

# SHARNFORD NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> June 2023

Issue No 85

A Project supported by Sharnford Parish  
Council.



## SHARNFORD VILLAGE FEYE



**Disney 100**  
100 Years of Wonder

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**12-4**

# SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE VILLAGE FETE

**Village Fete 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 12 to 4 on The Park in Park View**

It's that time of year again. Fete Day is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June and this year we are celebrating 100 years of Disney, so save the date and come on down to the park to enjoy the magic of Mickey. The fete will be opened by our local MP, Mr Alberto Costa and he will also be presenting this year's Jubilee Cup.

There will be the usual favourites such as raffle, tombola, duck races, cakes, refreshments, BBQ and bar and lots of other attractions. Music will be provided by "Take It From the Top".

## **Two popular events will be making a return this year:**

The kids Fancy Dress competition is back so get your costumes ready. There will be 2 classes – under 5's, and over 5s with a prize for each class.

Tug-of War competition in memory of Russ Burrows, so we are looking for teams of 5 to take part. Please contact Jack Feast on [bottlejack@hotmail.com](mailto:bottlejack@hotmail.com) if you would like more details or would like to enter a team.

## **Door-to-door collections**

If you would like to make a donation of goods for the fete, helpers will be calling on the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June or if you prefer you can drop your donations off at 15 Park View. Donations can be for the raffle, bottle stall, tombola, book stall and toy stall. Please make sure that any items are un-opened and within the "best before" date, and ensure that any toys are clean and in good condition.

If you would like to donate cakes or other fresh goods, then please drop them off at the park on the day or drop them round to Sue at 15 Park View, or bring them down to the field on the Sunday morning. We can always use help on the day – either help with setting up, manning a stall or clearing away at the end of the day. Even if you can only spare an hour, it would be appreciated.

Please support this event if you can - all profits are distributed amongst the various groups in the village to help them with their activities. Even if you are not coming to the fete on the day, please buy a raffle ticket or duck for the duck race.

Please keep your fingers crossed that the weather is kind to us again. Look forward to seeing you all there.

**Sue Stanley (Tel: 273861)  
SGJC Secretary**



## CIRCUS ANTICS

**Taken from the BBC: A 99-year-old woman has achieved her lifelong dream of having knives thrown at her during a live circus show.**

Annie Duplock, from Sharnford, Leicestershire, stepped into the ring to brave the blades before a cheering crowd in Coventry on Friday.



The former circus worker, who celebrates her centenary in three months, was part of the grand finale of the Zippo Circus show. Afterwards she said she had "really enjoyed" the experience. Supported by a walking aid, Ms Duplock took her place in

front of a board as blades were hurled at her by a professional knife thrower. She had persuaded her daughter to ask her former boss, circus founder Martin Burton, to let her take part. Mr Burton said: "Annie worked for me 30 years ago, putting up posters.

"She was 70 years old then and she is 100 years old this August." He told the audience his former employee had seen the show the night before and asked to be part of the nerve-shredding spectacle for her 100th birthday treat.

After the performance, she said: "I've always wanted to have knives thrown at me! "I'm ready for the next one."

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# DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Sharnford Parish councillor elections were uncontested so all standing councillors remain in their seats for the next 4 years.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 elections for District Councillors, for Fosse Highcross Ward were held. Results were as follows:

Name of Candidate	Party	No. Of Votes
BADLANDS, Laura	Labour	351
DEAKIN, Joanne	Green	251
GREENWOOD, Tony	Liberal Democrat	269
SHIRLEY, Mike	Conservative	715 Elected
TAYLOR, Ben	Conservative	735 Elected

Mike Shirley and Ben Taylor, your recently elected Blaby District Councillors, would like to thank all voters who gave us their trust and confidence. To all residents, whoever you voted for, we can both assure you that we will fulfil our promise to represent you and give you a voice at Blaby District Council.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank candidates from the other parties for a clean contest.

*Mike Shirley & Ben Taylor*



*Cleaning Service*

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- Shopping

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**Sparkling Dust**



## THE SHARNFORD GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME – RELAUNCH

Since its launch in 2015 the Sharnford Good Neighbour Scheme has continued to operate thanks to its dedicated volunteers, many of whom have been supporting the Scheme from the beginning. However as you will be aware we had to step down some of the

Scheme's services during the pandemic and inevitably over time some volunteers have had to withdraw from the Scheme.

Therefore over the last 6 months the Steering Group have focused on recruiting further volunteers, to ensure we can continue to provide the full service, and we are delighted to confirm we have been successful in securing new volunteers.

So here is a reminder of what the Scheme is able to offer:

- Short term support to anyone over the age of 18 in the village, who from time to time might need some assistance.
- We can provide lifts to doctors, hospital or dental appointments (we would be grateful if you could provide as much notice as possible, ideally at least 5 days, as this is by far the most requested area of support)
- Collection of prescriptions
- Assisted shopping trips
- Small gardening tasks
- Small household DIY tasks

Please note the Scheme is primarily there for those who do not have any other source of support. The support is provided free of charge by the volunteers except for lifts, when there will be a charge to cover petrol expenses, for example a lift to Hinckley and back is £4.00. We will always tell you in advance how much a journey will cost.

To request support call 07502 615535 to speak to the Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator, you may need to leave a voice mail, but messages will be picked up at some point every day.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to Carl McPhilimey and Derek Gibbons for their many years of dedicated help and support, a couple of our long serving volunteers who have recently made the decision to step down as volunteers.

***Edwina Grant, Chair Sharnford Good Neighbour Scheme***



**Stories & Rhymes**  
For the under 5's  
**Every Tuesday**  
**(Term Time Only)**  
**10.30am—11am**

Sapcote Community Library,  
Church Street

Come with your children and share  
Stories, Songs & Rhymes  
FREE – DONATIONS APPRECIATED



# SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S END OF YEAR REPORT

The last year has seen many changes in our village, some "good" and some "not so good".

GOOD.

- We have purchased The Park from Blaby District Council for the princely sum of £1.50 however, legal fees will add £600 to the total bill.
- We have taken over grass cutting of roadside verges from County Council which means we no longer have to wait for them to turn up only 6 times per year but can now react to weather conditions. Reaction from the villagers has been favourable.
- The area at the top of the Fosseyway footpath, adjacent to Highcross Monument, has been improved with more work to be done.
- Alterations to the rainwater pipes under Brookfield now means no more wet wipes and human excrement entering Soar Brook.
- The bus stop on Aston Lane has been improved and extended to make it safe for Fox Connect and school bus passengers to wait on the correct side of the road. Fox Connect, a new public on-demand bus service is now well into its 3 year trial period, connecting the rural areas of South West Leicestershire, Hinckley Rail Station and the Crescent Bus Station. It also gives access to Enderby Park & Ride with access to City of Leicester.
- The Parish Council continues to give financial support to local groups which has been extended to include the Youth Club and Hope for Summer Charity, which provides food for families in Sharnford and Sapcote.

## SIX ACRES COUNSELLING

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07715 178874 / 01455 324008  
or email [45sixacres@gmail.com](mailto:45sixacres@gmail.com)**

- The Christmas Lights competition goes from strength to strength with even more homes lighting up our dark December nights.

#### Now for the “NOT SO GOOD”

- We now have a 15m Telecom tower on Aston Lane awaiting connection to 5G. Unfortunately District Council have little say on location.
- The X55 bus service was withdrawn 1st October 2022 due to lack of use. County Council could not justify the additional subsidy that would be required. The replacement Fox Connect, whilst welcome, does not provide the service lost. County Council have provided a school bus service to Hastings High School, but not for everyone, children in the north of the village are not entitled to use the school bus even if they are willing to pay.
- Lack of volunteers in the village means that the dog waste bin on the footpath to Fosse Meadows has had to be removed, and the hanging baskets on our lamp posts can no longer provide a colourful display without people to water them.
- The Land West of Stoney Stanton development of 5000 houses is still in its infancy but if allowed to go ahead will create a substantial increase in traffic through Sharnford and the destruction of the countryside
- The Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) has now reached the examination stage with the Planning Inspector and will take approximately 18 months before a decision is made by the Secretary of State for Transport. If the application goes ahead Sharnford can expect a substantial proportion of the construction traffic and up to 10,000 vehicle per day.



## AUTOFIT AUTO ELECTRICS

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Email Address: [autofitter@gmail.com](mailto:autofitter@gmail.com)

## Planning Applications

A number of planning applications have been submitted over the last twelve months, mainly extensions to homes, with the following exceptions: 4 new homes on Halls Crescent, Change of use of agricultural land to form an extension to existing haulage yard on Aston Lane (withdrawn with 58 objections to Blaby District Council) 103 acre solar farm, both sides of Lychgate Lane, Aston Flamville Latest – new house on School Lane.

## District Council

Sharnford is now a member of the newly formed District Council Ward, Fosse Highcross, which includes Aston Flamville, Elmesthorpe, Sapcote, and Wigston Parva.

After the May election we have two District Councillors to represent your interests, Ben Taylor and Mike Shirley.

## Sharnford Annual Parish Council Meeting

After the Annual Parish Meeting which was poorly attended by residents, the parish council meeting took place. The first business was to elect a new chairman and vice chairman. These positions were filled by Jack Feast and Gary Peryer respectively.

The parish council is entitled to 7 councillors but we were at 6 with one vacancy caused by Martin Dalton-Brown not standing at the recent council election. Martin has spent many years on the council and has always given sound advice on the various issues confronting members, he will be missed and receives our thanks for his time and valuable input. The vacancy was filled at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 18th 2023 by Chloe Denton who brings a younger perspective to the council.

Residents are always welcome to attend parish council meetings, held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, in Sharnford Evergreen Hall at 7:30pm. At the meetings 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 page or Website [www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk).

## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN CLUB

**Open to anyone over 60 who lives in the  
Village or the surrounding areas**

Come and join us at the Evergreen Village Hall in Sharnford - meetings twice monthly on Wednesdays. Full high tea, games and a quiz enjoyed.

Dinners and Teas out during the year and a visit to the Pantomime in January.

ALL WELCOME - Meetings are afternoons 3-5 pm

Contact Karen Smith on 01455 221350

Carol Hunter on 271591



<b>NAME</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Jack Feast	<a href="mailto:jack.feast@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">jack.feast@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	Chair Poors Meadow Flood Warden
Gary Peryer	<a href="mailto:gary.peryer@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">gary.peryer@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	Vice Chair Drains Snow Warden
Lee Martin	<a href="mailto:lee.martin@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">lee.martin@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	Cemetery High Cross Monument
Mike Shirley	<a href="mailto:Mike.shirley@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">Mike.shirley@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	Play/Fitness Equipment on Poors Meadow The Park
Rosemarie Simpson	<a href="mailto:rosemarie.simpson@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">rosemarie.simpson@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	St Helens Churchyard
Steve Waters	<a href="mailto:steve.waters@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">steve.waters@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	Bluebell Green Streetlights
Chloe Denton	<a href="mailto:Chloe.denton@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">Chloe.denton@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
Karen Leck	<a href="mailto:clerk@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">clerk@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	Parish Clerk

*Mike Shirley, Outgoing Chair – Sharnford Parish Council*

## **Jon Warner & Son Construction Building Contractors**

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## SHARNFORD VILLAGE SHOW 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

We are delighted to announce that the Show returns on Saturday 9th September and as usual at The Evergreen Hall. We have simplified a few things but basically it's the same show. We are pleased to be back when other shows like Broughton Astley one have folded. If you are on our mailing list a copy of the show schedule has been emailed to you. If you have not had yours one is available from the Post Office, contact us on FaceBook or ring me on 272532 and I will get a copy to you.

Start planning what you will make or grow for your entries. If you are new to the village or haven't entered for a while, come along and join us. It's all a bit of fun with a friendly atmosphere. We continue to look for village projects to support. If you have a project or major expense for something which will benefit the village please come forward to discuss. We will need to see a costed plan and to know if you will also be raising funds from other sources. A final reminder.

If you want to be sure of entering, please get your entry form in by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. Late entries and additions will be accepted on the day subject to space. You do not need to pay until the day. So support your village and enter our show or, just come along to view, have a cuppa and enjoy.

**Tony Curtis, 272532, [123tcurtis@gmail.com](mailto:123tcurtis@gmail.com)**

### OVER 60s YOUTH CLUB

Any Wednesday morning sees the gathering of *The Over 60s Youth Club* in the Community & Youth Centre in Park View. It is now 10 years since the old, dilapidated shed that had for so long been all that the young people of the village had available, was demolished.

The present, modern building was created thanks to the magnificent contributions made by so many village residents to raise funds, together with the efforts of a Joint Committee of the Parish Council and the Youth Club Trustees.

The idea of an Over 60s Youth Club came about to fulfil the promise that the facility should be for the Community as a whole, and it has certainly achieved that as we are delighted to welcome more and more of our older residents to our 10.00 -12.00 slot for Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Coffee and chat.

As ever, new faces are welcome at any time. No 'joining', No 'membership'. Just a 'drop-in' centre for all Over 60s.

**Derek Gibbons**



# WALKIES

## GOING BACK TO WORK AND WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING YOUR PET AT HOME?

MBF are able to provide a number of services for you and your pets: We can provide help with the following plus more:

- Individual and group walks
  - Pet sitting
  - House visits
  - Vet visits
  - Plus more

Call 07821 752 585  
for more details or go to

[www.mbfwalking.co.uk](http://www.mbfwalking.co.uk)

Email: [alex@mbfwalking.co.uk](mailto:alex@mbfwalking.co.uk)



## HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE

The public are now able to register their interest and make initial representations on plans for the 662-acre Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange.

This is part of the next round of consultation on the plans – the Relevant Representation stage – which runs until 23 June. A Relevant Representation allows members of the public to set out their initial views of

the application in writing, and this can be done by filling in the **Registration and Relevant Representation form** on the Planning Inspectorate website (Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange | National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk), or by telephoning the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 to request a paper copy. Those individuals who submit a Relevant Representation then automatically become an Interested Party which entitles them to submit a more detailed representation later in the process and will mean they are invited to a Preliminary Meeting with the Examining Inspectors, should they wish to attend.

Last month the Planning Inspectorate accepted the submission of the rail freight hub plans, allowing the application to progress for further examination. The Planning Inspectorate is dealing with the application due to its size and scale. The final decision on whether the plans are passed or rejected will be made by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Along with other local councils, Blaby District Council is a consultee in the process. The Council has already raised major issues with the application, saying last year's public consultation was inadequate. It said there were failures to provide accurate detail and mitigation on impacts on highways and the landscape, as well as the extra barrier down time at Narborough Level Crossing in terms of its effects on both traffic congestion and air quality for residents.

The major scheme, earmarked for 662 acres of land between the M69 and the Leicester to Birmingham railway line, falls mainly within the boundary of Blaby District Council, south-west of Elmesthorpe village. The development would reach to the fringes of Burbage Common in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough if it is permitted - the size of it would swallow up Burbage Common three times over. The design includes

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a rail port able to deal with as many as 16 trains up to 775m long per day, with areas for container storage and cranes for loading and unloading shipping containers from trains and lorries. If approved, there would be up to 850,000sq m of warehouse and ancillary buildings, including the scope for some buildings to be directly rail connected if required. Also planned is a lorry park, a new A47 link road and south facing slip roads onto the M69.

The Council is now preparing its own Relevant Representation response for submission by 23 June.

## **SHARNFORD EVERGREEN HALL**

### **HIRING**

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.

#### **BOOKINGS**

Tel Dawn on 01455 273751/07854635976

## **SHARNFORD LADIES GROUP**

In March we had an interesting, illustrated talk from David Grimshaw about the Clocks of Leicestershire, some of which we knew about others were new to us. In April Bill Haley gave us an entertaining, illustrated talk about *Life on the Royal Yacht Britannia*, we looked out for him at the coronation, as he had been invited, but I don't think anyone saw him. To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III we had an afternoon tea with a royal quiz, this was enjoyed by all the members.

In June we are having a talk by Paul Gardner on Bygone Times - Hinckley past and present, in July we are planning our knitting for Christmas with some puddings to help us concentrate and possibly a quiz. In August we are having amusing stories from a belly dancer, fire eater and snake charmer! Although there won't be any fire or snakes! Ladies Group meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Evergreen Hall, guests are always welcome at a cost of £4 to include coffee.

**Lynda**



## SHARNFORD – HEDGEHOG UPDATE

Well it's been a quiet winter for the hedgehogs and since our night camera is not working, we couldn't check them out at dusk. However there was some activity since the food was being eaten up to mid-November and the usual faeces appeared! And so to bed – we hoped- for these little

spiny creatures.

We started putting food out again Mid-March, but it wasn't always taken. So we continued, as they may have been late to come out of hibernation. Today, it's now the middle of May, food all gone every morning, and time to check the boxes for a clean-up. BUT lo and behold, two of the homes were occupied, with just a little stirring amongst the hay!!

How good to know that have stayed... So we must get a new camera, in time for all the summer activity. Will report again after the summer, its looking good though. If you have had some success with the hogs please let the Sharnford News editor know – it would be interesting to know how good (or not so good) these village 'residents' are doing.

**Sharnford resident**



### *Tai Chi with Soul*

Broughton Astley Village Hall - Monday 1.30 - 2.30pm

George Ward Centre, Barwell - Tuesday 7.00 - 8.00pm

Gentle movements matched to breathing. Focused relaxation.

£6.00 per class.

**Contact Malcolm on 07708 324008 or 01455 324008**

..... or just turn up and see what's it all about.

# SHARNFORD ARMS

**A Leicestershire Dog Friendly pub of the year winner**



## EVENTS

**Music nights – TBC**

**Opening hours**

**Mondays – 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**



**Email us at [silkieshamford@gmail.com](mailto:silkieshamford@gmail.com) or join us on Facebook to see all events and read all about us on Tripadvisor**

# KING CHARLES CORONATION 2023


What a difference between the coronations in Sharnford in 1953 and 2023. I'm sure I cannot be the only one to feel so disappointed in the lack of celebrations in Sharnford. Whilst some did make the effort in putting up bunting and flags, they were few and sparse. I understand there was just one street party on Monday, in the end of Park View. Congratulations on taking up the wishes of the King, despite no initiative from anyone in authority in Sharnford.

As a young boy in 1953 I still have wonderful memories of the day of celebrations in Sharnford. Everyone in the village was involved somehow, with activities starting as early as 6.30am with the St. Helen's bells ringing the Coronation Peal. Later in the morning Holy Communion was followed by a Coronation Service and then the celebrations started at 2.0pm. A Carnival and Parade was followed by tea – in three sittings for 470 folk! There was a Presentation of Coronation Mugs to all children. The day wasn't finished then either. Sports at 6.0pm was followed by a dance in the YMCA until 1am – with Fireworks and a Bonfire at 10.30pm. The Sharnford Silver Band played music throughout the day and the Church Bells rang at various times.

The Rector at that time was The Rev. W.R. Witcombe, who produced a 24-page record of village life and activities of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 11. I still have a copy and include the page listing the celebrations on the day. To give you an idea how different times were in those days, there was a Coronation Committee of 36, a Parish Council of 5 and there were 19 prize winners for events like – Best decorated house, Children's fancy dress, Decorated cycle and Decorated vehicle. By the way it rained most of the day!

Now you might understand my disappointment for the lack of celebrations in Sharnford for the Coronation of King Charles 111. Perhaps it is indicative of life in general in this modern age, with people preferring to communicate by phone or email, rather than face-to-face. Also, now there is a large TV in every home (the first ones at the time of the 1953 Coronation were 9 inches...and black & white) there is less reason to leave the house and mix with your neighbour. But surely on special occasions like this, some group, like the Parish Council, could have made an effort.

**Billy Higginbotham.**



**SHARNFORD**  
**CORONATION CELEBRATIONS**  
TUESDAY, 2ND, JUNE, 1953

*Programme*

**6.30 a.m.** Bells will ring a Coronation Peal.  
**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion at the Parish Church.  
**9.15 a.m.** **CORONATION DAY SERVICE** at the Parish Church (conducted by the Rector).  
**2.00 p.m.** **CARNIVAL & PARADE.** (Entrants assemble on New Inn Car Park).  
PRIZES for BEST DECORATED TABLEAU — BICYCLE — PRAM  
PRIZES for FANCY DRESS — HISTORICAL — ORIGINAL — COMICAL.  
PRIZES for BEST DECORATED HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE.  
**2.30 p.m.** **PARADE** moves off round village, headed by SHARNFORD SILVER BAND.  
**4.00 p.m.** **TEA** in the Y.M.C.A. INSTITUTE for those holding RED TICKETS.  
**4.45 p.m.** **TEA** in the Y.M.C.A. INSTITUTE for those holding WHITE TICKETS.  
**5.30 p.m.** **TEA** in the Y.M.C.A. INSTITUTE for those holding BLUE TICKETS.  
**CORONATION MUGS** will be presented to ALL CHILDREN (up to school-leaving age) at the time they attend for their tea by the Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Wittcomb.  
**6.00 p.m.** **SPORTS for Children and Adults** on the Sports Field.  
**8.45 p.m.** **DANCE** in the Y.M.C.A. INSTITUTE (until 1 a.m.).  
**10.30 p.m.** **FIREWORK DISPLAY and BONFIRE** on the Recreation Ground.

*GOD SAVE THE QUEEN*

**SHARNFORD SILVER BAND** : **THE BELLS of the PARISH** will play selections at : **CHURCH** will be rung at intervals throughout the day. : intervals during the day.





## GOD SAVE THE KING!

Residents of Park View made the most of Coronation Weekend by holding their own Street Party on Sunday 7th May. Thanks to the sterling determination of Rowena and Tracy Avis, some 30+ people enjoyed the quite exceptional weather by spreading their tables and chairs all around the “spur” section of their road which had been properly authorised for closure. A co-operative approach for the provision of the food, with each family putting sandwiches, quiche and cakes on to the central table, ensured that there was plenty to enjoy alongside the wide range of drinks – alcoholic and not – so that a most sociable spirit was soon generated.

As far as we know, this was the only street party held in Sharnford, in stark contrast to the village-wide celebrations that occurred for the 1953 Coronation, but it was unquestionably a most enjoyable afternoon, worthy of the occasion.





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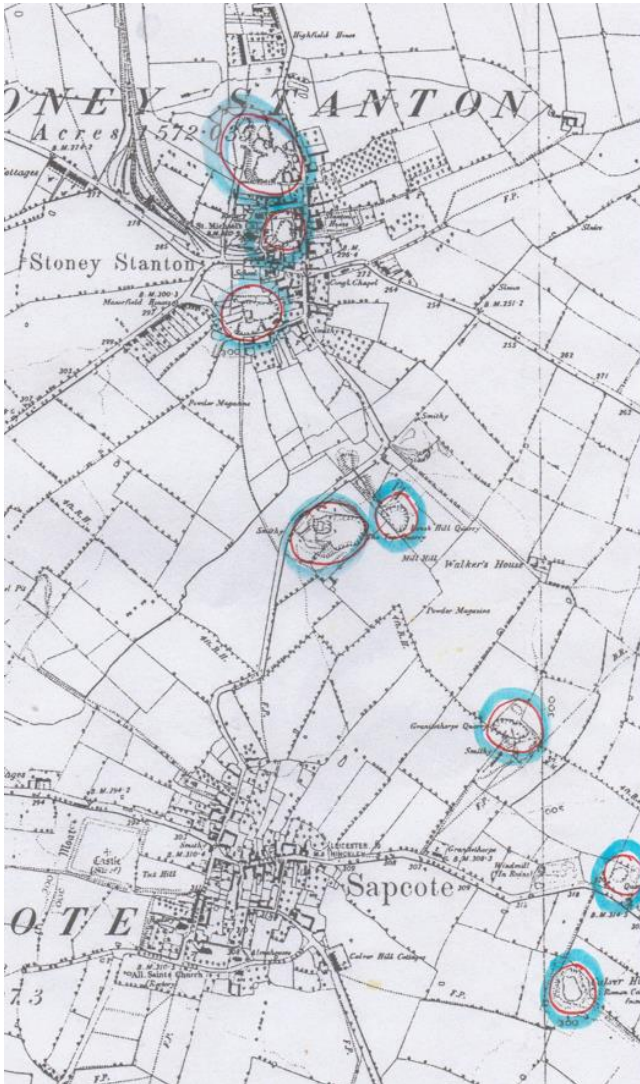
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Whether for business or leisure, Abbey Farm is the choice for the discerning traveller. Each self-catering cottage has under floor heating, a wood-burner, fitted kitchen and en-suite bathroom

# SHARNFORD HISTORY

## SHARNFORD'S QUARRYMEN



Like rivulets that become a stream, the stream that becomes a river - men from all parts of Sharnford make their way to the well-trodden footpaths that wind their way to the quarries of Sapecote and beyond.

Perhaps a lucky few will have bicycles but they are far and few between. It is a damp chilly spring morning in late March 1901. It is 5am

Twenty-five of these village men we know, have permanent jobs in the quarries – others go in the hope that it will be an hiring day and will be there to wait at 6.00am the overseers labour requirements – if any that day.

**Left** - circled in blue the eight quarries of Sapecote/Stoney Stanton.

One of the employed 25 men is Sharnford born 28 yr. old John William Edmund Chamberlain, husband to Ellen father to 1yr. old Elsie May. John's walk ends at Carey Hill quarry, Stoney Stanton-

where he has the good fortune to be employed as a quarry engine driver. They were married at St. Helens church in Sharnford 4 April 1899, and before long set up their first home in Stoney Stanton to alleviate the need for the long walk but by March 1901 were living once again in Sharnford where they were to stay and raise 3 children.



Our John Chamberlain, the train driver, would have had little time for his family, working perhaps a 72 hour week. John was born in Sharnford in 1873, the eldest child of nine to William and Sarah Chamberlain. He married Ellen Gertrude Lucy Butler, the daughter of a policeman. Ellen's early life was marred by the death of her father, and she was placed in the Newwalk female orphanage in Leicester until the age of thirteen - when she placed in service at Sharnford Rectory.

**Left, c. 1897**, the servants at the Rectory - with Ellen Butler aged 20 in the middle.

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



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f Sharnford Kids Club

Children will be walked up to school  
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1899. Marriage solemnized *after hours* in the Parish of *Sharnford* in the County of *Leicester*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
220	<i>April 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>John William Chamberlain</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>	<i>Sharnford</i>	<i>William Chamberlain</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>
		<i>Ellen Gertrude Butler</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>St. Peter's Leicester</i>	<i>Edmund Butler</i>	<i>Police Constable</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England* by me, *Richard James Webb*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John William Chamberlain* in the Presence of us, *Richard James Webb* and *Ellen Gertrude Butler* *St. Peter's Leicester*

**Above** - The wedding of John Chamberlain and Ellen Butler 4 Apr: 1899 at St. Helen's, Sharnford.



**Photo 1** - Stoney Stanton's Carey Hill steam trains. Perhaps John Chamberlain is in this picture.



**Photo 2 (1919)** -In the background St. Michael's church is visible plus the tunnel that ran beneath New Road. Stoney Stanton was to become a veritable rabbit warren of quarries and tunnels within the village. In 1880 the quarry was 40 feet deep. By 1932 when the Carey Hill site closed, the quarry had reached a staggering depth of 160 feet.



**Photo 3 – today** it is now filled in. Through all 3 photographs St. Michael's church is roughly viewed from the same perspective. Within a short distance of Sapcote, the village could boast 8 quarries – Clint Hill Calver Hill, Sapcote Leicester Road (Lovatt's), Granite Thorpe, Little Pit, Carey Hill, Top Pit and Lanes Hill. (Lanes Hill known as Stoney Cove today).

The quarries were mined for the fine grained compact syenite granite - an igneous rock which is not found elsewhere in Britain only here below Charnwood Forrest, with Sapcote being a southerly extension of this rock field. Its excellent qualities made it ideal for making road setts and kerbs which were very much in demand through England and farther afield.

As in all trades there are always some men who stand out as being classic examples of the craftsman, and the sett maker was no exception to this rule. There was even a Settmakers Union such was there prestige. There was a financial hierarchy amongst the quarry workers – foremost the shot fixers who were the elite of the bottom workers - who hand drilled into the rock, packed the holes with explosive and proceeded to blast the rock face into manageable pieces. A dangerous job.

Next were the sett makers who worked at the top of the quarry in open windy sheds – at least they were able to keep out the majority of the rain. Lastly, more bottom workers – the Knocker ups - fit young men who with their whipping/

**Sharnford Over 60s Youth Club**

**Everybody welcome – Join in a relaxed and enjoyable morning with friends!**

**Table Tennis, Bridge, Bowls and Darts**

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**At the Youth & Community Centre**






bursting hammers manually split the larger pieces of blasted rock into a more manageable size for the sett maker.

The granite came to the sett makers in solid blocks from the bursting men. It came in a fairly rectangular shape from which the sett maker would chop out possibly several setts, according to the size of the block – and the size of the sett required, be it 3"x4", 4"x4", 4"x5". He would then proceed to dress the sett by reading the

veins in the granite and chipping off bits here and there, reducing them to their correct size and shape.

We know the ages of the 25 Sharnford men (in the first paragraph). They ranged from 17 to 71 years and one suspects that the elder amongst them would be sett makers. An example of the skilled sett makers work shown here (**above**) granite setts seen surfacing our Sharnford village bridge over the Soar which was built in 1880.



**Left** - Men of Top Quarry pictured at the latter end of the century c. 1890. Perhaps there are Sharnford men here.

All quarry workers were tough and 'hard-nosed'. They had to be -to withstand working through all weathers outdoors and long hours. A 6.00am to 6.00 pm, 6 days a week, plus up to an hours walk each way

was usually the norm – definitely not for the fainthearted. They were a breed apart and there was a certain camaraderie amongst the workers. Each one was ‘his own man’, an individual ‘character’ who usually had a nickname bestowed on him. But things were not always hunky-dory in the quarries – for in 1892 there was a strike at Stoney Stanton Carey Hill quarry for shorter working hours and better pay. It lasted months - and caused great hardship. Their pay depended on daylight working hours and of course winter meant shorter hours which meant less pay. With the gathering of war clouds in 1914 - so many of the fit young men joined the colours that it forced Granitethorpe quarry to close by 1915. Those young men were to exchange one hell for another hell.

Acknowledgement

Dedicated to the memory of my late friend Mr. Keith Hextall of Sapcote Heritage Group. We were of the same mind and he is sadly missed.



<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<p><u>Sharnford Youth and Community Centre</u></p> <p>9.30-10.20am Silver Swans (Class 1)</p>	<p><u>Evergreen Hall</u></p> <p>10.00-10.45am Beginners/ Low Impact Tap</p> 		<p><u>Sharnford Youth and Community Centre</u></p> <p>9.30-10.20am Silver Swans Improvers</p>	<p><u>Sharnford Youth and Community Centre</u></p> <p>11.30-12.15pm Adult Dance Conditioning/PBT</p>
<p>10.30-11.20am Silver Swans Fundamentals</p>	<p>10.55-11.25am Intermediate Tap/Exam Class</p>		<p>10.30-11.20am Silver Swans (Class 2)</p>	<p>12.30-1.15pm Intermediate Ballet/Exam Class</p>
<p>Visit: <a href="http://www.bookwhen.com/silverswanshollie">www.bookwhen.com/silverswanshollie</a> Email: <a href="mailto:silverswanshollie@mail.com">silverswanshollie@mail.com</a></p>				



## The Old School Surgery - Patient Participation Group

This Group has started meeting again and is looking for a diverse representation of new members. The primary purpose of the Patients Participation Group is to represent the views and experiences of **ALL** member patients at the surgery. This is to help the surgery be proactive in providing services that reflect the requirements of the patients.

It is an advisory body, open to all patients registered with the surgery (including carers of patients). It is an opportunity for staff and patients to discuss topics of mutual interest. At present the group meets every 2 months during the day, at the Living Rock Church in Stoney Stanton. It is hoped in the future to hold alternate meetings in the evening to allow those unable to attend during the day a chance to have their say. The Group are working on a webpage, a newsletter and planning to have an information stall at the Stoney Stanton Carnival on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> 2023. If you are interested in joining or for more information, please contact Clarissa Morrall, Admin/Reception Manager at the surgery [clarissa.morrall1@ns.net](mailto:clarissa.morrall1@ns.net) 01455271442 or Maggie Wright Chairman on [wrightmaggie@live.co.uk](mailto:wrightmaggie@live.co.uk) 07815450031



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FOR MENUS AND EVENTS CALENDAR



**ST HELEN'S  
SHARNFORD  
& ST MARY'S  
WIGSTON PARVA**



**SUMMER DIARY – ST HELEN'S**

ALL SERVICES ARE AT 9.15 AM

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month

Holy Communion  
Morning Worship  
Holy Communion  
Morning Worship

When there are 5 Sundays in any month, a service is held alternatively at Sharnford or at ALL SAINTS, SAPCOTE at 10.00am

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> JULY

Joint Communion at Sharnford

We held our Church AGM on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Bill Higginbotham and Christine Clerk were re-elected as Church Wardens. We thank them for all their hard work during the past year. During the Coronation Weekend a full Church Peel was rung by visitors to our church from Yorkshire and a short peel was rung to celebrate the Coronation.

On Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> May we held our first Cream Tea in the church. It was well attended and everyone had a lovely time chatting and meeting together. We raised £360.00 towards the repainting of the inside of the church. The next cream teas event will be **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

**SUMMER DIARY – ST MARY'S, WIGSGTON PARVA**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Summer Service

3 pm

***Rosemarie Simpson***



## SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL AND EVERGREEN CLUB

Future Bacon Buttie Dates

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

In March our Fairtrade coffee morning, organised by the Hall, Club and Churches, raised over £629 for Action Aid and some of this went to help the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. In April we held another successful Bacon Buttie morning and raised over £500 towards the maintenance of the hall.

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

Our members continue to meet fortnightly on Wednesdays and we enjoyed a Coronation Cream Tea at Ullesthorpe Garden Centre in May. We would love to meet new members to share our usual tea meetings with.

The Club is open to everyone over the age of 60 who lives in the local Blaby 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 at Christmas, a trip to the Concordia pantomime in January, a meal out in the spring and an afternoon tea in the summer. New members are always welcome so if you would like further information, please contact Karen Smith on 07952 893156. We look forward to seeing you.

***Rosemarie Simpson***

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Email: [sharnfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:sharnfordnews@gmail.com)

Deadline for articles for the next issue of Sharnford News is  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

# SAPCOTE COMMUNITY LIBRARY



[www.sapcotecommunitylibrary.org.uk](http://www.sapcotecommunitylibrary.org.uk)



## LUNCHTIME TALK – VISTA'S DIGITAL DYNAMOS

**12.30pm WEDNESDAY, 14th JUNE**

**£5 including tea / coffee and delicious scones**

Sapcote Community Library has reintroduced its Lunchtime Talks following a break during the Covid pandemic. They are very excited that Brian Negus BEM is giving their next talk at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June on Vista's Digital Technology.

Brian is a volunteer with Vista, the local charity that is improving the lives of people with sight loss. He is register blind himself, having a genetic condition called optic atrophy, which has slowly reduced detail in his vision since childhood. He has had a successful career in mathematics and computing and retired as Director of Computing Services for Loughborough University. He considers himself extremely fortunate to have been born when he was since, as his vision degenerated, improved technology came along to help him live independently and remain in employment.

He's now passionate about sharing his knowledge of technologies that help blind people of all ages and technical abilities to take advantage of today's amazing range of devices to help cope with sight loss. You definitely don't need to be a 'techie' to take advantage of much of what is now widely available. Brian was awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours last year in recognition of his voluntary work with low vision and blind people and particularly his activities during the pandemic. He may even be able to show you some photographs from the King's pre-coronation garden party!

Please join us for a very interesting and enlightening talk. Tea, coffee and delicious scones are included in the price of just £5 and proceeds will be donated to Vista. To reserve a place visit the library or email [sapcotecommunitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:sapcotecommunitylibrary@gmail.com). Seats will be available on the day but pre-booking is preferred. We look forward to seeing you.

## SHARNFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

<b>MONDAY</b>	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 - 08:45	Sharnford Kids Club
	OVER 50'S BALLETT	09:30 - 11:30	Silver Swans
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
	KIDS ART & CRAFT CLUB	18:00 - 19:00	COMING SOON
<b>TUESDAY</b>	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
	KIDS LEGO CLUB	18:00 - 19:00	COMING SOON
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	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
<b>THURSDAY</b>	BREAKFAST CLUB	07:45 – 08:45	Sharnford Kids Club
	OVER 50'S BALLETT	09:30 - 11:30	Silver Swans
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	15:15 – 17:15	Sharnford Kids Club
<b>FRIDAY</b>	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	COMING SOON
<b>SATURDAY</b>	TOTS FOOTBALL CLUB	09:30 – 12:00	Footicubs

Yoga with Adele – Adele 07837 927227 [yogawithadele@live.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:info@footicubs.co.uk)

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

**Laura - Sharnford Youth & Community Centre**

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## SHARNFORD VILLAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Organisation	Contact	Details
<b>Blaby District Cllrs.</b>	BenTaylor 01455 712108 Mike Shirley 07539 994707	
<b>Community Centre</b>	Laura 07825 924506	
<b>Doctors-Broughton Astley</b>	(01455) 282599	
<b>Doctors-Burbage</b>	(01455) 634879	
<b>Doctors-Stoney Stanton</b>	(01455) 271442	
<b>Evergreen Club</b>	Karen Smith 07952 893156	Wednesdays twice monthly
<b>Evergreen Hall</b>	Dawn Maclaren 01455 273751/07854 635976 <a href="mailto:mackey358@hotmail.com">mackey358@hotmail.com</a>	
<b>Flood Warden</b>	Jack Feast 274678	
<b>Golden Jubilee Fete</b>	Sue Stanley 273861	
<b>Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	Direct Help Line 07502 615535	
<b>Leics. County Councillor</b>	Mrs M Wright 07815 450031 Mrs.M.A.Wright@leics.gov.uk	
<b>Over 60's Youth Club</b>	Derek Gibbons 272401	Community Centre Weds 10 - 12.30
<b>Parish Council Chair</b>	Jack Feast 274678 Jack.feast@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	Meetings held 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 19.30 Evergreen Hall
<b>Parish Council Clerk</b>	Karen Leck 07422 718186 clerk@sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk	
<b>Parish village website</b>	<a href="http://www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk">www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk</a>	
<b>Post Office</b>	Eric Washbrook 272210	
<b>Sapcote Library</b>	Lorraine 3053674	
<b>St. Helen's Church</b>	Rev Jo Hover, Cynthia Oliver 272977	
<b>Sharnford Ladies Group</b>	Wendy Kendall 273889	1st Wednesday of month
<b>Sharnford Pre-School</b>	Victoria Stone victoriastonemanagement@gmail.com	Evergreen Hall
<b>Sharnford Primary School</b>	Mrs S Boyd-Hope, Acting Head teacher & Secretary 272456	
<b>Sharnford Traffic Action Group (STAG)</b>	Mike Shirley 07539 994707	
<b>Sharnford Village Show</b>	Tony Curtis 272532	