

SHARNFORD NEWS

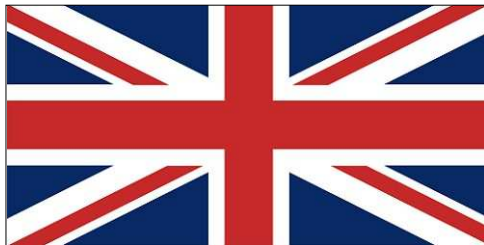


31st August 2012

Issue No 43

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

SGJC SUMMER FETE 2012 23RD SEPTEMBER 2012 12NOON – 5PM



Celebrating 2012

Since our decision to postpone the fete from May following serious concerns about the weather and the state of the park we have been busy planning for the rearranged date of the **23rd September 12noon -5pm**

When we first considered a theme for this year's fete there were so many different events being marked during the year it seemed best to just encompass the whole year with 'Celebrating 2012' and as the year goes on it seems a better and better idea.

When we all meet on the field in September we will be able to celebrate not only the Diamond Jubilee but also:

- the most successful Olympics medal total since 1908 (at time of going to print - who knows, by the time you read this it could be even better)
- the Paralympics will still be fresh in our minds
- the Ryder cup will be starting in 2 days time
- we can remember the football through rose tinted glasses and hope for better next time
- and who knows what else we have forgotten but still can celebrate

SO come and join us in our celebration of probably one of the most momentous years in our history.

Stalls

We will be having all our traditional stalls with a welcome return of the fresh produce tombola, toy stall, bottle stall, children's colouring competition, book stall, mug stall and of course the bar, BBQ and tea stand. Additionally, we will have our 3 duck races at 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm. Other stalls will include safe breaking, hoopla and beat the goalie.

Fancy Dress

This year we felt it would be good if the adults did not miss out so there will be a 3rd category 12yrs – 102years old in addition to the 0-4s and 5-11yrs; the theme is celebrating 2012 so there is plenty of scope for some stunning outfits.

Arena

In the arena we will have some traditional sports day races for children and adults! Having watched so many glorious displays of sporting prowess it is time to dust off your trainers and join in with the egg and spoon race (or is that football and tablespoon), the sack race (or duvet!) and many others. Tables of events will be posted around the village nearer the time to ensure you don't miss out.

Entertainment

Finally, what Village Fete would be complete without some good live music ! This year we will be welcoming the St Mary's Hinckley Marching Brass Band. Fresh from their summer tour, they will be treating us to many well known tunes both traditional and modern (see if you can spot those chart toppers), lots of which will fit in perfectly with our theme of Celebrating 2012.

In the run up to the day we would obviously welcome donations for our stalls; however, this year we will not be carrying out a door-to-door collection. If you have any donations please do drop them to either Soarbrook House (on the corner of Chapel Street and Chapel Lane) or 33 Henson Way. If you are unable to bring them please phone Kathy 272335 and we will see what we can do. Any fresh cakes and biscuits will be gratefully received on the weekend of the fete.

Look forward to seeing you all there,

Frazer Edge – Chairman

Notable Times:

12noon – Fete Starts

12:30 – First static set by St Mary's Marching Brass Band

1pm – Fete formally opened and Adult and Children's fancy dress judging

1:30pm – The first Duck Race

1:45pm – Marching Band display

2:30pm - Second Duck Race

3:00pm – Final static set by the Marching Band

3:30pm – Third Duck Race

3:45pm onwards – Sharnford's Sport's Day and Tug of War

Top Performance

from a Single Seater

SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Following the Annual General Meeting, in May, membership of the Parish Council is now:

Chairman: Derek Gibbons, 27 Park View. Tel: 272401

Vice-Chairman: Angela Timson-Jones, 72 Leicester Road. Tel: 271561

Emma Jones, 5 Henson Way. Tel: 271048

Julie Edge, 33 Henson Way. Tel: 271321

Jack East, 5 Fox Hollies. Tel: 274678

Ian Pickering, 27 Leicester Road. Tel: 271371

William Fallowfield, 29 Fox Hollies. Tel: 272286

Clerk: Matthew Scott, Flat 1, 4 Station Road, Hinckley. Tel: 078100 10893

The Parish Council has been concerned with a number of issues arising through the Summer months. After considerable agitation amongst residents of properties adjacent to The Shade Business premises on Coventry Road, representations were made to Blaby District Council to control hovercraft activity there. At present, that activity will no longer occur at least until 2013.

We supported the Jubilee celebrations at High Cross and continue to support and encourage those who are seeking to re-establish a monument there, marking the Centre of Roman England (C.O.R.E). Though Rachel Holloway, organiser of the project, lives in Copston Magna, she is working hard to revive recognition of this important Sharnford site and is much indebted to Mr and Mrs Sharma in whose garden the existing monument stands.

Discussion continues to take place relating to both the air-pollution and the volume of traffic on the B4114. Efforts are being made to relocate the pollution monitor from Bluebell Green to the vicinity of The Evergreen Hall but that has not yet been finalised.



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During the development of a new Village Profile it emerged that Leicestershire County Highways had commissioned a Consultant's Feasibility Study for a Sharnford By-Pass in 2009. It was no more than a feasibility study but it came to the conclusion that it would not only be possible but highly desirable, since it would benefit Lutterworth, Broughton Astley and numerous other communities in addition to Sharnford. However, of course the funding (a mere £7-£10 million pounds) is not currently available in these days of austerity....but it keeps the flames of hope flickering.

The transport issues of the area figure prominently in the development of the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan as that is now being completed. This plan aims to cover all aspects of the development of South Leicestershire including housing, education, employment, medical provision, care facilities and infra-structure. Once completed it will be open for public consultation and arrangements have been made for an all-day exhibition and consultation in Sharnford on Wednesday 10th October....more details later, but get that date in your diary!!!

Meanwhile, the Parish Council has arranged for overhanging trees near the Leicester Road bus-stop to be cut back – and our thanks to very helpful residents for that – and negotiated with Highways to have adjustments made to kerbs and drains on both sides of the road in front of Sharnford Garage to try to eliminate the flooding which has regularly occurred there at times of heavy rainfall.

A new, replacement, piece of equipment has been ordered for the children's Play Area in Park View Rec; new road signage has appeared on the Park View spur; and fallen trees have been removed by Blaby District on both the footpath to Frolesworth and the footpath to Fosse Meadows after action was taken by the Parish Council. Conditions and Regulations relating to the new Burial Ground have been prepared and should be on display very soon.

Our particular thanks are due to District Councillor Sheila Scott who has tackled issues arising from a number of village residents in the Hall Crescent and Brookfield area. It is noticeable that, after eight months, the water-leak in Brookfield was finally tackled when she persuaded Blaby officers to take up the matter with the Water Board, which the Parish Council had tried but failed to achieve. Working in conjunction with the Parish Council, Sheila has successfully cleared up a lot of concerns and continues to chase others.

Talking of District (and County) Council members, we extend our good wishes to Ernie White as he recovers from a heart attack suffered earlier in the year. Ernie has consistently supported Sharnford for many years and we look forward to him being back in harness.

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.45pm in the Evergreen Hall – all village residents are welcome to attend and to contribute to discussion.

Derek Gibbons, Chairman

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JUBILEE BELLS



At St Helen's Church, following Sunday worship on the 3rd June, village bell ringers rang call changes and a touch of Grandsire doubles to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

The ringers taking part were: Eleanor Burbage, Margaret Grewcock, Cynthia Oliver and Claire, Stuart and Tony Rowan. Our photo shows the group together with the Rector, Rev Mick Norman.

SHARNFORD PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

We had great fun at our end of term themed party of princesses and pirates. The PTA very kindly presented each leaver with a book as a commemorative present. It was a very moving day, as not only were we saying goodbye to lots of children, we also waved goodbye to Cath Wilson, who retired following more than 12 years service with Sharnford Playgroup. Cath was presented with a voucher for a weekend break away for her and her husband Stuart to enjoy. Cath will be missed by all and we are sure she will pop in from time to time to see us. We wish her a long and happy retirement. Congratulations to Alison who achieved a 2:1 in her BA (Hons) Early Childhood degree this summer. Alison is now midway through completing her Early Years Professional Status and will complete this in December 2012. This status takes her to the highest level qualification desired by the Government for pre-school settings. The target was completion by 2015 and Alison will complete this 3 years early. We wish her every success in obtaining her Professional Status and look forward to seeing her working back at the setting this September, following the successful start up of her new business, Little Explorers Playgroup in Burbage. Congratulations are also extended to Kate Senior who gained her degree this summer and we wish her well at Loughborough to pursue her teaching career. Over the summer we have once again run three very successful play schemes. Our Burbage play scheme ran week commencing 31st July and Sharnford and Sapcote were both the week commencing 6th and 13th of August. Providing a busy and exciting play scheme for over 500 children during this time required careful planning and excellent staffing. For the third year running, we have been awarded 'Excellent' status by Leicestershire County Council and will be featured in their magazine for childcare settings. A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up three weeks of their holiday to provide this valuable service to parents, and also a huge well done to all the children who attended as their behaviour was brilliant. Conkers play



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scheme was again successful in obtaining a Summer Activities Fund of £200 from HBBC to support us in recreating the Olympics at Hinckley Leisure Centre. We had over 30 children running, cycling, rowing, shooting, and taking part in the shot put, all in the swimming pool! Following their success, the children took part in a medal ceremony and each received a Conkers Olympic Medal for taking part. Look out for our photos in the Hinckley Times. Thank you again to all the Staff and our Volunteers for making this such a fantastic success. Thank you also to Councillor Bill Crooks (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Councillor) and his wife Councillor Joyce Crooks for being such good sports and taking part for the second year running.

Playgroup re-opens Thursday 30th August and we look forward to welcoming everyone back and meeting new friends.

Laura, Alison, Karen & Lyn

PLAYGROUP AND TODDLERS PTFA

Sharnford's Bumps, Babies and Toddlers will reopen on **September 4th 9am – 10:30am** at the Evergreen Hall, new comers welcome.

We will be resuming our fund raising efforts for the Playgroup and Bumps, Babies and Toddlers group in September with a return of our coffee mornings; you will also be able to find us at the SGJC Fete on 23rd September. Please see the notice boards and Post Office for further dates.

Kathy Bryan, Chair



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ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

Sharnfordians you are wonderful! Thirty years ago when there was a large gap between the amount the insurance company was willing to pay out and the cost of repairing our burnt out church we turned to you for help and you did not fail us. You raised the necessary cash for us and bridged that gap. In 2012, through our funding campaign, we turned to you for help once more and again you came to our aid. Not only did you give or pledge enough money to provide us with a regular income that will allow us to pay our inevitable bills, but you did so with charm and good grace - which meant a lot to those people who had the job of asking for it! We can only give you our humble and heartfelt thanks, endorsed by Bishop Christopher, who ended the campaign at a service on 24th June.

2012 has been a momentous year with the Queen's visit to Leicester, the Jubilee and the Olympic Games, and in its way St. Helen's has played a (albeit small) part in all three. The Churchwarden and the Rector went to the service at Leicester Cathedral for the Queen, Billy hoisted the Union Flag on the church tower which, together with the glorious red, white and blue flower baskets and tubs provided by the Environment Group, marked the Jubilee weekend, and at 8.12am on July 27th Margaret, Cynthia and Billy rang the church bells for the three minutes suggested to herald the opening of the Games. They also said a prayer for the Games, which as we now know were totally splendid — and safe.

Church business continued as usual and during the summer we welcomed two more children into the flock by their baptisms, namely Kian Burbage and Hollie Ricketts, we blessed the marriage of Chris and Sue Kenney and sadly we said goodbye to a well known resident of the village, Cyril Bailey who was involved in local government and also landlord of the 'Countryman' for many years. His funeral was held on 1st August. Future events will include the 'Ride and Stride' on 8th September. If you have been inspired by the plethora of cycling gold medals we recently won, why not get on your own bikes for this event (details in the church). The Harvest Festival will be held on 7th October and all are welcome to join us.

Finally, we must mention the wedding as in THE WEDDING. On 15th July our Rector, Mick, married his fiancée Denise at her church in Rugby. Despite the fact it was St. Swithen's day the weather was good, the bride looked absolutely beautiful and Mick had a smile as wide as the Atlantic on his face. It was a gentle and relaxed service followed by Tea, biscuits and a piece of wedding cake for those who attended the service, and then a full reception for invited guests. A solemn occasion, as one might expect for a reverend and a G.P, it did not seem to be, for I have heard tell of two separate columns of people doing the conga, one of which was headed by the bride and one by the groom! His 'flock' are delighted for them both and we wish them the very, very best for the future.

Estelle Perrett

SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sharnford Primary School has been a very busy school this term. All of the children enjoyed some wonderful activities for the Jubilee. The PTA organised an activity workshop which was very well attended, school food support organised a special Jubilee street party meal which unfortunately had to be eaten in the hall due to the weather, but everyone had a good time and Mr Gibbons and Mrs Edge from the Parish Council gave all the children a special Jubilee mug.

This term children in year 6 have enjoyed a high ropes course at Beaumanor Hall and the Pilgrimage Walk where they walked 5 miles from Watermead Park, Thurmaston along the banks of the River Soar towards Abbey Park, by the Grand Union Canal and on to the Cathedral in the City Centre. During their walk they reflected on issues related to life's journey and their move to secondary school. Reception children have enjoyed a visit to Sapcote Garden Centre and Stonehurst Farm. Year 1 & 2 children have visited the Methodist Church and a Temple in Leicester.

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There have been many sporting opportunities, years 3 & 4 were invited to attend a Tennis Festival at Hastings High School and children from years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Area Sports day at Saffron Lane, Leicester. We enjoyed meeting parents old and new and members of the community at our Open Day, thank you for attending. Year 6 children had a challenge for Enterprise day, they were given £2 and challenged to use it to raise as much money as they could. Everyone worked hard and they raised £56.49 in total. Our leaver's service was well attended as we said

goodbye to our year 6 children, we wish them well at their High Schools.

Our thanks go to the PTA for organising many events during the year and raise much needed cash for school. Thanks also go to volunteers and Governors who give up their time to help in school.

Carol Proctor, Admin Assistant

EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

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plans for its own learning and development to ensure it is ready for future challenges.

Do I need qualifications to become a governor?

No, you don't need any particular expertise or special qualifications – just interest, enthusiasm and willingness to contribute some of your time. You do not have to be a parent. Schools/colleges also need people from their local community to ensure children and young people get the best from their time in full time education. Training and development opportunities are available for all governors. The Chair of Governors will be able to advise you on these if you would like more information.

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I am interested in becoming a governor, what do I do now?

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SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Well, that's the end of another school year, and Sharnford Primary say

goodbye to another 10 pupils and we wish them well when they start at Hastings next term. The PTA were pleased to give each leaver a small gift to mark the occasion and these were presented at the end-of-term assembly.

After a bit of a false start the PTA's Leavers disco took place on the 12th of July and for a change we held the disco in the Evergreen Hall; we had a great turn out and the kids all seemed to have a really fun time with lots of dancing and a buffet too! Thanks to everyone involved in organising this and helping out on the night.

Plans are in full swing for the PTA's stall at the Fete in September too and we hope to see you all there for some fun and games!

Ed Bryan, Chair

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cyril Bailey sadly passed away a few weeks ago. He had been a Blaby District Councillor for many years and served Sharnford well. He was a ward member for Stanton and Flamville during his time as Councillor. In recognition of all the hard work that Cyril had contributed to the ward and to his village, the Council awarded him the honour of Alderman to the District.

During the summer, Cllr Ernie White (District and County Councillor) suffered a heart attack. I am pleased to tell you all that he is making a fantastic recovery and is hoping to be back working on the patch, and at the offices, in September.

BDC have been looking at 'Recycling Services – Options for change'. As part of this, a trial took place during April in Leicester Forest East and The Pastures areas of the district. During the trial BDC collected residents' recycling and refuse every week using one vehicle which has two compartments – one for rubbish and one for recycling. The two options the Council were considering are:

- Collect recycling (including glass) every fortnight in a new larger 240 litre wheeled bin
- Collect recycling (excluding glass) every week in the existing 140 litre green lidded bin.

Larger bins would be available free of charge if required.

Residents were asked to complete a questionnaire, these have now been collated and copies of the report are now with Parish Councils. There could be more trials in the future and I will advise of any changes if and when they are finalised.

BDC, in conjunction with Lloyds bank, introduced a scheme for first time buyers to assist in putting them onto the housing ladder, by reducing the amount of deposit required. This scheme proved to be very successful and helped quite a few residents onto the housing ladder. A further sum of money has now been injected enabling more first time buyers to come forward who will fit the criteria.

The BDC Outstanding Awards nominations have come round yet again, and I am pleased to nominate the 'Sick and Divvy Fund' in one of the categories, working in the community.

I have met, on two occasions, with some residents from the village to discuss concerns that they had. From these meetings, I have decided to hold 4 surgeries during the year at which residents can come and speak in an open forum. I have discussed this with the Police who will also try to attend whenever possible.

I would like to ask the residents of Sharnford to please consider others when parking your cars. Please try not to park on or near a bend making other drivers having to move to the opposite side of the road facing oncoming vehicles-this is an accident waiting to happen. Please try to keep Sharnford a safe place for both drivers and for the children of the village.

Some of the concerns which arose at my two meetings with residents:

The garages in Halls Crescent have been sold as assets by BDC – garages in Brookfield are not part of this scheme.

Water leak in Brookfield has been dealt with by BDC officer and STWA.

Grass cuttings – information passed onto BDC officer for future cuttings.

Parking – this is being monitored

Parking bays in Brookfield – this is under discussion with LCC

Surgery – October 18th at 6.30pm in the Evergreen Hall – Parish Council mtg will take place 7.45pm

Best wishes to you all.

Cllr Sheila Scott, BDC - Stanton and Flamville Ward.

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

Members of the Sharnford Evergreen Club have enjoyed various outings over the last few months. Back in May we had a day trip to the historic city of Chester, the sun was shining and members were able to spend the day at their leisure and enjoy the sights.

In July a coach party of members and committee visited Bradgate Park for the afternoon, where they had a tour guide join them on the coach, who gave them all the history and insight into the park. On returning to the Evergreen Hall, they were treated to an afternoon tea. This trip was paid for in memory of one of our members, Royal Cooke, who I know would have been delighted by it all.



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Our most recent trip on the 8th August was a leisurely cruise on the River Trent in Nottingham, where we all enjoyed a meal aboard. The day was glorious sunshine and everyone agreed the trip was a great success.

We return to our meetings on the 5th September with our annual Fish and Chip Supper at 6.30pm. We also have Anne Hughes as a guest speaker for the evening, so I'm sure we will be in for an entertaining time!

Enjoy the holidays and see you all soon.

Karen Smith, Chairman

SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

First and foremost, a big thanks must go to the family and friends of the late Mr Roy Honri Lawson. Donations from Roy's funeral, coming in at a staggering £600, have kindly been donated to the Sharnford Youth and Community Hall Re-Building project. We will be keeping in contact with his family as to what the money should be spent on as works on the building progress.

The building works are going well, albeit slowly due to the horrendous weather during July. The building is at long last watertight, with the roof, doors and windows having been fitted recently. The internal flooring has been laid and we can now start to concentrate on getting the inside finished and looking amazing ready for use by the whole community by the rapidly approaching winter months. It's well worth a walk down to see what has been achieved so far. It is definitely a credit to the village.

We have now started to look into such items as pool table, table tennis equipment, tables and chairs etc so if anyone has any ideas where the best place to find such items, please let us know. Obviously they would need to be of a good quality and very hard wearing as we would like them to last for many years. We have already had a brand new Wii Console and Wii fit board donated by a local resident which I'm sure will provide plenty of fun if the weather keeps the kids inside, that's providing they can get the adults off it!!

As always, we will keep in touch with Youth Club members re our Facebook page.

Julie Edge, Chair

RINGING IN THE GAMES

At 8.12am on Friday 27th July 2012, everyone across the UK was called upon by the London Organising Committee to 'ring in the Olympic games' for three minutes. This immediately brought to mind times gone by and gave me the inspiration to dust off the old Sharnford school bell. Not many amongst the present village population would remember, and even fewer would have attended the old School in Sharnford. The School, along with the School House, was sold around 1976, after they were replaced by the present school building.



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The bell would be about 150 years old now, in the interest of local history it was retrieved and preserved at St Helens Church. I remember quite clearly risking life and limb climbing that ladder. The Rector at that time was Walter Evans and he held the ladder whilst I performed the task of taking down the bell, which was not as easy as it sounds. The bell, as you can imagine, is a heavy object. After a certain amount of wobble the bell was retrieved safely and presently resides at St Helen's.

The bell evokes fond childhood memories and each morning it would ring, calling the children to class and signalling playtimes.

At the end of each summer term the school would hold its annual sports day in the rectory field. All our school children eagerly looked forward to this

event and the older children were charged with the responsibility of getting the field ready for the games. I remember clearly the excitement and air of competitive spirit which was generated, not least because the winner would receive a special prize! Such events as the SACK race and the EGG & SPOON race proved very popular. I myself was the proud winner of an Enid Blyton book, presented and signed by my headmaster, Mr Pratt. This prize was awarded for first place in the High Jump of 4ft 1 inch.

I am left to contemplate how many of us realise the significant role that bells play in important parts of our everyday life - the start of class, the start of a race, the start of a married life together and the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The bell invites us all to join together as it announces celebration.

William Higginbotham

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QUEEN'S JUBILEE PARTY EVERGREEN CLUB AND ST HELEN'S LADIES GROUP



As there were no celebrations in the village to mark this momentous occasion, on the 3rd June, the two groups in the village joined together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by holding a tea party in the Evergreen Hall. It proved to be a wonderful occasion and the hall was beautifully decorated to celebrate the event. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and the atmosphere was a real celebration.

Rosemarie Simpson



THE HARRIS FAMILY AND THE SHADES COVENTRY ROAD – SHARNFORD - PART TWO - Continuing from last issue

In the previous article on the Harris family, we mentioned their return from Suffolk to Sharnford between 1901 and 1911 (sourced from national census of the period). Below is a photograph of two of the Harris daughters participating in the Ladies Cricket team



against the Gentlemen on Sharnford Rectory field - 25th. July 1908. (Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs Lee Phipps).

History does not relate which Harris's they are; but daughters Rose and Constance would have been 26, Violet 25, Beatrice 24, and Theodosia 22 - in 1908. Interestingly it is thought that Colonel Harris was the 'H' and founder of H.P Sauce - so villagers tell me.. But unfortunately not so.

The 'H.P' were the initials of Harry Palmer, a sauce maker, who sold his patent in 1903 to vinegar maker Edwin Sarson Moore. Perhaps the Col. was a major share holder?.

The photograph below is the Gentlemans cricket team - dated the same day - 25th. July 1908 - with the girls father, Colonel J.E. Harris (retired.) in the middle row - second from the left, wearing a straw boater. What I would give to see the scorer's book for that day! .



Continuing on the cricket theme - what the fashionable cricketer would be wearing in 1864.

Overleaf there is an exceptionally early photo above containing the then Lt. J.E.Harris, (fourth man standing from the right in cricket cap), a consummate player who not only played for his regiment but also for Cambridge University. A scorecard survives today for a 2-day match -13/14 July 1859-between Marylebone Cricket Club v. Cambridge University at Lords. J.E was a useful bowler. A Sharnford born and bred villager, who left with his regiment for India in July 1864, after this photo was taken. His army record of postings between 1877 and 1907 is impressive -with England, Jersey, Cork , back to Aldershot, Egypt, Madras, Secunderabad, Rangoon, Quetta, India: Karachi: Madras again, Aden: back home to Parkhurst. A previous Colonel of the regiment was the Hon. Robert Meade - later to become the father-in-law of Lt.J.E.Harris. (photo courtesy of Jean Deathridge of Bury St.Edmunds, Suffolk).

A visit to St.Helen's helps to write the last paragraphs on the Harris family. The west window of the church contains the memorial to the Rev. Thomas Joseph Clark Harris who died in 1867 aged 26. He was the younger brother of our J.E, the Colonel.



Alongside the east wall of St.Helens lies the graves of Col.J.E.Harris (1st.Oct.1838-30th.Nov.1925) and his youngest daughter Theodosia Elizabeth Lavinia Harris, whose stone is seen right peeping just above the rampant lavender bush against the backdrop of the wall. Theodosia died 24th.April 1925 aged 36. Rose, the Cols. Wife died in 1944, but as far as can be determined, was not buried at Sharnford.

Later occupants of the Shade are noted here: Beesley (butchers), Holyoak (farmers) , Smallshaw (hosiery): and today Mr. & Mrs. Cooper.

2nd Battalion, 12th Regiment—Cricket Team, 1864.



l. to right—Ensign A. J. H. Daubeny, Col. E. V. Ponsonby, Lt. E. C. C. Foster, Ensign C. H. Gardener, Ensign E. Turner, Lt. J. E. Harris, Capt. C. A. S. Dickens, Sgt.-Major Tripp, Ensign W. H. B. Peters.
Sitting down—Lt. R. B. Reed, Capt. J. W. Lloyd.
Lt. Foster afterwards commanded the 1st En. and Lt. J. E. Harris afterwards commanded the 2nd Bn, and is the only [survivor].

SHARNFORD METHODIST CHURCH

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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.

We may not have seen much summer this year but never-the-less, Autumn approaches. On September 8th our chapel will be open from 10am to 6pm for annual Historic Churches 'Ride & Stride' event. For the twentieth year running I will be sponsored to sit in to welcome visiting cyclists. We will be celebrating our harvest festival on Sunday September 16th with services at 10am and 6pm. Instead of donating produce, will be giving monetary donations to the 'Methodist Relief and Development

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Fund' and 'Send a Cow'. One week later, on the 23rd we'll be joining other village organisations for the Fete – do come and have a go at the 'Mug Stall'!

Our fund raising for others continues with our Coffee Mornings, which have supported various organisations including 'Christian Aid', 'Send a Cow' and the Mtwapa Academy in Kenya, where we sponsor a student. While continuing to support others, we must also endeavour to raise funds for ourselves, having removed pews at the back of the chapel to make a children's area, we now have to work on the fabric of the building.

The craft group meets fortnightly to produce items for the 'Operation Christmas Child' shoe box appeal. Many of you support us, for which we are very grateful, so please, if you have any oddments of wool, small soft toys, shoe boxes

(especially larger work boot type), or anything you think might re-use or recycle, just let us know. If you would like to see what we produce, come along to the Coffee Morning in October. Contact Penny Ross on 272797 or myself on 274374.

Don't be a stranger to the chapel; a warm welcome awaits you at all of our happenings.

Maureen Butcher

THE OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

After many years of anticipation it finally arrived, the Olympics were coming to Great Britain!

As a family we decided to forego our annual summer holiday and opted to make a trip to the Olympics to see a few events and experience the atmosphere. In April 2011, along with millions of others, we applied for tickets for a ridiculous amount of events in the initial ticketing ballot. Please imagine our huge disappointment when all we received were tickets to see "Men's Football" at Coventry. However, at least we were going to an Olympic event!

We were still determined to get to London so, following many hours on the computer after each further release of tickets, we got our wish – "Tickets Galore!" Gymnastics at North Greenwich Arena, beach volleyball at Horse Guards Parade, basketball, water



polo, handball and hockey at the Olympic Park. Sadly, none of our events contained Team GB, but that would not stop us enjoying the experience.

Our next mission was to find accommodation. Prices in central London, even for budget hotels, had risen astronomically so it was out with the road and Tube maps to find a viable solution. We eventually plumped for a Premier Inn at Harlow, which amazingly had no price

increases as it is outside of the London Tube zones. However it is only a 15 minute drive to Epping underground station on the Central Line - a good find.

As the Olympics came closer our anticipation rose as we excitedly awaited delivery of our tickets. We watched in awe at the spectacular opening ceremony, and then it was our turn, off to London 2012.

All dressed up in our “Team GB” gear, girls with painted faces and flags draped around them it was time for our first London event. No problem parking at the Epping station (only £1.50 a day) and 20 minutes later we were outside the Olympic Park. Security, although tight, was very quick and efficient (the army were in charge, with no sign of sleeping G4S security guards). Security control was very similar to that at airports, with no liquids above 100ml. allowed to be taken through. However, if you took an empty plastic bottle these could be filled free of charge inside the Park at one of the many water fountains or drinks kiosks.



Inside the Park the atmosphere was electric, people draped in flags of all nations looking around in wonderment at this spectacular place. It was a truly magnificent sight - everywhere so clean, flowers and gardens immaculate, and the venues looked fantastic.

The atmosphere within each venue was unique, with brilliant stadium announcers keeping the crowds entertained throughout. Some events, such as the basketball and beach volleyball, had half time entertainment with various dance and sports acts, including some that had appeared on BGT. Regular Mexican waves and rhythmic hand-clapping took place. It was a pleasure to sit amongst the crowds of varying nationalities and to see them sharing a wonderful experience.

During our days on the Olympic Park there were over two hundred thousand visitors each day. One thing in particular stood out - there were no large queues for anything! The Park had many places to buy refreshments and memorabilia, and the “facilities” were also plentiful! Transport along the underground was running smoothly and efficiently, we saw no problems at all.

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All of the events were amazing and will be talked of for many years to come, by both us and thousands of others, all over the world. We left the Olympics talking excitedly about what we had witnessed, quite weary and with all camera batteries exhausted. We arrived home tired but ecstatic that we had been able to attend a possible once-in-a-lifetime event.

Congratulations to LOCOG and all the London 2012 volunteers for making this a great experience for us and a truly wonderful spectacle.

The Wormleighton Family

SHARNFORD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

In my last article in the November edition I sadly had to tell the village that Highways had confirmed that the prospect for a 'Sharnford Bypass' was very bleak. Due to the current economic climate, funding was unavailable for such projects. Any funding that became available would be spent in areas that created new growth. Thank you to everyone who e-mailed and contacted me, even though your communications were about your frustration and dismay. I was spurred on to continue negotiating with Highways.

I resumed talks with Ian Drummond at Highways again in January. I conveyed the response of the residents, STAG and the Parish Council. As Vice-Chairwoman of the Parish Council, I pointed out that despite Sharnford not being an area of growth and not having any major housing developments, any growth within a 20 mile radius has an impact on the village with the volume of traffic passing through. We are currently a very important part of the road network in this area.

Mike Lee from STAG and I met with Ian Drummond in April to discuss what could be done about the continuing road problems faced by the village. We met outside the Sharnford Arms and discussed the situation, whilst HGV's, cars and vans thundered and sped by. I felt it was important to remind him first hand just how impossible the situation has become. I'm glad to report that it was a very favourable meeting and solutions were discussed.

STAG and I have suggested a 20mph limit through the village, as has been implemented in many villages nationwide. Highways disagreed but wanted to reinstate an idea they had 2 years ago, but that was turned down by Whitehall. This was for a 20mph limit for HGV's. They feel they have a better chance of getting the project passed this time.

I have contacted our local MP Andrew Robathan and asked for his support and any help that he can give us at Whitehall level to get a 20mph limit through the village until a bypass can be funded. His response was very positive...

'I have enormous sympathy with you and would be very willing to give you any support. I think the suggestion of a 20mph limit through the village is a very sensible one and whilst it would not stop the traffic, it would certainly reduce the danger and noise.'

I am happy to give my support to the Highways Department at County Hall and please tell them that. I have been in correspondence with them over many years about this situation and, whilst I am not clear what the solution is, I do think slower traffic – perhaps backed up by speed cameras – would be a good start.'

STAG and I will continue with our negotiations and continue to try to find solutions for our village.

Angie

POLICE UPDATE FOR SHARNFORD

During the month of July the neighbourhood team have only received one reported crime of burglary at business premises. As the warmer weather is with us again the neighbourhood team would like to remind you about home security. It's a sad fact of life but when the sun comes out so do opportunist thieves. Criminals will take advantage of open windows and doors to steal your property.

Leicestershire Police is urging you to follow these simple measures to help you have a crime-free summer:

- Make sure all windows and doors are locked every time you leave your home, even if you are only popping out for a few minutes.
- Even if you are just in the back garden, shut your windows and doors.
- If you see anyone who isn't usually in the area and is paying lots of attention to people's homes then call the police on 101.
- If you believe a burglary is taking place dial 999.

For more advice and information visit:

www.leics.police.uk/burglary

www.facebook.com/leicspolice

www.twitter.com/leicspolice

The neighbourhood team consists of PC 1275 Rob Weston, PCSO 6075 Alex Joule and this month we are pleased to welcome back PCSO 6124 Katie Hudson to the team. To leave a message for one of the team call 101 and enter the officer's identification number. For PC Weston enter 1275, for PCSO Joule enter 6075 and for PCSO Hudson enter 6124. You can also get regular updates from the team on Twitter @LPFosseVillages.

PC Rob Weston

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HEBRIDEAN HOPSCOTCH

As part of our journey around the coast of Britain, this year we decided to go to the Outer Hebrides. We had become intrigued by the story of the "land clearances" and also wanted to experience the Gulf Stream weather for which the area is famous.

The land clearances of the 1800s affected both the highlands and the islands, when the landowners wanted the people off the land so they could put sheep on it. The crofters were thrown out of their homes and the houses burnt and trees felled. This was because at the time there was money in wool. The main landowners at the time were the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland and Lady Gordon Cathcart who owned the highlands and islands, along with absentee owners. Then the bottom fell out of the wool market and the sheep and the land was left to waste while the owners returned to London. The highlands are still recovering, as are the islands. The islanders of Barra, Eriskey, South Uist and Benbecula have now got together and bought their islands at a cost of £4.6 million.

The Gulf Stream, flowing north to the west of UK bathes the Hebrides in warm ocean waters, producing soft white sands along the coasts, manufactured by the water from broken shells. However, similar flows of air, straight off the sea, give rise to strong winds from which there is little protection, The long sea track of these winds means the air is full of moisture, which falls as heavy rain at times.

The Outer Hebrides are very old and consist of gneiss rocks mainly in the east while the west consists of sand dunes and sandy bays with a peat interior. The sand blows over on to the peat creating quite fertile land known as the Machair which is covered in rare wild flowers in the spring, with a lot of rare varieties.

There are approximately 200 islands, mostly uninhabited. They were originally ruled by the Norse along with parts of the Western Highlands hence the strange place names. A lot of place names end in “bost” and “nish”. The inhabitants, mostly crofters, speak with a soft accent which is neither Scottish nor Irish. The local people have Gaelic as their first language and English is second.

Enough said - we booked our ferries with Caledonian MacBrayne – their Island Hopscotch ticket covers four trips between the islands. In planning our journey with the car and caravan, finding somewhere to stay was rather difficult as there are not many caravan/camping sites out on the islands.

With a “sort of” plan in mind and the car and caravan fully packed we left home on the 6th May. After night stops at Longtown, near Gretna and Kirkintilloch near Glasgow, we moved on to the port of Oban where we stayed for three nights. We sailed from Oban on 11th May to Castlebay on Barra, (featured in the Island Parish on BBC TV), nearly a six hour journey.

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Barra is probably the prettiest and one of the smallest of the inhabited islands. The most striking thing was all the old buildings left to fall down and decay. This is mainly because it is cheaper to build a new property than renovate the old ones, but they have to leave two gable ends standing to satisfy the planning authorities that there is a right to build the new one! The lovely village of Castlebay is Barra's main habitation, with its harbour catering both for the ferry and fishermen.

The village is dominated by a large Catholic church, sitting on a hill. Behind the church is a statue of Our Lady Star of the Sea. They also have a co-operative shop, a sports centre and a small hospital, along with a lovely museum-cum-teashop and two pumps, one for diesel and the other for petrol –

but you then have to cross the road and pay for the fuel in the village store/post office. As the name suggests, there is a castle on a rocky outcrop in the bay.



The airport is on the beach, with one plane a day from Glasgow and back; this is the only part of the island which is flat and firm enough. The service depends on the time of low tide! We saw the most beautiful rainbow after a shower, above the white sands and the gorgeous clear blue sea. The west side of the island has lovely beaches, in direct contrast to the rocky east coast. The weather was reasonable, if you could get out of the cool wind. A short causeway runs from Castlebay to the small island of Vatersay, where there are a few crofts and spectacular beaches. We stayed at the northern end of Barra at Eoligarry with lovely views over the sea to South Uist. The camp site was covered in primroses and the corncrakes very noisy. The crofter who has just opened the site on his land is also a carpenter and a grave digger at the Church in Castlebay.

We next had a journey of an hour on the ferry to Eriskay, a tiny island with a few crofts, where we took the causeway to the long, thin island of South Uist. South Uist is predominantly Catholic, having two churches - one in Daliburgh and the other nearer the northern end of the island. As there are no caravan sites on South Uist we had to stay on Benbecular. South Uist is not such a pretty island, but very interesting. There

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are many ruins of old churches, gravestones, houses and a castle along with chambered cairns. We saw a Corncrake here. By the roadside about half way up the island is a large statue of Our Lady of the Isles. Unfortunately there was no plaque by it, so we didn't know why it was erected, or who carved it.

The ruins of Flora MacDonald's house are about halfway up the island, where we had to go through a farmyard and a field of sheep to get there. We found some lovely but rocky bays on the east coast overlooking The Minch - a little more sheltered from the wind. There is a ferry port here at Lochboisdale, which also has a very tiny police station. The wind was getting up and the weather getting worse!

Benbecular is the flattest of the islands and the wind really whips across the land. The site here, Shell Bay in Liniclaith, is quite good, although it is on the west coast. While staying we visited both North and South Uist. The site owner was very friendly and helpful but we had a night of terrible winds with horizontal rain and very large hailstones. The caravan was creaking and groaning and being rocked about a lot, making it difficult to sleep. In fact, it was so bad that the owner got his brother to bring a spare 56 seater coach down to the site to protect the caravans from the wind.

This site was next to a secondary school cum college and opposite the ruins of Borve Castle. There is a co-operative shop just down the road from the site but, especially after the weekend, you need to make sure the ship has been in with supplies before going shopping. Close by is the main village, Balavanish, where there is an airport and a military base from World War II. There is also a small, but lovely hardware shop that seemed to sell almost everything, including cutlery, crockery, pots and pans as well as bottled gas. The filling station boasts more than two pumps and provides spectacular views over the bay. It was here we discovered that fuel on the islands is approximately twenty pence more a litre than on the mainland. The east coast is very wet and boggy, in fact it probably consists more of water than of land. There was also an ancient chapel and graveyard along with other ancient buildings and a museum.

Alison Roberts – Our holiday story will continue in the next issue

RUNNING FOR THE STROKE ASSOCIATION

In August 2011 my dad suffered a massive stroke which basically meant that he lost the use of his left leg and arm and is unable to swallow properly. Fortunately he is able



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to speak and think quite clearly but he has now been placed into a Nursing Home as he will never be able to care for himself completely. It has been a very difficult time for the whole family but has spurred me on to do something positive and help a charity that offers support for many people of all ages that suffer the same types of problems and maybe help that any of us may need in the future.

Up until his stroke my dad was a very fit 86 Year old who was playing golf three times a week and doing many miles of hill walking (certainly puts me to shame). I can only imagine how difficult it must now be for him to be tied to a wheelchair.

I must be mad but have decided to take part in a half marathon on Sunday 21st October (BUPA Great Birmingham Run). Prior to this I will also be taking part in The Great Manchester Run (10k) on May 20th, Midland FUN Run on 10th June and the Great Yorkshire Run (10k) on Sept 2nd all of which will

help me prepare for the big one. This I hope will not just provide a donation to the charity close to my heart but also make me a fitter person in the process!!!

So if you see someone running around the village it may just be me trying to clock up a few more miles training. This condition could happen to any of us at any time so if you are able to donate please visit my 'Just Giving' site www.justgiving.com/Adrian-Smith4. I am hoping to raise at least £500 for this great charity.

My son put this together for me to help promote my challenge. I think it makes you aware how it can affect any of us at any time.

I have now reached a figure of £416.50 and so I am getting closer to my target. On Sunday 10th June I took part in The Great Midlands Run and managed a good time of 1 hour 14 mins 28 secs which placed me in 985th place out of 7000 runners. I was really pleased with that as it was my first ever 8.5 mile run. The day was both fantastic and emotional with so many supporters all along the route and the weather was perfect despite having rain in the days before and after the event. I now carry on with my training in preparation for a short 10k in September and then the big half marathon in October and so I really need to increase the amount of miles I do in training so that I am fully prepared for the 13.1 miles that this entails.

Adrian Smith

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