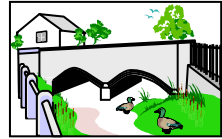


# SHARNFORD NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> June 2011

Issue No 38



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Available at [www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/Sharnford-News-online](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/Sharnford-News-online).

## SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held its AGM for 2011 at its May meeting. The Chairman reported that the Council had suffered a double blow late in 2010 with the sad loss of Gordon Dale and the decision of Clive Attard to resign – both had been long-term members of the Parish Council and had provided the central core of experience upon which so much of the Council's work depended.

In June, the Jubilee Cup was awarded to Rosemary Simpson. Also in June, Blaby District Council had confirmed that they were willing to pass ownership of that part of Park View Recreation Ground containing the Youth Club and Children's Play area, to the Parish. This had of course led to frantic action on behalf of both Youth Club and Parish Council members to get the old building demolished and prepare for the building of a new Youth and Community Centre. The Chairman stressed that it was Blaby's requirement that this should be a Parish/Community facility as a long term safeguard against the failure of the Youth Club anytime in the future. It was the declared intention of the Parish Council that the new building should be leased to the Youth Club Trustees and not be seen as a challenge to the viability of the Sharnford Evergreen Hall. The position of the project was that the plans had been unanimously approved by the Blaby District Development Control Board at their April meeting and the project team were working hard at obtaining sufficient funding and/or support in kind to proceed with construction. A £5,000 award from Blaby, funds raised within the village and a promise of a supply of materials from Bardon Quarries mean that approximately £35,000 had so far been found. In this context, the remarkable achievement of Ian Pickering and Nicola Harvey-Rowley in completing a sponsored run from Coventry to Leicester deserved particular mention.

The second major area of activity had been the completion of the new Burial Ground and that had finally been achieved. The official dedication, by Chairman of Blaby District Council Barry Garner, in October 2010 – marked by donations of shrubs both from Councillor Garner and our own Councillor representatives Sheila Scott and Ernie White – marked the start of the final phase. Tony Curtis had worked assiduously to produce a very pleasing landscape and the installation of the shelter in April 2011 had finished off the whole thing. The Chairman said that the Council had reached the end of a twenty year project to provide an essential village facility as the Church graveyard was now full.

In December 2010 the Council had promoted another performance by the Fairgame Theatre Group, this time of Cinderella. It had again been a great success and both audience and cast had a wonderful evening. Ticket sales had covered the full cost of mounting the show, so no charges had arisen against Parish Council funds. However, the

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Parish Council had decided not to make a booking for a similar promotion for 2011 as the dates offered and the potential costs were felt to make another promotion unviable.

The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of meetings of the Blaby South Forum which enabled Sharnford to be in tune with other Parishes and to have direct contact with officers of

both District and County Councils. Partly as a consequence of this co-operation and participation, a group of Parishes, including Sharnford, had been successful in a bid to become a Neighbourhood Vanguard Scheme under the Localism Bill which the government was enacting to create the Big Society. Only seventeen such schemes had been approved nationwide. The philosophy behind this process was that the development of an area should be determined by local people with local knowledge rather than being pushed through by bureaucrats – he said that we shall see, but it was exciting to think that this village was right at the forefront of a new national initiative.

Finally, the Battle of the Biodigester continued. The County Development Control Board, despite last year’s Public Meeting, despite opposition from every Parish Council surrounding the site, despite expert witnesses relating to flooding, pollution, transport and archaeology, had nonetheless decided to approve a local farmer’s application to develop a biodigester plant on the Fosse Way, adjacent to the HGV lay-by at Guthlaxton Gap. This Parish Council had aligned itself with Sapcote, Broughton Astley, Croft, Stoney Stanton and Frolesworth in approaching the Minister responsible for Local Government to ask that he review the County’s decision – we’ll see what ‘Localism’ means!

Naturally the village ‘housekeeping’ had not been neglected. Street signs throughout the village had been replaced where they had become unreadable; in co-operation with the Environment Group, hedges had been trimmed; the Parish Council had won its battle with County Highways as to who should be responsible for widening Mill Lane and had continued to support STAG in trying to control traffic growth. It had supported the Environment Group and the Fete Committee with donations and would continue to do so. The Children’s Play area in the park had been resurfaced and new swings would be put in place as soon as the metalwork had been painted.

The only sour note about the whole of the year was that when it came to the point of forming a new Parish Council to take us through the next three years, only two nominations were submitted in time for the elections on the 5th May and the Council could not be formed. Temporary appointments made, as required, by Blaby had enabled this AGM to be held but this Interim Council must be replaced by new Councillors to be elected in a by-election to be held on 16th June.

***Derek Gibbons***

## Sharnford Pre-School Playgroup

Evergreen Village Hall,

Sharnford, Leicester

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Small, friendly playgroup

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Open every day for 2 – 5 year olds

15 hours a week funding available for

children aged 3 - 4

Lots of fun activities

Parent and Tots Group Tuesdays 9.15am

## SHARNFORD PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP - Summer Term 2011

This term we will be concentrating on welcoming Spring, and the changes that it brings for animals and their young and also the effects on plants and nature. We will be planting our seeds purchased from the PTFA seed fundraiser and will shortly be eating our own produce!

We are in the process of clearing out the back yard in readiness for some new items, but work has come to a halt following Alison's accident. The good news is that she is hoping to return to playgroup shortly. However, any offers to help wash down the outdoor toys would be greatly received.

We will again be running a summer play scheme which is open to all children aged 2 upwards and our sister play scheme in

Sapcote for children aged 5 and above. Both are OFSTED registered meaning that if you currently claim child tax credits, you can continue to do so whilst your child attends the play scheme. Child tax credits cover up to 80% of your childcare fees. Play scheme runs for 2 weeks, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We will be opening registration for both play schemes at the beginning of June. Please book early to avoid disappointment as we are the only play scheme within a 5 mile radius of Sharnford and have been over-subscribed for the past 3 years, having to turn people away. Registration forms will be available to download from our website [www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford) and our tab is located on the right hand side of the page, or you can call Alison on 01455 213779.

Mums and Tots sessions are popular on a Tuesday morning. Come along and join us for a coffee and snack whilst your Tot plays with the other children. We have craft activities along with regular messy play, soft play and outdoor play. We are open 9.15am until 10.30am.

See you at the Fete on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June!

*Alison, Cath, Karen, Lyn, Rachel and Aurelie*

## CONKERS ACTIVITY CLUB

Conkers After School club has now been open for 1 year and we thank you for your continued support. Sadie and Lynn are busy planning a party to celebrate and we'll put the pictures on the website for you all. OFSTED registration has been renewed and staff uniforms have now arrived. We are open every Monday 3.15pm to 6pm with breakfast club trial starting 4<sup>th</sup> May.

We will again be running a summer play scheme which is open to all children aged 5 upwards and our sister play scheme in Sharnford for children aged 2 and upwards. Both are OFSTED registered meaning that if you currently claim child tax credits, you can continue to do so whilst your child attends the play scheme. Child tax credits cover up to 80% of your childcare fees. Play scheme runs for 2 weeks, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> August on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We will be opening registration for both play schemes at the beginning of June. Please book early to avoid disappointment as we are the only play schemes within a 5 mile radius of Sapcote and have been over-subscribed for the past 3 years, having to turn people away. Registration forms will be available to download from our website [www.leicestershirevillages.com/sapcote](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sapcote) and our tab is located on the right hand side of the page or you can call Alison on 01455 213779.

*Lynn, Sadie and Alison*

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

Our member's summer meetings have now commenced running every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in the Evergreen Hall. Any new members will be warmly welcomed.

Our bacon buttie morning held on the 2nd April was another big success, monies raised will be going towards a new storage shed outside. Thank you to everyone who helped bake cakes and for your help on the day!

The ladies of the Committee held their Luncheon on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. We had a lovely lunch at the new Wood Farm Brewery, where some ladies sampled the home

brewed ales plus some lovely home cooked food. Most enjoyable.

By the time you read this we will have held our annual plant sale (21st May) which we hope will again draw big crowds. The Club wish to especially thank Rosemarie Simpson and Margaret Wood for all of their hard work in making this plant sale happen. It takes months of preparation and we appreciate all of their time. Latest news as we go to press is that we raised a fantastic £1820, the best yet. A full report will be in the next issue of Sharnford News.

On Wednesday 25th May our members outing is a trip to Stamford where we will be having afternoon tea at the George Hotel, which we are all looking forward to. Another trip to the Cotswolds will be taking place on the 17th August, times and further details to be confirmed at a later date. Please note there are no

### **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB**

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ALL WELCOME Meetings are afternoons in the Winter and Evenings in the summer.  
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ON 01455 274472**

meetings held in August other than the Cotswolds trip.

**FORTHCOMING DATES,**

Wednesday 25th May - trip to Stamford. 11.30am pickup at the Evergreen Hall

Saturday 11th June - Hog Roast to be held on the Park

Sunday 12th June - Village Fete

Wednesday 17th August - Trip to the Cotswolds

Wednesday 7th September - Fish & Chips Supper 6.30pm Evergreen Hall

Saturday 17th September - MacMillan Coffee Morning with Bacon Butties 9.30am Evergreen Hall.

***Karen Smith***

## **SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA**

Last term was a busy one for us with a number of events all happening slightly differently from normal. The PTA has traditionally provided a treat for all the children at the school in the run up to Christmas, last year it was decided to carry this forward to the Spring term. The children over the course of a number of days all got the opportunity to take part in either a morning or afternoon session at the Forest School, run in Fosse Meadows. All reports are that everyone had a lovely time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The annual PTA Quiz was some-what delayed this year however this did not prevent it from being a very enjoyable and successful evening. Our thanks again have to go out to

Phil and Sue for providing the quiz itself and ensuring that everyone's little grey cells were put through their paces. Additionally we would like to thank Debbie March for providing the welcome half time food. Finally we should also thank those people who put together teams and made the night the success it was.

As the Easter term drew to a close we provided an end of term party for the children which seemed to be a hit with children and parents alike. In a departure from previous years the children were dropped off by their parents and then the PTA, with not inconsiderable assistance from a number of teachers, laid on games, a bit of disco, raffle and some sweets and drinks. We would like to thank all the children who came for behaving very well and also the teachers for helping out so much.

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So looking forward, we again find ourselves in the summer term; some of the children will obviously be moving up to Hastings in September and as with other years this will mean we will be looking for new parents to join the PTA and help us continue with the successes of this year. The two main events for us this term will be the Village Fete on the 12<sup>th</sup> June when we will again be putting together a stall with games and activities for the children. We look forward to seeing many of the children and parents there. The final event of the term will be the leavers disco and the date for this will be the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

*Lisa Bacon, Chair*

## SHARNFORD PLAYGROUP - PTFA

We are pleased to report that the Spring Term was a successful one for us; as advertised we had a Easter themed coffee afternoon which was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. We are pleased to announce that we were successful on a grant application to Community Action at Blaby District. This has enabled us to purchase 2 computers for the children to use at Playgroup. In addition and as a direct result of our fund raising we have also brought some new multi cultural instruments for the children to use during their music sessions.

### Future Events -

The popular coffee afternoon will be returning in the autumn term as this term we will be concentrating on our contribution to the Fete. Our stall will have the ever popular hook a duck with small prizes for any lucky duck and also we will have a Children's tombola and a craft activity tables. Please come down and support us and if you do have a child at the playgroup if at all possible lend us some of your time to help run the stall. We will also be having another ragtex collection after the success of the last one, the collection will be on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

As it is the summer term we will again be saying goodbye to a number of children as they start school and we will be providing them with a party and a small present. The moving of some of the children also impacts on the PTFA as we will be looking to replace some of our committee members whose commitments have changed. If you are a parent or grandparent of a child who has previously attended Sharnford Playgroup and feel you might be able to assist the PTFA in the future please contact Kathy (272335) or Gemma (272396).

We look forward to letting you know about future fundraising and coffee afternoons in the Summer edition of the Sharnford News.

*Kathy Bryan, Chair*

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## ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful early spring weather but we had more reason than most to be grateful for its benefits. Since the theft of our boiler chimney pipe earlier in the year we have been unable to provide any heat in the church and the sunshine coming through the windows together with the huge rise in the air temperature did stop us freezing to death during the services - particularly at Easter. Two years ago there was a blizzard on Easter day!

We must also give extra thanks to the Methodist Church. As always they shared the task of hosting the Fair Trade coffee morning in March where £418.00 was raised for Action Aid and as always they hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer

service, but they also provided a room, a warm room, for all the Lent group meetings (we usually hold alternate meetings in the Church). Incidentally the chapel continue to meet when Lent groups are over. On the 2' and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7.30pm they assemble for fellowship and biblical discussion. Many of us will be attending these meetings and anyone else who would like to come along will be very welcome indeed.

On the 15th April an afternoon end of term service was held for the staff and pupils of Sharnford School. This was only possible because the staff and the parent's committee were able to ensure that the children could cross the main road in complete safety. The service was well attended (parents came too) and it was wonderful to see the pews filled with excited small children.

There have been no baptisms or weddings since the last issue but sadly there was one funeral service and that was for Mr. George Hargreaves whom many knew well. We extend our sympathies to his relatives.

As from the 15th May we are 'Rector less' but only for 3 months. Mick is taking a sabbatical. Am I the only person who believed this was a posh word for a long holiday? In fact it is nothing of the sort. Each Anglican vicar is expected to take a sabbatical at least every ten years (Although Mick has never taken one before) and during his absence he is

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expected to act as though he were taking a further theological degree — lots of reading, lots of studying and some visiting to study the different ways other Anglican churches proclaim their faith. We shall miss him but we wish him well and hope he returns refreshed and invigorated. Services will continue as usual with visiting ministers and lay readers conducting them for us. I am sure we shall enjoy hearing them preach.

Our plea for help in managing the churchyard was answered and there is now a small rota in place for the task of mowing the grass. We are truly grateful to our former and latest volunteers.

Church life will be relatively quiet over the summer. We shall be holding another fruit and vegetable tombola at the village fun day in June, we are not yet certain about an outing for the Explorer's group and our 'Songs of Praise' evening on the 21st August at 6.30pm will be conducted by the Venerable David Newman.

Our toilet and servery project is progressing and below is a note from our churchwarden about a major fund raising event last April.

*Estelle Perrett, PCC Secretary*

### ST HELEN'S FURNITURE SALE

The furniture sale which took place on 9th April in the Evergreen Hall turned out to be a great success. It was a joy to see the hall filled with furniture, china, pictures and various items which were generously donated by Rosemarie, Shez Simpson and the kind villagers of Sharnford. Also thanks to Lee Philps who donated a number of items on behalf of his mother Jean, which caused a great deal of interest as many took the opportunity to acquire a souvenir to remind them of their late friend. Very few visiting the sale left the hall empty handed, Churchwarden BILL SAW TO THAT! The weather was glorious that weekend, which inspired Rosemarie to arrange tables and chairs outside the hall, serving tea, coffee and cakes to grateful shoppers and passing villagers. Grateful thanks to the Smiths from Bumble Bee Lane who transported the heavier pieces of furniture to and from the sale, also thanks to Andrew Burbage who aided the process. A very big thank you to everyone who helped or visited the sale, the amount raised in aid of the Church Loo Fund totalled £850.

*Bill Higginbotham, Churchwarden*



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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.

It's said that the love of money is the root of all evil but sadly in today's world we can't do without it so, over the last quarter, we have been active in our support of several charities. In March we joined with St. Helens for the 'Fair Trade' breakfast in the Evergreen Hall which raised funds for 'Action Aid'. As a result of our coffee mornings in April & May we were able to donate to the 'Leprasy Mission' and 'Christian Aid'. During Lent, some of us took part in a 'Count your Blessings' scheme whereby each day we gave thanks for what we have by putting aside a small amount to help those who have little. It's surprising how it mounts up over 40 days and, despite the economic squeeze, we do still have a lot to be thankful for.

Visitors to the chapel will notice that the old organ has gone. Work is in progress to tidy up the area where it stood and also the upstairs area where the workings were housed, which will restore the choir gallery to its former size.

As always a welcome is extended to anyone who would care to join us at any of our events.

**Maureen Butcher**

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## SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE COMMITTEE

### Sharnford Family Fun Day - Timetable of events for the Fete

12noon	Fete Starts – Visit the many stalls	On the Park
12:30-1pm	Music by Steel Band – visit stalls or have a drink and something to eat	On the Park
1pm	Official Opening of Fete and Judging of Fancy Dress	Arena
1.10-1.30	Races	Arena
1.30-1.45	Duck Race One	Brook
1.45-2.15 2pm	Music Fire Engine	Car Park
2.15-2.30	Dog Agility	Arena
2.30-2.45	Duck Race Two	Brook
2.45-3.15	Music	
3.15	Races	Arena
3.30-3.45	Duck Race Three	
3.45-4.15	Races	Arena
4.15	Raffle Draw	Arena
4.30	Tug of War Comp. and Beat the Goalie Final	Arena
5.00pm	CLOSE	

### YOU CAN STILL ENTER EVENTS ON THE DAY - IT IS NOT TOO LATE

- Children can enter Fancy Dress competition - *The theme Wild West*
- Enter Yourself or Your Children in the Family Races. Buy a Duck.
- Buy a Raffle Ticket - *Either in advance from the Post Office or the Pubs ;or on the Day*
- Or just come along and enjoy yourself on the Day!

### HELP & SUPPORT

We still need your help with items for the stalls (cakes, bottles, items for the tombola and books). We will call and collect any non-perishable items over the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June. Alternatively deliver any donations to either 12 Brookfield or Soarbrook

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

April 6<sup>th</sup> saw a packed Evergreen Hall of members and friends when we welcomed Anne Hughes again who entertained us with the music, songs and monologues of the late Joyce Grenfell and a very enjoyable evening it was. Anne will be returning on December 7<sup>th</sup> so jot this date in your diary.

The Ladies group will be holding a few open meetings in the hall during the next

year, so keep your eye on the village noticeboards and the newsletter for details. Margaret Bryan came to the May meeting and gave us a very interesting talk, illustrated with slides of her and her husbands travels around the world. On June 1<sup>st</sup> the walking Treasure Hunt will be in Burbage, ending at the new home of Jean Ryan, 2 The Beeches. Meet at the Sharnford Arms car park 7.15p.m. or St. Catherine's Church, Burbage at 7.30p.m. The BBQ is on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jan Sewell, 48 Leicester Road, from 7.30pm.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and further information about the group can be obtained from the Leader, Pat Jordan, telephone 272229.

*Jean Ryan*

### **SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB**

Since the last Sharnford News not a lot has happened regarding the New Youth & Community Hall Project. Planning Permission has been granted at last, although a compromise of making the building slightly smaller than was originally applied for had to be made. This was to satisfy the Highways Dept with regards to the amount of parking which needed to be made available within the site.

Unfortunately, due to the numerous unsuccessful funding applications which have been applied for over the last few months, we are not a lot nearer to our target figure of £90,000. With time rapidly ticking away the Youth Club Committee are becoming more frustrated at the lack of outside funding support. However, on a more optimistic note, some fantastic news has come to our attention over the last few days and that is Bardon Aggregates have now fully agreed to supply

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all of the dry stone, concrete and blocks for our project. This approximates to about £16,000 of our budgeted costs and does mean that the building works should be able to start very soon.

Obviously the Youth Club Committee are still endeavouring to raise money through other means and hope that the whole village will pull together and support our efforts whenever and however they can.

Within the last 3 months many fundraising events have taken place. Ian Pickering and Nicki Harvey Rowley had a very successful run from Coventry's Ricoh Arena to the Leicester's Walkers Stadium back in February. They finished in under 4 hours, raising a total of £1,505. With numerous interviews on Radio Leicester, they are now Sharnford's best known celebrities. Don't let it go to your head guys! Well done to both of them and 'thanks' to Clinical Print Finishers for allowing them to watch the match (and recover) in the warmth and comfort of their box.

The Easter Duck Race was a success and was only slightly hampered by the lack of rain and the shallow river. A big thank you must go to everyone who made time to go out and sell the ducks as well as those that bought one. The winner of the second race, Councillor Sheila Scott, has donated her winnings back to the Youth Club, so a big thanks to you Sheila.

May Day Bank Holiday saw a good turn out for our Afternoon Tea and Homemade Cake Sale with a total of £300 being made over a 2 hour period. It was encouraging to see the amount of people who made the effort to join us and also donate such a lovely array of homemade cakes. It was an enjoyable afternoon and a great way to get together for a cuppa and a chat.

The next major event will be the Hog Roast on Saturday 11th June on the Park. Flyers and posters have gone out detailing the event with the tickets having now been reduced to £10 per person. A great time is guaranteed with fantastic live music being provided by local group 'Route 66'. Tickets are available from Julie Edge 271321 and Karen Smith 221350 and are selling fast so get in there quick.

The Youth Club Helpers are still making sure the kids have a get together most Friday evenings down on the park with a regular game of footy. We're hoping to get some kind of hut set up soon to use as a tuck shop/art room so we can at least

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provide somewhere for them to meet up and socialise at some level before we loose them all to the *'hanging around on street corners & getting up to mischief'* mindset.

Blaby District Council will also be siting the Youth Bus on Sapcote Park on the following dates: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th June and 7th & 11th July between 6.30 & 8.30pm. Any Sharnford kids over 11 years old are welcome to go and join them.

If anyone would like to join us, or has any ideas for further fundraising, please feel free to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

*Julie Edge, Chair of Sharnford Youth Club*

## SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The summer term has started well and the children have settled down to work quickly and sensibly. This term looks like being very busy with many exciting topics, trips and events planned.

Following our HMI Inspection in February we were delighted with the feedback that the inspector gave to our schools. The report stated that 'The effectiveness of the federation's leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement is good'. In her oral and written feedback Mrs Morrisey was extremely complimentary about the behaviour and attitudes of the children and the relationships within the federation.

In March a book fayre was organised with Osborne Books who visited our school and allowed the children to look at a number of different books and purchase those they wished to buy. Each child had a £1 book day voucher they could use.

All of the children took part in a sponsored event for Red Nose day. Class one had a sponsored skip, hop and relay, class two a hula hooping competition and Hawaiian afternoon while class 3 had an activities afternoon. In total we raised £612.45. Thank you to everyone for supporting these events. During the spring term we also raised £69.13 for Loros from the sale of Easter teddies and £38.50 from Ragtex following a collection of recycled clothes to help families in developing countries.

Year five and six children enjoyed a day at the Black Country Museum as part of their topic on the Victorians. The children were escorted by guides dressed in Victorian

costume and visited a mine, old schoolroom and period shops. Year three and four children enjoyed tri golf training along with a festival which our children won and year one children have attended a multi skills festival at Burbage Infant School. Many trips have been organised for all the children during the summer term.

School Food Support has introduced a new food menu for our children, which gives them extra choices on a three week rota. Before the end of the spring term School Food Support offered our children a special Easter meal and a street party meal to celebrate the Royal Wedding. To

**THE PUB THAT  
COMES UP STUMPS**

celebrate in style the children enjoyed their street party meal outside with banners and balloons.

A number of class assemblies have taken place and the whole school walked to St Helens Church to take part in an Easter assembly, which was led by Class three.

The PTA continue to help raise much needed funds for our school and they organised a party for our school children at the end of the spring term where they had a great time. The PTA also paid for six sessions of Forest School where all the children had the opportunity to spend either a morning or afternoon at Fosse Meadows. This was very much appreciated.

We continue to collect vouchers from Tesco, Sainsbury's and Nestle box tops. Please send in any spare vouchers you may have. We appreciate all the help we receive from volunteers and send our thanks.

*Mrs Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant*

### **SHARNFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL ECO-COUNCIL NEWS**

Last month children from Sharnford Primary School Eco-Council decided to run a competition for the best 'Village Sign' idea. The Eco-Council had generated this concept after the Sharnford Environment Group mentioned that they were hoping to put up new village signs in Sharnford.

The Eco-Council then led an assembly about the competition and many children put forward what Sharnford meant to them. Ideas such as the park, Fosse Meadows, the school, the club and the community life all came flooding from the children as being the most important aspects of Sharnford for them.

Many children entered the competition with some very creative and original ideas. It was then decision time for the Eco-council as they made the hard choice as to the eventual winners **WHICH ARE DISPLAYED ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

The Eco-council wish to thank all the children who entered the competition and the members of the Sharnford Environment Group.

Sharnford Primary School Eco-Council Members:

Connor Underwood (Chair), Muzelley Roddam (Vice-Chair), Lucy Wormleighton (Secretary), Sam Green (Secretary), Gracie Scott, Dylan Oldham, Melody Oldham, Isabelle Callender and Harry Gibson.

**BATTING ON A STICKY WICKET?**

# Sharnford Village Sign

## Sharnford Primary School Children's Entries

### Competition Winners



Molly Walters - Reception



Callum Riley – Class 1



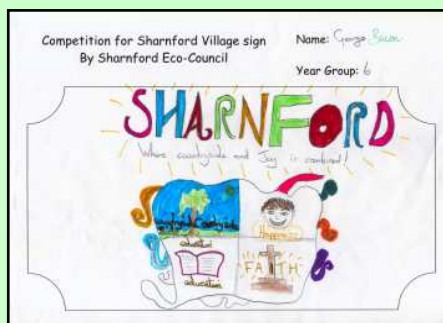
Hollie Harvey-Rowley – Class 2



Alisha Reddam – Class 4



Hanah Harvey-Rowley – Class 5



George Bacon – Class 6

## SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Lengthening days now see an increase in our activities around the village. Members of the Group have purchased high-viz waistcoats for use when we are out and about in the village. Our on-going projects include litter picks around the village, including Leicester Road and Aston Lane, maintenance of Bluebell Green, preparations for our stall at the village fete and re-painting some planters, which this year will include window boxes at the Evergreen Hall.

**STOP PRESS** : The avenue of Field Maples planted in Poors Meadow in 2009, which were growing well, have recently been vandalised. First one and now another one have been snapped off – the last incident occurring just last week. To say the least our members are extremely upset that their efforts in planting the 14 trees are not appreciated by a few idiots. Let us hope that those responsible, whether from this village or not, will somehow be identified and that we can put the problems behind us. After some delay to establish ownership of the hedges surrounding Poors Meadow, these were finally cut at the end of February.

Plans have been finalised in an attempt to overcome the ‘sunken’ timeplate numbers on the Sunlock on Bluebell Green. Suitable materials will be ordered shortly and we are hopeful the agreed solution will alleviate the possibility of this problem recurring.

In early March, at the request of the School Deputy Headmistress, Sharon Boyd-Hope, three members of the Group visited Sharnford Primary School to offer ideas on how the children could expand their outside project to help the environment. Some suggestions were planting up a shaded area with suitable woodland plants, growing herbs outdoors and using their greenhouse to bring on plug plants and tomatoes. Yvonne Jordan volunteered to oversee the latter project. Two litter picks, arranged for March and May, were both abandoned because of poor weather.

Our 46 village hanging baskets are to be planted up and hung on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Assisted by our band of dedicated ‘waterers’, we look forward to a colourful display again this year,. The Group are still short of volunteer waterers again this year and if anyone is able to help, please phone Margaret on 271156.

After the harsh winter and record breaking spring temperatures, we can only wait and see what the summer weather might bring!

*Margaret Grewcock*

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## SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011

The Show Schedule for this September is now finalised and those of you who entered last year should by now have had your copy delivered. Copies were distributed at The Plant Sale and further copies will be available from The Post Office and Four Winds, also from Kaye & Andrew Wormleighton, Barbara & John Proctor or Janet & Tony Curtis. We will also have copies available at the Fete on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

We sent every household a copy last year but that is an expensive option, so this year, if you want a copy – just ask. A downloadable copy will also be available from our webpage on the [leicestershirevillages.com](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com) website.

<http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/sharnford-produce-show.html>

There are some minor changes for this year with changes to those sections that did not work well or had few entries. Also a few changes just to ring the changes and keep you on your toes! We hope that those of you who did not enter last year but came along on the day will have a go this year. Now you know that entering is just a bit of fun and not as bad as going to the Dentist.

We will have a stand at the Fete on 12<sup>th</sup> June to help the fund raising and will have some games for you to play. We will be available for advice so that you can present your entries in the best way.



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*Tony Curtis*

### WHERE IS MY TOILET?

A young couple were shown over their new house by the vicar. But after he had gone they could not find the WC so they wrote a letter to the vicar enquiring where it was. The vicar, ignorant of the term WC, thought it meant Westlyan Chapel. Imagine the young couples surprise when they receive this reply:-

Dear Sir or Madam,

I regret to inform you that the nearest WC is 12 miles away. This is unfortunate if you are in the habit of going regularly. It is built to accommodate 1,000 people and to oblige the public, the wooden seats have been replaced with plush seating.

The vicar will help you if you have trouble in waiting for the proceedings to start. Quite a few people take sandwiches and make a day of it. All the children sit together and sing while the proceedings are going on. The last time my wife went was 12 months ago and she had to stand all the time.

Yours sincerely

The Vicar PS Hymn sheets are behind the door, but please replace them after use.

### **NEW WEEKLY SAVINGS ARE JUST THE TICKET**

Starting from 6th June 2011 bus travel on the Service 148, Leicester to Sharnford route will be better value thanks to a new weekly saver ticket. The tickets, priced at just £18, offer unlimited travel on the service for 7 consecutive days (please note there is no Sunday timetable) and represent a saving of over £9 per week compared with buying a return ticket every day.

The tickets are available to buy on bus from the driver and have been introduced following increasing public demand for multi-journey saver tickets and aim to encourage people to leave the car at home and jump on the bus.

The 148 service operates every hour, travelling from Leicester to Sharnford calling at Grove Park, Enderby, Thurlaston, Potters Marston, Stoney Stanton and Sapcote along the way. One of the main advantages with buying a weekly ticket is the financial saving it offers. A return trip from Sharnford to Leicester in the car with City centre parking costs £6.71\* per day, compare this to jumping on the bus for just £3 per day, when making full use of the new weekly tickets available, without the hassle of parking.

For more information about the new weekly saver tickets or bus travel in general visit

[www.leics.gov.uk/transport\\_promotions](http://www.leics.gov.uk/transport_promotions) or call the Customer Service Centre on 0116 305 0002.

\* this figure includes 9 hours parking and assumes fuel consumption in a Ford Focus 1.8 saloon pre 2010.

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