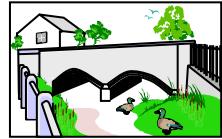


SHARNFORD NEWS

1st December 2012

Issue No 44



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

SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Since the August edition of Sharnford News there have been three meetings of the Parish Council and all have been lively affairs. It is encouraging that more residents of the village are now attending, not merely to listen to the discussions of the Council members but to contribute their own views on how village matters are dealt with.

Issues which have given rise to this increased participation include the ongoing concerns relating to hovercraft activity at The Shade, a planning application for permission to cut back trees, roadside parking, street-lighting, grass-cutting, and many others. All of these lead to the Parish Council taking some form of action in accord with resident's wishes, often directly with the authorities concerned or alternatively by calling on our District or County Councillors to act on our behalf. In this way a great deal has been achieved in recent years to the benefit of the village, so the more input the better.

In October, the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Planning group (FVNP) brought its Road Show to the Evergreen Hall for all to see how it is hoped the Southern end of Blaby District may develop. All who came were invited to make suggestions for amendments and/or to stress what they thought were the key elements. Transport issues, employment needs, education, medical facilities, housing and infrastructure matters all featured and the responses will be incorporated into the final Planning Proposals which will shape the way this area should develop.

It has recently become apparent that the Environment Agency, which in recent years has become responsible for maintaining Soar Brook, no longer has the resources to do so and indicators are that they would be prepared to allow village residents to undertake the task of keeping it clear of obstructions. Ironically of course, our own Environment Group – which does so much to keep the village looking good – used to do this work until ordered to stop doing so by the Agency's predecessor River Authority! To this end, elsewhere in this Newsletter is an appeal for volunteers to form a Brook Clearing Team....for which we already have a number of names....who can spring in to action once formal approval is received.

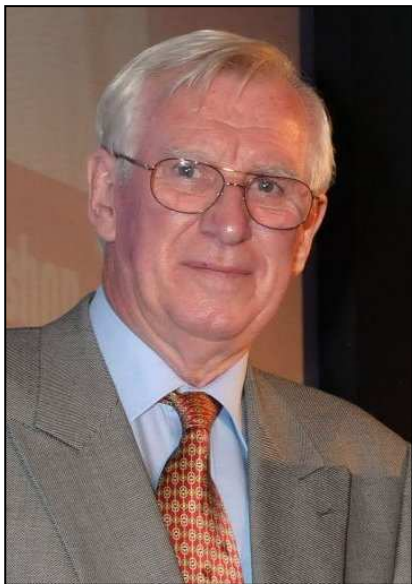
Some new equipment has been installed in the Park View Children's Play area and proposals are still in hand to upgrade further. The Youth Club project proceeds apace and should soon be at a point where the Parish Council can hand over the long-term lease. The Burial Ground, Poors Meadow and Blue Bell Green continue to be well looked after by Tony Curtis, and The Fete, Sharnford Show and The Evergreen Club are all thriving. Bring on 2013!!!

Finally, on a very sad note, the Parish Council was as devastated by the sudden death of Mike Bishop (commented on elsewhere) as the rest of the village. Mike was an

exceptional man, the loss of whom is a considerable one. We register our condolences to Norma and her family.

Derek Gibbons, Chairman

MIKE BISHOP – A TRIBUTE



Many of you will know that Mike Bishop, our Editor and founder member, died suddenly on 6th October 2012. It was a great shock to us all in Sharnford and Mike will be greatly missed by so many. His willingness to help others and his commitment to everything he undertook meant that he became involved in many activities and community projects. Even before he and Norma came to live in Sharnford he was a founder member and treasurer of the Hinckley RAFA club in the 1980s, and his deep sense of service and fine organisational skills came to the fore again as treasurer of Hinckley Lions.

His early involvement in the activities of our village came when he volunteered to be chairman of the Sharnford Appraisal Group. It was this Group which initiated the very successful appraisal that resulted in the first edition of Sharnford News in December 2001. Mike, as the senior editor, kept this much appraised quarterly

newspaper going and was particularly proud when we published the tenth anniversary edition this time last year. As our new member of the editorial team said “we owe it to Mike to keep Sharnford News going” and I very much welcome Angie Timson-Jones on board the team.

Another group which was set up as a result of the Appraisal was the Sharnford Environment Group. Not surprisingly Mike soon undertook various roles in this group including Chairman and later, Secretary. His expertise and contacts at District and County level meant that with his guidance we were very successful at obtaining funds and grants for the Environment Group Projects.

As if he was not busy enough he again volunteered to become an active member of the Sharnford Golden Jubilee Fete Committee. As it’s Treasurer he was responsible for circulating a contribution from the profits raised each year to many village groups, ensuring that these groups prospered.

In 2009 he was nominated for the Blaby District Council Outstanding Achievement Award. At the awards dinner, when he was announced as the winner, he characteristically invited the runner-up to share the award with him. He later donated his share of the prize equally between the Environment Group and the building fund for St Helen’s Church.

One of his last and favourite community projects was the provision of a new Youth Club for the village. Mike was asked to join that committee for the specific purpose of using

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his expertise in securing funding for the Project. Mike asked if I would join him in this role and our close friendship enabled us to help the Project achieve its aim. So after a campaign lasting 2½ years, we finally secured full funding just a few weeks ago. The Sharnford Youth Club can now be completed. Derek Gibbons, Chairman of the Youth and Community Hall Project and Chairman of the Parish Council, expressed all our feeling so well by saying these words “We will all miss a quite exceptional man”.

Finally I give my thanks to Mike’s family for allowing me to use a small part of their own tribute to Mike.

He was born in Nuneaton and read Electrical Engineering at Birmingham University. His main sport at school was cricket and it was at university that he found his lifelong passion for flying. Mike loved his career in the RAF. It obviously formed his character in many important ways, including embracing adventure, a sense of duty to others, striving to do everything in the right way, and the importance of teamwork and building loyal friendships. He was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in 1962 and postings took him and his wife Norma to Acklington, Cambridge, Kinloss, Malta, Edinburgh, Church Fenton, Bracknell, Marham and Northwood. He had spent a good part of his RAF career as an instructor, teaching students to fly. He decided to retire from the Air Force after 18 years with the rank of Squadron Leader when it became clear that he was unlikely to secure another flying job.

Mike began his commercial career, first with Marconi, then GEC and GPT in Coventry, managing tenders and contracts to build telecommunications systems for defence and transport infrastructure, including large, complex projects for the M25, the Jubilee Line extension and the new Hong Kong Airport. He retired from work in 1998 and then immersed himself in helping others through volunteering. Sporting interests in retirement focused on golf – where he measured his performance by the number of balls lost and found.

After heart surgery in 2006, Mike joined a cardio rehab group in Enderby. He made great friends there and, six years on, was still attending, probably more for the chat than the exercise. He was a wonderful grandfather to Christopher and Natalie, and helped them to become the confident, curious, driven and rounded young people that they are today.

Those who knew Mike will have your own individual experiences to form your memories – your picture – of Mike. In your picture you will see moments when he made you laugh, when he taught or advised you, when you enjoyed his company, his generosity and his compassion. Whatever picture you hold let’s simply remember and celebrate a loving husband, brother, father, grandfather and friend, this quite exceptional man.

Dave Sewell Editor

Norma, Mark, Emma and Family wish to thank everyone for their support and kind donations, in memory of Mike.

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

After the hectic events of the first part of the year (our funding campaign, the Jubilee, the Olympics and Mick's wedding) the autumn months have seemed quite calm by comparison. There have, of course, been the usual events of this season starting with our Songs of Praise evening in August when Tom Merrick preached an excellent sermon to a well-attended church and familiar and well-loved hymns could be heard rattling the rafters. The Ride and Stride in September raised over £120 and we received half of that for church funds. In October we celebrated the Harvest Festival and it was delightful to see the window ledges decorated with the writings and drawings of the Sharnford primary school children. There were prayers of thanks for our harvests, prayers for the countries where the harvests often fail leaving it's children hungry, prayers for and thanks to the farmers who grow our food and nicely drawn pictures of the food itself (carrots seemed to be a favourite). As usual, the non-perishable food gifts brought to the church were later sent to Hinckley associations for the homeless who quickly responded with their thanks. At this time we also had a collection for Tearfund and we were able to send them £138.78.

In November we held our family service in the Evergreen Hall. Weather wise it was a horrible day so we were delighted and much heartened when 22 adults and 5 children attended. The service was much enhanced when 2 men from the congregation volunteered for 'role play' — and very well they did it too with squeaks of delight coming from the children at their antics. This year 'Remembrance' took place at the time and on the day itself, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. A short service attended by 30 people and conducted by Barbara Bircumshaw was held at our village memorial where the Last Post began the two minutes silence and Reveille ended it.

There have been two other events in the last quarter, a happy one in August when Martin Lee and Shelly Harper Pittam were married in the church and a sad one in October when we said goodbye to Mike Bishop. He worked hard for the village and will be sadly missed.

Soon it will be Christmas (can you believe it'?) and the church will be celebrating. The 16th December will see our service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm, the 23rd December will be the Christingle and Nativity at 9.15am. The Midnight Communion this

year will be held at All Saints, Sapcote starting at 11.30pm and there will be a Family Service in St Helen's at 9.15am on Christmas Day. Have a lovely festive season all of you

Estelle Perrett

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YOUR VILLAGE BROOK NEEDS YOU!

The Environment Agency, having run out of money, has agreed to allow the resumption of the practice of village residents keeping the Brook clear.

A volunteer group is being formed to undertake this task, 2 or 3 times a year.

**Anyone interested, please call
Derek Gibbons on 272401**

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

Over the summer the Evergreen Club members and committee enjoyed a river cruise and lunch on the River Trent in Nottingham. The weather was glorious and the trip was enjoyed by all. We have held our bacon buttie mornings every couple of months which are always a great success and will continue, our next one being held on Saturday 15th December from 9.30am. Please do join us then!

Our annual MacMillan coffee morning in September was again very popular and raised an incredible £401.70, a huge thank you to all who supported the morning. Over the last 3 years we have raised £1175.79 - a very worthwhile event.

Our annual AGM was held recently, where officers were elected for the coming year and an afternoon tea was enjoyed by members and committee. I am delighted to continue as Chairman again for the next twelve months, I would like to thank all the committee and members for their continued help and support.

Our Christmas Fair held on the 17th November raised over £1900 for the club, a fantastic amount. Santa proved very popular again, as did our pork and stuffing baps - something new this year! See next page for forthcoming events.....



Caitlin Nurse with Santa



Evergreen Ladies in the Christmas mood.

Saturday 1st December, Christmas Dinner at the Evergreen Hall, 6.30pm
Wednesday 12th December, Christmas Afternoon Tea 2.30pm
Saturday 15th December, bacon buttie coffee morning 9.30am
Wednesday 9th January, Pantomime at Concordia Theatre, times to be confirmed.
Merry Christmas everyone!!

Karen Smith *Chairman*



LATE NEWS – Floods in Sharnford Sunday 25th Nov, more photos & news on page 27

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What date in December is Christmas Day?
2. How many Wise Men were there?
3. What three gifts did the Wise Men bring for the baby Jesus?
4. What did Frosty The Snowman have for a nose?
5. What's the name of the evergreen plant that it's traditional to kiss under?
6. What American government agency tracks Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve?
7. What guided the Wise Men to the infant Jesus?
8. The following letters represent each of the words in which Christmas song?
RTRNR
9. How many sides does a snowflake have?
10. What's the name of the Christmas Carol about evergreen plants?
11. What did Mary wrap the baby Jesus in?
12. What was the name of the character played by Macaulay Culkin in Home Alone?
13. According to the carol, how many ships came sailing in on Christmas Day?
14. What were the shepherds doing in the fields?
15. Who helped Santa Claus to make toys for Christmas?
16. In which town was baby Jesus born?
17. Do you know the names of 2 of Santa's reindeer?
18. In Toy Story, the final scene takes place on Christmas Day. What were the names of the rivals in the film (the cowboy and the sci-fi action figure)?
19. How do you say Merry Christmas in France?

Answers as usual on the back page

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SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

A very sad time..... since the sudden death of Mike Bishop last month, a founder member of our group some 10 years ago. The main tribute can be seen elsewhere in this issue but suffice to say that we miss him, for so many reasons. His dedication and input will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and good wishes are with Norma and the family at this time. Rest on Mike.

Hanging Baskets and Planters: What a difficult summer for the flowers and those caring for them? Some bloomed well others were diminished by stronger plants and some eaten up by damp loving slugs! Next year we shall go back to geraniums, some trailing, some upright and see if they 'weather' the weather any better. A gardeners tip from Ron to deter slugs: Beer Traps work well and the slugs die happy!!!!!!!

We have plans this winter to rebuild the triple set of planters on the Coventry Road/Leicester Road corner - hence they have no plants at present. We are using donated plaswood which is more durable than the existing wood. Eventually all the planters will be replaced, but it is a huge task for our small group - time and manpower being the major difficulty.

The Brook: We have been approached by the Parish Council to help form a Task Force to tidy the brook, we believe with the approval of the Environment Agency. Regretfully we cannot assist with this - we simply no longer have sufficient members to undertake the work. If you think you can help please contact the Chairman of the Parish Council Derek on 272401 or email him at drgibbons@lineone.net

BlueBell Green: We have tried this summer to keep one step ahead of the weeds (abundant in the wet) by using strulch on the main beds. It is an organic product that reduces the need for constant weeding and also adds some nutrients into the soil. It has certainly helped this year. We did replace some plants in the late Spring and have 'pointed up' the paved area adjacent to the sunclock. Our working parties seem the most

successful, as one member says, 4 people up there for one hour equals 4 hours work - how very true.

October A.G.M. The following roles were approved - Margaret Grewcock Chairwoman phone 271156. Vice chair Maureen Butcher 274374. Treasurer Dave Sewell 272901 and Secretary Yvonne Jordan 274112. We continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7.30pm to 9pm in the Evergreen Hall.

As the year draws to a close, for those celebrating this festive time, ENJOY and go peacefully.

Yvonne Jordan

MULCH WITH STRULCH

The Environment Group developed Bluebell Green in 2008/9 and after we did the planting we topped off the bare earth around the plants with Strulch a straw based mulch with added iron minerals to stabilise it.

A mulch is a covering usually about 2” thick of a material such as compost or composted bark or anything organic which will provide the following benefits. The thickness of the mulch inhibits weed seeds from growing, it helps retain moisture in the soil, valuable in a normal summer. It looks attractive and when eventually it rots down into the soil it improves the soil structure by adding humus. Also it encourages and supports worms which will work through the soil pulling the mulch into the top soil level and improving the structure. If you have a heavy soil which drains poorly it helps open it up and if you have light soil it increases the soils ability to retain moisture and nutrients.

So which one to choose? If you have lots of home made compost then this is the cheapest way to go and provides lots of nutrients. Not always the prettiest way to go but effective. Composted bark looks better but is bulky and heavy and expensive. Looks pretty but has little in the way of nutrients. Cocoa shell mulch (waste product from making chocolate) smells delicious, it has good nutrient levels but is more expensive than bark. It deters slugs and snails, also cats but it is suggested that it is toxic to dogs. So it is a no no in a public area.

So for Bluebell Green we looked at the options and went for Strulch. Strulch is wheat straw which has undergone a process so that it will take two years to rot down. In the meantime it deters slugs and snails. It keeps moisture in the soil and provides an ideal habitat for surface feeding worms. It reduces weed seed growth. It is not toxic and it is organic. It is a lot easier to handle being as light as a pillow. Our Strulch arrived in large 150 litre bags which weigh only 13.5 kilos a bag. It is clean to store before use and easy to store any spare bags as long as you keep them dry. So it does everything that the alternatives do and all at a reasonable price.

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In fact it was so good that this year when it was time to tidy up Bluebell Green and do some replanting we put down a fresh layer of Stulch so now looks as good as when we had the official opening back in 2008.

Tony Curtis

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR ASH TREES?

There is no doubt that Ash Dieback (caused by the fungal pathogen *Chalara fraxinea*) is a serious problem and will become even more so over the next year or two. So what do you do? You can diagnose the problem from the leaves but we are at the end of the season and the trees are shedding their leaves for Winter.

The problem seems to predominate in newly planted saplings. The reason for this is that many of these saplings are imported from Europe where they have this disease! Reports of *C.fraxinea* in saplings are cropping up all over the country. There has of course been a boost in tree planting this year to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Mature trees seem to be more resistant and the reports of *C.fraxinea* damage to mature trees predominate in East Anglia, Essex and Kent. Possibly the spores have been carried on the wind or by birds?

The good news is that the disease has probably not reached us here in Sharnford and it will be a year or two before the disease hits us as surely it will. A newly planted car park on the Northwest side of Leicester has reported cases of *C.fraxinea*. The trees came from a nursery in Lincolnshire.

So for 2012 my advice is don't panic, for this year the disease is more likely in newly planted trees. I do not believe that burning or landfill for the leaves are sensible ways forward. The leaves from trees have a habit of blowing around so unless we go out into the fields and collect every last ash leaf we are never going to eliminate diseased foliage. That is however my personal view. I hope that by late May, early June next year when Ash trees come into leaf there will be a better understanding of what we should do and when the trees are in leaf it will be easier to assess them for the disease. If you want further advice I can recommend The Woodland Trust website <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk> and <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>.

If you do discover the disease ring the Forestry Commission *Chalara* helpline: 08458 33 55 77 (open 8am - 6pm every day)

Tony Curtis

Sharnford Village Tree Warden and Master Composter



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SHARNFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sharnford C E Primary School welcomed 8 children at the start of the autumn term and they have settled in to school life very well.

At the beginning of September we took 42 children from the federation to Kingswood in Staffordshire for a 5 day residential. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities including climbing, quad biking, circus skills, laser quest, ICT, archery and much more. All of the children behaved well and were a pleasure to work with. They were polite, enthusiastic and keen to challenge themselves. Before arriving at Kingswood the children visited RAF Cosford where they enjoyed making rockets and walking around the museum.

Year one and two children enjoyed an interactive creative Great Fire of London workshop which included dressing up in costumes and drama/role play and music. Children in years three and four visited New Walk Museum to enhance their studies on Dinosaurs. A trip has been arranged for year five and six to go to the Sealife Centre in Birmingham. Children in years three, four and five will be going swimming this half term to Hinckley Leisure Centre.

Following our entry in the Sharnford show, the school was awarded 2nd for a rose and 3rd for potatoes, Sharnford Village Group also presented the school children with a gardening book.

Leicestershire County Council carried out Cyclist Training for the year 5 and 6 children and First Steps child pedestrian training for years one and two.

A photographer from H Tempest came in to school to take individual and family photographs and our reception children's photograph was printed in the Hinckley Times 'My First Day at School'.

We have already started our rehearsals for the Christmas Production and Children have had the opportunity to design their own Christmas cards.

Parents and Carers were invited to the 'Meet the Teacher' evening where the class teachers explained classroom routines, homework and topics the children will be covering.

Afterschool sports club is running for class one children, Streetdance for classes two and three, football for years four, five and six and French club for years three to six.

The PTA have organised a Christmas disco and workshop and



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continue to work hard to raise much needed funds for school.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers that come in to school to listen to children read and help out on school trips.

Mrs Carol Proctor Secretary

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT NOVEMBER 2012

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Thank you to all the residents who took part in the 'trial - recycling' which took place in Sharnford and a section of Sapcote. All the data is in the process of being collated and residents will be notified accordingly. BDC will be allocating recycling bins for glass. These will be placed in the centre of the village, site yet to be confirmed.

A member of the Neighbourhood Services team will, if requested, come along to a Parish Council meeting (early in 2013) to explain how the new system will work. BDC are hoping that the new scheme will be in place in the spring 2013. All residents will be notified of the changes, so don't worry if you

can't make the PC meeting. I will also discuss your concerns at the next 'Surgery' in February.

Fosse Villages Consultations have now taken place with many of the residents of Sharnford taking part in the exercise at the Evergreen Hall. It is very important that residents take part in the shaping of their village for future years.

Following on from the Fosse Villages Consultations, meetings have been taking place in schools in the area. The children in years 5 and 6 from Sharnford and Sapcote schools joined together with a planning officer from County to look at their likes, dislikes and how they would like to change their villages for the future. The children were keen to discuss their ideas with all the groups and their suggestions were very similar to those voiced by the residents at their meeting in October.

The Lubbethorpe planning application was determined by Development Control Committee on the 1st November. This is the largest planning application that BDC has had to deal with. The committee were minded to approve the application, subject to conditions. Documentation has been forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government, as the application proposed is a departure to the Blaby District Local Plan (1999). The recorded vote was 13 to approve and 4 to refuse.

I will be holding a surgery on Thursday 21st February in the Evergreen Hall at 6.30pm all are welcome. A Three Oaks officer and a member of our police team are hoping to join us. As before this will be an informal gathering.

Your ward members wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Love to you all,

Cllr Sheila Scott, Cllr Ernie White and Cllr Iain Hewson

SHARNFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

How can it really be this time of year again!?!? It seems like no time at all since we were telling you about our forth coming Christmas events and yet here we are again.

We have started the new term and welcomed a new member to our committee, Tony.

This year our Christmas Disco will take place on 7th December, it will be open to all Sharnford Primary school pupils and their younger siblings. It is usually a fun evening and Father Christmas should make an appearance.

We will also be having a Christmas workshop for the children of the school where they will be able to wrap two gifts for parents or carers and take part in some other Christmas related crafts.

Finally for this year we will have our carol singing (please start hoping for better weather than over the last couple of years). This year there will be a slight change to the route. We will start from the Youth Club at 6:30pm, going up Park View to the corner of Henson Way, along Henson Way, down Brookfield, around Halls Crescent, back on to Brookfield, along Chapel Street and finishing at the Sharnford Arms. Please come out and support us and take part, this really is a case of the more the merrier. Our chosen charity will be the Air Ambulance.

2013 We will be holding our annual Village quiz early in the new-year, the date will be advertised shortly, so look out for posters and flyers.

It only leaves me to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chair

BBC RADIO LEICESTER THINKS SHARNFORD IS CLUELESS

On Sunday mornings, between 9am and 12pm, BBC Radio Leicester is running a programme called Clueless. The basic idea is that a reporter in a radio car is sent to various locations in Leicestershire looking for clue envelopes. The clues are very cryptic and the listeners have to work out where the clue envelope is hidden. They ring the Radio Leicester studio, who directs the radio car to the suggested location. When the reporter finds the clue envelope and opens it up, it contains another clue for the next location.....and so on.

For the programme on Sunday 4th November, our editor Dave Sewell, was asked by John Florance from Radio Leicester, to hide a clue envelope somewhere in Sharnford.....but keep it secret. John is the brains behind the programme and he constructs the clues. SO...on a very wet Sunday morning the roving reporter, Tony Wadsworth, was directed to Sharnford by various listeners interpreting the following clue:-

*A crossing place in the largest city in the Kingdom of Breland.
Near where a minister of transport is immortalised by flashing
And over a monochrome African equid
Search for a settler or colonist near-by*

Can you guess where it was hidden? Kaye Wormleighton and her family from Sharnford are obviously regular listeners, because they soon worked out that it was in Sharnford and where it was hidden. It did not take long to confirm it...because they

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spotted Dave 'trying to keep out of sight' hiding behind the petrol pumps on the Garage forecourt! When the radio car arrived, Tony was still waiting for listeners to work out the exact hiding place...and then the studio told him that another name for a settler or colonist was a 'planter'!....got it he said. Have you worked it out now?

It was in the planter by the zebra crossing on Leicester Road, right outside Kaye's house. So when Tony arrived, Kaye and her daughters were waiting with a nice mug of hot tea. Dave soon joined them and they all had a chat on Radio Leicester - fame at last!! If you struggled to work out the clue, here is the explanation.....The kingdom of Breland is from the role playing game 'Dungeons & Dragon's' and Sharn is it's largest city. Ford is a 'crossing place' and the minister of transport was Leslie Hore-Belisha, who introduced

the flashing beacons in 1934. The african equid is a Zebra and a settler is a planter. If you like working out clues, grab a pencil and a map of Leicestershire, and listen to Radio Leicester on Sunday mornings between 9am & noon. It's on 104.9 FM. The attached photos show Tony Wadsworth with Kaye and her daughters - happy listening.

Dave Sewell



LITTLE EXPLORERS PLAYGROUP SHARNFORD

This term we have been looking at different modes of transport and have had fun creating our role play airport and garage.

Brindleys kindly brought down an artic lorry for the children to look at and pretend to drive, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to them for creating this fantastic

opportunity for the children. Also thank you to Jack Brindley for bringing us a tractor and a Manitou forklift to explore. The children had a great time and their learning is far enhanced when exploring real things. Lots of new vocabulary was heard and the children were excited to recreate their own versions of the lorry and tractors.

We celebrated Halloween by having a party and enjoying the celebrations. Everyone dressed up in various fancy dress outfits and took part in some silly party games followed by a feast which included exciting and scary foods such as lime and slime jelly!!

The final part of the term will see us look forward to preparing for our festive activities. These will include a special performance by the children, a big party and lots of creative and sparkly activities to display at the Hall and then take home for the festive period. We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! Little Explorers Sharnford will re-open on Wednesday 9th January 2013 and we look forward to seeing you then.

Laura, Alison, Karen, Lyn and Claire.

SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE

We, like so many committees and the general community of Sharnford, are still in mourning for the loss of Mike Bishop. To us he was our treasurer, always there with a financial up date ready and also the knowledge and information about many of the different parts of organising our Village Fete. He was also, we like to think, a friend to many of us and without his support and sense of humour Fetes may not have been the success that they have been.

So it is with mixed feeling we look back at this year's fete; a year that saw us having to postpone the event from the original date, due to hideous weather and a waterlogged park only to find us caught by more late summer rain in September. That said, those stalwarts that turned out and manned stalls and attended the fete did us proud and whilst figures were down we all had fun; we hope to be able to move on from this experience next year when the sun will shine!

Due to the late date of the Fete and following events we have not yet confirmed the



dividend for each group, this will be announced in the next Sharnford News.

The next date for people's diaries is that of our AGM which will take place on 31st January 2013. PLEASE come and join the meeting, even if you can't make regular meetings come and put forward some fresh ideas and suggestions so that we can keep this event going. The photos on the previous page are 'People making the most of the bar to get out of the wet!' and 'Our Chairman working hard!'

Chair – Frazer Edge

SHARNFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Barbara Bircumshaw Tel: 634168

Regular Activities to which all are welcome:-

Morning Service – Each Sunday at 10am.

Evening Service – 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.

Another quarter of the year gone and it's time to look back on what we've been up to. On Sept 8th the chapel was open all day for Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' event. I was sponsored, by friends and family, to sit in and welcome the visitors. The weather was good, the cyclists few and far between, but £90 was raised, half of which stayed with the Trust and half returned for our own use. Cash donations given instead of produce at our Harvest Festival on Sept 16th meant we were able to send £50 to the Methodists Relief & Development Fund and £40 to 'Send a Cow'.

We were present at the village fete which, due to the rain, wasn't as good fun as it was intended to be. Luckily our stall was in the new building, so we kept dry, for which our thanks go to Frazer and his band of helpers who worked very hard to make it usable.

On October 14th we were privileged to welcome Jasmine Scarlett Clough into the worldwide Christian family. With parents Stacey & Paul, their family and friends, the chapel was filled for what proved to be a special and joyful occasion.

After our morning service on November 11th we all went up to the War Memorial to share with others in the simple short but moving act of remembrance. Our coffee mornings continue on the 1st Saturday of each month which, with your support, help us to support good causes near & far. At the time of writing, the craft group are busy, filling, checking & sealing the shoeboxes which are coming in thick and fast from across the Hinckley area. This year they will be going to Kyrgyzstan, a small ex-Soviet republic in Central Asia. Thanks to all who have supported, long may it continue!

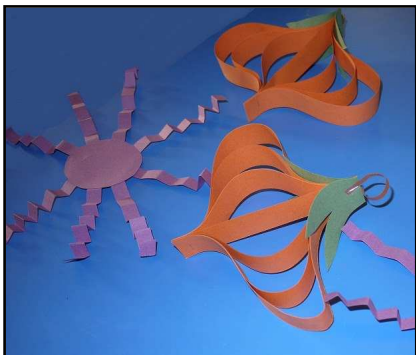
And so to Christmas, our main carol service will be on December 16th at 4.00pm, usual morning service on December 23rd and a short service on Christmas morning at 10.00am, led by our minister.

We wish you all the love, joy & peace of the Christ Child this Christmas as always.

Maureen Butcher

BUMPS, BABIES AND TODDLERS

Just a quick word from us for this edition; our weekly sessions started again after our summer break back in September.



We meet on a Tuesday morning 9am-10:30am at the Evergreen Hall. This term the children have been enjoying a number of crafting activities including making their own fireworks and spiders!

They have also had some new toys that we were able to buy with funds generated are our monthly coffee mornings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has come to our coffee mornings making them such a success; not only raising funds but having a nice social morning and where the children still get to play. Our next coffee morning is on the **4th December**,

please come and join us and enjoy some fresh homemade cakes.

Our last session will be the 18th December and we will be back after our Christmas break on the 15th January.

SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB

Firstly I would like to make a sincere apology to the family of the late Roy Lawson. In the last issue of the Sharnford News it was printed that a total of £600 was raised in Roys memory.

This should, however, have read '£650' which will, of course, go a long way to helping the building project.

Hopefully those of you who joined us for the Village Fete back on a rain soaked September afternoon had a chance to look around the new building. The feedback from those of you who did manage to sneak a peek, was very encouraging. Thank you all for the enthusiastic comments.



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The works on the building project are still in progress with the internal walls now having been constructed and the electrics all in place ready for final lighting and heating to be installed. All we need now are the toilets and kitchen to be fitted and we will be looking at an actual usable building! The Committee have high hopes that the building will be ready for Youth Club use by Christmas, so keep your ears peeled for any dates.

Finally, The Youth Club Committee would like to extend our condolences to Norma and the rest of her family on the sad loss of her husband, Mike Bishop. Mike worked tirelessly for the Re-building Project with

many man hours spent hunting down various grant and funding avenues in order to get this project up and running. I can quite honestly say, hand on heart, that without Mikes input and influence, Sharnford Youth Club would never have even got out of the ground. He was a great and generous man and will be missed by all. We now endeavour to complete the project in his memory.

Here's wishing you all a fabulous Christmas and New Year.

Julie Edge Chair of Sharnford Youth Club

A VICTORIAN FAMILY - THE ROWLES OF FIELDS FARM



1855-1885

This delightful pen and ink drawing by Olwen Hughes of Sharnford Fields Farm (corner of Bumble Bee Lane and Coventry Road) sitting amongst the trees sets the scene for our snapshot look back into Victorian Sharnford. Our thanks are to John Rowley of Fields Farm, who without his admirable help and memorabilia collection, this article could not have been realized. Also to David Arden and family of Flintshire, for kind permission for use of photographs of their Rowles ancestors.

Left - William and Eliza Rowles c.1908, Flintshire, Wales.



Let us now turn back the clock to the years 1855 - 1885 when the Rowles family was in residence at Fields Farm. Our first look is to the marriage of William Rowles and Eliza Pardoe, the date was 4th Jan 1855, the place Belbroughton, Worcestershire. William was christened 23rd Jan 1831 at Kidlington, Oxfordshire. Eliza was christened 16th Mar 1828 at Old Swinford, Worcestershire. Their first child was born at Sharnford in 1856. This gives us nicely the time of their arrival in Sharnford. How they came to hear about a letting farm of 29 acres in Sharnford is unknown, for I can find no relative - Pardoe or Rowle - living in the village. The farm and land belonged to the then Capt.J.E.Harris (the subject of an earlier article in the Sharnford News). Worcestershire to

Sharnford would have been a fair trek in those days by horse and cart - and even today is wearisome by motor car. The Rowles may well have required quite a large sum of money in advance for the rental and the heavy outlay on beast and draught horses, tools etc. I cannot help wondering if William was the recipient of a largesse from his family.

William was the second son (of eight children) of Charles Rowles, farmer, Kidlington, Oxon. but William had left the family farm before his twentieth birthday (1841 Census). Eliza was the fourth child (of nine) to a widowed Sarah Payton, coal

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dealer (1841 Census).

The children of William and Eliza Rowles totalled nine, all of whom were born in Sharnford. Frederick William (1856), Mary Ann (1858), Martha (1860), Charles (1862), Jane (1864), Elizabeth (1867), Henry (1869), Emma (1872), and lastly Ellen (1874).

In the census for the year 1871, the farm is as yet remained un-named, and gives the location as High Cross Lane, perhaps this was a precursor for the name Bumble Bee Lane as we know it today.

The Rowles family lived at Fields Farm (as we call it today), until after 1881. The census for that year shows a much depleted family. Certainly by 1891 they had moved away from

Sharnford and we find them in Liscard, Cheshire (1891 Census). Their final move was to Shordley Back, Hope, Flintshire (1901 Census). Unfortunately, the 1911 census for Flintshire has yet to be digitised and is unavailable.

This old battered photograph has just survived the onslaught of time, lovingly handled to the point of near destruction. It shows a much younger Eliza with perhaps her last three unmarried daughters remaining at home, Elizabeth, Emma and Ellen. Although on the reverse of this picture is the caption 'taken at Sharnford 1850' - this cannot be so because none of the children had been born. This picture in all probability was taken about 1893 either at Liscard or Hope.

Eliza Rowles died in 1912 and her husband William in 1914.

FAMILY EVENT WAS A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS

Families and children took part in a Halloween spooktacular at Fosse Meadows, near Sharnford. Hosted by Blaby District Council's Health & Recreation team, the event saw just under 200 people attend two spooky story walks and enjoyed activities such as circus skills, face painting, and arts and crafts. There was also a performance of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" by the Helen Guy Dance Academy.



Darren Farish, physical activity development officer and one of the event organisers, said: “The spooktacular event went really well and we had another great turnout, especially as it was a very cold evening. “There were some brilliant Halloween costumes and the children loved the stories and activities.” One attendee said: “It has been wonderful, we came last year too. My daughter has come over from Spain with her family to attend.”

For more information, or for details of other activities and events visit www.sportblaby.org.uk/active-together.html, email activetogether@blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 272 7703.



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DON'T LET FOOD POISONING RUIN YOUR FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS

If there's one thing guaranteed to ruin your Christmas meal out with friends, family or colleagues, it's a nasty bout of food poisoning. But if you're eating out, how do you know if the restaurant owner takes food hygiene seriously? The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme rates eateries and other places that sell food on their hygiene standards, based on inspections carried out by Blaby District Council. What's more, these ratings are available for everyone to see.

This national scheme, developed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in partnership with local authorities, rates food outlets on a scale ranging from zero at the bottom (which means ‘urgent improvement necessary’ to a top rating of five (‘very good’). You can check the rating online at www.food.gov.uk/ratings, via a free phone app, or look for the distinctive green and black rating sticker that businesses are encouraged to display.

If you’re organising a Christmas gathering with family, friends or work colleagues at a local restaurant, pub or hotel don’t just examine the menu, also check what their hygiene rating is too.

Councillor Guy Jackson, portfolio holder for Neighbourhood and Environmental Health Services, said: “When dining out, you’ll choose to go to a place where you like the food and you know you’ll have a good time. It makes sense to look before you book and check out the food hygiene rating as well.”

Catriona Stewart, Head of the Food Hygiene Ratings Team at the FSA, added: “No-one wants to gamble with their health when eating out, particularly when celebrating a festive meal. “Local authorities, including Blaby District Council have worked with the FSA to successfully roll-out the scheme which helps people choose where to eat. Our app makes it even easier for people to check hygiene ratings before deciding which place to visit.”

SHARNFORD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

Pollution Monitoring: The proposal to relocate the monitor from Bluebell Green to the Evergreen Car Park is yet to be approved. The officials seemed reluctant to move it since they insisted that there were too many considerations about prevailing winds, traffic variations and access to power. Our representative insisted that both STAG and the Parish Council wished to see readings from this site because of our belief that this was the most concentrated point for pollution in the village. It was ultimately agreed that they would go back and speak to County Highways officers and be in touch soon. After many weeks nothing had been heard and they had failed to respond to a reminder.

Accidents and Incidents: There have been a number of incidents in the village in the last few months. A car was hit by a lorry on the 3rd September and evidence suggested only one set of brakes were working. The following day a further set of skid marks had been made from a further incident. Also that month it was reported that a Bardon lorry had run into the back of a car waiting to turn right into Chapel Street, at the bottom of the hill. The car, which contained a young child, was declared a write-off. The incident was not reported to police. In November a lorry was seen going around the bollards on to the wrong side of the road while overtaking the dustbin lorry which was parked outside the garage. Later that month a car overturned in the ditch opposite the Sapcote turn. The road was closed and an ambulance and Police cars were in attendance. It appeared that no other car was involved.

Car parking: Thought to have improved overall but still problems in Brookfield. Engineers have been out to view this area and it is being proposed that the grass verges be taken up on Brookfield and lay-bys put in to help relieve the parking problems. They had also looked at Halls Crescent and are discussing taking up two lawns to allow more parking.

Speed Monitoring: A Capital Grant application for the purchase of a portable speed monitoring and vehicle counting machine was sent in August, but it has recently been reported that it had been unsuccessful.

HEBRIDEAN HOPSCOTCH

This is part two – part one was in Issue 43 August 2012



The causeway from Benbecular to North Uist runs via Grimsay, a tiny island with a few crofts. North Uist is very hilly in the east and flat in the west and is also very low lying with peat bogs and lochs. This is a bird spotter's paradise, with Golden Eagles among many other species, and is also good for fishing, with both trout and salmon available. Lochmaddy, the main village on North Uist, is a pretty little place with a shop-cum-post office-cum museum and café; there is a ferry which goes from here to Uig, on Skye. There are a few crofts here, each with quite a lot of land.

The hills here are the highest we had seen so far with lovely views from the top, over the Atlantic to the Monarch Islands and St Kilda. The last people left St Kilda in the 1930s, as life became unsustainable, and the island is now a bird sanctuary. We found some lovely little bays here on the east coast and an old port, probably used when the herring boats came in. The herring have gone from here, but are now replaced by fish farming (salmon mainly). Shell fish and prawns are now caught off the islands, with most being sent to Europe. Berneray is joined on to North Uist by another causeway. There is a gift shop-cum-café here and a small collection of crofts. It also has a ferry port with the ferries going over the Sound of Harris to Leverburgh, on Harris. As with the other islands there are a lot of ancient buildings. These islands, along with Harris and Lewis, are strong and strict Protestant, so everything is closed on Sundays.

We had a ferry journey of fifty minutes to Leverburgh. A friend of mine from school days now lives here. She met us off the ferry and escorted us to the camp site. Leverburgh was built as a port for herring fishing boats and built by Lord Leverhulme to supply his shops in the Macfisheries chain. It has now grown into quite a community, with a few shops and a couple of fuel pumps. He



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also planned to build a road all around Harris and Lewis but this all collapsed along with the fishing industry. This island, along with Lewis, would appear to be a little more prosperous than the other islands. The west coast of Harris is spectacular with lovely beaches at Horgabost and Seilbost along with spectacular clear blue seas and lovely views over to the island of Taransay. You may remember this island being used in a BBC programme called Castaway in 2000, but it is now uninhabited. We saw some hardy people in the sea, surfing!

The east coast is very mountainous with many bare rocks. There is little or no vegetation here and only a few scattered communities. This part of the island is referred to as the moon by the locals. None of the small communities are big enough for shops. They used to be connected to each other by boat but they now have roads. The main village here is Tarbert which has a post office, where we were able to tax our car, a couple of shops and an information centre, and a port for the ferry going between here and Uig on Skye.

While we were in Tarbert we went on to Scalpay, a small island which now has a bridge to connect it to Harris. This is a reasonably prosperous area, although the shop here was empty of goods and locked up, but they do have a school and a fire station. We visited Hushinish, a lovely horseshoe-shaped bay in the north west of Harris with a few crofts and a small slipway. The road to Hushinish passed in front of a castle, where they were having photographs taken after a wedding but they had to wait while we passed through along with the car in front of us.

We next visited a delightful bay on the east coast at Reinigeadal. It was a pretty little community of just a few crofts. We were there on a lovely sunny day and quite warm, being sheltered by the hills from the wind. The road to this community was only built in the 1980s. The fuchsias were in full flower! Harris is, of course, the home of Harris Tweed. It is woven here and also in Lewis, although it is often made into clothes on the mainland.

Lewis is joined onto Harris so no more causeways to cross. We found a good but expensive site just to the north of Stornoway and quite sheltered. When we arrived it was a warm sunny day. There were some pretty flower beds in the town with palm trees. There are quite a few shops here, together with the main hospital for the islands, although this has a limited capability - serious cases are flown to Inverness. Stornoway is also the administrative capital for the islands.

We found the museum, where they have the Lewis Chessmen - chess pieces carved from Walrus tusks. They are now on display for the first time after being brought together from

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various museums throughout the UK. They were originally found on a beach on the west of the island in the 1800s and there are several stories as to how they were found, they were thought to have been brought over by the Norse and are hundreds of years old. One says that a herd of cattle had disturbed them, another that the sea had exposed a pile of stones and a boy had found a way in where he discovered them and taken them home and

kept them for a good while. Eventually they got split up and sold. The British Museum in London bought most of them and some went to the museum in Stornoway, although they are not all accounted for. The pieces look like people with huge eyes and can be dated according to which clothes the bishops are wearing. The kings would appear to be withdrawing their swords from the sheaths, while the queens look fed up. The photo above shows an oak sculpture of a King from the collection. We also

visited the Callinish Stones, an amazing array of huge stones known to be considerably older than Stonehenge. There are also other circles nearby on a smaller scale. The walk ways up to the main stones are lined by two rows of smaller stones and, unlike Stonehenge, they line up with the rising and setting times of the moon. The lay out resembles a celtic cross, with the largest stone in the centre along with a cairn. Nearby was a broch, a tower type construction, which dates from somewhere between 300BC to 100AD – see photo on right. Its walls are thirty feet thick at their highest remaining part and were built with no mortar. They are very strong due to the double construction with the stairs between the two walls. It is thought they were lived in and many have been found in the Orkneys, Shetland and west coast areas.



The day we visited the Butt of Lewis and the Lighthouse it was blowing a gale, with horizontal rain. It was very difficult to stand up. At a local living museum we visited a blackhouse, where at least it was dry inside. The fire in the centre has no chimney - the smoke goes up and through the thatch, so we were well smoked when we came out! We then went on to the Blackhouse Village see photo left, a collection of houses built (probably)

by and for the fishermen, some have been done up as holiday lets. Whilst we were in Stornoway we visited the Eye Peninsula, past the Airport, where we found some stones on the coast, erected to the memory of the men of Lewis who were returning home in 1919 after World War I. Sadly, these men were shipwrecked not far from the harbour.

We left Lewis on the ferry to Ullapool on the mainland. After arriving we then set off for Kinlochewe by heading towards Dingwall for a start then turning off for Achnasheen and Kinlochewe. While staying here we visited Gairloch which is quite a busy little place and also going over the Pass of the Cattle to Applecross another pretty place, but it would appear to be mainly holiday homes along the shore.

Our next stay was at Shiel Bridge, a lovely area and quite mountainous. We were not for from the much photographed Eilean Donan Castle in the loch although it does have a bridge over to it. Also we visited some more brochs and a military barracks built for officers which were started in 1720 a year after the battle of Shiel Bridge and finished in 1725. By 1800 the rooms were being rented out for €1 a year and in 1830 they were used as a Poor House and after this fell into ruins.

After this we crossed over the Syke Bridge and spent *six* days on the Island of Skye. This island seems a little more prosperous than the Hebrides. The cottage gardens are full of vegetables and flowers. Portree the main place is only very small but rather a pleasant place. The Cullins are very remote and almost sinister and are very difficult to climb, with a lot of scree and falling rocks. The caravan *was* parked on the side of the loch and we had lovely views of various seabirds diving in for fish.

The next place we visited on the way home *was* Fort William, this is a pretty little town almost at the foot of Ben Nevis. It actually has a supermarket! Here we visited the Ardnamurchan Peninsular which has a few villages the main one being Strontian. The point on which the Lighthouse stands is the most westerly point on the British mainland. It is a very pretty area. Whilst here, we also visited Neptune's Staircase and its many locks at the southern end of the Caledonian Canal.

Our final stop in Scotland was at Kirkintilloch near Glasgow. From this site, which is very handy for Glasgow, (if you can get on the station car park) we visited Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. From here both the Firth of Clyde and the Firth of Forth can be seen.

On the way home we stopped in Clapham, a pretty village near Settle and handy for the Yorkshire dales and the Forest of Bowland, both of which we visited, where we came

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across the very old and pretty village of Dent which is now a World Heritage Site. We went through the Trough of Bowland a very remote place on the way to Morecombe.

The last site we stayed on was at Grin Low just south of Buxton and set in an old Quarry. This is a handy stopover on the way home. Whilst here, we visited Solomon's Temple, which was not far away. The Duke of Devonshire planted a lot of trees here to hide the Lime excavations from the surrounding area.

Alison Roberts



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QUIZ NIGHT FOR GUIDE DOGS

On the 13th November, the Sharnford Arms hosted a very enjoyable quiz evening in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. The event was arranged by members of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Branch and a total of £300 was raised.

A BIG THANK YOU to Steve Smith and his wonderful staff for their generosity and help in making the event so successful.

Margaret Grewcock

VILLAGE SHOW

The Village Flower & Produce Show took place in September and despite the awful summer the quality of produce entered held up well. We were lucky with the weather, the sun always shines for The Produce Show! The Dahlias made a stunning display, at least they appreciated this years rain. The Jams, Chutneys and other home produce entries were again of excellent quality and gave the judges some work to do. Thank you, everyone for your support

We hope that by the time you read this we will have been able to distribute surplus funds from The Show and The Plant Sale held earlier in the year to village causes.

We have started planning for the next Plant Sale on the 18th May 2013 and hope we have picked up on what you all want. With the help of Four Winds again we look forward to supplying you with a wide selection of spring bedding and vegetable plants. Next year the weather will be better!

Tony Curtis

COUNTRYMAN SICK & DIVIDEND FUND ANNUAL RAFFLE

The Countryman Sick and Divided Fund is again holding its annual raffle. Tickets are now on sale at the Countryman and Sharnford Arms public houses and also the Post Office. This year we have had a super prize donated, a deluxe coffee making machine, as well as our normal offering of prizes.

The Countryman Sick and Dividend Fund is now in its 75th year and in recognition of this, was awarded the Jubilee Cup. I do hope you will all continue to support this prize draw which provides Christmas gift bags for the pensioners and widows/widowers of Sharnford. This year they will include some extras, making them extra special. A donation is also made for the children's Christmas party at the local school.

The prize draw will take place at the Countryman at 8:00 pm on Friday the 21st of December and distribution of the Christmas gift bags will take place on Saturday the 22nd of December; any assistance with the distribution would be greatly appreciated – please contact myself or Paul at the Countryman if you can help.

Jack Feast

VILLAGERS HELP FAMILY ESCAPE FROM THEIR FLOODED HOME



Following the worst floods in Sharnford in over twenty years, Ian Pickering and his family were among a number of houses flooded on Sunday morning 25th November. The road between Willowbrook Close and the bridge on Leicester Road was flooded to a depth of 18 inches. Ian, his family and pet dogs (Maisie and Wooster) were rescued by Frazer Edge in a kayak. More news in the next issue

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS & RESPONSE POLICING

A review of neighbourhood policing was commissioned by the Chief Officers of Leicestershire Police in June 2011, no review had taken place since 2005. It was quickly recognised that there was scope to build on the success of neighbourhood policing by realigning resources to more effectively meet demand.

Increasing the resources in Safer Neighbourhood Teams (previously Neighbourhood Policing Teams) will allow greater police accountability and increase the number of geographically based resources. Safer Neighbourhood Teams will investigate local crime, problem solve and manage offenders. Safer Neighbourhood Teams will predominantly deal with incidents, offenders and vulnerable people within their respective neighbourhood. However at times of peak demand, Safer Neighbourhood Team officers will have the flexibility to be deployed across organisational boundaries.

Each neighbourhood will have a named 'Beacon Officer' and Neighbourhood Sergeant. The Beacon Officer will be the named point of contact for the community and partner agencies and will be constantly assigned to a particular neighbourhood. Police Community Support Officers will continue to be an integral part of Safer Neighbourhood Teams, being visible in and engaging with local communities, identifying and managing vulnerability and anti-social behaviour issues in line with their skills and training.

Incident response officers (those who respond to 999 calls) will be more effectively deployed to meet peak demands and maintain attendance standards. This efficiency has enabled us to increase the number of officers and sergeants in Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Further details about your Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant, your Beacon Officer and the Police Community Support Officers for your neighbourhood please check the Leicestershire Police website after 8th January 2013. You can also follow us on Twitter and facebook.

In order to tackle local concerns we want to know what matters most to you in the area where you live, work or visit. You can help shape local priorities by completing the short questionnaire at <http://www.leics.police.uk/surveys/consultation/>

To advertise in the next issue of **SHARNFORD NEWS** please contact Angie Timson-Jones on 271561

Editorial Team: Dave Sewell 272901, Angie Timson-Jones 271561 and Jean Ryan 615820

Answers:- 1. Red and Shiny, 2. December 25th, 3. Three, 4. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, 5. A button, 6. Mistletoe, 7. NORAD, 8. Star, 9. Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer, 10. six, 11. The Holly and the Ivy, 12. Swaddling clothes, 13. Kevin McCallister, 14. Three, 15. Watching their flocks, 16. the Christmas Elves, 17. Bethlehem, 18. Any 2 of the following, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Duner, Blixem and Rudolph, 19. Sheriff Woody and Buzz Lightyear, 20. Joyeux Noel