

# SHARNFORD NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Issue No 57



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

## SHARNFORD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP Sharnford Village Speed Check Reveals “Shocking” Speeding Figures



FRONT PAGE OF THE LEICESTER MERCURY  
AND FRONT PAGE OF SHARNFORD NEWS.

Congratulations to members of the Sharnford STAG group, especially Mike Shirley, for their efforts in publicising their speed check findings to the wider audience. In November 2015, following advice from Leicestershire’s Community Speedwatch Programme, Sharnford villagers commenced continuous monitoring of through traffic on the B4114 and Aston Lane in the village. This was made possible by the funding and purchase by Sharnford Traffic Action Group (STAG), with the help of Sharnford Parish Council, of an approved speed

monitoring and recording system, to continuously monitor speeding in the village.

The danger of speeding traffic passing through Sharnford’s narrow and sharply curved roads has been a source of major concern for years, and repeated requests for permanent speed enforcement cameras for years have been rejected. This has been despite a decade long campaign by STAG, which has included major national and local T.V. coverage. Police mobile speed cameras do visit the village frequently, and Leicestershire County Council has provided speed activated signs. However, the results that the village’s new monitoring programme, carried out totally by a team of dedicated village volunteers organised by STAG, have revealed are profoundly shocking.

No fewer than 41,000 vehicles were recorded passing through the village in the first week alone, a substantial proportion being large heavy goods vehicles. Of those vehicles, 26% were breaking the speed limit, even more shockingly three vehicles were recorded at 93mph, 92 mph and 111mph travelling though the village in the daytime, and numerous other speeds in excess of 60 and 70mph were recorded.



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Vehicle speeds were only being recorded in one direction, but this showed that at least 7,768 vehicles were exceeding the 30 mph speed limit by up to 20 m.p.h.

Had this been a Police operation, using ACPO guidelines, no fewer than 1,621 fixed penalty notices and 31 court summons would have been issued to drivers passing through the village in just one week! These could easily fund a speed camera and vastly improve safety in Sharnford.

Mr Mike Shirley, Secretary of Sharnford Traffic Action Group, reviewing the figures, was appalled “Sharnford has been appealing for permanent fixed and/or average speed cameras in the village for at least eight years, and Leicestershire County Council has failed to provide them. The speed activated signs are now totally ignored and are ineffectual”

“Villager’s lives are continuously at risk from speeding drivers and HGV’s on the very narrow roads through the village. We have had a house partially demolished, one of the village pubs being crashed into over 100 metres from the road, lampposts and signs felled, and pedestrians on the footpaths being hit by vehicles, and being knocked over on the B4114 pedestrian crossing.”

“These new figures prove beyond doubt what we have been saying, it is a disaster waiting to happen. Road deaths in Leicestershire have soared by over 30% in the last year and speeding has been cited as a major cause of the increase. If something is not done, it is only matter of time before there is a tragedy in Sharnford: The County Council will have to bear the responsibility for totally failing to deal with speeding in the village”.



***Sharnford Traffic Action Group – Mike Shirley 0753 9994707***

1<sup>st</sup> Photo attached: Coventry Road Sharnford “A light van travels along the B4114 in Sharnford at 45 m.p.h. totally ignoring the speed activated 30mph sign and exceeding the speed limit by 50%.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Photo attached: Sharnford Shed Load “A not uncommon result of excessive speed around the B4114’s corners in Sharnford. A load of heavy construction blocks shed onto the road causes the closure of the B4114; fortunately, in this case no pedestrians or buildings were damaged.”

A final thought – Hopefully these findings will help our fight for a by-pass.

## SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Over the last 12 months there have been no large scale projects in which Sharnford Parish Council has been directly involved. The only exception would have been the affordable homes project, in which we had some indirect involvement. The scheme was completed last year and the homes are now fully occupied as far as I am aware.

There have been a number of other smaller scale projects worth reporting on. An initiative to clear up the burial ground was taken in early spring last year following work carried out by Lee Martin,

a member of the Parish Council. The day was blessed by favourable weather and the whole of the Parish Council turned out, along with various volunteers, including Tony Curtis who is responsible for keeping our play areas spic and span and who also carries out maintenance in the village on behalf of the Parish Council. It is hoped that further such initiatives can be carried out in 2016. Another plus resulted from this in that a Mill Lane resident now keeps the entrance to the burial ground in tip top condition. The shelter at the burial ground was also repaired and renovated as the elements had taken their toll on the structure. The entrance gates benefited from rubbing down and a new coat of preservative was applied as these were looking in a sorry state.

Various other projects came to inception – Sharnford now has a defibrillator sited at the Evergreen Hall and a packed meeting attended for training and instruction on how to use the device, several members of the Parish Council attended this.

The Sharnford Good Neighbours Scheme was launched in the middle of last year, this received a donation from the Parish Council to pay for a year's mobile phone charges for this latest volunteer group in Sharnford. I'm sure further updates regarding this will appear in the Sharnford News.

Finally, the village sign was erected and unveiled on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December last year with a good turnout from local dignitaries and villagers. A significant donation was made by Sharnford Parish Council and others, with much of the funding for the project coming from local grants, this was spearheaded by Dave Sewell and again there will be a fuller report produced by Dave himself.

This concludes the yearly report from the Parish Council.

***Jack Feast - Chairperson Sharnford PC***

### **CAN YOU SAVE ON YOUR WATER BILL LIKE RICHARD DID?**

Dear Friends and Neighbours of Sharnford,

I have been in contact with Severn Trent Water in connection with charges on my water bill for Surface Water Drainage treatment. After applying for and completing a claims form, my property has been inspected by Severn Trent Water engineers who confirmed

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that no surface rainwater from my property is treated, but is piped directly into Soar Brook.

As this is the case for my property, I suspect it will be the case for most home owners on the Brookfield Estate if not beyond.

My claim was successful and Severn Trent have dropped charges in the future for surface rain water treatment (or Surface Water Drainage as it appears on your bill). I requested that they also look at other homes within the village but they seem to be dragging their feet!! I wonder why?

It seems that Severn Trent are only dealing with individual claims, so I urge everyone who think that they may be eligible to contact Severn Trent Water and request a claim form. If your claim is successful it will save you money, look at your water bill for the Surface Water Drainage charge to see how much you will save.

I have informed some residents verbally and I believe that they have made successful claims, so by notifying you in this issue of Sharnford News it will make more of you aware of this charge, which in most cases should not be made.

*Yours faithfully Richard Edge.*

PS: Richard thinks it would be a good idea if you submit your claim form before the 1st April 2016. Then he believes your claim will be back dated to April 2015.

### SHARNFORD METHODIST CHAPEL

Our Christmas celebrations seem a long time ago now. We had a steady stream of visitors come to see our themed decorations "Let the Bells Ring Out", and they also enjoyed the seasonal refreshments on offer on Saturday, and after our Carol Service on Sunday. A special thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Messy Nativity Sheep Trail around the village in December, both those who gave the sheep a temporary home and all the children and their families who searched for them. There were lots of correct entries and after a prize draw for each age group the winners were as follows.

5 years and under	Stephen Corley
6-9 years	Alice Berridge
10 years and over	Charlie Bryan

Well done to you all and we hope you enjoyed taking part.

We still hold a coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month but please note that on March 5th we will join with St Helen's at the Evergreen Hall for the annual Fair Trade

bacon-buttie morning. Our Christian fellowship group meets on the first Monday of the month at 10am, and on the same day our Book Club meets at 2pm. We are also starting a Lent group with St Helen's on Thursday March 24th led by Nick Baker, meeting in the Chapel at 7 for 7.30pm.

Next month we shall be sad to say good-bye to Kathy, Mike, Charlie, Sam and Millie as they set off for a new life in Germany, our prayers and best wishes go with you and thank you for all you have contributed to the Chapel and village over many years.

Our morning service starts at 10am to which all are welcome. We send our condolences to Bett Ellis and her family on the passing of Bodge whose funeral took place in January, and the Chapel was full on this sad occasion as so many friends came to remember him.

For those interested in researching their ancestry connected to Sharnford we do have a fairly comprehensive record of the burials in our grave-yard, and also the Baptismal Register from 1851.

**Beryl Devenyi**

## SHARNFORD PLANT SALE AND VILLAGE SHOW

We are pleased to announce that the Plant Sale will be on Saturday the 21st May. Sapcote Garden Centre have now taken over Four Winds and they will be reopening after a refit. They will continue to supply us with quality plants.

The Village flower and produce show goes from strength to strength. This year it is on Saturday the 10th September. Please enter as you have to be in it to win it. If you really cannot find anything to enter we would still like to see you in the afternoon. Only 50p to get in, refreshments available and you can admire the entries. Hang around for the produce auction afterwards and pick up some bargains.

The categories are mostly the same as last year with just the odd change to provide some variety and to keep you and our judges on their toes! If you entered last year you will have a schedule delivered in early May, you will also be able to pick one up from the Plant Sale, Post Office, Tony or Kaye & Andrew. Alternatively you will be able to print one off the website; [leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford](http://leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford)

## An Evening of Puddings

Sharnford Evergreen Village Hall  
Saturday 19th March 2016  
at 7.30pm



### *Sample a Selection of Homemade Puddings and Desserts*

*Enjoy an evening with nothing savoury,  
simply for those with a sweet tooth*

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*Janet Curtis will be a member of the team.*

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Vision Aid Overseas

Please bring along your old specs for recycling

Please support the Show which is intended to be a bit of fun and friendly rivalry. As a bonus we have over the years raised funds to help with village good causes such as the Defibrillator, St Helen's toilet appeal, work at the Chapel, the Youth Club, the Evergreen Hall, plants for the Environment Group Planter on the oneway system and a replacement mower to cut the churchyard.

*Tony Curtis*



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**SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE**

**Save the Date: Sunday 26th June 2016**

This year's fete will be held a little later this year – on 26th June 2016, on the park in Park View, Sharnford, from 12 o'clock until 4 o'clock.

As it's Olympic Year and European Cup Year, we are having a sporty themed day with all sorts of activities. These will include favourites such as the duck races, tombola, raffle, cakes, refreshments and bar, and lots of other stalls and attractions. The Matt Elliott Football Development Scheme will be organising lots of activities in the arena for kids of all ages.

We hope that you will come along and enjoy the day – any profits from this event are shared out between various groups in the village. If you would like to get involved and help with the event, please contact me and I can let you know when the next meeting will be. Donations for the tombola and raffle would be greatly appreciated and we will let you know how to make your donations a little nearer the time.

Looking forward to seeing you all there  
*Sue Stanley (Tel 273861) SGJC Secretary*

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

First of all, many thanks to those who supported our Christmas Bazaar which raised £1850, a great result which will help maintain the hall and contribute to outings for club members. It is our major fund raising event of the year and enables us to provide a good facility for our many village groups and events.

The last Club meeting in December was our festive tea which everyone enjoyed, followed by our traditional bingo session. In January we went to see Cinderella at the Concordia, a brilliant production, with plenty of laughs and all agreed that next year "we shall have to do it again then, won't we."

For a change we held our annual dinner at the end of January and this year invited some extra guests and the St Helen's Ladies Group to join us. We had a wonderful meal of, soup, roast beef and dessert, provided by Neil Green Catering of Lutterworth and afterwards we played a few party games to round off the evening. There was rather more laughter than talent during some but with no prizes on offer it didn't matter.

Our first bacon-buttie morning was a great success, both as a social event to beat the January blues and as a chance to buy a few bargains. Thank you to all those who helped us raise £360.

Our tea meetings have now started again on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 3pm and we would really welcome new members to the club. There will an outing in May and August but the destinations have yet to be decided. The committee would like to say thank you and farewell to Kathy Bryan for her time with us and all she has contributed to the Evergreen. We wish you all a happy and successful life in Germany.

It was with great sadness we heard that a member of the club for many years, Bodge Ellis, had passed away on Christmas Eve. A life-long villager, he will be missed at the club and by his many friends and we send our sincere condolences to Bett and her family.

*Beryl Devenyi*

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## WiFi IN THE EVERGREEN HALL

We have been successful in having the Wifi installed in the Hall which we hope will be of great use to all villagers.

We shall be having the benefit of the Barclays Bank Eagles for six sessions on all uses of the computer from Silver Surfers to programming for those 7-17. We will know more about this in the next few weeks and a notice will then be sent to every household advising of what's on offer during these free sessions.

Hopefully in the near future we shall be able to open the hall a couple of times a week for general internet use but we will have more information on this later.

We do hope that everyone will support this venture in our village. We have been very fortunate in succeeding in our bid for this free wifi installation by BT and the classes being arranged by Barclays Bank Eagles. We have had an offer of help to open up the hall for public sessions from one person in the village and we hope that other offers will be forthcoming.

The information leaflet should be coming out to every household in the next few weeks.

*Rosemarie Simpson*

## NEW SAPCOTE COMMUNITY LIBRARY A GROUP PROPOSE TO TAKE OVER IN JUNE 2016.

The council funding for our library is being withdrawn from June this year. However, I am pleased to announce that the future of the village library in Sapcote is now a little more secure. A committee has been formed to take forward the proposal to run it with volunteers. But we do need a lot of support and help to secure the future for our library to provide the service in a different way from this June.

We will spend the next few months looking at ways to protect and improve this important resource for our villages. We hope we will be able to publicise some of the things we are planning for the future.

Our villages are changing rapidly and we see that the role of your library needs to change to meet new challenges. We see this as a great opportunity to not only protect this valuable service, but to provide a whole new range of services and activities within a new Community Resources Centre. In the meantime, we hope to have our new website active soon, but you can now look for us on Facebook for the latest news. Our Facebook site is Sapcote Community Library, if you like it please become a member, and feel free to make any suggestions or of course offers of help. It's a challenge, but we can make this an opportunity. Pulling together, we can create an asset that will add even more value to everyone in the Sapcote and Sharnford area.

*Marketing Co-ordinator Mervin Wallace*

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Do you like helping people?

We are one of the largest voluntary women's organisations in the world. ([www.innerwheel.co.uk](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk)). We have 16 Clubs in Leicestershire and 43 in the District covering Leicestershire, Rutland, Northants, Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire with approximately 1,000 members. Membership is available to all women over 18, guaranteeing fun and fellowship, whilst working on exciting projects which

have an impact on the lives of millions of people, locally, nationally and internationally.

I have been a member for some 36 years and could talk about Inner Wheel forever!

As with most organisations we are mindful of recruitment and I am thinking of arranging an interest meeting in Sharnford depending on the response.

**“We are women of action, working together to make a difference and improve lives”**

Our Future depends on you – come and see what we do or come and join us to make the World a better place!

If you are interested, please let the Editor Dave Sewell know (details at the end of this issue) or contact Glenys Hasdell as below.



## INNER WHEEL

Make friends  
Make a difference  
Be inspired



We enjoy working together to help local, national and international charities – and are proud to have made a positive impact on the lives of millions of people.

We make firm friendships with like-minded women who become friends for life.  
We work on exciting and fun projects that leave us with an inspiring sense of satisfaction.

**“We are women of action, working together  
to make a difference and improve lives”**

We have plans for the future and we're calling on women like you to join us.

For more information about us and our meetings please contact  
Glenys Hasdell Tel: 01455 273327 or 07786391413  
Or email: [glenyshasdell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:glenyshasdell@yahoo.co.uk)

## SHARNFORD YOUTH CLUB & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Roll on the Summer! Numbers of members attending the Friday night Youth Club normally drops throughout the Winter months, but this year we don't seem to have had that problem. With a regular 30+ still turning up every week and enjoying indoor activities such as dodgeball, table tennis, table football, lego building and colouring, its great to see. However, the Free Youth Bus on a Thursday evening has not been so well attended which is a disappointment both to the leaders and the few that do enjoy going along.

A big 'Thank You' must also go out to the extra volunteer leaders that came forward following our Facebook appeal. This has enabled us to stay open on the occasional week we would have had to close due to lack of cover.

On a more serious note, we have had a couple of incidents recently whilst the Youth Club has been closed. Firstly, a group that managed to gain entry into the building, whilst not causing any real damage, did in fact leave lights on and windows wide open after they had left. Secondly, a garden table had been smashed and shards of razor sharp pieces of plastic left scattered all over the car park. This had to be cleaned up by one of the Youth Club leaders prior to opening up for the soccer tots class. This is mindless vandalism which will not be tolerated and could have caused injury to both members of the public and users of the Centre, not to mention the mess it made. The Committee has now agreed that a CCTV system will need to be installed to catch any future offenders before any real damage to the property occurs.

On a brighter note, the Over 55's Youth Club has been going from strength to strength with member numbers increasing on a weekly basis. Indoor bowls and table tennis seem to be the popular activities, with some just coming along for a chat and a cupper and enjoying each other's company.

The Matt Elliott Academy is still running every Thursday (see below for times) but new members are always welcome. There's no sign up fee and classes are on a 'pay and play' basis. The Academy has also agreed to join us at our Annual Village Fete day to help out and also promote their club.

Dates for party bookings are going fast so if you do have an event coming up, be sure to give us a ring as soon as possible.

### **Community Centre Timetable**

#### **Alternate Mondays**

7.00-9.00pm      Craft Club      Contact Kathy Bryan 272335

#### **Wednesday**

10-12.30pm      Over 55's Youth Club      Contact Derek Gibbons 272401

#### **Thursday**

3.30-4.15pm      Soccer Tots (age 2-4)      Contact [www.touchlinesports.co.uk](http://www.touchlinesports.co.uk)

4.30-6pm      Football Academy (age 5-13)      Contact [www.touchlinesports.co.uk](http://www.touchlinesports.co.uk)

#### **Friday**

6.30-8pm      Youth Club (age 5-16)      Contact Julie Edge 271321

The room is also available to hire out for private functions or fundraising events and more information can be obtained by ringing Julie Edge on 271321, or check out our website at [sharnfordyouthclub.wordpress.com](http://sharnfordyouthclub.wordpress.com)



Sharnford Pre-schoolers PTFA is a committee of volunteers that run the Bumps, Babies and Toddlers (BBT) group. BBT is aimed at preschool children and their carer's giving them the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, play and music. We are open Tuesday Mornings in the Evergreen Hall 9-10.30 term time only, raising money for the children of Sharnford.

BBT ended on a high with our Christmas Party. It was well attended, great fun was had by all the children and their Carers using the soft play, bouncing on the bouncy castle and eating lots of yummy homemade cakes.

This year has started well for BBT with some new faces. Our children continue to be busy making new friends, playing with different toys and getting crafty in our craft corner. This term we have been making New Year lanterns, paper plate dinosaurs, fish bowls, Valentine's cards and Mother's Day crafts.

We will be having an Easter Party on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 9 – 10.30 at the Evergreen Hall. We will be holding a music session and being creative by decorating biscuits. Please do pop in and come along. It'll be great to see you!!!

If you can help in any way or would like to join us then please contact us on our facebook page 'Sharnford Bumps, Babies and Toddler Group' or pop in and see us every Tuesday morning 9-10.30 (term time only). If you would like to see what we're up to keep an eye out for our Activities Calendar on the notice boards around the village or on our facebook page.

Hope to see you soon

*The PTFA team*



**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.

This year we enjoyed a dinner trip down the River Trent in glorious weather and a visit to Ironbridge

We also have occasional speakers to entertain us at our meetings.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION RING JEAN ON 01455 274772

**FOSSE MEADOWS - POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS**

You could lose the peace and tranquility of Fosse Meadows. Blaby District Council are seeking to save money and investigate ways of generating income. The changes could be far reaching. The original planning application from Blaby included a marquee so that weddings could be held there, followed by late night events. This was then withdrawn when they realised the amount of opposition.

They have now appointed consultants to investigate their options and they have just set up an online survey. It is imperative that you complete the survey to show your interest in Fosse Meadows and so they can keep you updated.

<http://www.blaby.gov.uk/resident/leisure-and-parks/countryside-areas/fosse-meadows/>

See also the Parish Council Facebook page for updates

<https://www.facebook.com/sharnfordparishcouncil/posts/1675269106054822?fref=nf>

## COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND - QUIZ

e.g. In which county would you find Bradgate Park? Answer - Leicestershire

1. The Giant's Causeway
2. St. Michael's Mount
3. Balmoral Castle
4. Jervaulx Abbey
5. Severn Valley Railway
6. Boston Stump
7. Gower Peninsula
8. Farleigh Hungerford Castle
9. 1st Butlins Holiday Camp
10. New Forest
11. Loch Ness
12. White Horse at Osmington
13. Pendle Hill
14. Runnymede
15. Gold Hill
16. Almscliffe Crag
17. Charlecote Park
18. Poole's Cavern
19. Sutton Hoo
20. St. Columb's Cathedral

Answers on last page

**Sharnford Little Explorers Playgroup**

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## SHARNFORD SCHOOL REPORT

It was a very busy time at Sharnford C E Primary School in December; the children performed two Christmas Productions of 'Stargazers' to parents, carers and family and we raised £175 for Rainbows in memory of Mrs Maureen Butcher. The school hall was again decorated with a stunning Christmas tree which was donated by Mr & Mrs Wray in memory of their Daughter.

The school council took part in an Advent service at Leicester Cathedral along with some year 3 children who are involved in our Diosoing project. Reception children watched Sharnford playgroup perform their Christmas production at St Helens Church, the whole school enjoyed a Christmas lunch and year 6 children watched a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at Hastings High School.

The PTA organised a Christmas Disco which included a visit to see Santa and a Christmas workshop, where children could choose a present to wrap and take home for a relative. On the last day of term we supported Save the Children by donating £1 to wear a Christmas jumper.

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We started the spring term with a production company coming in to All Saints School, Sapcote to perform a Pantomime, Jack and the Bean Stalk which was enjoyed by the children. Year 5 and 6 children are attending three sessions at Hastings High School to produce a wall hanging based on The Mexican

festival Day of the Dead. Children in year 6 have visited the Warning Zone in Leicester, where they had the opportunity of taking part in various safety scenarios. Year 5 children will be visiting the Belgrave district of Leicester where they will experience and gain an understanding of the rich cultural diversity of Leicester’s vibrant Asian community.

Parents have been invited to attend a SATs evening meeting which will enable staff to explain to parents how they can support their child during this challenging time. Year 5 have completed their cycle4life training and year 6 will be taking part in April.

The PTA ran their annual quiz in February and it was well supported, they are also offering the children a free movie night in March. We would like to thank the volunteers who attend trips and come in to school to listen to children read. We have started to collect the Sainsbury’s vouchers again and if you do have any spares please pop them into the school, in the past we have been able to order lots of extra PE equipment from this scheme.

*Carol*

## COUNTRYMAN SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND

2015 was another successful year for the Countryman Sick and Dividend Fund. The whole success of this yearly event is down to the support of local businesses and a handful of dedicated individuals. Naturally the hardest part of the job is selling the 4,000 raffle tickets [800 books] – we may have to consider increasing this for 2016, although Heath and Emma at the Countryman plan to hold some more fund raising events during the year to help with the ever increasing costs of the items in the festive food bags.

This year we delivered approximately 125 food bags within Sharnford Parish, which cost just over £1,000 and we had an income of around £1,200, this includes donations amounting to £75 from local villagers and the proceeds of two fund raising events by The Countryman. It’s not too late if you wish to make a donation to next year’s Fund, please drop your donation off at The Countryman or I can be contacted on 274678.

The following local businesses donated prizes: The Countryman Inn, Ian Pickering Photography, the Sharnford Arms, Sharnford Garage, Sharnford Post Office and Sharnford Tractors. The raffle tickets were donated by Intex Grinders & Engineers and the following businesses outside the village also donated prizes: JJ Car Valeting at

Hinckley, Witham Villa Riding School at Broughton Astley, Next at Enderby, Asda at Fosse Park, Sainsbury's at Fosse Park, Waitrose at Blaby and Lutterworth, the Co-op at Lichfield and the Co-op at Nuneaton.

This year most of our prizes were won by local people, although we did have one winner in Northampton, one in Burton on Trent and one in Warrington.

And finally, special thanks go out to the many individuals who donate prizes every year, the super ticket sellers, the packers of the food bags and those who deliver them. Thank you also to the people who took the time to write and thank the Committee for all their hard work and efforts.

We look forward to your support again in 2016.

***Jack Feast - for the Countryman S & D Fund***



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**We are taking orders for MOTHERS DAY – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Tarot Reading Evening – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**The Countryman, Leicester Road, Sharnford - 01455 271799**

### **SHARNFORD LITTLE EXPLORERS PLAYGROUP**

We have nearly completed our topic 'All about me' and have learned about living in different homes and different countries. We have also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and pretending to be monkeys!

Our next topic is all about Dinosaurs! So many of the children are really engaged with dinosaur facts that we are already quite knowledgeable! We will be making dinosaurs with recycling materials so if you can save items and bring them in to us, we would be very grateful. We are going on a dinosaur hunt after half term, searching the Village to

see if any still live in Sharnford. Please look out for us and if you can help on the search please let Alison know.

Our Easter bonnet parade takes place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.30pm, families and friends welcome

*Alison and the team*

## ST HELEN'S CHURCH

We welcomed in 2016 with all the challenges it brings, after celebrating Christmas with many events including the 'Little Explorers' Playgroup's Nativity Play which was performed so well by the children, especially the singing!

The Church was decorated for Christmas with Christmas tree and flower decorations to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The Christmas events culminated in a Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve to greet Christmas Day which was very joyous.

There has been no Baptisms or Weddings since the last publication of this 'Newsletter' but sadly there has been four Funerals. In November, Alan Carty, December, Jack Pickering, January, Naomi (formerly known as Neil) Naisbit and also in February, the death of Church member, Rita Page of Wigston Parva.

LENT: Some facts about the season of Lent. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, this year 10th February, the day after Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day), it then ends on Easter Sunday on 27th March. It is traditionally 40 days, to commemorate the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before beginning his 'public ministry'. It is a solemn religious observance in the Church calendar. Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain

types of luxuries, as a form of penitence. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading from the Bible daily. This prepares Christians for Holy Week which starts on Palm Sunday, 20th March and ends with the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday 27th March, of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Then come and join our Sharnford Churches Lent Group on Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 31 March at 7pm at Sharnford Methodist Chapel,,led by Nick Baker.

### Future Events:-

**Sharnford Churches Lent Group.** On Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 31 March at 7pm at Sharnford Methodist Chapel.

**Lent.** Holy Communion, Every Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 9.45am, All Saints Church, Sapcote.

**Women's World Day of Prayer.** 4th



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March 7pm at Sharnford Methodist Chapel. Jill Matthews will lead the service which is written by women of Cuba and is entitled 'Receive children receive me'. All welcome.

**Fair Trade Coffee Morning.** 5th March 9.30am -12 noon Evergreen Hall (Bacon butties available). This is a joint venture of St Helen's Church and Sharnford Methodist Chapel. Please support us, all profits go to 'Action Aid'.

**Mothering Sunday.** 6th March 9.15am St Helen's Church. We invite you to bring your Mum on her special day to a special service. Refreshments served.

**Maundy Thursday.** Informal United Holy Communion at St Helen's Church. 24th March 7pm for 7.30pm.

**Easter Sunday.** Family Holy Communion. Sunday 27th March 9.15am. at St Helen's Church.

**Chris Berridge**

## SHARNFORD VILLAGE SIGN



The Sharnford Village Sign was installed onto Bluebell on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. More than 40 villagers and special guests braved strong winds to mark the unveiling of the long-awaited village sign.

County Councillor Ernie White unveiled the new sign, which captures the history, heritage and culture of the village.

The two sided laser-cut silhouette steel sign was designed by the Sharnford Environment Group and features the village's Methodist Chapel, the High Cross monument, St Helens Parish Church, a farmer crossing a ford in his cart, two ducks, children playing, a kingfisher and an owl. It sits on top of a very sturdy eight inch square oak post. Reference to Sharnford's farming community can be traced back to the Domesday Book and the origins of its Saxon name.

In welcoming everyone to this special occasion, Penny Ross, the Environment Group Chairman, thanked members of the Group for their vision and dedication and particularly Dave Sewell, who designed the sign and managed the project. As well as thanking the manufacturer, Malcolm Lane & Sons Ltd of Cropwell Bishop in Nottingham, she also thanked those persons and organisations who had contributed funds to the project. These included Blaby District





Council’s Community Fund, Sharnford Parish Council, John Brindley Ltd, the Skinners Lady Neville Charity, Sharnford Ladies Group and private donations. The photo above shows – front row: Dave Sewell, Penny Ross, Councillor Marion Broomhead BDC, County Councillor Ernie White. Behind them are: Liz Oakes – BDC Community Grants, and Jack Feast – Sharnford Parish Council Chairman.

After the celebrations everyone walked down to the Evergreen Hall to join Sharnford’s Christmas Fair, put on by the Evergreen Committee. Many thanks go to them for opening up early for our guests, who enjoyed both the pork baps and festive stalls. People were very complimentary about the sign and we have received many comments since, telling us how good the sign looks on Bluebell Green. Some have even suggested it is the best Village Sign they have seen.

We had wondered if its position on Bluebell Green would mean it may not be noticed by passing traffic – but quite the opposite. As you drive over the hill down past the post office, the first thing you see is the SHARNFORD sign. Even at night, the gold lettering shines a warm welcome, confirming it is in just the right place!

Both the Leicester Mercury and the Hinckley Times covered the story and we must thank the Leicester Mercury photographer for his pictures, given to us for our records. To mark the occasion, a ‘time capsule’, containing details of the sign and the history of Bluebell Green, was buried on the green.

*Dave Sewell – Sharnford Environment Group*



**SHARNFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP.**

Since our group began, we have completed many tasks and some are on-going. The two major achievements were the restyling of Bluebell Green and recently the Village Sign. So it’s time now for us to finish replacing the planters (hopefully by the end of this year) and look toward continuing regular maintenance of these, plus BBG and the hanging baskets. Our membership is declining and whilst we are saddened by this, we can only hope to achieve within our memberships abilities. We grow old!

We are grateful to the Village Show and Plant Sale committee who volunteered to join forces with us, in order to buy plants for the hanging baskets. Doing this will very probably be cheaper. The decision of where to buy is yet to be made. Our watering volunteers will be contacted when we know what is happening.



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Do you feed the birds in your garden? We are seeking a volunteer to fill the bird feeders on Bluebell Green once a week. It could be a youngster (supported by his/her family) or a villager who likes wildlife. All it takes is time, since the bird food is supplied by the group. If you are interested see below for contacts.

ALSO - We need another volunteer waterer for a set of Hanging Baskets on a lamppost on Coventry Road. It is just a few minutes twice a week from late May until late September. We provide the sprayer and full support. **INTERESTED??** Please contact Penny 272797, Dave 272901 or Yvonne 274112.

Group meetings continue to be the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7.30pm in the Evergreen Hall.



**CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN FOR HER MAJESTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY IN 2016**

Clean for The Queen is a campaign launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday in 2016.

It will rally an army of volunteers across the country to clean up their local areas. With the full backing of Keep Britain Tidy, the campaign already has the support of well-known national organisations with a total membership in excess of 1.5 million, as well as individual ambassadors.

Now it's up to all of us.

Environment Minister Rory Stewart said: "Her Majesty the Queen is an inspiration to all of us. Her 90th birthday is a unique opportunity for people to come together in celebration of Her Majesty's long service and dedication to this country. "Everyone has a responsibility to keep their community tidy and this campaign provides us with a great chance to protect our wildlife and improve the quality of our streets and public spaces. I hope it will help lead to a lasting legacy of a cleaner, tidier Britain."

How much litter is there?

About 2.25 million pieces of litter are dropped on the streets of the UK every day. Thirty million tons of rubbish are collected from England's streets each year. That's enough to fill Wembley Stadium four times over. The Highways Agency clears about 180,000 sacks of litter from motorways and A roads alone. There could be 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in every square mile of the ocean. About 80% of that comes from the land. Plastic takes at least 450 years to break down in seawater.

In 2013/14, local authorities dealt with 852,000 fly-tipping incidents in England and Wales. These cost roughly £45 million to clear up. The RSPCA receives 7,000 calls a year about animals injured by litter.

In 2013, 8.3 billion single-use plastic bags were handed out in the UK. The amount of litter on UK beaches has almost doubled over the past 15 years. An RSPB study found that 95% of fulmars washed up dead on the North Sea coast had ingested plastic

How long does it take to biodegrade?

- Paper bag up to one month
- Orange peel up to two years
- Banana skin up to two years
- Plastic bag up to 10–20 years
- Cigarette butts up to 12 years
- Plastic bottle up to 450 years
- Glass bottles and chewing gum are not biodegradable



How much is it costing?

- It costs taxpayers almost £1 billion every year to clean up litter from our streets
- The cost of cleaning up chewing gum from a town centre is up to £60,000
- Fly-tipping costs Network Rail more than £2.3 million each year
- Clearing litter costs Dartmoor National Park £20,000 a year
- According to a 2014 Keep Britain Tidy report, if we recycled 50% of items littered in England, it would have an economic value of at least £14.8 million

To take part in Clean for The Queen in **SHARNFORD**, we are running a litter pick on Saturday 23rd April at 10am. Please meet on the bridge by the garage on Leicester Road.

If every adult picked up just one piece of litter and put it in a bin, that would be more than 50 million pieces of rubbish disposed of. Imagine if everyone picked up at least one piece of litter every day for 9 months. We can do it. We can all Clean for The Queen.

*Sharnford Environment Group*

## Counselling/Psychotherapy

### Looking towards a clearer, brighter future

There may be a time when you need to talk to someone who will listen to what you really need to say, helping you get an understanding of the present, in the hope for a better future.

We are local Person Centred Counsellors, fully qualified, registered and experienced in a wide range of issues supporting and helping adults, young people and children.

For a free initial session and discussion, without obligation, please contact:

Kelly Williams  
Amukelani Counselling  
07806 323 635  
Kelerina@googlemail.com

Malcolm Soulsby  
Six Acres Counselling  
07715 178 874  
[www.sixacrescounselling.co.uk](http://www.sixacrescounselling.co.uk)

## YOUR GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Here to support you



I am pleased to report that since the launch of the Sharnford Good Neighbour Scheme, last October, we have had a steady number of requests for support. These have been primarily from people needing lifts to the GP or hospital, but we've also supported people to do shopping, and some light gardening duties.

The feedback from those we have supported has been extremely positive, so putting the effort into getting the Scheme up and running is proving to be very worthwhile.

So please remember if you, or someone you know needs support, either with transport, or help around the home, or perhaps just a friendly face to talk to, please contact your Good Neighbour Scheme on 07502 615535.

*Edwina Grant*

### SHARNFORD COMMUNITY CHOIR - PLEA!

A few people are interested in forming a temporary 'Sharnford Community Choir' to sing at Christmastime 2016. Ideally we would like to meet weekly from September to December 2016. Would you be interested in joining us? All ages would be welcome.

However, sadly we have no-one to lead/conduct us, or play the piano. So we are making a plea for someone to lead/conduct the choir and someone to play the piano, please? Could you do either or both of these 'jobs' and be willing to help us, or do you know someone who would be willing to come to Sharnford to help form 'Sharnford Community Choir'? If you can help or if you know a man/woman who can!

*Contact; Chris Berridge Tel 01455 273560*

### COMMBUS IS COMING TO SHARNFORD

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL

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Commbus is a local community transport service provider for senior citizens and registered disabled people. It has been running successfully for over 20 years currently serving 11 villages within the Blaby District Council area. It is operated entirely by specially trained volunteers and its buses provide a complete door to door service, with an escort on board to assist in carrying your shopping. Its aims are to assist people who have limited access to or are unable to use public transport and/or have difficulty in carrying shopping. Using its services provides you with personal independence in the comfort, safety and security of like-minded passengers. Commbus is also fully equipped and trained to carry all walking aids and wheelchair users.



**Sharnford Plant Sale**  
**Saturday 21st May 2016**  
Evergreen Village Hall, Sharnford

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Open from 9.30 to 12 noon

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For further information please contact  
Tony Curtis on 01455 272532

Commbus is now able to start offering its services in your community because of the imminent arrival of a new, additional mini coach. It provides weekday dial-a-ride services to various shopping venues and also offers periodic Saturday day trips to farther destinations.

Community transport is not financially supported by the government's bus pass scheme so there has to be a charge, kept as low as possible, for its services.

We currently run services to Hinckley Town Centre and Morrison's' Supermarket, every Monday and fortnightly on a Friday, both market days. These could provide a first opportunity for you to give COMMBUS a try. Progressively, as more Sharnford residents register and use its services the intention is to provide further services e.g. Fosse

Park. Commbus is also offering its services to Stoney Stanton and Sapcote, so you could go, if you wish, with a relative/friend from a nearby village.

All users of Commbus services will first need to register some basic details. This is done by telephoning the Commbus desk, between 10.00am and 12.00pm Mon-Fri, on **0116 2866116**. [Please leave contact details on answerphone if line busy] You will then be sent full details and a short registration form, to be completed and returned. There is no cost to register.

COMMBUS is very excited about this new opportunity for Sharnford and hope that you will be as well. Please register and give it a try. Commbus has delivered many thousands of journeys to satisfied passengers and hopes to do the same for YOU.

Many people have said it has had a really positive benefit to their lives.

*From the COMMBUS team.*



Hinckley Bullockers plough tour at the Countryman Sharnford – Jan 2016

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## **SHARNFORD VILLAGE WEBSITE**

The funding for our Village website, paid for by Leicestershire County Council and hosted by [leicestershirevillages.com](http://leicestershirevillages.com) ends in August 2016. The website will cease to function from a date to be advised in August. If you have content on the website, you will need to consider your options. The village site attracts over 55,000 page hits a year from around the County and indeed around the Globe. We have visitors from Australia and Canada who visit the site! It would be shame to lose all the information which is on there.

I raised this last year in the newsletter asking for expressions of interest to set up a new website and had only had one response. Without more interest it might not be viable to set up a replacement website.

If there is sufficient interest in the village to set up a new website, then we will form a group to do so. Please register your interest on our website page if you want to be involved <http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford/contacttony.html>

You might like to consider as an interim measure setting up a Facebook page for your group. These are free and work very well particularly with photos. If you are not familiar with Facebook, I am willing to show you how to get started.

**Tony Curtis**

To advertise in the **SHARNFORD NEWS** 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

**Please note that the deadline for articles in the next issue of  
Sharnford News is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**

### **Answers**

1.Antrim 2.Cornwall 3.Aberdeenshire. 4.Yorkshire. 5.Shropshire and Worcestershire.  
6.Lincolnshire. 7.Swansea or West Glamorgan. 8.Somerset. 9.Lincolnshire.  
10.Hampshire. 11.Inverness. 12.Dorset. 13.Lancashire. 14.Surrey. 15.Dorset.  
16.Yorkshire. 17.Warwickshire. 18.Derbyshire. 19.Suffolk. 20.Londonderry.

## SHARNFORD VILLAGE INFORMATION SHEET

**Sharnford Parish Council Chair:** Jack Feast 274678 email: bottlejack@hotmail.com  
Clerk: Matthew Scott 07810010893 email: matthew.scott@neovialogistics.com  
Meetings are usually held 3rd Thursday month 7.45pm Evergreen Hall

**Leicestershire County Council Councillor** Ernie White 272136

**Blaby District Councillors** Shiela Scott 272450 Iain Hewson 273957 & Deanne Woods

**Police - Call 101** - To report a crime that has already happened and any other incidents or concerns that do not require an emergency response.

**Doctors** Burbage Practice 634879 or Evergreen Hall Tues 11am – 12 noon  
Broughton Astley Practice 282599 or Evergreen Hall Thurs 12 noon – 1.30pm  
Stoney Stanton Practice 271442 Hinckley Road, Stoney Stanton

**St. Helen's Church Sharnford** Rector Rev Mick Norman (Sapcote) 272215  
Village contacts Cynthia Oliver 272977 or Chris Berridge 273560

**Methodist Chapel Sharnford** Revd Sue Howe 634168 Burbage & Sharnford  
Village contact Beryl Devenyi 273740

**Mobile Library** Visits on Thursdays every two weeks.

Calls at - Evergreen Hall 9.30 – 10am, Halls Crescent 10-10.30am

& School/Henson Way 10.35-11.30am Contact Lutterworth Library - 0116 305 3619

**Bus Service** X55 from 6.19am or 7.16am then every TWO hours Monday to Saturday  
To Leicester via Sapcote, Stoney Stanton, Thurlaston, Enderby, Fosse Park  
To Hinckley via Aston Flamville and Burbage.

**Sharnford Church of England Primary School** Henson Way - Sec 272456

**Sharnford Flood Warden** Jack Feast 274678

**Sharnford Evergreen Hall** To hire call Margaret Sanders 274038

**Sharnford Youth Club and Community Centre** To hire call Julie Edge 271321

**Sharnford Post Office** Eric and Gay Washbrook 272210

**Sharnford Village Groups:-**

**Evergreen Club:** Wednesdays twice monthly – contact Jean Dale 274772

**Little Explorers Playgroup:** Evergreen Hall Daily – contact Alison Bates 213779

**Bump, Babies & Toddler Group:** Tues 9.00- 10.30 Evergreen Hall (Term time only)

**Youth Club:** Community Centre. Fridays 6.30 – 8.00 pm Julie Edge 271321

**Over 60's Youth Club:** Community Centre. Wed 10-12.30pm Derek Gibbons 272401

**Craft Group:** Community Centre Mon (fortnightly) 7.30 – 9.30pm Kathy Bryan 272335

**Environment Group:** Evergreen Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 7.30pm Yvonne Jordan 274112

**Sharnford Traffic Action Group:** Evergreen 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 7.30pm June Feast

**St. Helen's Ladies Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Contact Leader Pat Jordon 272229

**Sharnford Golden Jubilee Fete Committee:** Contact Sue Stanley 273861

**Sharnford Cricket Club:** Contact 282542

**Sharnford Village Show:** Annual show in September Contact Tony Curtis 272532

**Sharnford Good Neighbour Scheme: Direct Help Line 07502 615535**

Chair Edwina Grant 07969313154

**Sharnford Village Website:** [www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/sharnford)

Contact the Webmaster Tony Curtis 272532 or email: tc-123@tiscali.co.uk



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