

SHARNFORD NEWS

1st December 2022

Issue No 83

A Project supported by Sharnford Parish Council.

CLOSING - SHARNFORD METHODIST CHURCH



It is with great sadness that the Methodist Church in Sharnford will be closing at the end of this year. The astronomical cost of necessary repairs to our listed building alongside a dwindling congregation mean that after much heart-searching and prayer, there is no alternative.

The church was built on land, known then as Allens orchard, and originally owned by Joshua Clarke. In 1827 the land was sold to the Methodists for £15.00 and the cost to build was £600.00, approximately £75,000 in today's value. The building has remained unaltered apart

from a small extension in the 1970s to facilitate a kitchen and toilet. In 1852 the land at the rear of the building for the burial ground was purchased for £10.00.

Our final service will be a carol service on Sunday 18th December at 3pm to which everyone is warmly invited. Our lay pastor is Mrs Anne Haddon. She can be contacted on 01455 617692

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas.

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SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

It feels like this Autumn Term is just rushing by at school this year and the children have been participating in a wide range of activities on and off site. It has also been lovely to welcome new families to the school as our intake of EYFS children settle in. All our classes continue to thrive as teachers plan lessons and activities in line with our recent curriculum changes and ensure that our vision of *'Many hearts make our school nourishing, flourishing and fruitful'* runs through all that we do here at Sharnford Primary.

Prayer Spaces

We were very fortunate to have Claire Sutcliffe and Chris Newlyn from the Methodist Church come into school to set up prayer spaces for the children to access. There was a huge range of inclusive activities set up and the children thoroughly enjoyed responding to each of them, reflecting upon the questions posed whilst recording their own thoughts and ideas. "I enjoyed the Jenga where you got to write a prayer to God. I wrote "thank you for my school, my friends and all my kind teachers at school."

Charity Fundraising

Our children have been very busy raising awareness or raising money – with the help of parents and carers of course! So far we have raised money for Hinckley Foodbank, Jeans for Genes, Hello Yellow and The Royal British Legion. Our next fundraiser is Children In Need. We have also raised awareness of anti-bullying by having an odd socks/tights day!

Class-Led Worship and the Nativity!

Redwood class led us all in thinking about sharing and caring for others less fortunate than ourselves at Harvest time and Hazel class shared their thoughts and feelings, as well as their prayers, in their Remembrance worship. Our EYFS and KS1 children are beginning to practise their nativity and we certainly look forward to that and all our other Christmas activities in this special season!

My School Fund

If any of our local community shop in Sainsburys or Argos for anything at all, then please consider signing up for My School Fund. The scheme simply adds money to a voucher which we then use in Argos to buy lovely little extras for the children here in school. Thus term alone we have received another £100 to spend in Argos which was split between items needed for the home corner in EYFS and some sensory play equipment needed in Y1/2. <https://www.myschoolfund.org/#/>


Sharnford PTA

Our PTA do an amazing job of fundraising for us and are already organising discos, toy sales and even Amazon wish lists for school. We certainly appreciate all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes there and the children benefit enormously from their dedication and commitment to our school. Thank you!

All About Us!

Our school website provides a wealth of information about our curriculum, policies, and procedures and also gives parents/carers an insight into what the children are learning each term.

<https://www.sharnfordprimaryschool.com/>

You can follow us on Facebook  at Sharnford CofE Primary and the school office can be contacted on 01455272456 or via email at sharnford@ipat.uk

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THANKYOU!
FROM THE PTA XX

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SHARNFORD SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND

Tickets for the Sharnford Sick and Dividend Fund Christmas raffle are now on sale at the village Post Office and can also be bought directly from myself – I usually have a supply with me so just stop me and buy a book or two! Sales of tickets are once again very slow this year within the village and many of the tickets already sold have been to “outsiders” on my travels. Thank you to those of you who have already bought tickets, but it would be nice to see more residents of Sharnford giving us help to keep this annual event going.

As always we need donations of prizes for the draw and many local businesses have already promised prizes - if you have a prize to donate please contact me on 274678.

The prize draw will take place on Friday 16th December at 8:00 pm, half of the tickets will be drawn at the Sharnford Arms and then we will go down to the Bricklayers and draw the remaining tickets. Distribution of the Christmas gift bags will take place on Saturday 17th December.

Any assistance with selling raffle tickets or the distribution would be greatly appreciated - please contact me if you can help in any way. I do hope you will all continue to support this prize draw which provides Christmas gift bags for the pensioners and widows/widowers of Sharnford. Thank you in advance for any help that you can give.

If you think you should be receiving a Christmas gift bag and were not on our list last year, please get in touch with me before the 5th December to see if you are eligible to receive one.

Jack Feast

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VTA

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10am-2pm. £1 entry, kids free!



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sharnfordpta.asa@ipat.uk



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SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

While writing this report the much regretted 15m tall Telecom monopole on Aston Lane is being erected. At least the parish council and local businesses received plenty of notice, and it is being installed over the weekend. It is an eyesore, but I am sure it will eventually blend into the background, and we can now look forward to the promised benefits of the 5G network.

Warning, this may not be the end of work on this pole. The initial planning



application was for a 20m high pole and several poles in Blaby District have been subject of further application to increase their height.

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DAMAGE TO PLANTER

You will have noticed over the last few months that the planters in the village have been looking well-kept and colourful with many varieties of plants and flowers, thanks to willing water & weed volunteers, so it was

with shock and dismay that a car ploughed into and over the planter on the corner of Leicester Road and Aston Lane. The incident happened at about 3.00am on Sunday 6th November causing major damage to the planter. Needless to say, the driver and car were neither taxed nor insured!

In the photo you will see the police taking notes and also attempting to contact the owner. The driver was observed leaving the scene which is an offence, and he could be charged. Penalties include a fine or up to six months in prison. Luckily the original designer and builder of the planters, David Sewell, and yours truly were able to repair the planter with some minor



alterations. Climbatize, who are responsible for grass cutting and tree surgery in the village, have very kindly offered to replace the damaged/missing plants.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The parish council were hoping to light up the village this Christmas with lights to equal those in Stoney Stanton, but our plans have been dashed with Leicestershire County Council not supplying the necessary electric connection on lamp posts in time. In all fairness, we may have left it too late applying. This will not stop our annual Christmas Light competition with best lights and dressed window. I promise that the lights supplied by the parish council will be in place by next Christmas.

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 3-5 pm. Full high tea enjoyed at each meeting. We have a full three course hot meal Annual Dinner and a Fish and Chip supper in September.

ALL WELCOME - Why not come and join us and while away a friendly afternoon in good company. New members are always welcome

Contact Jean Dale on 274772 or Carol Hunter on 271591

HIGHCROSS MONUMENT



donated by Croft Quarry and installed around the perimeter of the area.

While researching the area it has been proposed



the area around High Cross and Smockington Hollow could be the location of Boudica's last battle against

the Romans, AD60-61. According to Roman records, albeit vague, Boudica with 230,000 men met a Roman army of 10,000 and was defeated, losing 80,000 of her army. We are now waiting for



the information board which is being jointly purchased by Sharnford Parish Council and Visit Blaby (Blaby District Council). The board will describe the history of the area but will also have QR codes giving access to more detailed information from various sources. Thanks are given to the following for their donations and tremendous hard work:

Kirsten Cunningham & Pete Slaymaker – Croft Quarry

Steve Shuttlewood, Tollgate Cottage, Bumble Bee Lane – Moving the boulders

Terry Orton – The Old Barn, Bumble Bee Lane – Watering the grass and keeping an eye on the area

Please visit the site by parking at Fosse Meadows and walking up the Fosseway path. Don't forget to pick up after your dog and take your litter home.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The Boundary Commission for England has begun its third and final consultation on the new proposed constituency boundaries. The consultation will run until the 5th December 2022.

The Commission has made significant changes to its initial proposals for the East Midlands area and is inviting the public to view and comment on their proposals on the consultation website www.bcereviews.org.uk. There are slight changes to the existing South Leicestershire constituency but these do not affect Sharnford or the surrounding villages.



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07340 281604
silverswanshollie@mail.com

Photo: David Tett

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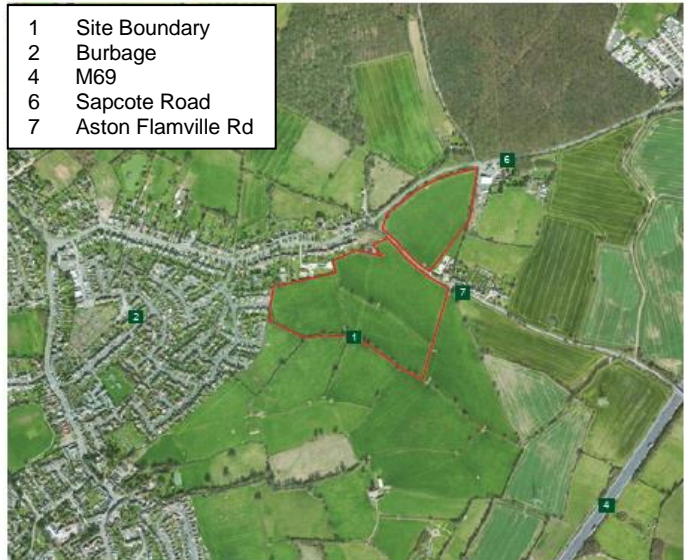
Silver Swans with Hollie

PLANNING

During the last three months there have been just a few planning applications mainly alterations to existing properties. The main changes are:

- Demolition of prefab offices and erection of new industrial unit – The Works, Aston Lane
- The withdrawal of change of use of agricultural land to form an extension to existing haulage yard on Aston Lane – 58 objections were received by Blaby District Council
- 103 acre solar farm both sides of Lychgate Lane, Aston Flamville.
- The latest application is from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council 22/01037/OUT – Land opposite and south of Pumping Station, Aston Flamville Road, Burbage. This is for a major development on the border between H&BBC and Blaby District

Residential development of up to 343 dwellings (Class C3), including provision of public open space, associated infrastructure and all matters reserved except access. This outline application is from Jelson homes and will be either side



of Aston Flamville Road at the junction with Sapcote Road. An OUTLINE application does not give details of properties but is generally used to find out, at an early stage, whether or not a proposal is likely to be approved by the planning authority

Residents are always welcome to attend parish council meetings, held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, in Sharnford Evergreen Hall at 7:30 PM. At the meeting you are able to raise concerns and ideas to be discussed at future meetings by your council. For up to date information about Sharnford Parish Council go to our Facebook or website at www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk

Name	Email	Responsibilities
Mike Shirley	mike.shirley@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	
Jack Feast (Vice Chairman)	jack.feast@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Poors Meadow, Flood Warden
Gary Peryer	gary.peryer@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Drains, Snow Warden
Lee Martin	lee.martin@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Sharnford Cemetery
Martyn Dalton- Brown	martyn.dalton-brown@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Play/Fitness Equipment Poors Meadow, The Park
Rosemarie Simpson	rosemarie.simpson@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	St Helens Churchyard
Steve Waters	steve.waters@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Bluebell Green, Streetlights
Karen Leck	clerk@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	

Mike Shirley, Chairman – Sharnford Parish Council

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SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE VILLAGE FETE

Sharnford Scarecrow Festival 2022

Sharnford's 2nd Scarecrow Festival was held over the weekend of 24th and 25th September. There were plenty of scarecrows around the village for villagers and visitors to track down.

This year's theme was Childrens TV and Film and there were lots of creative entries. The winning entry was "Pooh Bear Corner", and the second prize went to "Wallace & Grommit – The Wrong Trousers". There were two very close runners up "Toy Strawy" and "Mad Hatters Tea Party". A big "Thank You" to everyone who entered, voted and helped to run the event.

Village Fete 2023

Next year's fete will be held on 11th June 2023 so please save the date. As always, we are in need of new helpers for next year so that we can continue to run many of the attractions. If you would like to help, even in a small way, then please come to our AGM which will be held on 24th January 2023 at The Evergreen Hall.

The committee are always grateful for all those who help on fete day, but we are in need of volunteers who can bring fresh ideas as well as help with the planning and organisation that goes on at the meetings before the day. If you would like to get involved, then please can you contact either Emma Jones or myself as soon as possible to show your interest. We would love to see as many of you as possible at the AGM in January.

Sue Stanley Fete Secretary 01455 273861



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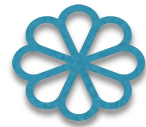
www.mbfwalking.co.uk

Email: alex@mbfwalking.co.uk





SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW



It's practically winter and the Village Show seems like a lifetime ago. We had a lovely dry summer but for growing it presented challenging growing conditions for everyone. But somehow you came good and found stuff to enter. Our first show since before Covid. It was a difficult decision to go ahead in view of the sad death of Her Majesty but the show could not realistically be postponed. The floral arrangements class, a tribute in honour of the Queen were taken up to St Helens after the show to display. It was a slightly low key event as we got back into gear after missing 2 years. Next year we hope to include more classes.

The best in show prize of £25 sponsored by Sharnford Lodge Saddlery was won by Tony Berridge with a very tasty Vegetable cake (so the Judges tell me). Running a close second was John Evrall with a very attractive painting. Deborah Powers won the best Veg, with 5 Tomatoes. Ian H. took the best Fruit with 3 Desert Apples. The best flowers won by Janet Curtis. The children's section was won by a super Lego Garden from Olivia Dorman-Matthews.

Thank you to everyone who took part and brightened up the Evergreen Hall for an enjoyable afternoon. We had lots of lovely cakes and preserves. Beautiful flower displays to brighten the room and some great entries from the children.

To our sponsor, Sharnford Lodge for the £25 best in Show prize and to the many exhibitors who have supported us over the years. We also thank all those who turn out to view the Show and thanks to the Evergreen Ladies for doing the refreshments. We also thank, The Bricklayers, The Garage, Sapcote Garden Centre, Sharnford Arms, Ullesthorpe Garden Centre, Ullesthorpe Court Hotel, and others for giving their support with raffle prizes.

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN HALL



There is a main hall, with tables and chairs, a small meeting room, toilets, including disabled, stage and a fully fitted kitchen with crockery and cutlery, cooker for reheating (but not for full cooking)

**£12 per hour for casual hire
Regular Groups enjoy a reduction in rates**

Charity events are discretionary but usually village charity events are free or by donation

We now have a digital projector and screen. These can be hired for the showing of films etc at a fee of £10 per session. All licences are in place for the showing of films.

***Tony Curtis, Email:
123tcurtis@gmail.com***

Sharnford Village Best Christmas Lights & Window Competition

Get into the Festive Spirit and enter this competition to decorate your window, or light up your house or garden

Cash prizes in each section.

1st Prize - £50. 2nd Prize - £30.

3rd Prize - £20

No entry forms. Parish Councillors will walk the whole village and choose the best lights and windows week beginning Sunday 18 December.



HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE (HNRFI)

Blaby District Council and Sharnford Parish Council were informed by the Planning Inspectorate (PIN) that Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Ltd. would be submitting an application for an Order granting Development Consent for the HNRFI on or about Tuesday 22 November 2022. However, yet again, the date has now slipped and is expected in January 2023.

Once the PIN receives the formal application there is very little scope for change. It is at this point the PIN moves to the heart of six point process:-

1. Pre-application

This is the stage we are currently at, having attended the various displays and submitted our objections to Tritax.

Before submitting an application, potential applicants have a statutory duty to carry out consultation on their proposals. The length of time taken to prepare and consult on a project will vary depending upon its scale and complexity. Responding to an applicant's Pre-application consultation is the best time to influence a project, whether you agree with it, disagree with it, or believe it could be improved. The Planning Inspectorate cannot consider representations about the merits of a proposed application at the Pre-application stage of the process.

2. Acceptance

This should be January 2023

The Acceptance stage begins when an applicant submits an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. There follows a period of up to 28 days (excluding the date of receipt of the application) for the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

3. Pre-examination

This is when Sharnford Parish Council will get involved by registering.

At this stage, the public will be able to register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. A Relevant Representation is a summary of a person's views on an application, made in writing. An Examining Authority is also appointed at the Pre-examination stage, and all Interested Parties will be invited to attend a Preliminary Meeting, run and chaired by the Examining Authority. Although there is no statutory timescale for this stage of the process, it usually takes approximately three months from the Applicant's formal notification and publicity of an accepted application.

4. Examination

Sharnford and Sapcote may use the consultant we employed at the Pre-application stage.

The Planning Inspectorate has up to six months to carry out the examination. During this stage Interested Parties who have registered by making a Relevant Representation are invited to provide more details of their views in writing. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority to all the important and relevant matters including the representations of all Interested Parties, any supporting evidence submitted and answers provided to the Examining Authority's questions set out in writing or posed at hearings.

5. Recommendation and Decision

The Secretary of State can overturn the recommendation from the PIN.

The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application to the relevant Secretary of State, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of the six month Examination stage. The relevant Secretary of State then has a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

6. Post decision

Once a decision has been issued by the relevant Secretary of State, there is a six week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court. This process of legal challenge is known as Judicial Review.

From Acceptance to Post decision can take up to 18 months.

**Before and After School Club
based at Sharnford Youth Club**

Sharnford Kids Club

Starting for new school term August 2021

4-11 years
Sharnford
Primary School
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activities:

- ✓ CRAFTS
- ✓ GAMES
- ✓ ACTIVITIES
- ✓ LEGO/TOYS
- ✓ BAKING

contacts:

☎ Louise 07976509507
sharnfordkidsclub@hotmail.com
f Sharnford Kids Club

Children will be walked up to school and picked up after.. Snacks Included.

SHARNFORD HISTORY

SHEEN - THE STORY OF TWO DISSOLUTE BROTHERS

Affectionately remembered, the late Pat Jordan 1928 to 2020, whose son Dave Jordan, kindly donated to the Sharnford News team some memorabilia of his mother's whilst disposing of her effects. This gesture was appreciated and has provided the tools for the team to work 'some magic' on and so produce these exceptional true tales.....of two dissolute Sheen brothers from Stoke Golding (Pat's mother-in-law was Florence Sheen who married Ernest Albert Jordan 27 Dec:1926 at Sharnford).

There was nothing remarkable that stood out about the family of Thomas and Mary Ann Sheen . Thomas, a frame work knitter, who fathered eight children, was from an old Stoke Golding family which we are able to trace back to a wedding of a Joseph Sheen and Eleanor Bradford in 1693 at Stoke Golding.

We turn our attention to the first of two of those eight children of Thomas and Mary Sheen - **Thomas Sheen** (bapt.17th Apr: 1817). Younger brother **Francis's** (bapt.19th Sept::1824)

It was teenage angst that caused the downfall of **Thomas (Jnr)** after an earlier altercation with a farmer at Stoke Golding - which started a downward irreversible path that had him commit the act of arson, which was then, punishable by death. Here pertinent extracts from the Leicester Mercury and Leicester Chronicle both dated Saturday 25 March 1837' **Thomas Sheen 19, and Samuel Kirkland**

17, were charged with setting fire to a stubble stack and a straw stack belonging to Thomas Hall, farmer, of Stoke Golding, on the evening of 1st. March'.....'important testimony was given by William Storer 19, who had been committed with the prisoners as an accomplice but who at the trial gave evidence against them.'....' Storer stated that Kirkland had the box of Lucifers (matches) and it was Sheen who set fire to the stackyard'. A 'Mr. Millner, addressed the jury at considerable length on behalf of the prisoners, but his observations were directed at the learned Judge, for mitigation of punishment'.....'Mr. Millner implored the jury to join with him, when delivering their verdict in recommending the unfortunate youths to mercy'.

The Judge in his summing up said....' some of your neighbours have given you good character. I am not willing to pass the extreme sentence of the law upon you; but I shall not have done my duty unless I sentence you to transport for life beyond the seas'.



Sharnford Over 60s Youth Club
Everybody welcome – Join in a relaxed and enjoyable morning with friends!
Table Tennis, Bridge, Bowls and Darts
Coffee & Biscuits!
Every Wednesday: 10.00-12.00
In the Youth & Community Centre

So common sense prevailed, the sentence commuted, and the boys were to be transported for life to Australia. Just who was the goodly Mr. Millner, who spoke so passionately on their behalf? Was he some sort of court advocate or just a good Samaritan or even a neighbour of the Sheen's? Intriguing.

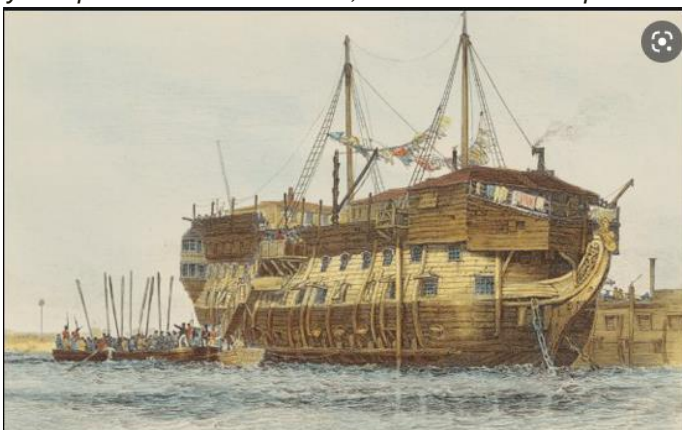
Below - from the Leicester Epiphany Assizes 1837-**Thomas Sheen** Jnr (19) and **Samuel Kirkland** (17) - the original sentence of **death**.



The Leicester Herald 20 May 1837 advised us that'removal of nine convicts from Leicester Goal on Tuesday to a prison hulk at Chatham, Kent to await transportation'.

Of the named nine these are mentioned - **Thomas Sheen** and **Samuel Kirkland**.

Right- the prison hulk on the Chatham mudflats was to be the *Fortitude* - a decommissioned man of war - that served as an interim prison ship for prisoners waiting transportation from 1833 - 1844.



Below - Register of prisoners aboard the hulk **Fortitude** dated 5 July 1837. It confirms the date of sentence - 18 March -for arson and a whole life tariff and that

3790	Thomas Whitten	19	Highway Robbery	Leicester	18 Mar	Life	10	Hulk	Chatham	to Board in Prison	20/7/37	John ...
3791	Samuel Kirkland	17	Arson	Leicester	18 Mar	Life	10	Hulk	Chatham	to Board in Prison	20/7/37	John ...
3792	Thomas Sheen	19	Arson	Leicester	18 Mar	Life	10	Hulk	Chatham	to Board in Prison	20/7/37	John ...
3793	James ...	...	...	Leicester	18 Mar	...	...	...	Chatham	to Board in Prison	20/7/37	John ...

Thomas could not read or write - that **Samuel** could read only. That they were both of 'good character and Respectful'.

Life aboard the **Fortitude** had to be endured from the end of May till 16 July 1837. It was vermin ridden, dark, foetid, airless with overcrowding between the 5 foot high old gun decks where it was impossible to stand up straight. Poor hygiene and sanitation was normal, with outbreaks of respiratory disease common place.

On 16th July 1837.....the **James Pattison** was made ready and sailed with 270 convicts .The ship was mastered by Captain Crommarty with a crew of 40. There were 30 guards, 4 women and 5 children on board. The

James Pattison was a commercial

merchant\passenger ship which delighted the convicts.

Luxury indeed! with space below decks to stand up straight!

The ships surgeon was to receive 10s.6d. for each convict delivered to Port Jackson, N.S,W, Australia, alive.

By exercising the felons on the top deck and providing regular better healthier food,

the ship arrived in Port Jackson after 101 days at sea

arriving 25 Oct: 1837. The surgeon delivered the total 270 convicts alive.

Above -The *James Pattison* - a painting on glass by Petrus Cornelis Weyts.

On arrival at Port Jackson, New South Wales, - the prison authorities produced a convict indenture for each of the incoming new arrivals. **Thomas Sheen** , now 20 yrs. whose indenture is enlightening- for we now have a physical description of him. He was 5ft. 4¾ins. tall, of ruddy and much freckled complexion, red haired with blue eyes. He also had red whiskers.

After years of hard labour, **Thomas** earned release. He married Phoebe Ellen Perkins in 1851 at Macdonald River, N.S.W. and fathered 6 or more children -whose Christian names mirrored **Thomas's** siblings back home in Stoke Golding. **Thomas Sheen** died 28 Mar: 1891 at Parramatta, N.S.W. He never returned home.

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' a terror of the neighbourhood'

Francis Sheen (bapt.19th Sept 1824). **Francis** was the youngest of the eight children of Thomas and Mary, and so the youngest brother to **Thomas**. He (**Francis**) appears in the 1841 census for Stoke Golding wrongly aged 15 yrs. but actually aged 17 yrs. Restless, even then, he joined the colours of the 47th. Lancashire Regiment -

possibly from their recruitment drive at Atherstone , - principally to get the Queens Shilling ,probably for drink. His army sojourn did not last long for he deserted and returned to Stoke Golding. The county newspapers between 1845 and 1847 variously described Francis Sheen -'a rogue, a thief, a vagabond, a terror of the neighbourhood. It was only when he was jailed in Oct.1847 prior to deportation that his escapades came to an end.

We first see of **Francis** in the newspapers, here in the *Leicester Mercury* , Sat. 27th Sept 1845. The mentioning of Stockport, Lancashire, that was home to the 47th.Regiment.

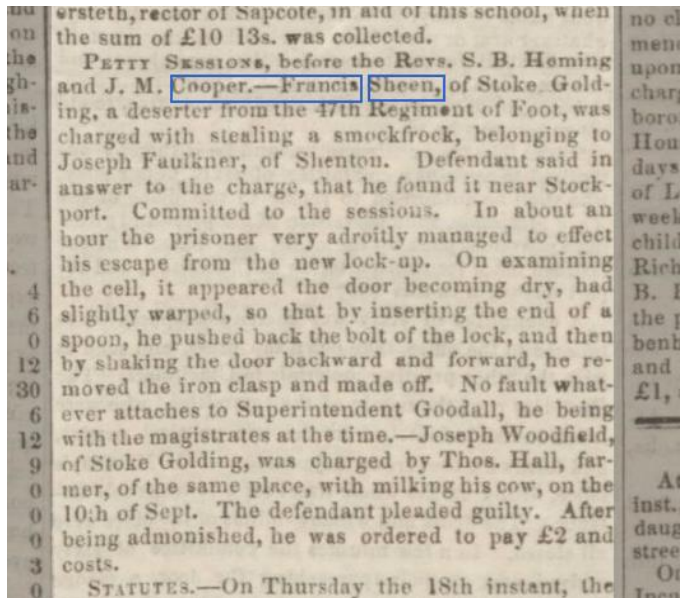
The petty Sessions were at Hinckleybut do read here of **Francis's escape from the lock-up.**

Interestingly, mentioned at the end of the piece, is the illegal milking of a cow at Stoke Golding belonging to farmer Thomas Hall....it was the same farmer that **Francis's** brother **Thomas** burned down the straw stacks in 1837!

With this escape from the Hinckley police station, **Francis** became something of *à cause célébrité* locally - much to the chagrin of Superintendent Goodall, senior police officer at Hinckley.

(The whole police force of Hinckley in 1845 comprised one superintendent, one sergeant and 3 constables). Considering that drunkenness was rife in Hinckley back then - mostly due to out of work framework knitters - and about 40 alehouses - it was an totally inadequate force.

Although a new police station was built in 1842/3, it was far too small. **Francis's** escape from his cell could have been from the small old prison in Stockwell Head still in use in 1847. The new police station was so small that only the Superintendent could live in - and that he, his wife and four children had to share the one and only bedroom.



Right - a policeman of the 1840's - often called Peeler's (after Robert Peel), but they preferred to be called 'constable'.

But **Francis** went on to excel himself with yet another escape which became a sensation. Fairly or unfairly, now anything stolen or broken into within the Hinckley area became attributed to **Francis**- even though he was locked away in a Leicester Bridewell (jail) in 1847. I am able to find 13 references to **Francis** in the Leicester newspapers in the two years 1845 - 1847.

Leicester Journal 5 Mar: 1847....'*Thursday 4 March 1847, Leicester Quarter Sessions'*....'*Francis Sheen (22), was charged with stealing a watch, belonging to Thomas Bodycoat; of Stoke Golding'*.....'*Sentenced to ten year transportation'*.

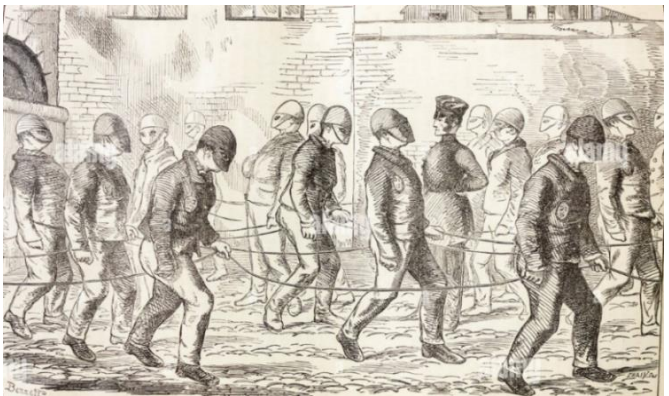
Leicester Mercury 20 Mar:1847.....**Escape of prisoner from County Goal**....*On the night of Wednesday last, a prisoner named **Francis Sheen**, alias Henry Miles of Stoke Golding, effected his escape from the County Goal'....'it appears that by some means he had secreted a knife in his cell, by which he took out a panel from the door. Then making his escape along the corridor into the airing-yard, he scaled the walls by means of blankets'.....He is twenty-two years old, 5ft. 6¼ins. high, with light hair, brown whiskers, grey eyes, and a red scar on his throat; he was dressed in drab jacket and trousers, white cotton shirt, and a blue neckerchief'.*

Leicester Chronicle 27 Mar: 1847...**Recapture of Sheen**....'*the County Police after hearing information that **Sheen** the escaped convict was in the neighbourhood of Stoke Golding; with a view to paying a visit to a woman called Mary Mann, with whom he had previously cohabited. Supt.Goodhall obtained the assistance of the principal part of the male population of the village, and went in pursuit of **Sheen**.'....'after a sharp run over three or four fields they succeeded in apprehending him'.....'he was afterwards conveyed in a fly to Leicester, and safely lodged in goal once again'.* Which Leicester goal it was I am not able to find.

From March 1847 until he was transported to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) in August 1850, **Francis Sheen** was lost somewhere in the penal system. It was unfortunate that this was an era of oppressive punishment (1846-1865) with inhumane enforced solitude by cellular isolation and by a series of measures designed to prevent convict to convict recognition or talking. Further measures included stalled chapels, individual exercise or 'airing yards', and with caps cum face masks. Madness and suicides were commonplace.



Right - prisoner exercise in the 'airing yard'. Note the face masks. That little escapade of escaping from the jail earned **Francis** another year onto his tariff making it now totalling 11 years.



On 23rd Aug: 1850.....this was the departure date of the *Rodney* from Portland (Dorset) to Hobart town, Van Diemen's Land. The ships master was Alexander McLean and **Francis** was one of 312 convicts on board. There were 4 deaths on board during the voyage.. The *Rodney* arrived at its destination 27 Nov: 1850.

Here (**right**) from the register of new arrivals in Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) **Frances Sheen**. The date of his last trial at Leicester -29 July 1847 is nicely shown and his tariff of 11 years.

Francis must have knuckled down and impressed the Van Dieman's Land prison authorities for he was pardoned after a combined imprisonment of 5

years + 4 mth. Release date Dec: 1852. A free man at last - but there was strings of probation attached.

Francis approached the prison commisioners for permissison to marry and gained a Ticket of Leave 10 May: 1853. His intended was 16 year old **Ann Rochford** (1837 - 1867).

175 3+7.

Names	Where convicted	When	Term of years
Thomas Grange Michael Burns Robert Bradish	Lancaster (Barr' of Manchester Quarter Sessions)	18 October 1848	Seven
John Atkinson	(Preston) Quarter Sessions	18 October 1848	Seven
Francis Sheen	Leicester Apsys at Leicester	29 July 1847	Eleven
Thomas Hubbard	(Leicester)	9 March 1848	Ten

The wedding certificate **Below** - the date 20th June 1853 at St. Joseph's Catholic church, Hobart. **Francis** gives a wrong age of 23 when he was actually 30 years of age. His profession is shown as a sawyer. Was he still cocking-a-snook at authority? A female child Frances Sheen was born 11th Sept: 1855 at Hobart. Three other children were born to **Francis** and **Ann** - at least two of the three were born in N.S.W. Australia. **Francis Sheen** died 12th Mar: 1884 at Lismore, N.S.W. - I wonder if the two brothers ever met up again.

1853 MARRIAGES in the District of *Hobart*

Number.	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
✓ 245	✓ 20 June 1853 Hobart Town	Francis Sheen Ann Rockford ✓	23 16	Sawyer	Thomas Sheen Sawyer Ann Rockford Spinster	Rev. Edward Ford W. Wall R. G.	20 June 1853	W. Wall R. G.

Married in the Church of St. Joseph according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Holy Catholic Church by Francis by W. Wall
 This Marriage was solemnized between us } Francis Sheen }
 } Ann Rockford }
 { In the Presence of us } Edward Ford }
 { } Catharine Reagh }
 Minister. R. G.



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ST HELEN'S CHURCH With St Mary's Wigston Parva



You are invited to a Christmas Cream Tea on Sunday 4th December 2:00PM – 4:00PM. This event was postponed due to



the death of Elizabeth, our Queen, in September. We hope you will join us for a Christmas themed Cream Tea

In September we welcomed our new Rector the Rev'd Jo Hover. It was a great pleasure to meet her and we are sure our church will benefit greatly from her ministry. We opened the church for 3 days in September for those who wished to write in the Book of Condolence on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

On the 13th November we held our service of Remembrance in Church and around the War Memorial which was well attended

DECEMBER DIARY

Sunday 4 th December	Cream tea 2-4 pm
Saturday 10 th December	Light a candle 12-4 pm
Sunday 18 th December	Christingle 10 am
Sunday 25 th December	Holy communion 10 am



Do you know of people in need a bit of extra support this Christmas?

If so, we are here to help!

It has been a tough year for many people in our community and so we would love to help, by delivering a Christmas food hamper and small gift.

This is a joint venture by the churches in Sharnford and Sapcote, the Hinckley Area Foodbank along with the primary schools for families and people in our community.

If you know of someone in need of some extra help this Christmas, please contact us

Rosemarie 07831371515

Penny 07926064214

From January our services will be back to every Sunday at 9.15 am

Rosemarie Simpson

SHARNFORD – HEDGEHOG UPDATE

Have you had any hedgehogs in your garden this year?

We have had them now for several years, although within their accepted life span (of about 5 years we are told) they can't be the same ones!

So what has been happening? They were very busy when they came out of hibernation, although they did not use the hog boxes, we provided for them, over last winter. We have no idea why not, however, they regularly ate the food left out for them, but they can be fussy.....

They are meat eaters, so in the past have tried different varieties and the one that always eaten is Spikes **semi-moist** with a light sprinkling of meal worms. We never leave meaty cat food out, since all the local felines eat it before the hogs have a chance!

We noticed a difference in habits during the two heat waves this summer. They didn't bother with the food - despite us digging a small patch of hard ground for them to forage for worms and beetles. They certainly appreciated the ground bird bath, since they drank well or sat in it, to cool down!!

We haven't seen any hoglets, but our neighbours have. We seem to see the same three adults, but not usually together. So how can we tell the difference, on our night camera?? One has a small paler patch of spines on his/her back. Another developed a limp, and tended to drag his rear right leg. We haven't been able to catch him/her, but he/she is moving better when last seen. And the 3rd is just as depicted on all hog illustrations. A classic looking hedgehog.

We are sure they will be hibernating soon, as the weather is changing and we have seen more activity overnight. In each hog house, we put a small amount of hay (never straw), gathered locally, earlier in the year, the hogs can then be seen collecting fallen leaves.

We have three homes for these little creatures, two given to us and one made, now a few years ago from a plan on Google! Also there are two log and brash piles in a quiet spot, to provide shelter during the day.

So if you have the time and space, have a think about encouraging this wildlife into your garden. These animals can travel up to 2 miles each night, so access to other gardens and fields is vital. Perhaps you are able to create a 'hedgehog highway', by making an opening in any fencing. It will be appreciated by them and us too, next year. Much of our knowledge is learned from the internet, although Kibworth Wildlife Centre are helpful too. We understand they have been inundated with hogs this Autumn, so if you think you have a space where you can over-winter one, please contact them 07951 285366 or www.leicesterwildlifehospital.org

Finally, you may know that if you see a hedgehog in daylight hours, it's in trouble.... So contact the wildlife centre for advice.

Sharnford resident- November 2022

THE

BRICKLAYERS

Great Food, Good Beer

2022 Christmas opening hours

Sat 24th Dec Noon till 10pm – NO FOOD SERVICE

Sun 25th Dec Drinks 11am till 2:30pm
FOOD PRE BOOKINGS ONLY

Boxing Day CLOSED

27th – 30th Dec Normal Service

Sat 31st Dec Noon till 12:30am – Food till 5pm

See the New Year in at The
Bricklayers with Live Music
From the fantastic band "Beats
Workin'" .Free Entry.

Sun 1st Jan 23 Sunday Roast – Min 2 Courses

**The Bricklayers,
23 Leicester Road, Sharnford, LE10 3PP
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Facebook @Thebricklayerspub**



BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Prospective Councillor Event for Blaby District community

If you are passionate about your local community, Blaby District needs you. Councillors make a huge difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. The Council wants people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they serve to put themselves forward for election.

An information session is being held in advance of the 2023 District and Parish Council elections for anyone looking to find out more about being a voice for the Blaby District community. May 2023 will see

elections for District and Parish Councillors, and Blaby District Council wants to see people stand for election, to help their communities have a say in local decisions. There is no need to be a member of a political party – all it takes is a desire to make a positive difference.

You do not have to be a member of the big three political parties to stand for election, you can be an independent councillor or stand for another party. The last District Council election saw several new Councillors elected, including an Independent Councillor with no political links.

No experience is needed to be a Councillor and support is available from Blaby District Council officers to help carry out the rewarding role.

The first information event takes place on Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday 6th December from 6-7pm**. Anyone interested in attending can email democratic.services@blaby.gov.uk to register. Key details during the one-hour session will include how to stand for election, an introduction to the district, what it's like to be a councillor and how the Council supports councillors. Information will also be given about being a Parish Councillor, and how being part of a Parish Council can help. The Council strongly believes that residents deserve a choice about who represents them, and is undertaking this proactive initiative to encourage as many people to stand as a Councillor. An in-person information session will be held on **Saturday 21st January 2023** at the Council's offices in Narborough.

Councillor Terry Richardson, Leader of Blaby District Council, said: "This really is a fantastic opportunity for anyone thinking about becoming a local councillor. "Our session is designed to give practical information and inspire anyone who has thought about this valuable and rewarding work, and we hope to see many interested people on the day."



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CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

J	C	E	Y	J	Q	A	R	X	Z	S	K	W	A
R	X	X	C	N	O	A	S	W	J	G	N	I	O
Y	U	C	A	R	D	Y	T	Z	D	E	P	O	G
K	L	I	N	V	D	E	A	S	J	D	S	R	W
P	L	T	D	J	D	M	R	S	C	L	A	U	S
T	N	E	L	P	C	A	R	O	L	S	H	F	S
P	R	M	E	S	C	H	U	R	C	H	T	S	S
R	E	E	O	X	D	O	N	K	E	Y	S	A	T
A	I	N	I	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	N	A
Y	N	T	O	M	F	A	M	I	L	Y	S	T	B
E	D	Y	N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E	A	L
R	E	U	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	Y	E
S	E	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	S
K	R	I	E	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	A

CHRISTMAS
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 SNOW
 CAROLS
 PRESENTS
 JOY
 EXCITEMENT
 DECORATIONS
 FAMILY
 JESUS
 CANDLE
 CHURCH
 PRAYERS
 NORTHPOLE

If there are any young budding editors out there that would like to put an article in the next issue then please email us at sharnfordnews@gmail.com

SHARNFORD EVERGREEN HALL



Future Bacon Buttie Dates

Saturday 10th December 2022–
Christmas Bacon Morning

Saturday 14th January 2023

Our Bacon Buttie mornings continue to be popular and our September morning raised £515 for Macmillan Cancer Care

We are looking for help in the running of our hall and club. If you could spare a little time and are interested in joining us, please give Rosemarie a call on 274158 or 07831371515

EVERGREEN CLUB

We enjoyed a lovely Fish and Chip Supper at the Bricklayers in September and on the 14th December there will be our usual Christmas Social afternoon.

The Club is open to everyone over the age of 60 who lives in the local area. Meetings are held every two weeks on Wednesday afternoons for quizzes, games and afternoon tea, with lots of chat thrown in. Our annual events are a fish and chip supper in September, bingo social and lunch for the Christmas celebrations, a trip to the Concordia pantomime in January, a meal out in the Spring and an afternoon tea in August. New members are always welcome so if you would like further information, please contact Karen Smith on 07952

Rosemarie Simpson

To advertise in the **SHARNFORD NEWS** please contact us:

Editorial Team: Ian 699051, and Jean Ryan 615820

Treasurer: Dave Sewell 272901

Email: sharnfordnews@gmail.com

To all our readers and supporters a Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year

**Deadline for articles for the next issue of Sharnford News is Thurs 16th
February 2023**

SHARNFORD ARMS

A Leicestershire Dog Friendly pub of the year winner

Sunday 4th December – Bodyshop Sale

Sunday 18th December – Christmas carols plus brass band

Christmas Eve – Alex' Christmas Pyjama party

Christmas Day – 11:00 to 14:00

Saturday 31st December – New Year's Eve party!!!

Opening hours

Tuesday – Thursday 16:30 to 23:00

Friday 16:30 to 00:00

Saturday 12:00 to 00:00

Sunday 12:00 to 22:00

Chinese Restaurant and take away service Tue to Sat 5:00 to 10:00

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OVER 60s YOUTH CLUB

The Over 60s Club continues to thrive and welcomes new members at any time...though of course to talk about 'members' gives a false impression because there is no 'membership' involved! The Club is essentially a drop-in facility where people are welcome to call in whenever they wish. Every Wednesday morning we are there in the Community and Youth Centre from 10.00 – 12.00, with Table-Tennis, Indoor Bowls

and....more recently Darts activity. We are still finding it difficult to get a foursome to make up a Bridge Table but we are still hopeful. And of course coffee and biscuits are never far away.

Anyone Over 60 (or anywhere near that vintage) is welcome to call in to see us and join in which ever activity they fancy. There is NO membership cost involved but we do ask for a £1.50 donation each week to help towards the Hall's running costs.

Derek Gibbons

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Tuesday 10am – 12pm

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Friday 2pm – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 1pm



DONATED BOOKS FOR SALE IN THE LIBRARY

Many new books have been donated by our customers to raise funds to keep our library in the community – come and take a look - there is something for everyone !!

PUBLIC COMPUTERS AVAILABLE FOR USE

Did you know we have 4 computers in the library available for your use?



MONDAY COFFEE ZONE 9.30 – 12.30

Chance to meet new friends and chat over a coffee and cake – all welcome!



'Knit and Natter'



Do you like knitting or crochet?

Do you like meeting people?

Whether you are experienced or just want to learn doesn't matter!

Just turn up on **Monday afternoons 1.30-3.00pm**

SHARNFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 - 08:45	Sharnford Kids Club
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
	ART & CRAFT CLUB	TBC	TBC
TUES	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 – 08:45	Sharnford Kids Club
	YOGA	10:00 – 11:00	Yoga with Adele
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
WEDS	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 – 08:45	Sharnford Kids Club
	OVER 60'S YOUTH CLUB	10:00 – 12:30	Derek Gibbons
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
THURS	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 – 08:45	Sharnford Kids Club
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
FRIDAY	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 – 08:45	Sharnford kids club
	YOGA WITH ADELE	10:00 – 11:00	Yoga with Adele
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
	YOUTH CLUB	18:00 – 20:00	Laura Thirlby
SAT	TOTS FOOTBALL CLUB	09:30 – 12:00	Footicubs

Contacts

Yoga with Adele – Adele 07837 927227 yogawithadele@live.co.uk

Sharnford Kids Club – Louise Moore 07976 509507

Over 60's Youth Club – Derek Gibbons 01455 272401

Footicubs – info@footicubs.co.uk

The hall can also be hired for weekend functions, please contact me 07825 924506

Laura - Sharnford Youth & Community Centre

SHARNFORD VILLAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Organisation	Contact	Details
Blaby District Cllrs.	Iain Hewson 273957 Deanne Freer 07530 319637 Mike Shirley 07539 994707	
Community Centre	Laura 07825 924506	
Doctors-Broughton Astley	(01455) 282599	Evergreen Hall Thurs 12 - 13:30
Doctors-Burbage	(01455) 634879	Evergreen Hall Tue 11-12
Doctors-Stoney Stanton	(01455) 271442	
Evergreen Club	Karen Smith 07952 893156	Wednesdays twice monthly
Evergreen Hall	Margaret Sanders 274038	
Flood Warden	Jack Feast 274678	
Golden Jubilee Fete	Sue Stanley 273861	
Good Neighbour Scheme	Direct Help Line 07502 615535	
Leics. County Councillor	Mrs M Wright 07815 450031 Mrs.M.A.Wright@leics.gov.uk	
Methodist Chapel	Local Pastor Anne Haddon 617692,	
Over 60's Youth Club	Derek Gibbons 272401	Community Centre Weds 10 - 12.30
Parish Council Chair	Mike Shirley 07539 994707 mike.shirley@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Meetings held 3 rd Thursday at 19.30 Evergreen Hall
Parish Council Clerk	Karen Leck 07422 718186 clerk@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	
Parish village website	www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	
Post Office	Eric and Gay Washbrook 272210	
Sapcote Library	Lorraine 3053674	
St. Helen's Church	Rev Jo Hover, Cynthia Oliver 272977	
Sharnford Ladies Group	Wendy Kendall 273889	1st Wednesday of month
Sharnford Pre-School	Alison Lancaster 07495 432569	Evergreen Hall
Sharnford Primary School	Mrs S Boyd-Hope, Acting Head teacher & Secretary 272456	
Sharnford Traffic Action Group (STAG)	Mike Shirley 07539 994707	
Sharnford Village Show	Tony Curtis 272532	