

# SHARNFORD NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Issue No 41



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## SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council was disappointed at its January meeting to be advised that the proposed extension and improvements to the Children's Play area in Park View has had to be put on hold following objections from residents in two adjacent properties. Blaby District Council officers, who were willing to let the Parish use this additional land, have not ruled out the possibility but want to look further into the proposal. The Parish Council will be seeking to meet the residents concerned to discuss their objections.

When setting out its Budget for 2012/13 the Parish Council made a number of adjustments to the provisions made under a variety of headings. Taking into account the fact that the new Burial Ground is now in use, adjustments were made to the sum allocated for landscaping and maintenance and, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this year, a small increase was made to the more flexible contingency allocation. This should enable some recognition of the Jubilee and allow more response to be made when requests for financial support are received from the various Community Groups.

Also at the January meeting the Council received a report from the Affordable Housing Enabler, following the village-wide survey conducted in October. He reported that there had been an encouraging response to the questionnaire and that the conclusions he had drawn showed that there was a call for 6-8 such houses in Sharnford. The Council accepted the report and authorised the enabler to start the process which should eventually see a small development on the edge of the village.

Finally, the decision was taken to make arrangements to provide back-up for the funding of the new Youth Club and Community building project. The fund-raising efforts of the joint Youth Club and Parish Council Project Committee have so far raised very nearly £80,000 in cash, grants and materials, towards the target of £100,000....an

outstanding achievement....

So the Council agreed to the setting-up of a draw-down loan facility from a Local Government Funding Board, to cover the outstanding £20,000. It is expected that further grants can be achieved within the next few months and more fund-raising activities will continue and that the full amount of £20,000 will not be required.

Ian Pickering

p h o t o g r a p h y

portraits weddings commercial

t. 01455 271371 e. [ian@ianpickering.com](mailto:ian@ianpickering.com)

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However, whatever shortfall there may be will now be covered by this loan. In the discussion surrounding this proposal it was recognised that, though it is proposed to grant a long term lease to the Youth Club, the building and its site (currently valued at approximately £250,000), will always belong to the Parish Council and will considerably enhance the overall facilities of the village.

As a consequence of the various adjustments, and making provision for repayments on the loan, the total precept was increased by a sum of £1,300, an average increase across the village of £3.00 per household per year! We trust that residents will agree that, considering the benefit to the community, this is not too great a burden. The Parish Council will continue to carry out its various other responsibilities and to look at any means of improving the facilities within the village. We welcome any comments and suggestions from residents and would, of course, be pleased to see more people at our monthly meetings.

*Derek Gibbons, Deputy Chairman*



**& Garden Centre**  
**Easter Egg Hunt Weekend**  
**31<sup>st</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Now in its seventh 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 'Red, White and Blue' themed pot/basket. There will be a small charge for this of **£1.00** as we are trying to support the Air Ambulance and so any proceeds will go to them. For the adults there will be a **Free Prize Draw**, refreshments and an opportunity to have a look round at some of the changes we have made and new stock that is available.

Website: [www.fourwindsnurseries.co.uk](http://www.fourwindsnurseries.co.uk)

Email: [info@fourwindsnurseries.co.uk](mailto:info@fourwindsnurseries.co.uk)

Coventry Road, Sharnford Tel: 01455 221005  
Open 7 days - Mon- Sat 9-5.30, Sun 10.30-4.00



**LOCAL COUPLE CELEBRATE IMPORTANT MILESTONE  
WITH THREE OAKS HOMES**

Three Oaks Homes (TOH) recently celebrated the important milestone of the 1,500<sup>th</sup> home to receive improvement works in Leicestershire with Sharnford couple, Steve and Jan Hollinshead. Steve and Jan, tenants of the 1,500<sup>th</sup> home, moved in to the property approximately 18 months ago. After being on a waiting list for eight years, the family were thrilled when they received a call from Three Oaks Homes offering them a new home in Sharnford, Leicestershire.

With a family history rich in detail appropriate to Three Oaks Homes – Jan's grandmother was the first person in the Blaby District to receive council accommodation – the couple were thrilled to return to the area.



***Steve and Jan Hollinshead.***

know we would be receiving the refurbishment works. The house looks amazing and everyone involved has been fantastic. It has made returning home even better than we originally expected.”

So far, £20 million of the £32 million project’s funds have been invested in major refurbishments across the housing provider’s homes. This property is just one of the 2,200 that TOH are modernising in the district, to improve to a level that exceeds the Decent Homes Standard, a minimum standard set by the Government that all social housing must meet.

Kiumars Kiani, Asset Manager, at Three Oaks Homes, says: “I am really proud of the partnership for the time, energy, effort and expertise we have put in to improving our properties. Working together with Lovell Partnerships Ltd, Michael Dyson Associates, and Three Oaks Homes Tenant Federation, we have been able to deliver a fantastic improvement programme for all Three Oaks Homes tenants.”

Noel Adams, regional director at Lovell, says: “It has been a pleasure to work with Three Oaks Homes on this project and it is wonderful to see such positive feedback from the tenants.

“The Hollinsheads have clearly wanted to return home to a welcoming community for a long time, and we ensure we work with our partners to do more than just improve homes; we create communities and environments that provide that sense of ‘coming home’.”

Three Oaks Homes has worked with affordable housing specialists Lovell to enhance the quality of the property, both internally and externally. Inclusive of kitchen and bathroom refurbishment, a heating and electrical upgrade, and work on the external walls.

Jan Hollinshead, says: “We were absolutely thrilled when Three Oaks

Homes contacted us to let us

**Sharnford Pre-School Playgroup**

**Evergreen Village Hall,**

**Sharnford, Leicester**

Telephone Alison 01455 213779

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

Small, friendly playgroup

Awarded Good in all areas by OFSTED

(May 2009)

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

This term we have welcomed Will, Lottie, Olivia, Sam, James and Gilbert to playgroup and after half term Kasper and Milly will also be joining us. We have waved goodbye to Esther and Rachel who have joined Alison's new playgroup, Little Explorers in Burbage, and Emma now works at both settings. We wish them and Alison every success in our sister playgroup, who we will be working very closely with.

Since the start of term, our activities have been based around 'People who help us'. One child has needed to attend hospital several times and is having more visits there so we have investigated the types of people who may help us in an emergency. We have role played what to do if there's a fire and taken part in a fire drill.

Focus has then enabled us to look at the Emergency Services including Fire Service, Ambulance and Police and what types of uniform, vehicles and equipment they would have. All the children designed their own fire engine from different resources, and have helped to paint our display board Fire Engine. Don't forget to have a look at it, next time you are in the Evergreen Hall.

We also made a Fire Truck from our climbing frame and took turns dressing up as Fire, Police and Ambulance people. When we were playing, we realised we needed more Walkie Talkies and had fun making these from boxes and resources that people had saved for us. We focused on the numbers 999 and what would happen if we dialled them. We have role played a Police Station, helping people for various reasons. That was great fun and we had lots of fun helping 'lost' people around playgroup and chasing and catching sneaky burglars!

Our Doctors on the ambulance and in our surgery needed to learn the names of parts of our bodies and so we all lay down on the floor and drew around each other and labelled the parts of the body. Next we opened our surgery and managed to wrap our entire waiting room in a variety of sticking plasters, bandages and slings for their injured arms and legs. The children's imaginations were fantastic when they gave the doctors details of how they had managed to get all these terrible injuries!

We have celebrated and learned about Chinese New Year and made colourful lanterns and used chop sticks to eat our noodles. After half term we will be focusing on Spring, looking at the changes to the environment and the new life it brings. Before our Easter break we are having our annual egg hunt and hat parade.

*Cath, Alison, Karen, Lyn, Emma and Kate*

## BURBAGE PLAYGROUP

**EXPERIENCED PROPRIETOR  
EXPANDING AND BRINGING A NEW  
PLAYGROUP TO BURBAGE**



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BASED AT THE SCOUT HALL, BRITANNIA ROAD**

**OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9.15AM TO 2.15PM  
FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN - CALL ALISON ON  
01455 213779 OR 07816 971471**

## SHARNFORD PLAYGROUP PTFA

2012 is looking to be as busy and hopefully as successful for us as 2011. We are continuing with the popular coffee mornings, the next one will be on 6th March. Further dates will be advertised around the village. Funds raised this term will go towards a special trip for the playgroup children at the end of the summer term and also to address some of the wish list from the playgroup.

We have also taken on the running of the Mums and Tots group. The group meets every Tuesday morning during term times and welcomes people caring for children from 0-4 years old. We also welcome those expectant mums who would like some company, a cuppa and a chat. There is no requirement to attend every week and no membership fee. We all look after our own children and the entrance fee of £1.70 for an adult and child includes a drink and snack for the child and the adult. The toys which are available to play with alternate throughout the weeks and we try to provide craft activities on a regular basis. A calendar of activities will be available at the start of each half term. We look forward to welcoming new children, parents and mums-to-be.

*Kathy Bryan*

### SHARNFORD POST OFFICE AND VILLAGE STORE

Convenience Store, Newsagents

Gay and Eric welcome your  
Custom

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home delivery**

**Open 7 days  
Tel. 01455 272210**

## ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

The year began with the sad news of John Collins' sudden and unexpected death on the 12<sup>th</sup> January. He had lived in the village for 46 years and was always a very active member of St. Helen's Church. As a Lay Reader he conducted many services and was a great support to the three incumbent ministers we have had during this time. In addition he served on the P.C.C., drew up various rotas and together with Mrs. Collins supervised the 'Ride and Stride' every year. In fact he was always on hand to help in the running and the business of the church and he will be greatly missed. The church was packed at the Celebration of his Life service and a request to donate money to the church in lieu of flowers raised the sum of £846. His children and grandchildren paid tribute to a much-loved father and grandfather and our sympathy goes to those who will miss him most.

On the 22nd January we heard much happier news when our Rector, Mick, announced his engagement to Denise Martyr. It suddenly became clear why his eyes had been twinkling, his smile had been widening, his spirit had been lifted and his step had lightened. Everyone at church was delighted for him. He has had a rough time in latter years and he deserves the joy that shines from him. The wedding is set for 15th July and we all congratulate him and wish them both the greatest happiness.

Now to events. On the 5th February the family service was held in the Evergreen Hall and we want to thank the intrepid folk (about 15 altogether) who braved the snow, ice

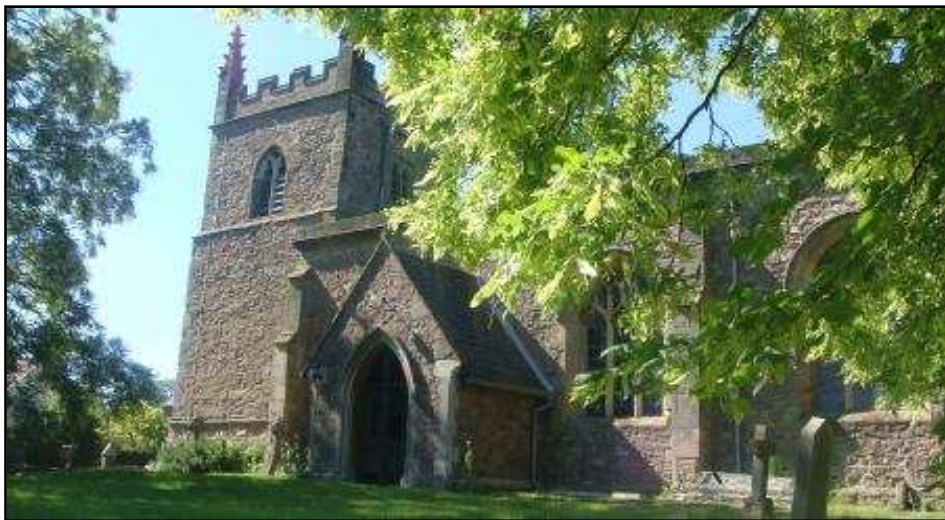
and fog to get to that service, especially as it was such an early start. Our future events will be familiar ones. **2<sup>nd</sup> March** -Women's World Day of Prayer, 7.00pm at the Chapel. **3<sup>rd</sup> March** - Fair Trade Coffee Morning 9.30am at the Evergreen Hall. **25<sup>th</sup> March** - Memorial Service for the recently bereaved 6.30pm. **6<sup>th</sup> April** - Good Friday, service to be announced. **8<sup>th</sup> April** - Easter Sunday, Service in St. Helen's 9.15am. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's, Wigston Parva 3.15pm. **22<sup>nd</sup> April** - Launch Service for the Funding Campaign 9.15 am. Details of this campaign will be circulated shortly. **30<sup>th</sup> April** - Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

We wish to thank everyone who has donated money to our Servery/Toilet project and assure them that the project is progressing very nicely. We are just awaiting the 'all clear' from the Deanery Advisory Committee and then we will set about seeking grants to match the money we have already raised. Who knows, by this time next year.....

Here's hoping

*Estelle Perrett (PCC secretary)*

### ST. HELEN'S CHURCH FUNDING PROGRAMME



St. Helen's Church, Sharnford will be launching a funding programme in April. The purpose of the programme is to increase awareness of the role of St. Helen's Church in the life of Sharnford, and how this is funded. It also aims to attract new funding from local residents.

The main event will be Cream Teas at the Evergreen Hall on Saturday 28th April from 2.30 to 4.30pm. Information about St. Helen's will be available and a short talk will explain how to participate further, for those who wish to.

Prior to this a special launch service will take place at St. Helen's Church on Sunday 22nd April at 9.15am with our Archdeacon, Ven David Newman. David will launch our funding programme, and will inspire and challenge us all.

Following these events there will be opportunities for people to respond further in assisting St. Helen's with funding. When all the responses have been made we will be

holding a special thanksgiving service. This will be on Sunday 24th June at 9.15am at St. Helens Church. Our very special guest will be Bishop Christopher Boyle. He will lead our Communion service, speak to us and lead us in thanking God.

*Rev Mick Norman, Rector*

### **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB**

**OPEN TO ANY ONE 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, two full day away trips.**

**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 274772**

### **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.

### **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB**

I start my report with the very sad news that one of our most dedicated members, Royal Cooke, passed away shortly before Christmas. Royal gave a lot of his time helping out at our various activities, he was the regular Bingo caller and also Santa's right hand man at our Christmas Bazaar - he knew how to bring a smile to the children's faces. He covered many miles delivering all of our leaflets over the years. He was one of life's true gentlemen, and will be sorely missed by us all at the club. At his funeral, donations were made to the Evergreen Club and, by the request of his wife Gail, the £400 raised is to be used against a future trip for the members. Gail has asked me to say a big "thank you" to all who attended the funeral and for your kind donations.

Members of the Sharnford Evergreen Club enjoyed a trip to the Concordia Theatre in Hinckley on the 11th January to see the pantomime "Aladdin". I think I speak on behalf of everyone that the production was a great success, with many laughs throughout the evening.

The Fashion Show held at the hall on 17<sup>th</sup> February was an outstanding success – standing room only, just about! The total raised to date is £1300, which is absolutely fantastic. This money will be given to Cancer Research UK to enable them to continue their valuable work into the treatment and cure of cancer.

Our thanks go to Molly Watts and friends who have been working for weeks to get this show organised. We also send our thanks to all of the models, dressers and our compere for the evening, Barbara Southeran. The kitchen staff must also get

a special mention. Can we also thank Tony Allen, who came down and put out and put away all the tables and chairs for the evening. We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Sharnford Arms for their continued generosity in donating the wine for the evening. Finally we must give a huge thank you to all those people who generously donated items for this show. Without their support it would not have happened!

Clothes and accessories which remain unsold will be available on display at the Fair Trade morning to be held in the Evergreen Hall on Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9.30am.

Our tea meetings have now resumed fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon starting at 2.30pm. Any new members would be warmly welcome.

We have chosen the dates for our trips this year as 23<sup>rd</sup> May and the 8<sup>th</sup> August but we have yet to decide on destinations. Further information on these will be given to members in due course.

*Karen Smith, Chairman*



### **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN HALL AND CLUB**

Mavis Smith, the President of the Club and Hall has announced her retirement this year and we would like to pay tribute to her hard work and commitment over the years. She joined the committee in 1955, as a young farmer's wife. She had a break for a few years to care for her two young sons and has been a committed member for 55 years. She was involved in the building of the hall in the early sixties and has played a pivotal role in the running of the club and the hall. She has organised the annual Prize Draw Raffle which raises funds to take our members on trips etc and has sent flowers and gifts to all those in need. We will miss her and wish her a happy retirement.

## **PLANT SALE SHARNFORD EVERGREEN HALL SATURDAY 19TH MAY**

**9AM till 12AM**

Organised by the  
Sharnford Village Show Committee  
with support from Four Winds Nursery.

Bedding plants and herbs, and an  
expanded range of vegetable plants.



## PLANT SALE SATURDAY 19TH MAY

The plant sale will be held as usual at The Evergreen Hall on Saturday 19th May from 9am till 12am. The organisers of the Sharnford Village Show wanted to carry on the tradition laid down by the Evergreen Ladies who have decided to hang up their trowels and dibbers. It was hard work and they have decided to retire gracefully.

So this year the Sharnford Village Show organisers will run the Plant Sale with support from Four Winds Nursery who are providing the bedding plants. We will have the usual range of bedding plants that you have come to expect and this year hope to have an expanded range of vegetable plants and herbs. We will have a new, 'New Guinea' variety of Impatiens to replace Bizzie Lizzies. These will be resistant to the die back which has caused so many problems with Bizzie Lizzies, indeed most Garden Centres will no longer stock Bizzies. Prices will be competitive.

We anticipate that The Evergreen Ladies will open the hatch for teas coffees and who knows what extra treats.

Along with profits from our other events in the year, any surplus profits made will be distributed to village causes.

### *Sharnford Village Show*

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

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL

We are continuing to hold the hiring prices at 2007 levels and will endeavour to do so as long as possible and the hall is well-heated now, despite the cold spell. We are holding regular bacon buttie mornings during the year. The one held in January raised £432 for the hall maintenance fund. The next one will be on the 14th April. We do hope that everyone enjoys these very social mornings down at the Hall and look forward to seeing you there.

## SPRINGTIME TRIVIA QUIZ

- Which of these events marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere?  
(a) Groundhog Day, (b) Mardi Gras, (c) The Vernal Equinox, (d) Easter Sunday
- "Daydream" was a hit for which early '60s group?  
(a) Bee Gees, (b) Heart, (c) Jefferson Starship, (d) The Lovin' Spoonful
- Who wrote "In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love"?  
(a) William Blake, (b) T.S. Eliot, (c) Alfred, Lord Tennyson, (c) Geoffrey Chaucer
- "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White" is an old-time song by whom?  
(a) Perez Prado, (b) Bing Crosby, (c) Frank Sinatra, (d) Dean Martin
- Who sang "April Love"?  
(a) Nat King Cole, (b) Buddy Holly, (c) Pat Boone, (d) Tony Bennett
- Which country is home to the pyramid of Kulkuikan a.k.a. Quetzalcoati, that was built with the solstices and equinoxes in mind?  
(a) Cambodia, (b) Mexico, (c) Peru, (d) Ecuador

7. "Younger than Springtime" is a song from which Broadway musical, later made into a film?
  - (a) South Pacific, (b) My Fair Lady, (c) The Producers, (d) Evita
8. Who created the song "Morning has Broken"?
  - (a) Genesis, (b) Donovan, (c) Cat Stevens, (d) Shawn Phillips
9. What is a Passover Seder?
  - (a) ceremonial dinner, (b) a pilgrimage, (c) a religious service in a synagogue, (d) a dance
10. Which American candy-focused holiday is similar to a Swedish Easter week tradition?
  - (a) Valentine's Day, (b) Halloween, (c) Mother's Day, (d) Christmas Eve
11. The film "Easter Parade" immortalises the grand Easter Sunday stroll down what famous street?
  - (a) Collins Avenue in Miami Beach, (b) Beverley Hills Rodeo Drive, (c) The Champs Elysees, (d) New York's Fifth Avenue
12. Which ancient monument was built facing the sunrise of the vernal equinox?
  - (a) The Great Sphinx at Giza, Egypt, (b) The Colossus of Rhodes, (c) The Parthenon in Athens, Greece, (d) The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

*Answers on back page*

## SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

At our December meeting we gave our army of hanging-basket waterers a much deserved "thank you" in the form of a festive drink and a few nibbles. There are a couple of basket locations that will be in need of a friendly waterer to look after them during the coming summer. We can provide a modern Hozelock watering system and back-up for holiday periods and any other time you might be away. The two locations are at the entrance to Fox Hollies and near the entrance to Willowbrook Close. If you could help us with these positions we would be most grateful. Please contact Mike Bishop (272393) or Dave Sewell (272901).



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\*(subject to terms and conditions)

In the past couple of months, in addition to keeping the roadside planters looking as colourful as can be at this time of the year, we have been organizing the availability of spring and summer plants for both the planters and the baskets and planning a number of minor projects to be completed when the weather warms up. We have been fortunate to receive a gift of materials to enable us to carry out some much-needed maintenance on the planters. Indeed, as a result of this gift some of them will be replaced rather than repaired, and we will have sufficient material to replace most of the planters

in time. Each new one we build will be virtually maintenance-free from a structural viewpoint, which will eventually save us significant labour and cost.

There is still plenty of work to be done on Bluebell Green - we are planning a major change to the content of some of the beds, to bring a little more variation to the shapes and colours this year. We also propose to bring some realization to our long-held belief that the village would benefit from a distinctive sign. Watch this space.

All our ideas will take some time and effort to come to fruition. We could do with some extra hands to help make them happen. If you would like to help with this, in any capacity, please contact any member of the Group. Our details are on the notice boards.

*Environment Group Committee*



### COMPOSTING AND WASTE CORNER

The compost heap is quiet at this time of year so I will tell you about my visit mid February to Casepak in Leicester where all Blaby District recyclables now go for processing. The facility is awesome, 13.6 acres - you could fit a Jumbo Jet inside their building with room to spare. It is one of the newest recycling centres in the country and purchases waste from Blaby for recycling. Yes, there is money in all that stuff, so please do not put recyclables into the residuals bin. What a waste to send valuable recyclables to landfill, causing Blaby to pay landfill tax. This new plant can handle 26 tonnes an hour, giving it an annual capacity of 150,000 tonnes. They can capture 95% of the material as a viable resource.

There are conveyor belts, super-magnets to sort out the steel cans, lasers to sort out the plastic bottles, crushers for the glass and a surprisingly small amount of manual sorting. This is Willy Wonker's Chocolate Factory on steroids. Check out the video clips on YouTube, available from a link on my webpage

[www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/master-composter.html](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/master-composter.html).

The timelapse video is quite hypnotic.

Since this site opened, Blaby has been able to send more materials for recycling. So now, not only Paper & Card but also TetraPak and juice containers (rinsed and empty) plus window envelopes are fine. As well as the usual plastic bottles you can also include plastic food trays and containers (rigid - not foam), plastic film, carrier bags and bubble wrap. Not only steel & aluminium food and drinks cans but aerosols as well.

So, more recyclables going for recycling means more income and a smaller landfill tax bill for the Council. As ratepayers, that ultimately means the Council needs less of our money to run the Waste Disposal Services and, of course, it is much better for the environment. What's not to like about recycling?

On another topic, for some time WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) has been spreading the message that it is totally safe to freeze supermarket food up to the use by date. Now the Supermarkets are taking this on board - you probably heard this on the news in mid-February. This is the official announcement from WRAP.

One reason many of us say we don't freeze food is that it says 'freeze on day of purchase' on the label. However, working with WRAP, DEFRA and the Food Standards

Agency, two major retailers, Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's, have taken action to change this. New labelling will advise customers to freeze food as soon as possible up to the product's use-by date. This move will help stop those of us who are a little over-cautious from throwing away up to 800,000 tonnes of perfectly good food each year! Now we can all look in our fridges and know that we can freeze most items which are about to go out of date and enjoy them at a later time. In doing so we can expect to reduce the amount of out-of-date food we throw away, which will in turn save us all money.

If you have any queries, I am happy to advise. If I do not know the answer, I know someone who does.

**Tony Curtis, Master Composter and Waste Action Volunteer, 01455272532**

## Conkers After School Club

All Saints Church Hall, Sapcote

October 2010 awarded 'GOOD'  
in all areas by OFSTED

Come along and join our After School Club



Crafts, DS, Wii  
& Laptops



Table football Outdoor Activities  
Cooking Games Competitions

Come along and have fun with us

Open Mondays 3pm – 6pm during term time  
for all children aged 4 to 12 years

£3 per hour or £6.50 for a 3 hour session  
Discounts available for siblings  
Childcare vouchers accepted

Contact Alison on 07816 971471 for further details  
OFSTED Registration number EY404111

### SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Following our last report in October the children at Sharnford C of E Primary School enjoyed many Christmas activities. The school nativity 'CHRISTMAS spells Christmas' took place in the school hall, all the children performed well and this was

enjoyed by parents/carers, Governors, family and friends. The PTA organised a Christmas workshop which the children attended and each made two presents. The PTA also arranged a Christmas disco, when Santa made a special visit. Many children also enjoyed the Christmas dinner. Reception children enjoyed a Victorian Christmas day at Beaumanor Hall, Loughborough.

In November, parents had the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher to establish how their child was progressing at school. The two evenings were well attended. Year 6 children visited Warning Zone in Leicester, an exciting interactive centre where the children had the opportunity to take part in various safety scenarios including fire safety, road safety, arson and criminal damage, water safety and personal safety. More trips have been organised for later in the Spring term.

The Life Education caravan visited Sharnford Primary School in February and this gave all the children a chance to attend the mobile classroom where they talked about feelings, decisions and why it's great to be me. We are still collecting box top vouchers and when Sainsbury's vouchers start again, please send any spare vouchers you may have, into the school office.

Many thanks go to the PTA for organising events for the school children and adults who come in to school and listen to the children read or help with classroom based activities.

***Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant***

### AN ODE TO SPRING

When Rene Laher moved to South Africa she had a few problems in adjusting to the "seasons" down there. In view of the weather-adjusted seasons we now seem to be getting, we thought you might be interested in reading a delightful poem written by Rene soon after she and her family arrived in Westville, Durban.

#### Spring in Westville

I count the seasons on my fingers still.  
I'm new here and I can't believe it's spring.  
No sign of snowdrop, primrose, daffodil,  
No bluebell-misted woods, no robins sing.  
Instead the kite returns from northern sands  
And now, on stiffened wings the valleys sail.  
The swallows gather, home from distant lands.  
The jacaranda draws its violet veil.  
Thekwini's bright bay glitters in the breeze  
And thirsty throats of krantzes gasp for showers  
The gaudy blossoms on the naked trees  
Outshine by far those other gentler flowers  
It's raining, bringing life to everything.  
The earth renews; I do believe it's spring!

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**SHARNFORD PRIMARY  
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Firstly, can we say a big “thank you” to all who came to our Annual Quiz night. This year saw a change of venue, with a move down the road to the Evergreen Hall from the school hall, and it seems to have been well received. The larger venue allowed us to set our sights and hopes at attracting an increased number of teams and we were very excited when we managed to hit our target of 15 teams!

The night went very well with an excellent quiz provided by Phil and Sue Stanley and interval food and drink. Along with Phil and Sue, thanks needs go to those members of the PTA who ran the bar and kitchen during the evening. The outcome of all of this fun is we've raised a good amount to put back into addressing the wish list of the Primary School.

Before Christmas we advertised that we would be holding our usual Christmas Disco and workshop for the school children. The turn out to both events was phenomenal and the children had a lovely time.

Unfortunately, due to some pretty inclement weather, we were unable to do our traditional carol singing around the village. However, a few hardy festive souls did make it to the Sharnford Arms and sing a few carols and were even joined by some of the locals! Thanks to Steve and Jane for providing the mulled wine. Despite only a short performance we were able to raise over £60, which was given to a local donkey sanctuary. This term we will be providing an Easter disco/party for the children.

***Kathy Bryan, Chairman***

**THE COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND SOCIETY BENEVOLENT FUND**

Another season of hard work resulted in a total sell out of all 4,000 tickets in the annual Christmas draw. A great result, at one stage we doubted whether we would sell out, this was only achieved with a lot of hard work by a handful of people. Further thanks go out to all the people of Sharnford and local businesses and business contacts who donated prizes, which numbered around 45.

A substantial donation came from Waitrose who donated £250 allowing us to put some extras in the festive goody bags. Intex Grinders, a local engineering company, generously donated the chickens this year. Another group of people we must not forget



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were Paul Clough and his staff at the Countryman who packed the festive goody bags which again were distributed by a mere handful of people. We have received a letter of thanks from the school for our annual donation of £100 and some letters of thanks from within the village.

*Jack Feast, on behalf of the Countryman S & D Fund*

**UPDATE FROM YOUR BLABY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS  
FEBRUARY 2012**

A Very Happy New Year to you all!

'Active Together' have arranged a series of Winter Walks across Blaby District, Dog walkers will be made welcome but please note that dogs must be kept on a lead. If you are interested please contact: [www.blaby.gov.uk/activetogether](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/activetogether) email: [activetogether@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:activetogether@blaby.gov.uk) or tel :01162727703.

Funding – help with heating repairs on offer. Residents of Blaby District needing help with repairs or replacement boilers can apply for a grant to help them keep warm through the winter months. Approx £2,500.00 funding is available to people who own their own home, are disabled or over 60 years of age. Contact: 01162727536 or email [housing.adaptations@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:housing.adaptations@blaby.gov.uk)

Blaby District Council in conjunction with the Mental Health Charity MIND will be re-cycling small electrical items such as toasters and irons; this will be a fortnightly collection. These items should be placed into the MIND bags and will be collected along with the normal re-cycling collection. Vacuum cleaners, laptops, printers will be collected in the MIND textile bags, at the same time as the smaller items. Large items such as washing machines, fridges, freezers and cookers cannot be re-cycled through this scheme.

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Blaby South Community Forum meeting is on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and open to all residents in the Fosse villages, not just for BD Councillors and Parish Councillors, but also for you the residents. Why not come along and join in the discussions relating to Transport, Forum budgets, Fosse villages and many other issues. Venue: Stoney Stanton Social Club, Hinckley Road, Stoney Stanton – 7.00pm.  
*Cllrs. Sheila Scott 272450  
Ernie White 272136  
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## **ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP**

In January we welcomed John Lane, who with Pat Gibbs, gave us a very interesting illustrated talk about the Passion Play in Oberammergau. The religious drama is performed every 10 years by the residents of the village in Bavaria, Germany.

March 7<sup>th</sup> promises an Evening of Fitness, Laughter, Yoga and Fun for All. This will be a demonstration by Marlies Flintham and will be at the Evergreen Hall at 7-45pm. Everyone is welcome. It will be fun to join in – but you don't have to!

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Penny Ross is giving us an illustrated talk entitled "From Earl Shilton to Katmandu", recounting her recent visit to Nepal.

The meeting starts at 8pm and is at the Evergreen Hall. Everyone is invited.

We welcome Jane Good on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, again at the Evergreen Hall at 7-30pm. Jane will give us an Artistic Painting Demonstration.

There will be a small charge of £2 for visitors in March, April and May, which will include refreshments. Please come and join us.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm we will join the Evergreen Club for a Celebration Jubilee Tea Party. In the evening a visit to the Hinckley Museum has been arranged. Details are to follow.

Further information about the Group can be obtained from the Leader – Pat Jordan  
Tel: 272229

*Jan Sewell*

the                  space  
empty



**SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE  
COMMITTEE**

**‘CELEBRATING 2012’ - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012 -  
The Park , Park View**

With 2012 being possibly one of the most event-filled years for a while, we have decided that this year’s Fete will simply be about celebrating 2012. So, whether it is the Diamond Jubilee foremost in your mind, or one of the numerous sporting events (not least the London Olympics, of course), this Fete will be the one for you.

The AGM and initial meeting for this year took place at the end of January and whilst it was lovely to welcome back so many of the well-known faces it would also have been good to have seen some new ones to bring their own thoughts and enthusiasm to the organization of the Fete. But do not fear, if you did want to attend but were unable to do so in January we are always happy for new members to come and join us. The meetings will be advertised around the village and up until a few weeks before the fete, will take place on a monthly basis.

This year there will be 11 village causes that will benefit from the proceeds of the Fete and in no particular order they are :

The Youth Club; St Helens; The Methodist Chapel; Sharnford Primary School  
PTA; The Playgroup; The Environment Group; STAG; The Sick and Divi;  
The Evergreen Club; The Village Show and The Appraisal Group.

In a break with past years there will not be a door-to-door collection in the run up to the Fete. DO NOT, however, think that we will not welcome contributions for the bottle

stall, tombolas, toy stall and of course the Raffle. We will be pleased to receive your goodies and there will be a number of addresses and contact points where they can be dropped off. If you have donations but are unable to get them to us, please contact us and we will arrange a pick-up.

We will be holding our traditional 3 duck races and raffle during the Fete on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Ducks and Raffle tickets will be on sale well in advance of the day and available from a number of places about the village and from representatives of the village causes mentioned above.

*Kathy Bryan , Secretary, SGJC*

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[www.ukcaravans4hire.com/to-let-userid776.html](http://www.ukcaravans4hire.com/to-let-userid776.html)

or ring Phil Watts on 07974 641599

At long last things are starting to take shape down on the new Sharnford Youth and Community Hall site. The footings have been dug and filled thanks to Terry Clarke and Bardons. A big thanks must also go to Astley Fabrications who have erected the steel frame at a generously reduced cost. The blocks and bricks are on site and works on the building of the shell should start early March, weather permitting of course. This means by mid April we should have something that looks like a Youth Club! Mike Bishop and Dave Sewell are still working behind the scenes trudging through copious amounts of paperwork to find any grants or funding opportunities we can tap into, as there is still a fair shortfall

in our target to finish the building completely.

Since the last issue of The Sharnford News we have been promised an extra £5,000 from Blaby District Council's CAFFY fund, and have also received a cheque for £500 from Next, a further £100 from The Sharnford Ladies Group and a generous grant of £1,000 from the P & C Hickinbotham Charitable Trust, a family-based Trust in Oakham. We were also delighted to receive a welcome contribution to our cause of £1,000 from villager Mary Wright. Thank you for your support Mary. A mention also to Lisa Corti who raised just over £300 by running her first ever marathon around Leicester late last year. These donations will go a long way to helping, so many thanks for those.

We are now looking forward to Spring, and the better weather it brings, so we can have more 'games on the park' evenings whilst the building work continues. Members will be kept informed of any dates. Just to remind you all that Sharnford Youth Club can now be found on Facebook. Any progress in the building works and any other relevant information can be found here so feel free to take a look.

*Julie Edge and the Youth Club Committee*

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## FROM OUR SOUTH AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

Dear friends in Sharnford,

I know you have had quite a mild winter. Well, we are having a steaming hot summer here in Durban. Westville, where I live, is a little inland and on a hill so we do get some breeze, which is a relief. Westville is a beautiful suburb, full of trees and shrubs. Last month the jacarandas were in full bloom. The beautiful lilac-blue blossom comes out before the leaves so the valleys are filled with blue trees, which is quite an amazing sight.



*A Tibouchina in full bloom*

Our garden overlooks a nature reserve and the trees are full of birds. My favourite is the turacao which makes a noise like a demented chicken and flops about on the branches stirring up insects. It is quite a shy bird – about the size of a large pigeon, but when it flies there is a brilliant flash of scarlet from its wings. One thing though, the South African birds do not sing like the British birds. How I miss listening to the missel thrush at the top of a tree along Poor's Meadow after the rain. Best wishes to all, *Rene Laher*

### VITAL CASH RAISED FOR LOROS IN CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Staff, volunteers and patients at LOROS are celebrating the success of their Winter Warmer Raffle which has brought in over £125,000 this year. Supporters had been invited to buy tickets with a chance of winning one of 8 prizes including a first prize choice between £10,000 cash or a brand new Peugeot 207 Access. Also ten lucky winners won £10 M&S vouchers in the early response draw held in October.

LOROS patient and former volunteer fundraiser Margaret Marshall drew the winning tickets when the draw was held at the hospice on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and the lucky winners have

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now been told the good news.

A representative from LOROS, Lottery Manager Liz Singleton said “The local hospice raffle is a fantastic way to raise funds for the hospice and also a way for LOROS to say thank you for support already received. The people of Leicestershire and Rutland have done it again. They have purchased tickets for our draw and made it a huge success, I really can’t thank them enough”.

The next major LOROS raffle will be mailed to supporters during March 2012 with tickets also available from all LOROS shops or the lottery office on 0116 2318430. The draw will take place in May following which more lucky winners will be announced.

## **SAFETY NOTICE**

It has been brought to the attention of the Youth Club Committee that youths have been climbing on the brick stacks situated on the car park area. They have also been throwing the bricks about at each other causing a tripping hazard to the public. In one instance a neighbour informed us that someone had entered the site through the safety fencing and was ‘playing around’ on the steel frame itself. As you all know, **building sites are very dangerous places.**

The Primary School has been informed and Mrs Alsopp has spoken to the children about it. However, the majority of the offenders are older and no longer go to the Primary School. We therefore ask for your help in speaking to your children about safety, and also reporting any untoward activity you may witness on the site.

Please call Julie Edge on 01455 271321 or 07775 530602 immediately.

**! KEEP SAFE !**

To advertise in the next issue of **SHARNFORD NEWS** please contact Mike Bishop on 272393

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

### Answers to Quiz

1. The Vernal Equinox, 2. The Lovin’ Spoonful, 3. Alfred Lord Tennyson, 4. Perez Prado, 5. Pat Boone, 6. Mexico, 7. South Pacific, 8. Cat Stevens, 9. A ceremonial dinner, 10. Halloween, 11. New York’s Fifth Avenue, 12. The Great Sphinx at Giza