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REMEMBERING THOSE FROM SHARNFORD WHO DIED DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918

In May of this year, a few of us at St Helen's Church started to wonder about the men who are mentioned on our War Memorial in the church yard. Each year on Remembrance Sunday, we read out all the names but little is known about the actual people. Monica Devenyi had started to research these soldiers and we decided that as the anniversary of the commencement of the war was approaching, we would do our best to see what we could do to find out more and remember them. 13 dead out of 60 who went to war in a village of 450 is quite a number, considering the number of elderly, women and children who also

lived here. Many who went were volunteers and they left families, often with as many as 10 children, to fight for their country, little realising how terrible the conflict would become and how many would not return.

A farm labourer's wage in 1914 was approximately 13/- (65p) per week but when they went to war, they received just 7/- (35p) and

their families were left with little support. If they sent back half of the wage 3/6d (17p), the government would match this so the families might receive a total of 7/-.

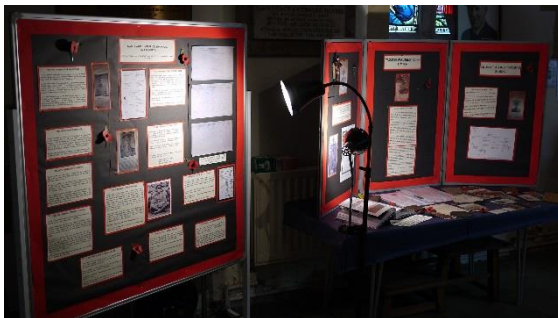
We decided that we would hold a special exhibition of our findings in St Helen's on the weekend of the 16th/17th August, to coincide with our usual joint Songs of Praise service held with the Methodist Church here in Sharnford.

With just two months to mount our research, we enlisted the help of anyone who could assist us. We visited the Hinckley Library, County Records office and put an advertisement on the Leicestershire Village website. A well known member of our village community who regularly accesses ancestry websites has been invaluable in helping us. We urgently wanted photographs wherever possible but few were available or found. One even came to light just 2 days before we celebrated the weekend but we are still looking!

We found that there were several mistakes on the war memorial and even one name was totally incorrect. We had been remembering a W H Brown when in fact it was W H Bonser.



We were particularly puzzled as to why one name, Frederick John Timson, was referred to as being in the Australian Light Horse Regiment. After much research on Australian Military websites, we found that he had emigrated aged 17 in 1913 leaving his local Sharnford Family. He was one of many children and relatives have lived in the village up to the present day.



He joined the Light Horse Regiment in Sydney in 1915 and was sent to Palestine. He fought in the battle for Gaza on the ANZAC line and was killed on the 9th November 1917, just aged 21. He was buried in Palestine but in the 1920's it was discovered that the burial ground was Muslim and he was re-interred in a Christian burial ground in Israel in 1928. We discovered that he was the uncle of the late Nora Neale who passed away recently and we spoke with her nieces who very kindly loaned to us a treasure of effects that were sent back to Frederick's mother. These were shown as a prominent part of our display.



Three current family members of the names shown on the memorial came to the event and we were able to show them details which they had never known and hopefully we will be able to share with them more information on their loved ones.

Over the weekend over 220 visited us at St Helen's and shared the exhibition and on the evening of the

17th August, we held a glorious service of Remembrance and Praise. Over 65 people attended and we were also joined by the Standard Bearer for the British Legion in Hinckley, Mr Roger Burrows and our guest speaker was Mr Andrew Burrows (no relation) a Methodist preacher from Lincoln, brother to Lisa Bacon and son of Norman and Sylvia, members of our congregation. We owe a great deal of thanks to the ladies of the church for helping with the arrangements and ensuring that all our visitors received tea and cakes, as well as a warm welcome. They are, from left to right in the photo – Chris Berridge, Jill Lawson, Chris Clake, Lisa Bacon, Karen Smith and Rosemarie Simpson.

There are many more stories to tell and we will continue to share them in the next issue of the Sharnford News but in the meantime we are looking for names, photos etc of anyone who served during WW1 connected to the village.

Rosemarie Simpson



FARMING IN SHARNFORD IN 2014

Iain Smith and his brother Alan run the family farm in Bumble Bee Lane, Sharnford called Bumble Bee Hall. Their grandfather Tom moved here from Croft in 1919, and it is still in the same family after nearly 100 years. Iain and Alan's Dad Leonard, and his brother Gordon, took over from Tom. Unfortunately Gordon passed away aged 42, so Leonard carried on the farm, and now it's Iain, Alan and their sons Jack and Tom, to continue the family farm.

Back in the early days it was a mixed farm, but since the late 90's it specialises on dairy. The 400 cows are mainly Holstein Canadian with 32 Jersey cows making up the numbers. The Jersey cows (see photo) produce a butter fat milk to Gold Top standard. As well as the farms 450 acres being used for grazing, a large proportion is used for growing wheat, maize and grass, all for silage to feed the cows.



The cows are fed on TMR, Total Mixed Ration, which consists of silage from the wheat, maize and grass – supplemented with beneficial concentrate. In the summer cows are free to graze between the first two milking sessions, whilst in winter they stay mainly under cover. On average a cow produces milk for 300 days a year. The rest of the time they enjoy a rest and after being 'on heat' they are artificially inseminated to produce calves. When calves get to about two years old, they start the cycle of having calves and producing milk.....and so it continues.

Since 2009 the cows have been milked on a Rotating Milk Parlour machine (see photo below). Back in 2009 the concept of a rotating carousel on to which cows obediently step aboard to be milked and then, after a full rotation, step off, was for many too far removed



from traditional herringbone systems to be seriously considered, but not for Iain and Alan. For them, the drudge of spending five and a half hours at each end of the day milking 400 cows through a herringbone parlour was considered to be unsustainable.

"The time it was taking us to complete the milking was just too long," says farmer Iain Smith. "It got to the point that we had to address the issue one way or the other, and, despite the very large investment, the Rotary Parlour seemed to be the best option."

Iain opted for a parlour that could hold 40 cows at a time and also one where the operator

stands on the outside to put the milking machines on the cows. There are versions where the cows are milked from the inside of the parlour.

After installation it didn't take too long for the cows to become settled and "Now the cows seem to love it." comments Iain Smith. "Milking time was cut to two and a half hours each end of the day." 18 months ago Iain and Alan decided to try a three times a day milking schedule - 5am, 1pm and 8pm, mainly to increase production, but also to improve the welfare of the cows. "Whilst production increased overall by 15%, each cow gave fewer litres of milk per session, leading to reduced risk of mastitis, which can be a serious condition, and the cows really are more settled," said Iain. "They step on board when a space arrives, the teats are cleaned and the cluster attached - and that's it. When the milk flow reduces to a pre-set amount, the clusters are automatically removed and the teats sprayed before they stroll off." "We are now selling 10,500 litres per cow annually," Iain tells me. "Our investment has definitely paid off and now quite often, other farmers are coming to have a look"

Each cow has a transponder inserted into an ear which then contains all the data a farmer needs to know when certain actions are required. The Rotating Parlour also uses this data to divert certain cows into different pens after milking - automatically.

So, what happens to the milk? The fresh milk is pumped from the milking parlour through filters into a reception tank. This tank holds the milk at three degrees centigrade and is collected by the milk processor's tankers every two days. It is the processor that pasteurises the milk and adds their preservatives etc.

Bumble Bee Hall Farm has a licence that enables them to sell their unpasteurised fresh milk to the public. As mentioned earlier, this milk is never more than 2 days old and Iain tells me "I have customers who prefer their milk 'straight from the cow' - actually fresh from the reception tank." "Some come from the Narborough Road area in Leicester, but they have to bring their containers with them." The milk they receive is not only fresher but also cheaper than the supermarket.

SO..... here is a question for all our readers of Sharnford News. Now you know you can get fresh milk locally direct from the farmer, would you buy it? Contact Iain on 0770 455592 **07770 455592** for further information.

Lastly, the farm have been looking at the possibility of making Ice Cream. Iain, his wife Karen and daughter Emily have been on a training course, so now they know how to make delicious ice cream, full of flavour, soft and fresh. But would their investment in the machinery pay-off?

SO..... here is another question.....would you buy fresh ice cream from the farm or know anyone who sells ice cream and would like a local source? If so contact Iain on 0770 455592- **07770 455592.**

Dave Sewell Editor

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SHARNFORD C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a very busy half term at Sharnford C E Primary School. There have been many school trips, reception children visited Brandon Marsh, in Warwickshire, and unfortunately it rained very heavily which was a shame, considering the lovely weather we have had. Year one and two went to Tamworth Castle.

Year six children took part in a Pilgrimage having a reflective journey from Watermead Park along the Grand Union Canal to Leicester Cathedral, considering issues relating to life's journey and their move to secondary school. They also enjoyed their leaver's trip to Hinckley Water Activities Centre where they took part in canoeing/kayaking and raft building, they have also visited Fosse Meadows for orienteering sessions.

Year four have been working with Leicestershire Schools Music Service learning to play the violin and cello and in June they took part in a Summer Festival Concert at De Montfort Hall showcasing their work. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children who played extremely well and enjoyed the occasion.

Year three have worked with Leicester Cathedral in a singing project 'Diosing' and they ended the year with a performance at St Simon and St Jude Church, Earl Shilton, Chris Johns, Director of Music at the Cathedral also played the piano. Children from the Federation took part in a mini tennis tournament in Hinckley and represented both schools at Area Sports, Saffron Lane, Leicester.

Many events have taken place in school, year five and six received cycle4life training and year six were challenged to raise money for resources in school. They were each given £2 and asked to organise stalls and activities which the whole school took part in and they raised £45.10. The whole school took part in a sponsored walk/run and raised a fantastic £608.55, thank you to everyone who sponsored the children. We also had a sale of cakes, donated by parents, and pizza made by the children, the cost of the ingredients for the pizza was donated by the PTA.

The PTA continue to support school and this half term have organised a Pamper evening, a Leaver's disco, contributed towards the leavers trip and books as well as providing the new children starting at the school in the autumn term with a PE bag.

At the end of the year children received a new style of report and the opportunity of attending a parents evening where some of the work the children had completed during the year was showcased, this event was very well received by parents.

Thank you to everyone who has handed in vouchers for different schemes that have been running over the year and to the volunteers who come in to school to listen to the children read.

Carol Proctor, Secretary

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SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

It has been a period of change for the Parish council. Derek Gibbons resigned from the Council after many years serving the Parish. Derek in recent years had lead the Council as Chairman and leaves a great legacy including the new burial ground in Mill Lane and the building of the new Youth and Community centre. I personally would like to thank Derek on behalf of the village for his commitment and service to the Parish Council and village.

Sadly we also said goodbye to Angie Timson-Jones who stepped down from the Parish Council. Angie had taken on the mantle as Chairman and during her time was fundamental in supporting the activity of STAG, and in addressing our traffic and parking issues. We wish Angie all the best as she takes a well-deserved break (and hopefully we might see her back some time). We also saw Bill Fallowfield step down. Again we thank Bill for his contributions to the Council and wish him all the best.

I am sure you can imagine, this left the council feeling a little diminished and a little wounded. But onwards and upwards so they say, and the AGM saw myself step forward as Chairman and Jack Feast as Vice. Rather than dwell on the loss of our experienced and respected councillors we embrace a new era and look forward to new times with new (and some old) challenges.

I am pleased to confirm that we can welcome to the Parish Council, Sue Stanley and Lee Martin who join as new Parish Councillors. We still have a vacancy on the Council so if you would like to consider joining then please contact Matthew Scott (clerk) or myself.

As a Council we face our on-going challenge to tackle the traffic concerns, both in terms of volume and speed of traffic that comes through the village on a daily basis. We will continue to support and work in partnership with STAG in their endeavours, and have recently moved to purchase a speed camera that will, by way of robust evidence, help to highlight the impact that the traffic continues to have on the village and seek potential solutions.

We have seen the introduction of the “island /refuge” and clearer road markings in front of the Sharnford Arms by way of solution to address the parking issues. Its success will continue to be reviewed and we would ask all villagers and visitors to consider local residents when parking not only there but all around the village.

Following the floods of 2012 the Parish Council continues to seek updates from both the Environment agency and Leicestershire county Council, on measures being put in place to ensure that we do not see floods to that extent, again and that measures to protect properties are being put in place. The Environment Agency were due to attend the Parish Council meeting on 21st August.



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It may take us a little time to settle in as a new Parish Council (please bear with us) but we hope to not only carry the baton on in these, and other ongoing challenges, but also to have a clear objective of what we can do to make a difference in the village.

Parish Council meetings are public meetings (usually third Thursday of the month, 7:45 at Evergreen Hall) and I would invite you to attend, bring your views, thoughts, questions and hopefully support.

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”
(Margaret Wheatley)

If you cannot attend and would like to get in touch please contact Matthew Scott or myself or join us on Facebook (yes we are now in the 21st Century!!) This is not only a mechanism to provide updates from and a way to contact the Parish Council but I would encourage you to use it as a general village forum . Just search for sharnfordparishcouncil And don't forget our formal parish council website

<http://sharnford.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/> where you can find details of meetings and contact details

Emma Jones (Sharnford Parish Council) 01455 271048

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07806 323 635
Kelerina@googlemail.com

Malcolm Soulsby
Six Acres Counselling
07715 178 874
www.sixacrescounselling.co.uk

EVERGREEN HALL NEWS

We are pleased to tell everyone that we have had a new floor fitted in the Hall. Our old one served us long and well but was gradually becoming quite worn. It needed replacing and we have had a special hard wearing floor installed which we think looks great. The cost was just over £3700 and our many Bacon Buttie mornings have helped us to raise the money for this. Thanks for supporting us on these mornings and we are now saving up for the next job!!

Rosemarie Simpson

SHARNFORD SCHOOL PTA

Here we are in August, with the last academic year a distant memory and the next just around the corner.

Firstly we would like to say thank you for the support of the wider community for our events which we have held during the year. Looking back it seems that we have had a busy year, not only putting on discos, workshops and parties for the children but also events that welcome those from the village and beyond!

The pamper evenings in November and in July provided a good number of you a time to relax, be pampered and even do some shopping.

Just before Christmas we again enjoyed Carol-Singing around the village, accompanied by our trusty donkeys and raising money for LOROS.

The quiz in February saw us testing our 'little grey cells' and we were all very impressed by the performance of the winning team, Spliced Surprise. We look forward to a rematch in the new year and welcome newcomers to try and win the cash prize.

The whole village joined together to have fun by the seaside at this year's village Fete and our stall, the Bottle Stall, was again a popular draw; our thanks goes to those who donated prizes and also to Mr Howard, Mrs Boyd-Hope and Mrs Walker who all gave up their afternoon to come and help run the stall.

So, what has the next Academic Year got in store for the PTA?

We are looking forward to welcoming the new children to the school and their families; we are always looking for new members and even if you do not feel able to join the committee there are plenty of opportunities to lend a hand.



Events:- We are starting the year with something new for the PTA, a coffee morning. Thursday 11th September, The Evergreen Hall, 10am – 12 noon

There will be a range of homemade cakes, which can be enjoyed there and then with a hot or cold drink, or can be taken home to enjoy later (but make sure you take home some for everyone!!). Invite your friends and make a morning of it or drop in by yourself, we look

forward to seeing you.

We will be hosting a Christmas Pamper Evening and Quiz again during the year, but please watch your letterboxes, the village notice-boards and the Village Website for dates and details.

Chair



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ST HELENS CHURCHYARD WORKING GROUP

A big thank you to all the villagers who turned out earlier in the summer, to undertake the big clear up in the churchyard. It was a great help to us with the ongoing maintenance – particularly to have the encroaching brambles cut back and removed.

The flower beds were weeded and were subsequently planted with colourful annual flowers which have made an attractive entrance to the church. Overgrown ivy was cut back to reveal a marble cross over a grave which had been hidden for some time. Moss and weeds were cleared from pathways.

Thanks are also given to those who kindly provided the barbeque and refreshments, also the trailer in which the green waste was removed.

Given such a great start, the working group have been able to keep on top of the day to day grass cutting and tidying, in what has been an exceptional growing season.

COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND

Christmas 2014 still seems a long way off, in reality it is probably just over three months before we hold our annual raffle and the distribution of festive food bags takes place.

Last year we were supported by many local businesses and individuals with gifts and prizes for our Christmas prize draw, which this year will take place on Friday 19th of December, followed by the distribution of festive food bags on Saturday 20th December.

Further news will appear in the December issue of the Sharnford News, but in the meantime I would be grateful if any local businesses or individuals could donate a prize,

there is no urgency at the moment but I can be contacted on 274678. I will be contacting previous donors from local business and individuals in due course.

Jack Feast for the Countryman S & D Fund

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

ST. HELEN'S LADIES GROUP

In April the Ladies Group had a Quiz evening ending in a pudding tasting session. The members had made a variety of puddings for tasting which proved to be the highlight of the evening! In May the meeting moved to the Evergreen Hall for a talk by the Woodland Trust charity. In June we had another Skittles event at the Huncote Arms in Croft. July saw us enjoying a lovely Barbecue at the home of Jan Sewell; blessed with a fine evening enabling us to sit outside. August saw us getting

the knitting pins out to make the hats to fit the Innocent Smoothie drink bottles. The aim of this is to raise funds for Age UK and every bottle sold means a percentage of the cost will be donated to this very worthwhile charity. If you wish to join in with this further details, and patterns, can be obtained from the website www.thebigknitco.uk/join_in.

The group are looking forward to the Annual Dinner in October, a visit to Tom Payne, Jewellers in November and the Christmas social in December when we will be entertained again by the singing group 'Rockapellas'.

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

TEAM RBTA – 'RAISING BRAIN TUMOUR AWARENESS' CYCLE FROM LONDON TO PARIS

Team RBTA were inspired to take part in a cycle ride from London to Paris by a friend, who is currently fighting a brain tumour.

When we signed up for the 320 mile, 4 day, cycle ride from London to Paris, many members of Team RBTA thought the challenge would be tough but manageable – how wrong could a group of people be! The cycle ride was not only physically challenging but also pushed many of the group mentally to the edge. The temptation to give up came into our minds on several occasions.

Day1. This was by far the hardest day of the ride, being over 100 miles, which included some of the hilliest Kent countryside! I personally never intend returning to the county..... admittedly getting lost did add a few miles to the ride. In the evening some of the team did manage to hit the bar, which was where the now infamous Danny Yeow videos began. His amusing interviews raised our spirits and also helped raise more money as people tuned into Facebook and followed in awe at the challenge we had taken on.

Day2. The day passed with very few problems, as the team split into smaller groups to cycle at their own pace and complete the day in good time.

Day3. The day that supposedly is the best day and makes many cyclists return every year.....never quite happened for us! Hills, punctures galore, pedals falling off and one serious case of dehydration made this day our most challenging – but we all stood up to the challenge.

Day4. Finally we were at the final hurdle....the point to which we had all worked towards and trained so hard to get to. 55 miles left to cycle to reach the Eiffel Tower! This is where one star shone the brightest – Alex Matthews. For those of you who are unaware of why we took on this challenge, Alex was diagnosed with a brain tumour last October at the age of 25years. Since his diagnosis we have had many fundraising events to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity. We have already raised over £25,000.

With Paris within reach, Alex set off at an unbelievable pace leaving the rest of the team in his tracks with only Andy Durose and Joe Goode hunting him down before a scheduled stop 5 miles outside of Paris. The final ride to the Eiffel Tower was slow but very enjoyable with many tourists taking photos as we passed by. Then.....a moment I will never forget, everyone overcome with emotion as we pulled to a stop underneath the Eiffel Tower. There were hugs, tears and a great feeling of achievement.

Please, if anyone can spare a few pounds and would like to donate to the Brain Tumour Charity go to www.justgiving/teamrbta. If you view our full site you can check on how we all did and even sponsor individual team members.....such as Diane Durose who at just over 50 years of age ran her first half marathon and raised £821. Many thanks to all the team and all the people who have donated.

Richard Durose – Team RBTA



SHARNFORD CRAFT GROUP

We are a group of crafters that get together fortnightly to work on our own, portable, projects whilst having a chat, a cuppa and quite often a piece of cake or a biscuit.

Since we started in May 2013 we have seen a number of different crafts practiced (sewing, knitting, crochet, beading, painting, patchwork, paper crafts and more) and it has been fun to see new techniques and share ideas. We have also worked together to provide handcrafted decorations for the Youth and Community Hall's Christmas tree and to supply a stall for this year's fete.

We meet at the Youth and Community Hall and the area it offers enables us to have space to accommodate the new of crafts we do and there are books and magazines to inspire your next project if you are unsure what to do next?

If you would like to come and join us please come down and see us on 1st September 7-9pm at the Youth and Community Hall £2 entry.

SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW

Another year flashes by and it will soon be our village show. This year it will be on Saturday 13th September, as usual at The Evergreen. There is an advert in the magazine so I will not bore you with details of times, save to say the times are the same as last year. Most entry classes are unchanged but please check, you have to comply with what the schedule says, and as they say, "the Judges decision is final". The men's only cake this year is a Battenburg, that should test us. Luckily I am addicted to marzipan so at least I have the consolation of eating as much marzipan as I use whilst struggling to make one. I just hope they have to make one on The Great British Bake Off so I can pick up some ideas.

It has been a funny old season for growing, a mild winter, a dull spring, floods, droughts, the only thing we have missed out on so far is a plague of locusts. Still we are all in the same boat and suffering the same trials and tribulations as to whether produce will be ready on the day. One final pointer, if you are making pickles or preserves with Vinegar make them as soon as possible to allow the flavours to develop and the vinegar taste to be absorbed. If you are making curds then leave it to just before the show. Remember to date every jar, you will loose marks if you do not and for short lived products like curd the judge is entitled to refuse to sample it if there is no date. This is a health issue,



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remember you are producing something for someone else to taste. Also read our handy hints on the website about jars and closures. If you have the WI guide, On With The Show this also gives wise advice, we are happy to give further advice if you need it.

Following on from the stand last year telling you all about our Leicestershire Heritage Apples, we intend to follow this with a stand to tell you about exotic vegetables. One of our judges Sally Cunningham is a plant expert and has worked at Garden Organic for many years. She has been invited to set up a stand for the afternoon showing you what exotic vegetables can be grown in this country. Just remember that once upon a time the humble tomato was an exotic South American crop. So many fruit and veg that we now take for granted were once unknown or exotic. She will give you fresh ideas for interesting and tasty veg.

Tony Curtis

*MARGHERITA'S
AT THE
TOP PUB*

(apostrophe open to interpretation)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SAPCOTE AND SHARNFORD

The third annual “Churches Together in Sapcote and Sharnford” Charity Fun Run was held on the morning of midsummer’s day, Saturday the 21st June. The event was a great success with 47 participants of all ages running or walking the 4.5km route from Sapcote to Sharnford and back. There were many helpers from All Saints’ Church, Sapcote, St Helen’s Church, Sharnford and the Methodists’ churches in both villages acting as marshals, serving refreshments and signing people in and out! The constant supply of tea and toast for runners, helpers and spectators was definitely appreciated! Cakes and plants were also on sale at the church hall.

The weather was perfect for a run (or walk) – nice and bright but not too hot! This year the run was started with a rousing rendition of the Post Horn Gallop, ably played by Paul Hing, who plays the Post Horn Gallop at all Leicester City home games. Considering the Gallop was played at the start point in Sapcote, it was reported that it could be heard at the halfway point in Sharnford. Runners and walkers thought it was great starting off to the sound of the post horn! Marshals along the route again ensured that runners knew where to go and encouraged them as they went by. At the halfway desk in Sharnford bottles of water

were provided and smiley face stickers, then participants made their way back. The first runner back (aged 11!) arrived in less than 20 minutes! and gradually all the rest returned to receive their completion certificates.

Everybody enjoyed themselves, a couple of comments from experienced runners who regularly attend other events were: "very well organised and friendly event" from one, and "a true fun run, it was good for all people and ages, and great fun" from another!

It looks like a total of over £500 will be raised for the two supported charities, Tear Fund and Cancer Research UK, when sponsorship money comes in, exceeding last year's total by £120.

Thanks to all participants and helpers who together made this a great event. Special thanks to the Hinckley and District "Community First Responders" who provided First Aid and medical emergency support again.

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SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE FETE 2014

The sun shone, the ducks floated, Punch and Judy argued and the stall holders again surpassed themselves with their decorations. This year the theme was 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside' and despite the distance from the actual sea a great time was had by all.

As ever a big thank you has to go to those who came down to the park early in the morning to help put up the marquees and gazebos and get the site ready. We would also like to thank everyone who came down throughout the afternoon, bought raffle tickets and ducks or donated items for the stalls.

Whilst a large number of the prizes have been claimed we still have 3, as yet, unclaimed prizes. The details are below, please contact Kathy, 272335 to arrange collection.

Duck Race 1 2nd Place prize - Bush – Son One

Duck Race 1 3rd Place Michael Sandes

Wellie Wanging Saun Robinson

We are pleased to say that the fete was a success and each of the ten Village causes will be receiving £300. These village causes are:- St Helens Church, Methodist Chapel, Evergreen Club, Youth Club, Environment Group, Playgroup, Sharnford Primary School PTA, STAG, Sick and Divi and the Village Show.

Details for the AGM for the Sharnford Golden Jubilee Committee will appear in the next Sharnford News.



Photos taken at the Fete show - People enjoying the Punch & Judy Show, - A couple enjoying a day by the 'seaside', - Emma Jones, Parish Chairman presenting the Silver Jubilee Cup to Billy Higginbotham for his contribution to Sharnford during this year and - The winning stall for 'best theme on boating' by the Village Show Team,.



A GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME FOR SHARNFORD SHARNFORD chosen as 'pilot' location in Blaby District

Blaby District Council have chosen Sharnford to be a 'pilot' location for setting up a Good Neighbours Scheme and have asked the RCC (Leicestershire and Rutland) to work with the local community in Sharnford to establish a scheme. Whilst we know that there is already a lot of informal help and support between neighbours living in Sharnford, we think that a Good Neighbours Scheme will help add to this in a very valuable way.

What is a Good Neighbours Scheme?

A Good Neighbours Scheme aims to ensure that neighbourly help and support is available to all the local community and encourages and facilitates help between residents who otherwise may not be in contact with each other.

It is organised and run by volunteers who offer to help others with a wide range of tasks and activities including: small household tasks (such as changing a light bulb); visiting and befriending; transport to appointments; dog walking in emergency situations; occasional gardening; support with internet access etc.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT!

A **questionnaire survey** is being carried out to find out what the demand would be for this scheme in Sharnford and to identify those who would be willing to offer their help and support.

A copy of the questionnaire is being delivered with this issue of Sharnford News.

PLEASE take just a few minutes of your time to look at this and fill it in as it will really help with the planning of the scheme.

PUBLIC MEETING on 17th September at 7.30pm

The RCC has already been talking to a number of people connected to local community groups to explain about the scheme and a Public Meeting is going to be held on Wednesday 17th September (7.30pm) at the Evergreen Hall so that everyone has the chance to learn more about the proposed Good Neighbours Scheme and a chance to consider joining the scheme as a willing volunteer. Please come along to the meeting to find out more.

For more information please contact: RCC (Leicestershire and Rutland)

Jane Taylor email: jtaylor@ruralcc.org.uk telephone: 0116 268 9710

SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Whilst the sun shone down on us we managed to make the most of it with plenty of outside play including an impromptu water slide set up alongside the youth club building to cool everyone down. With everyone taking turns on hose duties, all the kids went home soggy but happy.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of interest, our Summer day trip to Wickstead Park had to be cancelled. Apologies to the few had had signed up and were looking forward to a fun day. The Youth Club Committee will endeavour to arrange an onsite Friday night event sometime in the next month where we will be encouraging all members and non-members to come along and join in. We are also planning our ever-popular Snowdome Christmas outing in December, and dates will be confirmed soon.

Here is to a great Autumn term and remember you can follow us on facebook or log on to sharnfordyouthclub.wordpress.com.



Youth & Community Centre Timetable

Monday (fortnightly) 7pm-9pm £2 per session	Craft Club – come along and bring your ongoing handicraft projects and work alongside likeminded people.	Kathy Bryan Tel: 272335
Tuesday	Available for bookings.	
Wednesday 10am-12.30pm £1.50 per session	Over 60's Youth Club – Come along for a game of pool, darts, table tennis or indoor bowls or just pop in for a chat and a cuppa.	Derek Gibbons Tel: 272401
Thursday 2pm-2.45pm Thursday 3.30pm-4.15pm Thursday 4.30pm-6pm	Soccer Tots age 2 yrs Soccer Tots age 3 & 4 yrs Soccer skills age 5-13 yrs	Matt Elliott Football Academy Touchlinesports.co.uk
Thursday 6.30pm-7.30pm £4 per session	Fitsteps Ballroom Boogie Great fun for ages 16+ incorporating ballroom moves to modern music. Works on both cardio and toning with no partner to step on your toes!	Alison Bacon Abdance.co.uk
Friday 6.30pm-8pm £5/yr membership + £1.50 per session	Youth Club – ages 5+ Indoor and outdoor activities for all and a great way to meet up with friends or make new ones.	Julie Edge 271321
Saturday/Sunday	Available for party bookings. Ring for more info, availability and prices.	Julie Edge 271321

Julie Edge

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

BDC Sport and Physical activities team have secured £12,000. The extra funding will help create and deliver a programme of sport and physical activities designed to be accessed by people of all ages with disabilities. One such activity is the Disability Multi Sports Club which takes place at Blaby & Whetstone Youth Club on a to Thursday from 10am till 12pm. This was launched earlier in the year and is going from strength to strength.

The Health and Leisure Services team, Health Improvement have been consulting with internal department, and have produced the 2nd edition of Blaby District Council's Health Action Plan. The aim of the plan is to integrate Public Health work across the council.

The recent publication of the Health Profiles 2014 show that Blaby is a healthy place to live and work and the Public Health work within this booklet strengthens the council's vision, objectives and overarching principles for the residents of Blaby District.

There are no red indicators within the Public Health Information which shows improvement within Blaby District – a year ago we were showing red indictors – Excess

winter deaths, this caused some concern but with regular drilling and monitoring we are now out of that category and showing amber and green indicators.

Outstanding Achievement awards – nominations have now closed so we sit back and await those named in the various categories.

**Over 60s
'Youth' Club**

...OR ANY OTHER AGE!
EVERYBODY WELCOME

Every Wednesday morning - drop-in between 10.00-12.30

£1.50 PER SESSION

WHAT?

Table Tennis

Table Football

Shortmat Bowls

Pool

Coffee & Chat

WHEN?

Resuming 1st Wednesday in September

WHY?

The aim is to provide a Drop-in Centre for all residents to do what we did as teenagers in OUR Youth Clubs. Use the facilities or sit and chat. Make friends, meet other village residents, get out of the house!!!

WHERE?

In The new Youth & Community Centre, Park View.

Best wishes, Ernie, Iain and Sheila - BDC

SHARNFORD LITTLE EXPLORERS PLAYGROUP

September sees us back with lots of changes!

Following consultation with parents, an overwhelming request was for us to change our opening hours to offer longer sessions and so September sees us open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am until 2pm. We are very excited about this change and hope it allows us to continue to grow as a service to families in and around the Sharnford area.

Sue, Karen, Kat and Claire are already planning activities for the Sharnford Village Show which takes place on Saturday 13th September. We have had good success with our entries over the past few years and will be entering lots of categories again. Alison and Sue will again be competing in the jam making category. With Sue winning a prize last year, Alison is up against it! Karen is a seasoned entrant and we have no hope of winning as many as she will!

Over the summer the PTFA have kindly funded the new shed project! With both of the sheds removed, we now have one super dooper shed kindly build by Will Dawson carpentry. We are now able to access the children's activities much easier which will help with our planning.

Start of term sees us have lots of new 2 year olds starting and we would like to welcome them and their families to our small playgroup. We have a successful PTFA that you are able to join and help us raise funds for the children in and around Sharnford. If you are interested in joining, please speak to Sue at playgroup.

Hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays and good luck to our leavers as they prepare for their first day at school.

Alison, Sue, Karen, Kat and Claire

ST HELEN'S CHURCH

Grateful thanks to all the volunteers who helped to 'tidy up' the churchyard at the very end of May. A lot of wood, brambles etc were removed and we finished the morning with a well-earned 'hot dog' and hot drink being able to use the new servery and toilet was appreciated by all! In June we had our Fruit & Vegetable Tombola at the Fete and congratulate our Churchwarden, Mr W. Higginbotham who was presented with the Jubilee Cup, for his long service to St Helen's Church.

At the end of the summer term, the Jean Philps Shield presented annually to a pupil at Sharnford C.E Primary School who has achieved the most during the school year, was presented to a Year 6 pupil, Jenny Green. Many congratulations to you, Jenny.

August 16th & 17th The '1914 Exhibition & Flower Displays was held at St Helen's Church followed by a 'Songs of Praise' when many friends joined us (see separate article).

Since June we have had 3 Baptisms, welcoming Ruby Willow Davies, Jack Holliland and Grayson Hibbert to the Church.

In July the Funeral of Mr Norman Read took place. In August the wedding of Jason Castleton and Nicole Hyde was celebrated.

Saturday September 13th is 'Ride and Stride Day', when people can walk or ride bicycles to as many Churches and Chapels as they can and are sponsored to raise money for 'Historic Churches'. St Helen's Church will be open all day so why not call in.

Sunday October 5th 9.15am 'Family Worship for Harvest' at St Helen's.

Sunday November 9th 10.00am Remembrance Service at Sharnford Methodist Chapel followed by an 'Act of

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Remembrance' at the War Memorial, situated in St Helen's Churchyard at 10.50pm

You are warmly invited to these and any other services.

St Helen's Church and Sharnford Methodist Church are continuously collecting tinned food, cereals, UHT milk etc. for the Hinckley Foodbank. If you would like to contribute, there are collecting boxes for the food in both Churches.

Finally, the Children's Society Boxes will be collected during the first week in October.

Christine Berridge

TWO DAYS IN AUGUST QUIZ

The following questions relate to 2 specific dates in August

August 20th

1. Born 1924, the country singer who had a number 1 hit in the 60's with Distant Drums, who?
2. Died, 1912, William Booth, what organisation did he found?
3. Died 1989, George Adamson the British naturalist, murdered in Kenya. What was his wife's name?
4. On this day 1913, what was first cast by Harry Breatly in Sheffield?
5. On this day 1924, which British runner refused to run at the Paris Olympics because it was a Sunday?
6. On this day 1940, who was struck on the head with an ice pick in Mexico by an agent of Stalin's?
7. On this day 1940 who said "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few"?
8. On this day 1956 what was opened at Calder Hall in Cumberland?
9. On this day 1968, Soviet troops invaded which country?
10. On this day 1989, what was the name of the Thames pleasure cruiser that sank killing 51 people?

August 23rd

11. Born 1754, the last king of France, who?
12. Born 1947, the author of such work as Educating Rita and Shirley Valentine?
13. Born the same day as the above, the ill fated drummer with The Who?
14. Born 1949, the English former policeman, strongman and shot putter, who?
15. Died 1305, who was the Scottish patriot who was hung, drawn and quartered?
16. Died 1926, aged 31, following an operation on a ruptured appendix, who?
17. Died 1987, which French racing driver off the Isle of Wight after a boating accident?
18. On this day AD410, which group of people sacked Rome and put an end to the Roman empire?
19. On this day 1938, who scored a world record 364 in 13 hours at the Oval in the fifth test against Australia?
20. On this day 1939, Germany signed a non-aggression pact with which country, leading the way for them to invade Poland?

Answers on the last page.



**SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW
SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL**

There are plenty of categories to enter, including Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, Home-baking, Handicrafts and Children's categories

Exhibits to be staged before 11.00 am.

Public Viewing from 2.30 pm. Produce Auction from 3.30 pm.

Admission 50p (Free for exhibitors) Raffle, Tombola & Refreshments

Pick up your copy of the show guide from the post office
or download your show guide on www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford

For further information please contact show organiser
Tony Curtis on 01455 272532

DO YOU KNOW THIS CAT??



He has been visiting our home in School Lane for the last 12 months. He is all black, not neutered and of adult size, although he looks young. He is not aggressive, has a quiet meow but hates being touched. He visits most days, usually in the evening and is **always** hungry. He does not wear a collar.

He is welcome to stay but we don't want to deprive a family of their pet. We have asked around if anyone recognises him, without success.

If you have any information about him, please phone John and Yvonne on 274112

SHARNFORD PRESCHOOLERS PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

This Summer Term has come and gone ever so quickly for the Preschoolers PTFA. As the saying goes 'doesn't time fly by when you're having fun'. This term has been filled with the summer fete, trips out, crafts, music and an end of term party. The fete was a huge success, the sun shone and the people kept coming. Thank you for all the donations to the children's tombola. The children from Bumps, Babies and Toddlers (BBT) joined the children from Little Explorers play group on a trip to Oak Farm (this was funded by the PTFA). Everyone who came had a great day and left the farm with lots of happy memories. We also had an end of term party for the Little Explorers and BBTs with lots of fun on the bouncy castle and party games.

This term marked the end of an era. Kathy, Gabrielle and Jacqui have worked tirelessly over a number of years for the PTFA including the running of BBT. Without the efforts of these ladies money would not have been raised to buy or give funding towards new equipment, trips out, leaver's gifts, Christmas presents, Easter presents and end of year parties for BBT and Little Explorers Playgroup. Some of the money raised this year has gone towards outside storage at the Evergreen Hall. This means we can all access toys easier and they are also kept in good condition. We are putting some of the money raised towards a sensory room at BBT. A huge thank you for all their hard work and dedication. We will miss you !!

The PTFA will continue after the Summer term with Ellie and I still holding the Treasurer and the Secretarial posts. We have a couple of new faces on the team. We welcome Victoria Hibbert as our new Chairperson. BBT will continue on Tuesday mornings 9.00- 10.30 in term time from 2nd September. Everyone is welcome, expectant mums, new mums, dads, grandparents, babies and toddlers so come along and meet new friends whilst the children play, enjoy crafts, music sessions, explorative play and our new sensory room. PTFA Coffee Mornings will also continue on the last Tuesday of the month, the first being 30th September. Keep a look out on the notice boards as we'll be putting up posters reminding you all about BBT and also a calendar with activities planned. So if you fancy it come along and join us we'd love to see you!!

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on the 17th September. Anyone who would like to be involved please join us at the Evergreen Hall. Time to be confirmed.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas on what we can do to improve BBT please contact us by email at

Sharnford Little Explorers Playgroup

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Sharnford, Leicester

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Parent and Tots Group Tuesdays 9.15am

Sharnfordbbt@gmail.com or on our facebook page 'Sharnford Bumps, Babies and Toddlers'.

Fiona Holliland PTFA Secretary



The Pavilion Leisure Centre in Huncote is hosting a family fun day on Saturday 13th September for Blaby District residents.

Taking place from 10am – 4pm the day boasts an array of activities including garden games, magic show, rodeo bull, assault course, sumo suits, bungee run, quad bikes, tug of war, laser clay pigeon, face painting, human football table, and bungee trampolines.

There will also be craft stalls, refreshments, a cake stall, and a beer tent.

For more information about the day or the Pavilion in general visit www.blaby.gov.uk/thepavilion, email leisure@blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 275 0246.

Some activities are subject to change, weather permitting.

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**THERE SHOULD BE A WILL, AND
THERE IS A WAY!**

Twenty four offices of local Solicitors have generously agreed to reduce their Will Writing charges for older people to only £35 + VAT for a single uncomplicated Will. Whilst this is a huge reduction of around £100 with no strings attached, in earlier years some people have chosen to recognise needy local older

people by leaving a legacy to Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland or making a donation, where the need is great especially in these difficult times.

The offer is available from 1st September until 31st October. Hundreds of people took advantage of this superb, low - cost deal last year in what proved to be a very successful initiative by the charity. Details are available from 0116 2992233 or www.ageuk.org.uk/leics

Commenting, Peter Ralphs of Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland said, “Most people appreciate that it is extremely important to make a Will, but either never get round to it or continue to put it off on the basis that they are too young and it is something that they will do when they are much older. Unfortunately 7 out of 10 people die without sorting it out, in spite of the clear benefits. By making a Will you take the pressure off those nearest and dearest to you who will receive your money and property, rather than it being left to the rules of law to decide.”

“Even if you have made a will, perhaps it was so long ago that it is time to consider whether it needs revising. Don’t miss this opportunity to put matters straight!”

Peter Ralphs, Business Development Manager at Age UK Leicester

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN BLABY DISTRICT

Community Transport provides transport for people living in Blaby District, Oadby & Wigston who have difficulty using or have no access to public transport. For further information about the scheme or register to use Community 2 Transport, please contact us as follows: Residents of Blaby District should contact 0116 272 7668 between 9am and 1pm and speak to Jane, Melanie or Mick. Residents of Oadby & Wigston should contact 0116 288 0508 between 9am and 1pm and speak to Emma or Ruth

SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

What have we been doing since the last Issue of Sharnford News? Well, as you may know, we meet the second Thursday of every month in the Evergreen Hall at 7.30pm and everyone is most welcome. We welcomed a new member in June but are always looking to attract a few more. All we ask is that you have an interest in keeping Sharnford looking good and put your views forward when we discuss any future ideas or projects.

A recent discussion was how to keep the front border of Bluebell Green tidy? The current border contains ground level plants and large boulders to stop vehicles trying to park on the green. But we have a major problem keeping the border weed free, not helped by the passing traffic blowing seeds and cuttings onto it. So we are looking at making the border a more permanent structure. Possibly set the granite boulders into a solid setting.

ALL SEWN UP!



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Talking about Bluebell Green, not surprisingly the beds need weeding and tidying up quite often, but our resources in the Group are getting fewer (and older!) so it's a challenge. The best solution is to organise 'weed it working parties' for just an hour at a time a few times each month during the growing season. The next one is Tuesday 2nd Septemberso if anyone has an hour to spare, and the tools, we would love to greet you on Bluebell Green at 10am.

One project which is still ongoing is the proposal to erect a Village Sign on Bluebell Green. The Parish Council are very supportive and the basic design concept and location have been agreed. We are currently in the phase of raising money to pay for it. This is proving more difficult than first envisaged,

mainly due to two factors. Firstly the economic climate (quite a few sources of grants have had their budgets greatly reduced or even cut completely) and second is the type of project. As we have discovered, it's easier finding funding sources for environment, youth or social community issues, than a village sign. But we will not give up, just give us time....unless anyone out there has a few thousand pounds to spare they would like to donate to the village!

The Environment Group again took part in the Village Fete in June. Being such a sunny day, wasn't it great to see so many village people and visitors having a good time. Our stand, selling plants and running the 'maggot racing game' was busy most of the time. If you missed the maggot racing, you missed a treat (see photo) but you didn't think that maggots would race each other down a 2ft track, even with twenty pence on their backs!! But they do....and we have to thank one of our members Tom and his family, who made and run it. We entered into the spirit of the Show, by depicting a 'boat design' on our stall. If you missed it, we attach a photo of our 'flower planter canoe', we thought it was great even if it didn't win the 'best in show' award.



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Dave Sewell

A POSTCARD FROM CLARA.....

A recent request on the www.leicestershirevillage/sharnford website caught our interest asking for help regarding an old picture postcard dated 7 August 1911. The postcard was from Clara Wells (the grandmother of the person requesting help), to her mother living in Sileby.



This is the face of Clara's postcard

Wanting to know who Uncle George and Aunt Dora were, where the 'shop' was in the picture, quickly turned out to be several loose ends in a ball of wool. Identifying Clara was simple. She was 14 years old at the time of writing the card – one of William and Elizabeth Violetta Well's 14 children.

Finding who were George and Dora was the opposite. It took a response from a descendant of the Wells family living in Australia to unravel. They were George and Dora Loveday Lewis.

But finding Clara's Uncle George Lewis – a blacksmith by trade – in the 1911 census as living in Sileby was puzzling. The census was taken on 2 April 1911. Puzzling also was the fact that Sharnford's blacksmith was a Lewis Geary in the same census. Also Kelly's 1912 trade directory confirms Lewis Geary as blacksmith.

The photo on the right is Clara as a young women.

The 'shop' mentioned in Clara's postcard is undoubtedly the smithy where we can see the double doors open in the





picture above. The incumbent blacksmith lived in the adjacent house to the smithy. A big thank you to the present occupiers of this house for letting me view the deeds to next door (No.52) for it was known as the assistant blacksmiths house. No. 52 is directly above the man walking in the road.

In conclusion it would appear - and in all probability – that Clara’s Uncle George and Aunt Dora Lewis were living at No.52- they also had 2 small children – having arrived in Sharnford sometime between April 2 and 7 August 1911. Probably (I am speculating here!) Clara and her sibling(s) – for she writes ‘us’ on her card – were farmed out to George and Dora, to make space for a new arrival for her Mum and Dad. .

Many thanks to Mr. L.G of Sileby for supplying many of the answers and the use of the postcard and photograph - and for allowing me the pleasure of delving into the secrets and dusty corners of his family history, which is so pertinent to supplementing Sharnford’s social history.

Answers to Quiz: 1. Jim Reeves, 2. The Salvation Army, 3. Joy Adamson, 4. Stainless

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

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

**Please note that the deadline for articles in the next issue of
Sharnford News is Wednesday 19th November 2014**

Steel, 5. Eric Liddel, 6. Leon Trotsky, 7. Winston Churchill, 8. Britain’s first Nuclear Power Station, 9. Czechoslovakia, 10. The Marchioness, 11. Louis XVI, 12. Willy Russell, 13. Keith Moon, 14. Geoff Capes, 15. William Wallace, 16. Rudolph Valentino, 17. Didier Peroni, 18. Visigoths, 19. Len Hutton, 20. Russia