issue we have been busy; we have had events for the children and the community.

School Events

The annual Christmas Disco was very successful being well attended and enjoyed by all and raising important funds for the PTA. At the disco we were also lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas which was popular with the children, and thanks to Abbie for providing him with a lovely grotto.

We again put on our Christmas Workshop which enabled all the children who attended to wrap two gifts and produce a card and door hanger. Funds raised will be put into organising future events and to Sharnford Primary School for projects that they identify. This will also include providing the children with a treat during the Spring Term as in a break with the past we did not do this prior to Christmas.

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Community Events

The annual carol singing took place on 23rd December and was a very enjoyable evening and despite the cold a good number of people came out in support. Thanks to Isaac the Donkey for joining us and also thank you to the musicians, particularly Monica for all her work on the harmonies. We managed to raise £125 for Rainbows.

Unfortunately the advertised quiz evening was unable to take place due to low team numbers; we have **rescheduled it for the 18th March** and encourage you all to enter teams and come along and support us.

Future Events

As time does not stand still we are busy planning events for later this year. For the primary school children there will again be an Easter Disco the date of which will be advertised through the school newsletter. Any other events will be advertised in and around the school and village.

Kathy Bryan

**WHAT A
WASTE OF SPACE!!**

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

Our Christmas services were as joyful as ever, but we were very aware of a huge gap in the congregations, which cast a shadow over us all. Our long time churchwarden and very good friend, Jean Philps, was lying seriously ill in hospital and when, just after the New Year, her death was announced the concern we had all been experiencing turned to tremendous grief as everyone mourned her loss. The depth of the love and friendship she had engendered in her life could not have been more apparent than it was at her memorial service seventeen days later. In addition to a huge proportion of the village community they came from far and wide to pay their respects and to tell each other about their own relationships with Jean from babyhood to the end. Her favourite music (pieces from Gilbert and Sullivan) was played, her favourite hymns were sung, her chosen bible passage was read and both the Rector and her life long friend, Billy Higginbotham, gave emotional addresses. And the sun shone all the way through. There was a congregation of around 200 souls present and we are unlikely to see so large a gathering again for many a year. At present we feel that no one can take her place but somehow we must to carry out the tasks that need to be accomplished to continue the work of the church in the



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Saturday March 5th 9.30 – 12.00
Evergreen Hall, Sharnford

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Proceeds to Action Aid

forthcoming months. She would have played an important part in all of the following events:

6th February: There was a family service in the Evergreen Hall

4th March: A service will be held in the Methodist Chapel at 7.00pm to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer.

5th March: Fair Trade Coffee Morning in the Evergreen Hall 9.30am —12noon

3rd April: Mothering Sunday Family Worship at St. Helen's Church at 9.15am

10th April: Memorial Service at 6.30pm for those recently bereaved.

17th April: Service conducted by the Archdeacon at St. Mary's Church, Wigston Parva at 3.00pm

18th April: Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 7.30pm.

22nd April: Good Friday. Devotional Worship at 10.00am

24th April: Easter Day. Holy Communion

at 9.15am.

In addition to the above events The Lent Group Studies will begin on Thursday 10th March at the Methodist Chapel at 7.00pm.

In addition to the service celebrating Jean's life we had another service in January namely a funeral service for Alice Morris who died at the age of 94.

We did have one very happy event during this quarter. In December we welcomed James Lemming into our flock by his baptism.

Last year we were fortunate to have two gentlemen who helped to keep the churchyard

in good order (well excellent order actually) by mowing the grass.

They may or may not be available to do this in the coming season

but, in any event, we would like to organize a rota for this task.

Would any kind person who is willing to be placed on such a rota

please contact our Rector, tel.no. 01455 272215. We would be very,

very grateful for your help in this matter.

Estelle Perrett, PCC secretary



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SHARNFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Barbara Bircumshaw
Tel: 634168

Regular Activities to which all are welcome:-

Morning Service – Each Sunday at 10am.

Evening Service – 1st & 3rd Sunday at 6pm.

Thursday at Ten - Last Thursday of each month at 10am.

Coffee Morning - 1st Saturday of each month at 10 – 11.30am.

United Fellowship - 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Craft Group – 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. February – November.

With the hustle and bustle of Christmas over, our thoughts are turning towards a joyful Easter. The snowdrops and crocus now in bloom reminding us that resurrection is indeed a fact of life.

Although our building is in need of some TLC we will endeavour to continue our giving to other worthy causes. Since the last newsletter we have supported ‘Rainbows’ and ‘Operation Christmas Child’ with the proceeds of coffee mornings and ‘Tearfund’ with personal donations.

Sadly for us all, our church family has diminished this year. Edwin Stevens has had to move into ‘The Willows’ Care Home in Hinckley, increasing frailty making it unsafe for him to stay on in his own home. Edwin was born in Sharnford in 1922 and lived in Brookfield for the last 61 years. The move has not been an easy one but it’s good to know that he will now have the care that he needs.

Allan Hoden, a retired farmer, who lived in Leire, passed away suddenly in February. He has been a member and regular worshipper here since the 1980’s when the little chapel at Leire closed down. The service of thanking for Allan’s life was held at Leire Parish Church led by Malcolm Lapper.

As always we issue an invitation to you all to join us at any or all of our happenings here at the chapel, there’s always room in the pews!

Maureen Butcher

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2011 opened with a social evening in January at the home of Pat Jordan. The Annual General Meeting took place in February when the calendar of events was arranged for the coming year. We are looking forward to a varied programme beginning on March 2nd with a 'Chocoholic' party with Jenni Asher at the home of Jan Sewell, 48 Leicester Road. Forget any diets you may be on for this!!!! On April 6th we are welcoming Anne Hughes once again; this time she will be re-living the songs and comedy of Joyce Grenfell. This meeting is open to all and a

warm welcome is extended to those who would like to join us at the Evergreen Hall for a 7.30p.m. start. There is a small charge of £3 per person to cover costs, but will include refreshments. Many of you heard Anne when she visited before Christmas in 2009 and so she is known as a very entertaining person and you can be assured of a very enjoyable time. Further information about the group can be obtained from the Leader, Pat Jordan, telephone 272229.

Jean Ryan

SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

As most of you have probably noticed, the 'Old Shack' we called Sharnford Youth Club has now been demolished. The area will shortly be cleared and fenced off securely. I must urge those of you with children to speak to them regarding the dangers of entering building sites. The water and electric are still connected and, although they have been boxed in, will still pose a danger to anyone messing around within the fenced off area. Signs have been erected and I hope common sense will prevail.

At this time we are still waiting to hear from Blaby District Council whether the planning application for the new building has been approved. Until we hear that everything has gone through ok, any further building works have been put on hold.

At the end of last year Blaby DC presented the Parish Council with a cheque for £5,000 towards the building costs. This, along with the £5,000 raised by the Youth Club during 2010, will cover works already undertaken plus the digging and filling of the footings.

Only another £80,000 to find!! Mike Bishop and Dave Sewell are doing a great job on the funding work which is very much appreciated. Thanks for that you two. Keep up the good work.

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A meeting was set up in January with Bardon Aggregates as they had expressed an interest in helping us out with a donation of materials. This was extremely successful with them agreeing to donate the concrete for the footings and base and all of the blocks. They are also willing to donate a large block of granite with 'Sharnford Youth Club' engraved once works are complete. By the end of March, as the weather picks up, we should (fingers crossed) be able to crack on with the build. Keep an eye on our progress.

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

OPEN TO ANYONE OVER 60 WHO LIVES IN
THE VILLAGE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Come and Join us at the Hall in Sharnford – meetings twice monthly on Wednesdays – high tea and social activities. Regular special events – Full Christmas Dinner and entertainment, Autumn Supper, Trips – last year we went to the Curve Theatre, Black Country Museum and Duxford Air Museum. We shall be going to Stamford in May and enjoying tea at the George Hotel there. A further outing will be arranged during August.

ALL WELCOME – Meetings are 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

The 'Hot Stuff' calendars have gone down pretty well with good press coverage coming from The Leicester Mercury, Hinckley Times and The Local Rock. This has enabled us to spread word of our cause further afield and has culminated in help being offered by people in the surrounding villages. There are still a few calendars left from the usual places for a reduced price of £5. Remember, every penny counts towards keeping the kids of Sharnford amused, occupied and off the streets. As you know, there is little else to do for this age group within the village. Many thanks to those of you who have purchased a calendar or have given donations.

We have already been mulling over ideas on what to do for our 2012 calendar. It has now been decided that a photographic calendar of places/events within Sharnford would be a good idea. We are, therefore,

asking all you amateur photographers out there to be on the look out for anything you think suitable. We will obviously need photos covering all four seasons which is why we have let you know so early. Anyone who wishes to submit a photo, please send to ian@ianpickering.com with your name and phone number. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee everyone's photos will be included as we are expecting a good response from you all. The designers of the calendar will have the final decision. Good luck everyone and I, for one, look forward to seeing what you can capture as 'The True Sharnford'.

We still need to keep on with our fundraising efforts. Hopefully, by the time you read this, Ian Pickering and Nicki Harvey-Rowley will have completed a sponsored run, led by Lee Martin on his bike. As I write, their plan is to travel from the Coventry Ricoh Arena to Leicester City Walkers Stadium, taking in Coventry Road and Leicester Road in the village, and coinciding with the local derby between the two clubs on Saturday 26th February. It will not have been an easy task for Ian, Nicki and Lee as you can all appreciate. There has been a sweepstake based on the completion time and a request for sponsorship for these hardy individuals. Our thanks go to all who contributed in any way to this event.

We are also trying to arrange a hog roast within a marquee on the park sometime in May. This will include a live band (Route 66) and disco. More information on this to follow.

During the building works, the Youth Club Committee will be arranging regular alternative events for the children. The Evergreen Committee have kindly offered the hall where indoor activities such as table tennis, darts, arts and crafts and bingo will be taking place. As the weather picks up and the lighter evenings arrive, we can head back to the park for football and rounders tournaments. All existing members will be kept informed of events.

Julie Edge – Chairperson 01455 271321

SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The harsh winter weather over the past three months has precluded most outdoor activities and time has been spent on planning for 2011.

The plants for our hanging baskets have been ordered from Four Winds Nurseries, which we hope will brighten our village during the summertime.



A bench in memory of David Gibbs, former Chairman of the Parish Council has been sited on the burial ground and Pat Gibbs expressed her thanks to those members of the Group who facilitated the work (see photo of Pat with our members).

Finances permitting, our plans for the village sign will go ahead during the year. As part of a School project, most of the children have already put their designs on paper. It will be interesting to see what they think best represents our village. The Sun Clock

numbers on Bluebell Green have sunk considerably over the past few years and members are exploring various ways of overcoming the problem, to prevent a similar occurrence.

Ongoing plans include maintenance repairs to the roadside planters; rotting wooden parts will be replaced with plastic components as and when required.

Mrs Boyd Hope, deputy Head of Sharnford Primary School attended our meeting in February to continue the development of our joint activities. The possibility of someone from the Group covering village history was discussed, which may include tours of the village. Help would be given, if needed, to start off planting in the school's greenhouse and also to explore the possibility of a new scented garden in the school grounds. A date was agreed for a group of children to undertake a litter pick around the village

**GOOD QUALITY
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APRIL 9TH 2011**

EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL

**Good Quality Used furniture for
sale in aid of the
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9.30—12 noon

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

(excluding the main road), escorted by school assistants and members of the Group.

Most of the hedges around Poors Meadow now need urgent attention, before the bird's nesting season begins. The ownership of some hedges is in question but the matter is now firmly in the hands of the Parish Council, which hopefully will take timely action.

With the lengthening of the days, bulbs are pushing through on Poors Meadow, Bluebell Green and other areas around the village, reminding us that Spring, at last, may be on it's way.

Margaret Grewcock, Chairman

CLEARING THE BROOK

In the past the Sharnford Environment Group used to manually clear out the brook regularly and we planted environmental water plants along the edges and on the banks. When the water was low, we also went under the bridge and cleared out the debris of branches, planks, trolleys and all sorts. A few years ago the Environment Agency asked us to hand over that responsibility to them. By 2009 the brook behind the garage had

become very overgrown and required action, see the attached photo.

In April 2010 the Environment Agency cleared this stretch of the brook but they were unable to remove the debris from under the main road bridge because a moorhen had decided to lay her 6 or so eggs in a nest right next to the bridge! Well the good news is that it has now been cleared. The Environment Agency employed a Sub-contractor for this job and the other attached photo shows the work in progress. Just one side needed clearing as the other was flowing OK. The process involved two men scraping the mud into a large pipe attached to a large tanker, which sucked it up in no time.....bit quicker than we used to do with spades and a barrow!!!

Even though we have had to wait 10 months for the task to be completed, it's great to see it finished at last.

Dave Sewell Group Member



SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW

This year's Show will be held on Saturday 10th September. We hope you enjoyed last year's Show and that you will enter again. Also, we want to see those who did not enter last year have a go this time. We plan to have the Show Schedule available for you by the time of the Plant Sale on May 21st. You can then plan what you are going to grow or make. We will also be having a stand at the Village Fete in June, when you can quiz us on the rules and how best to present your entries to win.

In the meantime, check out our website for some handy hints on staging exhibits, www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/sharnford-produce-show.

Village Show Committee

THE COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND

The Countryman Sick and Dividend Society Benevolent Fund Committee would like to thank all those people who kindly donated a prize to the Christmas Draw. We sold 4,000 raffle tickets and had around 50 prizes. Over 140 Christmas gift bags were distributed in Sharnford.

We hope we can count on your support for future Christmas Draws. Many thanks once again.

The Countryman Sick and Dividend Society Benevolent Fund Committee

BLABY DISTRICT'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Blaby District Council's efforts to cut its carbon footprint were recognised at a climate change conference held by the Carbon Trust on November 25. The authority was given a certificate of achievement for reducing emissions, cutting costs and minimising their impact on climate change.

Over the past five months there has been a 19% reduction in electricity usage at the Council's main offices compared to the same period last year, cutting almost £7,000 off the electricity bill.

A staff campaign called Time 4 Change was also launched in July this year, with the aim of reducing energy consumption even further and creating a 'green' culture across the organisation.

Councillor Guy Jackson, portfolio holder for the natural environment, attended the event and received the honour on behalf of the Council, he said: "The public sector must lead by example and demonstrate a real commitment to tackling climate change. At Blaby we

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have fully embraced the challenge but there is still along way to go before our mission is complete.”

The Council has recently installed a combined heat and power system at Enderby Leisure Centre which will recycle the heat produced when generating electricity to maintain the temperature of the swimming pool.

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE RCC

Volunteers are sought to help people access information and support available about Digital Switchover that will be available to some groups of people who may find it difficult to

access such information. The RCC (Leics & Rutland) is seeking up to 45 volunteers from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who will be a contact point and able to help vulnerable people, who have slipped through the net to access the help scheme or seek appropriate advice.

Training will be provided and **expenses up to £350** will be available for these community volunteers. If you feel that you would like to volunteer please contact Diana Cook for more details and an application form dcook@ruralcc.org.uk 0116 2689706 or see our website <http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/latestnews.html>

ICT PARTNERSHIP - Councils share services to save money

Sharing computer technology with a neighbouring local authority will enable Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council to save in excess of £200,000 as a direct result of a new, expanded ICT partnership arrangement starting this month.

Information technology provider Steria has been providing ICT services for Hinckley and Bosworth and Oadby and Wigston Borough Councils for the last four years. Now it will design, implement and manage the shared service for all three councils. Through rationalisation and economies of scale, the shared service will allow for service improvements and a more reliable and robust infrastructure across the three Leicestershire district councils.

The shared service provided by Steria is expected to save Hinckley and Bosworth a further £70,000 and Blaby £150,000 and will guarantee further savings to the shared service of at least 10 per cent of the original contract value over the next four years. Blaby will also benefit from a more resilient service which will see Steria provide additional improvements, including significant disaster recovery benefits and increased access to cutting edge IT expertise and technology.

Sandra Whiles, chief executive at Blaby District Council said: “Whilst we are proud of the quality and reliability of the ICT service our in-house team provided we see the new

arrangements as a win-win situation. It will bring greater efficiencies, resilience and opportunities to improve the delivery of front line services for local people.”

Sanjiv Kohli, deputy chief executive at Hinckley and Bosworth, added: “Our existing contract with Steria has provided us with high service quality, flexibility and great value for money and the shared service with Oadby and Wigston has over the past four years, delivered real financial and operational benefits to both councils. With Blaby joining the partnership we will be able to further strengthen our ICT infrastructure.”

Frank Morris, managing director, local government, at Steria UK said, “Having seen the ICT shared services centre in Leicester achieve great client satisfaction, we are pleased to see Blaby District Council join in to reap similar rewards.”

HORSE RIDING LESSONS

Get back in the saddle with Active Together

People are being offered discounted horse riding sessions in Broughton Astley through Active Together Blaby.

The subsidised coaching sessions are available for beginners and riders with previous experience and run until March 31 at Witham Villa Riding Centre.

Beginner’s courses are on Tuesdays from 10 - 10.45 and Sundays from 2pm -2.45pm. Sessions for more experienced riders are on Tuesdays from 10.45am - 11.30am and 4pm - 4.45pm on Sundays.

One off beginner taster sessions are also being offered. Hats and boots are provided. Classes are for adults only (16+ years) and cost £12.

To book contact Witham Villa Riding Centre on 01455 282 694 or email withamvillarc@yahoo.co.uk.

For more details on physical activity in Blaby district visit www.blaby.gov.uk/activetogether.

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Editorial Team: Mike Bishop 272393, Dave Sewell 272901
and Jean Ryan 615820

Answers to Quiz

1. Tay, 2 Lancashire, 3 Scotland, 4 York, 5 Westminster, 6 Batterssea, 7 Braemar, 8 Cornwall, 9 The Solent, 10 Kent, 11 St. Albans, 12 Aberdeen, 13 Bristol, 14 Pennine Way, 15 The Bann, 16 Scottish, 17 Cardiff, 18 Irwell, 19 Wiltshire, 20 Giant’s Causeway