

# SHARNFORD NEWS



1<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Issue No 49

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## SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

It was budget time again! After a lengthy meeting and much deliberation the budget was set. It involves only a slight increase on your precept – the equivalent of a cup of coffee at your favourite café!! This will allow us to continue to keep our village and park areas and burial ground smart and well looked after. It will also go towards helping with funding for some of the groups working on behalf of the village.

The village has seen some bad storms and winds this winter and certain areas have sustained minor damage. We have tried to keep on top of this by contacting the relevant services. Thankfully flooding hasn't been an issue so far, although at times we were all getting a little anxious. We have made sure that the council have been regularly cleaning the drains throughout the village as we feel this was a contributing factor during the last flood. If you do see any blocked drains as you walk around the village then please contact Blaby Council or Severn Trent and report any issues. Jack Feast, our Flood Warden will be giving some advice in an article, on how we as residents can help keeping flooding to a minimum.

We have been working with STAG and Highways this month. STAG have accrued money from grants and donations and we are working with them to find the best way to spend it to benefit the village. We have had a meeting with Highways to see what we can and cannot do legally, and they have come up with some interesting options. We have visited a company to look at Vehicle Activated Signs and Data Collection Units. Both are costly and would require maintenance and a lot of work in setting up, downloading and analysing information. Highways have offered the option of purchasing data from their Permanent Counter units located either end of the village. Or we could have Data Collection units installed to monitor volume, speed and type of vehicles passing through the village. This will give us a significant amount of data for further negotiations with regards to road safety in the village. Negotiations are ongoing.

It is nearly time for Parish Council re-elections. A Parish Council member signs up for 3 years voluntary work, and that time is nearly at an end. It is then up to the individuals if they wish to put their name forward again. It is also the time when other individuals can put their names forward to join. If anyone would like a new challenge then please contact our Parish Clerk Matthew Scott [matthew.scott@neovialogistics.com](mailto:matthew.scott@neovialogistics.com).

I would like to thank all the current members for all their hard work and dedication during the last 3 years. It has been challenging for many of us as we came in to the council with no prior experience. I'm very proud of what they have all achieved. I hope we can persuade Derek Gibbons to stay on the council, as he has been a great member his knowledge and dedication would be sorely missed.



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If I don't get the chance to write to you all again, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure serving the community of Sharnford. I wish all residents well for the future. Keep looking out for and taking care of your village.

*Angie Timson-Jones - Chairlady*

## SHARNFORD SCHOOL

Sharnford C E Primary School had a very busy end to the autumn term. The children took part in two Christmas Productions of 'The Very Hopeless Camel' where they sang and danced extremely well and entertained parents, grandparents and friends. Class one also visited Sharnford Playgroup to watch the children perform their Christmas production. Children in reception enjoyed a visit to Oak Farm near Bagworth, they

visited all the animals and enjoyed meeting Santa. The school council were invited to the Council Chambers at Blaby District and enjoyed having their own debate. Parents were given the opportunity of their child receiving a flu vaccine in school, which was administered by the school nurses. Parents were invited to come and watch year 5 perform a short musical performance following their string instrument lessons with Leicestershire School's Music Service. During the spring term year 6 and reception children were visited by trained staff from NHS Leicestershire Partnership Trust, who weighed and measured them.

We were extremely pleased to receive funding from Stepping Stones and Blaby District Council to allow class one children to take part in 'Forest School'. Sarah Freer from 'IntoThe Woods' along with members of staff walk the children to Fosse Meadows and look at bugs, trees, den building and many other activities. A lego day took place at All Saints C E Primary School, Sapcote for children with strengths in science and maths, they built a whole village that could be run by solar power. Parents of year 6 children were invited to meet with teachers to discuss the SAT's testing which the children will take part in during May.

The following clubs are currently available for the children to take part in: multi sports, football, netball, cross country and French. The PTA continue to raise funds for the school and organised a quiz night in February. They paid for the children to visit the Life Education Caravan, which is a mobile classroom, where the children had the opportunity to take part in exciting and interactive lessons, learning about health and well-being. We would like to thank the parents and volunteers who visit our school to listen to children read and help in many different ways.

*Carol Proctor Secretary*

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## **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Since the last edition we have had plenty of fun and activities going on in the Youth & Community Centre, but first a big thank you for the Monday night Crafters for creating such fantastic Christmas tree and wall decorations. These are now all safely packed away ready for next Christmas. Great job ladies.

Our annual Youth Club Christmas tobogganing trip to Tamworth Snowdome went off without a hitch, or thankfully, any injuries, with a fantastic hot chip supper supplied by Windsor Street Chip Shop, Burbage on our return.

2014 was welcomed with gusto, merriment and plenty of dancing as 120 people partied the night away. It was great to see so many residents, both current and those that have moved away, having so much fun. Requests for the same next year have already been received.

To coincide with the World Cup we have been working alongside villagers and also the Matt Elliott Football Academy to run a Sharnford Football Fun Day throughout the day on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. The games will be held for adults and children with other activities going on for the less active amongst us. The main football game is the 'Sweet FA Cup Final', played on the Sapcote Recreational Ground with all other events taking part in the Sharnford Youth and Community Centre or the adjacent park. There will be a daytime BBQ and a licensed bar which will run into the evening, where we will be organising a disco until late.

All details can be found on our website at [sharnfordyouthclub@wordpress.com](mailto:sharnfordyouthclub@wordpress.com) as well as the Notice elsewhere in this issue of Sharnford News. So make sure you check it out and get signed up asap.

We are currently looking into a summertime trip to the ever popular Wickstead Park but will keep Youth Club members up-to-date on the details.

The Centre is proving a valued part of the Community and clubs and societies covering all ages and interests are starting up all the time.

The following timetable shows all our current clubs with interest being shown for starting up new ones in the pipeline.

### **Monday – 7pm-9pm - Craft Club**

Come along with your own half finished project and chat to other like-minded people.

### Sharnford Little Explorers Playgroup



Evergreen Village Hall,  
Sharnford, Leicester



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Lots of fun activities



Parent and Tots Group Tuesdays 9.15am

### Wednesday 10am-12.30pm -Over 55's Youth Club

Relive your youth club years. Pool, darts, table tennis and our **new Indoor Bowls**. Or just come along for a coffee and a chat.

### Thursday – 4.30pm-6pm - Matt Elliott Football Academy

Open to boys and girls aged 5-13years with emphasis being on fun, fitness and skills. Just pop along on the day.

Also starting March 2014 – Matt Elliott Soccer Tots. Specifically for children age 2-4 years. More information will be posted around the village soon and see website [www.touchlinesports.co.uk](http://www.touchlinesports.co.uk)

### Fitsteps Ballroom Boogie – New class times starting 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6.30pm-7.30pm

Popular ballroom moves to modern music. A fun fitness class for anyone

over 16yrs.

### Friday – 6.30pm-8pm - Youth Club

For ages 5+. Come along and meet friends or make new ones.

With plenty of parking and having direct access to the park, party bookings are coming in thick and fast for the Community Centre. There's even room for a bouncy castle alongside, or if the English weather prevails, there's plenty of room inside the building. If you have an event or birthday coming up, make sure you get in early to avoid disappointment. For all queries phone Julie Edge on 01455 271321 or visit our website [sharnfordyouthclub.wordpress.com](http://sharnfordyouthclub.wordpress.com). or search 'Sharnford Youth Club' on Facebook.

*Julie Edge*

### ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP

Over the last six months the Ladies Group has enjoyed a wide variety of activities including a very enjoyable dinner at Badger's Mount, a skittles evening at the Heathcote Arms in Croft and a delightful social evening in December entertained by the singing group Rockapella. This group was enjoyed very much and has been re-booked for December 2014. In addition speakers have been invited to the group to relate their experiences in various fields; Stuart Sewell told us about his travels around the world, Alice Smith her venture into the television world of The Apprentice and Margaret Bryan gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on her visit to Burma.

The March 5th meeting is in the Evergreen Hall when Linda Payne will be demonstrating the art of cake decorating. Meetings are usually held at the home of Jan Sewell at 8.00p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, but occasionally in the

Evergreen Hall. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings, cost £3 to include coffee/raffle. Information about the group can be found in the Sharnford News or by contacting the Leader, Mrs. Pat Jordan, Tel.272229  
**Jean Ryan**

### **SHARNFORD LITTLE EXPLORERS PLAYGROUP**

This term we have been focusing on physical activities. At home and at playgroup we have been aiming to undertake the recommended three hours of physical exercise per day per preschool child. To help achieve this, we have been going for walks to and from the park and have enjoyed using the swings and slides. We have also been to Poors Meadow, taking with us footballs that we have kicked and chased and learned how to skip with ropes and hula hoops.

Inside the setting we have been using large boxes to create dens and vehicles that we have enjoyed role play with. Our favourite group activity has been the sensory parachute and we have learned positional movements such as up, down, over, under, left and right. We have also enjoyed our musical activities singing along and dancing to the music using scarves, ribbons and pompoms.

Courtesy of the County Council, we have been sending home our new PE bag. This has enabled us to play bat and ball with our families, rugby, skipping and a dice to make our games up with. Photos of us doing these are being added to our learning journeys and the children have been telling us each week what activities they have done at home.

We have just taken delivery of our new knives which are suitable for children to cut with but won't hurt themselves with. We have been practicing chopping fruit and vegetables in our role play shops and restaurant and are now eagerly awaiting the delivery of our new mud kitchen. A big thank you to the PTFA for assisting us with this purchase.

We have celebrated the Chinese New Year by eating noodles and dancing with a dragon! After half term we will be continuing with our physical development and encouraging the children to learn about how their body works. We will be collecting for loose parts play, such as empty kitchen roll tubes, boxes and milk bottle tops, so any recycled materials you could send for us would be most welcome.

***Alison, Sue, Karen, Kat and Claire.***



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## SHARNFORD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

Just a few lines to let you know what STAG have been doing recently. Firstly, we have been very pleased to receive two donations, one from the Jubilee committee for £120 and one from Tony Curtis's Village Show committee for £250.

This money will be very welcome, as we are at present looking into getting equipment to do a traffic survey in the village.

The idea is to monitor the volume of traffic, type of vehicle going through the village, and the speed at which the traffic is moving. As you will be aware, these are an ongoing concern to all of us who live here. We are in discussion with the Parish Council who are cooperating with us and we will update again in the next issue when a final decision is made.

***June Feast (Chair of STAG)***

## COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND

Christmas 2013 saw the delivery of 135 Christmas goody bags on a much nicer day than the previous year. We were blessed with bright sunshine, although it was still chilly. We have received many letters of thanks and a couple of donations to the fund, which relies solely on the efforts of volunteers. Special thanks go out to Paul Clough and his contingent of volunteers who do the packing and make the deliveries. June Feast played her part by producing the splendid cards that were included in each of the bags and the writing of many letters to drum up the raffle prizes. Thanks to Dennis Rogerson and his friends who sell a remarkable number of raffle tickets at the Hinckley Working Men's Club every year and not forgetting the Evergreen Committee who kindly let us use the facilities at the hall for the packing and distribution of the goody bags.

Special thanks go out to all those businesses and individuals that donated prizes to make the annual prize draw possible. The tickets for the draw were completely sold out about two weeks before the draw date - all in all another great success - please be sure to support us again at Christmas 2014.

***Jack Feast***

***On behalf of the Countryman S & D committee*** The goody bags prior to delivery



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## SHARNFORD SCHOOL PTA

Well, it seems like Christmas was only yesterday, but here we are now and it's February half-term!

The Christmas Disco was a great success, if a little early in the month (it did make it easier to get Father Christmas though, as he wasn't quite so busy). The Workshop was a fun and frantic hour of craft, colouring and sticking, with the children making tree decorations and wrapping presents.

The weather was kind for us for the annual carol singing around the village. Our chosen charity this year was LOROS and a big thank you to everyone who gave generously in spite of the singing! And of course a special big thank you to Stella and Alan for the mince pies and to Steve for making us welcome at the top pub and for more mince pies! After singing round Sharnford a few people joined brass quartet at the pub for more music and singing and raised even more money for LOROS.

At the start of February we had the annual PTA Quiz Night. Sadly we were a few teams down on previous years, but a good time was had by all and we must say thank you to Tony Bolton for running the quiz and a really big thank you to 'Spliced Surprise' who won the £40 prize and kindly donated it back to the school. Thank you!

Because of the generous support from parents, children and the wider community in Sharnford, we have already been able to give the school £2000 towards the refurbishment of the school's computers and £171 for the Life Caravan to visit the school. The Quiz has raised a further £250 for the school and that too will go towards the computers.

Looking forward, we have the Easter Party and we're planning a duck race too. So watch out for more information about those!

Finally, can I just say thank you again to everyone who helps out, comes along to the PTA events and supports the school. We're very lucky to have such a great school in

Sharnford and the funds we raise help so much.

*Ed Bryan*

### SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

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

Come and join us at the Hall in Sharnford – meetings twice monthly on Wednesdays. Full high tea enjoyed at each meeting and last year we enjoyed full Christmas Dinner in December and a Fish and Chip Supper in September.

We had two outside trips, one to Bletchley Park, the World War II spy centre and a trip on the River Severn with cream tea combined with a visit to Tewkesbury. We also have occasional speakers to entertain us at our meetings.

ALL WELCOME – Meetings are afternoons in the winter and evenings in the summer.

SUBS £4 PER FORTNIGHT

(teas, trips and meals included)

FOR MORE INFORMATION RING JEAN  
ON 01455 274772

### WIND AND FLOODS

Floods and flooding have been very much in the news of late. Sharnford had an incidence of this nature back in November 2012, but looking at the devastation featured in the news recently Sharnford has escaped the ravages of the wet and windy weather that has continued over the last few months.

The high winds just before Christmas caused damage to

one of the poles in Poors Meadow damaging power cables. Further damage to power cables also occurred at the bottom of the footpath that ends in School Lane. Both the footpath and Poors Meadow had to be closed while repairs were carried out and a number of households were without power.

On the flooding front there were no problems as far as I am aware. The level of the river did rise significantly but it was well below the level when floods struck in Sharnford. I would ask residents to be vigilant and reduce their risk of flood by keeping water courses and drains clear, reporting any blocked drains to the Parish Council or myself. I am aware that there are three blocked drains on Aston Lane, if you know of any others please report them.

I would ask owners of properties that back onto the river to prune back trees and remove any broken branches that have been caused by the recent high winds if it is safe to do so, but do not attempt this without considering health and safety first.

I am sure many villagers have noticed the build-up of broken branches and debris under the bridge adjacent to Sharnford Garage, much of this debris has been deposited in the river as a result of high winds and the higher than normal rainfall. Hopefully the Environment Agency will tackle this problem, but as a village we can “do our bit” and hopefully this will prevent the recurrence of the floods that happened in November 2012.

***Jack Feast - Village Flood Warden***

## **SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

Have you ever wondered who the people are who plant up, put up, water then take down the hanging baskets in our village each and every year? Well I did. I then started to think who looked after the small piece of open land almost opposite our Post office. Who built and planted up and cared for all the planters at the entrances to our village. At first I thought it might be the council until one day last Spring I was driving home and saw three chaps building the new planter on the Coventry road. I stopped and had a chat with them and it all started to make sense from that moment. It was our Environment Group that looked after all of the above. Whilst talking to Dave Sewell, who is the Groups Treasurer, I asked if he needed any volunteers for the watering of the baskets during the summer and I also expressed an interest on joining the Group. I have always had a keen interest in gardening and wanted to support and put something back into the Village the best way I could.

Planting and putting up the baskets was a real task and took most of a day last spring. I had help throughout the summer to water them from Bridget and Lewis my two little twins. They took turns in carrying my watering can. I think there are 46 baskets altogether and are looked after by a team of supportive volunteers.

We meet once a month, on the second Thursday of each. All sorts are discussed at our meeting from the renewal of some of our equipment to the design of the Villages new sign post (which is soon to be finalised). I was very unaware of what the Group has achieved in the past. Some of the projects include... The development of new 'Green' footpath and benches on Poors Meadow. The Installation of bird and insect boxes in many private gardens - as well as on Bluebell Green. The construction and installation of 5 large Window Boxes (complete with automatic watering system) for



the Evergreen Hall. Various work on the new Burial Ground. Installation of the village notice boards and planting of Trees in various locations in the village. There are and no doubt be many more in the future of which I will be quite proud of to be apart of.

We are of course always on the lookout for new members to join the Environment Group. If you have an interest in the general appearance of our Village and have a passion for maintaining and improving on our projects then please get in contact with us. I enjoy immensely being part of something which makes a difference and is hopefully appreciated by all who drive through Sharnford.

Keep a note of these phone numbers – they may come in useful. Chair – Margaret 271156, Vice-chair Maureen 274374, Treasurer – Dave 272901 and Secretary Yvonne 274112.

***Thank You – Tony Bolton.***

## SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE

### **‘Oh I do like to be beside the seaside’ - 8<sup>th</sup> June The Park Sharnford**

Planning has started for this year’s fete and we are looking to build on the success of last year’s Fete and develop some of the new ideas we saw introduced.

Last year’s causes have all received their share of the money raised, £300 each, and it is great to see the money raised by the village for the village being put back into village work.

The next meeting for the SGJC will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> March at the Youth and Community Hall at 7:30pm and will actually be the reconvened AGM. It is never too late for people to volunteer to join the committee or to help on the day so please do lend a hand if you can.

***SGJC Secretary”***

### **SHARNFORD VILLAGE TURNS OUT FOR THE ALEX MATTHEWS CHARITY RACE NIGHT RAISING VITAL FUNDS FOR BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH**



Late last year Alex Matthews was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Soon after he had an operation to remove it but a biopsy revealed that it was a ‘high grade’ glioblastoma (the most aggressive malignant primary brain tumour in humans). He has completed his first stage of radio and chemotherapy and is currently waiting to begin the second phase of treatment.

Alex and his friends are raising money for the Brain Tumour Charity that helps people like Alex through their recovery. The first fundraising event is taking place at Sharnford Youth Centre on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The evening will raise vital funds towards the Brain Tumour Charity, the UK’s leading charity dedicated to fighting the devastating disease.

Born in Sharnford, Alex has been “amazed by the response of the village and local business with donating their time, money and prizes, it’s really touching and I’m looking forward to the race night and other upcoming events”.

Alex is aiming to raise £15,600 for The Brain Tumour Charity through this and other events including a Ladies Day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, a half marathon being run by Ian Pickering and Diane Durose on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. Culminating in a London to Paris bike ride on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. If you or your business would like to sponsor Alex and his team please go to the Just giving web site <http://www.justgiving.com/teams/TeamRBTA> or speak to Richard Durose .

## SNOW AND WINTER QUIZ

1. What colour snow fell over an area of 1,500 sq.km in Siberia on Feb. 2nd 2007?  
(a) Orange, (b) Black, (c) Pink, (d) Gold
2. The following words are from which song? “Don’t be a naughty Eskimo”
3. Each of the following mean snow in which European language?  
(a) Sneeu, (b) Lumi, (c) Schnee, (d) Neve, (e) Snieg
4. Who had a hit song in the late 60’s with Hazy Shade of Winter?
5. What is an Alberta Clipper?
6. Which director said “Blondes make the 4 best victims. They are like virgin snow that shows up the bloody footprints?”
7. What are Mukluks?
8. After she eats the poison apple, the seven dwarfs, believing her to be dead, place Snow White in what?
9. In which country were the first Winter Olympics held?
10. What is an Ushanka?
11. Can you name some famous sled dog breeds given the following clues?  
(a) first letter M, last letter E (b) first letter S, last letter D
12. Each of the following all mean what in Europe?  
talvi, inverno, zima, tel
13. Which Canadian female singer had a hit in the USA, Canada and the UK with “Snow Bird”
14. Which Sir played Richard the Lionheart in the prize winning 1968 film ‘The Lion in Winter’?
15. Due to the lack of sunlight a dogs nose can fade to brown in the winter. What is this called?
16. Which name is given to the battle that took place in severe winter conditions in the Ardennes between 16th December 1944 and 25th January 1945?
17. Who had a hit song on both sides of the Atlantic in 1969 with ‘Winter World of Love’?
18. Which ‘winter’ film opens with the following text? “This is a true story. The events depicted in this film took place in Minnesota in 1987”
19. What is the more common name for the legume called Mangetout?
20. In which Canadian province might you ski at the Kicking Horse Mountain Resort?

*Answers on the last page.*



at



# Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April Open Day and Egg Hunt Weekend

Our Annual Egg Hunt is open to children of all ages. Every child will be able to choose a plant such as one of our Dwarf Sunflowers and take it home to grow on. We make a small competition entry charge of £1.00 with the proceeds being given to local charities.

For adults and child minders there will be a free to enter Prize Draw, Refreshments are available; you can take time to preview some of the changes we've made for this year; and there is always our early new stock to buy for your garden. This year we have many new varieties to tempt you. So come along to discuss your gardening needs with our friendly and helpful staff and have some fun with the kids.



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

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

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## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

Another new year and the Evergreen have started their fortnightly meetings again on Wednesdays, starting at 2.30 pm. We always welcome new members to join us for a social afternoon playing darts, cards and board games followed by tea, sandwiches and cakes. Our members enjoyed another visit to the pantomime at the Concordia Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk which, as usual was excellent, and other outings are planned for the coming year on the following dates, May 21st, August 13th and then on December 10th a trip to Chatsworth for their Christmas decorations.

As always, the members will be helping at village events throughout the year and we will be holding our

own first BACON BUTTIE coffee morning on Saturday April 12th. Hope to see you there and thank you for all your support during 2013.

*Beryl Devenyi*

## NEW BIRD HIDE ON FOSSE MEADOWS

A new bird hide was opened at Fosse Meadows on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Last October the 'Friends of a Fosse Meadows' were awarded grants from Leicestershire County Council Community Forums, Stepping Stones and Blaby District Council. It is called SANDMARTIN HIDE and allows a better view of the sandmartin bank on the lower lake near the carpark, than the existing old hide does.

The old hide is still there with its murals painted by the children from Sharnford School. Please go along and see for yourself. If you want to see the wildlife around the lake, there is no better place to do that than from both these hides. The photos below show the hide and the view of the sandmartin bank through one of the openings.



## BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Blaby District Council have again been awarded 'Customer Service Excellence'. The external assessor from EMQC undertook the annual Continuous Compliance Visit to assess us against the Customer Service Excellent standard.

We retained our 'Compliance Plus' (significant strengths above and beyond the standard) in three areas:

- Challenging ambitions in customer service – service standards, Systems Thinking, Corporate Plan etc,
- Partnership work – work on anti-social behaviour, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse etc
- Supporting our communities eg 'A Place to Grow'.

In addition we secured Compliance Plus in three new areas:

- Corporate commitment to excellent customer service being firmly embedded.
- Staff feeling empowered to deliver services that matter to the customer
- Customer insight incorporated into service delivery.

The assessor said that 'we are the best partnership organisation he has ever come across and that Blaby District Council is a – great place.

**Good Neighbour Schemes** are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support. BDC will be working with RCC to set up a 'pilot scheme' with Croft being the chosen area.

**Managing anxiety and dealing with depression** – Workshops have been developed in partnership with Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership and a social enterprise company call 'Inspire' and the programmes will include support from peer mentors. Funding for this was provided from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the courses started in February, each course will run for a six week period and covers – Wellness and recovery, Confidence Building, Arts and Crafts, Relaxation and Hypnotherapy.

Blaby District Council have signed up to the **Local Tobacco Declaration**, and has stepped up the fight against smoking by becoming one of the first authorities in Leicestershire to sign the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

**Women's Cycling Tour of Britain 2014.** On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May the stage 2 of the Women's Tour 2014 will be coming through the Blaby District. The tour is a five day women's elite international stage race that will attract the very best riders in the world, including Olympic and World Champions Laura Trott, Dani King, and Blaby resident Lucy Garner. Details can be found on the tour website.

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**Weekly Recycling Scheme sees 12% increase in Recyclate**, in June 2013 saw the introduction of the new weekly co-mingled recycling scheme. This was made possible by £2million of additional government funding.

The scheme was introduced as an improvement for residents, being more efficient and more environmentally friendly than the previous arrangements, as there is less sorting of rubbish, no lifting of boxes and less vehicles on the road each week. It has proved to be a great success, with an increase in the amount of recycling collected and excellent feedback received from residents. Over 5,800 tonnes of mixed recycling has been collected since June which is over 650 tonnes more than the same period during 2012, an average increase of over 12%.

*Sheila Scott*

## **BRINGING ST HELENS INTO THE CENTURY**

In December 2013 St Helens had a wonderful start to Christmas. A Service of 9 lessons and Carols was held, giving thanks for the completion of a new toilet and servery. The address was given by the Venerable David Newman, Archdeacon of Loughborough, to an invited congregation of the friends and neighbours of St Helens.

As the longest serving member of the PCC (over 50 years of unbroken service, over 25 of which I have been church warden), I remember a time when things were very different.

I was the youngest member of the church and apprentice to Harry Wood the Head Bell Ringer and Church Caretaker. One of my less enjoyable duties was to fill the header tank for the church heating. This physically demanding task involved filling buckets of water at Jarretts Farm and carrying them to the church, climbing the ladder and emptying the water into the header tank. This task became easier with the installation of water in the church yard but I still had the arduous task of climbing the ladder in all weathers to fill the tank. You can imagine how much of a relief it was to finally have water in the church.

We had talked about the provision of a toilet in the church for the past five years and

## **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN HALL**

### **BACON BUTTIE MORNINGS 2014**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Fairtrade Morning

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Bacon Butties

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August – Bacon Butties

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September – MacMillan Cancer Support

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Bacon Butties

with true Sharnford resolve we started a fund to raise money for the project. I was committed to the project from the start. Jean Philips (my fellow Church Warden) had sewed the seed and I felt compelled to see the project through, especially after her sad loss. With generous donations and fund raising activities it was decided that we could go ahead. The trench arch was agreed, plans were drawn, grants were secured and the project was finalised.

We held two weddings, a Songs of Praise and in September 2013 work finally started.

As the person responsible for overseeing the whole project, one of the first things to be done was the ground work in the Church Yard. I remember one morning arriving at church to find an articulated lorry parked at the top of the hill, loaded with the huge plastic pipes needed to construct the trench arch. Can you imagine our predicament, with just the lorry driver, builder and me how were we going to stop the traffic on such a busy road whilst unloading? At that point I had visions of the pipes unloading themselves and rolling to the bottom of the hill. But we managed to get them all into the church yard safely where they were now out of sight, silently doing their job beneath the ground, drama forgotten. I am happy to say that everything progressed smoothly and there were no disruptions to church services throughout the duration of the building work.

In December 2013 we finally had our church toilet and servery. Refreshments can now be served to the congregation following services and the church can

also be used for many other gatherings. I am very proud we have been able to achieve such an important step toward bringing St Helens into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and you are all very welcome to come and see the new facilities for yourselves.

Many thanks to all those who were involved and helped make it possible.

On a final note, the toilet project has taken 5 years from start to finish. A long time you may think, but a Church Warden from Earl Shilton recently told me that the PCC has had the provision of a toilet on their agenda for the past 25 YEARS!

***William Higginbotham.***

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## ST HELENS CHURCHYARD WORKING GROUP

Hopefully the worst of the winter storms are over and we can now turn our attention to tidying the churchyard and checking over the mowers and other equipment in preparation for the summer.

The working party plans to meet on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am to make a start. Depending on the weather it may even be possible to make the first cut of the new season.

New volunteers will be most welcome.

### PLANT SALE

So far a wet but milder Spring and its looking more positive for gardening activity once the ground dries out. I do hope that by the time this is printed we are not under a foot of snow like last year!

We are preparing for the Plant Sale with seed sowing and Four Winds have their plant order. Thanks to Four Winds for their help, we could not run the Plant Sale without their support, supplying quality plants to us at reasonable prices.

The schedule for this years show in September is now being fine tuned and will be ready for the Plant Sale on 17th May. There are not too many changes, just enough to give you new challenges, expect a new cake recipe for the men's only cake section and a themed artistic challenge for you flower arrangers. Also expect some changes to the crafts section which has not winkled out the artistic talent which we know flourishes in the village.

We have now distributed all our surplus funds to village causes with the most recent donation being to STAG to help fund the new speed indicator sign. Our other donations over the last year were to the Evergreen Hall, the Chapel, St Helen's church and the Environment Group for the planting scheme in their new planter at the junction of Leicester Rd and Coventry Rd. In total over £1,000 has been distributed and none of this would have been possible without your support. So please continue to support our activities which are for the benefit of the whole village and in the process we trust they are also enjoyable and worthwhile events in their own right. See you at the Plant Sale.

*Tony Curtis*



### **Sharnford Plant Sale**

Saturday 17th May 2014  
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Tony Curtis on 01455 272532**

## 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 – Mondays 2.00pm See details below

Craft Group – 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Feb to Nov

Well, though the rain still falls and the icy wind still blows, the snowdrops and crocus tell us that Spring is on its way. Looking back over the last quarter, we were disappointed that there were so few visitors during our open weekend in December, but, at the same time we did share a lovely time of fellowship.

The 'shoe box' appeal went very well with over 1500 boxes from the Hinckley area going out to the Ukraine taking love at Christmas to children in that area of unrest. Craft group are at it again preparing for Christmas 2014 and your support, as always, will be much appreciated.

For this years Lent project we, and other local Methodist churches, will be collecting our 'loose change' for Rainbows Hospice.

The United Fellowship group have changed their day and time of meetings. As from March 10<sup>th</sup> they will meet weekly on Mondays at 2.00pm for the Lent Course and after Easter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 2.00pm.

Womens World Day of Prayer is on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. This year it is prepared by Christian women of Egypt. Despite its title all are welcome – including men!

Easter Day services will be as usual at 10.00am and Evening Communion at 6.00pm.

So, wait patiently for the better weather to come and then enjoy it when it does.

*Maureen*

## ST HELEN'S CHURCH

Good news! Our servery and toilet are installed and all works are completed and now in use, it has certainly enhanced the church. After a long time of fund raising, we look forward to welcoming you to social events at St Helen's now we have these facilities.

There has been two funerals held at church, Mrs M Goodman and Mrs J Dunn.

A Fairtrade Coffee Morning on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 9.30-12.00 at the Evergreen Hall, is a joint event with the Methodist Church. All profit going to the charity Action Aid.

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year since Fairtrade

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products appeared on our shelves and one in three bananas sold in the UK are now Fairtrade. Due to the UK supermarkets price war the banana farmers are not getting a fair price for their crops. Fairtrade is asking for support to petition the government to intervene to end unfair supermarket pricing.

Lent starts on Ash

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. A Lent Course is being held at the Methodist Church on Mondays, starting Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm.

Another joint event is the Woman's World Day of Prayer Service on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the Methodist Church focussing on Women from Egypt. Mothering Sunday is on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> 9.15am. You are invited to a Family Thanksgiving Service for all 'Mums' followed by 'tea and cake'!!! Children of all ages are very welcome to bring their Mum along to celebrate this day, if you are a Mother and your children are not able to be with you or your Mum is no longer with you, please join us to celebrate all mothers.

Our Church Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at the Church. This is an open meeting, all are welcome.

### Services

Every Sunday	Morning Service	9.15am
Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion	Thursday April 17 <sup>th</sup> 7pm for 7.30pm
Easter Sunday	Easter Family Communion	Sunday April 20 <sup>th</sup> 9.15am
Family Worship	Evergreen Hall	Sunday June 1 <sup>st</sup> 9.15am

*Chris Berridge*

## SHARNFORD PRESCHOOLERS PTFA

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who comes along to our ever popular Coffee Mornings. It is great to see such a good turnout, and we're pleased that so many people enjoy them. We have three more coming up before the Summer Holidays - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March & Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May - 9-10.30am at the Evergreen Hall.

The Playgroup have spent some of our fundraising on wooden play Fruit and Vegetables which we have also been putting out for the Bumps, Babies and Toddlers to enjoy.

At Bumps Babies and Toddlers we have been trying to ring the changes with different activities and this term we have had craft activities, stories and a new music session all of which seem to be well received and we look forward to more in the coming months.

If you have a child(ren) of preschool age or are expecting one please do come down and join us, during term time, there is no requirement to come every week and it is a nice opportunity to meet other children (and their parents) of a similar age in an informal setting. The cost is £1 for adult with child under 6months and £1.70 for an adult with a child over 6months to school age; this includes drinks and snacks for both the child and adult.

*PTFA Committee*

## **ALEHOUSES & INNKEEPERS OF SHARNFORD 1753-1941**

In medieval times Inns had provided lodging & entertainment for travellers & did not require a licence to supply intoxicating liquor. In time they became ale- & victualing houses; alehouses sold beer & cider to all comers. By the mid eighteenth century there were two inns in Sharnford: the **Blue Bell Inn** & **The Old Star Inn** (later The Falcon & currently The Sharnford Arms), situated opposite each other on the Leicester Road. Because of their respective sizes, it is likely that the Blue Bell was an alehouse & The Old Star an inn. The Blue Bell Inn was demolished in the 1960s & the site landscaped as Bluebell Green in 2007/8. **The New Inn** (now The Countryman) was established in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century at the bottom of the village.

In 1552, during the reign of Edward IV, an Act was passed that required Keepers of Alehouses to be bound by a Recognizance of Good Behaviour which was to be certified (licensed) at the Quarter Sessions. Another Act of 1753 passed during the reign of George II ordered the Clerk of the Peace to keep a register of these Bonds, a duty which was ended with an Act of 1828 passed in the reign of George IV. Until 1824 the details of the Register included the licensee's name, parish and sum of the recognizance, and the name, parish and sum of the surety (guarantor); but from 1825, the parish of the guarantor was omitted and the sign of the house added. The license was a yearly requisite.

### **ST HELEN'S CHURCH SHARNFORD**

#### **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

St Helen's invites you to join in our  
Mothering Sunday Service at 9.15 am

Followed by *Coffee, Cake and Daffodils*

Join us at 9.15 am or after the service at  
approximately 10 am.

**A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE**

Many of the licences for Sharnford dating from 1753 to 1798 have been identified, but as mentioned above the signs of the premises were not recorded at the time. **Elisha Lord** of Leire was guarantor for the sum of £10 for various Sharnford innkeepers: William Marvin (1755), Francis Saunt (1761), Francis Saunt & John Bloxham (1762), Francis Saunt, John Bloxham & Thomas Bedford (1763). In 1767 Francis stood guarantor for John Lord and vice versa. John became a publican in the village, most likely of the Blue Bell Inn, between 1767 & 1769 & again between 1780 & 1789. His guarantors were: Joshua Hinks

(1768), Francis Saunt (1769), Thomas Blakesey (1780), John Wood (1781 – 1783), Thomas Nurse (or Norse) (1784), William Garner & John Groome (1785-1786), John Groom (1786), Thomas Vann (1787), William Cotton (1788), John Bilson (1789). These names demonstrate the not unsurprising relationships between licencees & guarantors. They were mostly families from Sharnford & surrounding villages, who were related by marriage. One of these was the Lord family from whom I am descended & who featured in the last issue of Sharnford News.

Using various documents, including the Alehouse Registers, Census Records, Kellys, Barkers and Harrods Directories and Probate Records, we discovered the licencees of the following Inns:-



The **Blue Bell Inn**. The photo above shows the Blue Bell Inn opposite the Old Star Inn (now the Sharnford Arms) taken long before the Blue Bell was demolished. The second photo shows Bluebell Green, named after the Blue Bell Inn that had formerly stood on the site. Owned by Sharnford Parish Council, the site was extensively redeveloped by the Sharnford Environmental Group during 2007/8 & officially opened on 10 May 2008 by Mr Mike Jones Chairman of Leicester County Council.



The specific innkeepers were – 1805 Joseph Lord, 1815 Elizabeth (nee Hanes) Lord, 1819 James Ball, 1821 Thomas Lord, 1866 Mary (nee Farmer) Lord, 1879 Richard Forryan, 1892 Mary Forryan, 1904 Thomas Beasey, 1908 John Hardy.



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An interesting discovery made was that The Leicester Chronicle reported on 3 November 1866 that, *[Thomas Lord] ....victualler, Sharnford, [was] charged by Inspector Moore with having 14 deficient pint and half pint jugs upon his premises, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, & also an unstamped pewter measure, was fined £2 & costs or 14 day's imprisonment. Mary Lord licensed.....etc.*

Also on 4 April 1868 the Leicester Journal reported that, *"Mary Lord, innkeeper, Sharnford, was charged by permitting drunkenness in her house, on the 2 March – John Sanders said he was a farmer residing in Sharnford. He was at the defendant's house on 2<sup>nd</sup> March between nine and ten o'clock in the .....etc".*

The **Old Star Inn** (now the Sharnford Arms). The photo shows the Inn as it is today.

The specific innkeepers were – 1793 John Harrison, 1851 Joseph Cotton, 1854 William Harrison, 1964 Charles Furborough, 1870 Thomas Lord, 1901 Elizabeth Godfrey, 1936 Thomas Bennell, this may have been the same man who had been licensee of The Oxes, Loddington in 1911.

Another interesting discovery made relating to the Old Star Inn was that

*The Leicester Chronicle reported on 2 February 1884 that [Thomas Lord], innkeeper, Sharnford charged William Fox, engine driver, & George Tansey, quarryman, of Stoney Stanton, with stealing a live tame fowl, value 2s 6d from a hovel in Sharnford. Both pleaded not guilty. Arresting officer, William Scotton, parish constable. Outcome: Fox sentenced to 2 months hard labour, Tansey sentenced to 6 weeks hard labour.*

The **New Inn** (now the Countryman) – photo on next page taken Jan 2010 on the visit of the local Morrismen to the village..

The specific innkeepers were – 1861 John Hollier, 1975 William Hollier, 1881 Mary Hollier, 1885 Thomas Forryan, 1908 Reuben Faulks, 1916 Ernest Simons, 1922 Annie Simons, 1941 A Bailey.



William Hollier (b. Sharnford c.1841) as licensee of The New Inn in 1875, was the sixth child of Edward (& Sarah) Hollier, publican of the Three Pots Inn, Burbage & farmer of 55 acres employing two labourers. By 1861 he was a farmer of 14 acres in Burbage, married to Elizabeth & had a son Harvey.

This account covers almost 200 years of innkeeping in Sharnford. Research of this nature is rarely completed due to lack of evidence. If the deeds of the various inns were located, they would provide valuable information; and further work could no doubt link the pre -1797 licensees and innkeepers in terms of family relationships; and bring the story of inn-keeping in Sharnford up to date – another seventy three years.  
*Sandra Davison (nee Lord) summarised by editor*



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2.30pm-3.30pm 11-14 year olds (UKDBA Junior dodgeballs to be used)

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More information is also available on our website [www.enderbydodgeball.co.uk](http://www.enderbydodgeball.co.uk)

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please contact Angie Timson-Jones on 271561

Editorial Team: Dave Sewell 272901 (email: [desewell@hotmail.com](mailto:desewell@hotmail.com)),  
Angie Timson-Jones 271561 and Jean Ryan 615820

### Answers to Quiz

1. orange, 2. Don't eat the Yellow Snow, 3. Dutch, Finnish, German, Italian, Polish, 4. Simon and Garfunkel, 5. An extremely cold, fast moving winter storm, 6. Alfred Hitchcock, 7. A type of Eskimo boots, 8. A glass coffin, 9. Chamonix, France, 10. Russian fur cap with flaps, 11. (a) Malamute, (b) Samoyed, 12. Winter - talvi - Finnish, inverno - Italian, zima - Czech, tel - Hungarian, 13. Anne Murray, 14. Sir Anthony Hopkins, 15. Snow Nose or hyperpigmentation, 16. Battle of the Bulge, 17. Englebert Humperdinck, 18. Fargo, 19. Snow Pea, 20. British Columbia