

SHARNFORD NEWS

1st December 2023

Issue No 87

A Project supported by Sharnford Parish Council.

SHARNFORD REMEMBERS



On Saturday 11th November 2023 a two minutes silence was held across the country to mark Armistice Day. The following day, Remembrance Sunday services are held around the country.

At Sharnford St Helen's church, despite the miserable weather over 50 people

attended the service with £114.07 being collected for the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal. The appeal supports members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.

By making a donation, you could help those in need within our Armed Forces community.



Page 1

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SHARNFORD HISTORY

SHARNFORDS P.O.W.S

I took this photograph of a tree in Sharnford parish some years ago. Carved into the bark quite clearly is 'H.Witter. P.o.W. 1945'. I am not at liberty to tell you where this tree is for fear of vandalism - but I had a dream that I might one day reunite his family once more with the tree.



Wanting to find out more about H. Witter, I contacted the German Red Cross but was told that would be impossible at that time unless I was a relative. End of story? Not quite. Since I first approached the German Red Cross, things have changed quite considerably. Since most of the old soldiers have passed away (now 75+ years since the end of war), access to the old

prisoner of war and repatriation records are now available – no doubt they realised that there was a huge commercial interest here. Unfortunately the inflated premium was so high that I was not prepared to pay it.

Is this the end of the H. Witter story? - Perhaps not - for I have written to a German newspaper hoping that they will take up the story. They have acknowledged receipt of it.

Land Army girl Rose Jarvis later recalled 'We were told by Mr. Barker that we were not to speak to the Germans'. Mr. Barker was the estate manager of the Shade, Sharnford. Four Land Army girls lived in at the Shade, mostly employed in the 2 dairies which were large. 'Mind you' says Rose, 'the Italian P.O.Ws. were always friendly, smiling and singing'



Below - Rose and her beloved Charlie in front of the Shade. They were to marry in 1948 and spent their remaining years together here in Sharnford.

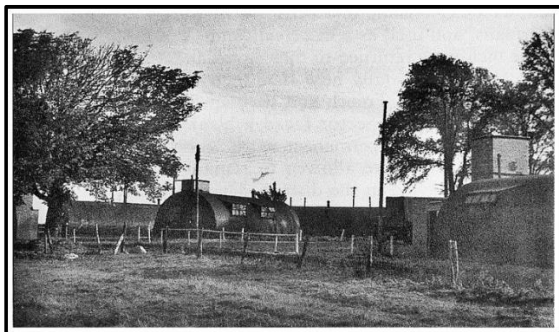
Rose's lucid wartime memories -'the best time of my life' - recalls that the German's came from Enderby P.O.W.camp and that they were dropped off in the morning and collected again in the evening. There was no guard. Direction and job allocation tasks was given out by Mr. Barker, the estate manager.

Their duties were heavy manual - digging out tree stumps, clearing ditches, stone picking fields. There was no known fraternisation between the P.O.W's and the Land Army girls. - Well, perhaps the Italians when they came and Mr Barker



was not about!

It would seem that P.O.W's were used at selected farms only and these appear to be only Co-operative ones. I have no idea why The Shade was special; it being a government initiative site - WARAG (Wartime Agricultural Assist Programme See SNews No.68).. Of course the P.O.W's were put to other uses too - road repairs,



building water culverts, brick layering etc.

Above - Enderby P.O.W. camp. First used to house Americans but after D Day 1944 became a holding tank for Germans and others captured in France. The Germans were then sent onwards from Enderby to Stoughton P.O.W. camp in 1946/7 which was to centralise and house eventually over 2,000. Germans. Enderby was then used for D.P's (Displaced Persons) from Eastern European countries including Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic states. These D.P's could come and go as they liked, being classified as safe.



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Right - 'displaced persons' at Enderby. By and large they got along very well with the villagers of Enderby and surrounding areas.

There was always the language barrier - but this seemed to get less and less as villagers took to them, invited them into their homes at Christmas and Easter. Several were to marry Enderby girls -



much to the chagrin of the village boys. One was Povilas Kurganovas who married Joan Buswell and remained a farm worker and fathered several children.

By the end of 1947 250,000 POWs had been repatriated home, but 24,000 decided to stay on in Britain. Mostly being in a relationship with a British woman or their original home was under Soviet control. There were at least 23 P.O.W. camps across Leicestershire and Rutland with Italian, German, Ukrainian and other eastern European prisoners where they were used in manual labour. Leicestershire had the largest amount of camps than any other county being middle England and landlocked.

There was also a camp for the Italians at Dunton Bassett. It was situated on Elwell's farm in Cooper's Lane. Unlike the dour Germans, the always cheerful and melodic Italian P.O.W's were wistfully welcomed by the Land Army Girls at Sharnford Shade farm.



Tai Chi with Soul

Broughton Astley Village Hall - Monday 1.30 - 2.30pm

George Ward Centre, Barwell - Tuesday 7.00 - 8.00pm

'Slowing down, relaxing and being in the moment with the movement and breathing not just doing it.'

£6.00 per class.

Contact Malcolm on 07708 324008 or 01455 324008

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

Right - a group photograph of prisoners of war taken at Dunton Bassett. To the right of our photo visible is Cooper's Lane village housing - easy to identify with today.



Several men in the group photo came from

Eboli in

Tuscany, Italy - including Ferdinando Laudati. The men were repatriated home by 1947 and once back home Ferdinando married his sweetheart **(Left)** Teresa Strianese in 1949.



Right - the P.O.W's accommodation at Elwell's Farm, Dunton

Bassett (to the rear of our photo). I photographed it in March 2021 - now on the verge of collapse due to the weight of vegetation and is now in a sad state. Coalesced under the area number 49 with other POW encampments - I recall passing Dunton Bassett's encampment many times when my family regularly motored past on the way to Uncle Frank's farm at Cotes-de-Val, Gilmorton. There was no POW's by then - they all had been repatriated home - but I was still awe-stricken and perhaps a little afraid as a 4/5 year old.. The irony of it all was that the Dunton Bassett Italian P.O.W's used to service my Uncle Frank's farm.



Sources

My notes of conversations held with the late Rose Pratt.

With kind thanks to Elizabeth York of Enderby Heritage Society for the use of their photographs.

With kind thanks to the Laudati family of Italy for the use of their photographs.

SHARNFORD GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE VILLAGE FETE

Sharnford Golden Jubilee Committee will be holding its **AGM on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7.30pm in The Evergreen Hall**. At the meeting we will elect the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary for the year and begin the planning for fete day.

As in previous years, the profits raised on fete day are distributed amongst the various groups in the village to help them fund their activities. All of the groups who wish to be included in the share of any profits from the fete, need to send a representative to this meeting. The meeting is also open to anyone else who wishes to help with the fete for 2024.

Prior to the formal AGM we will also be holding an informal meeting on **Tuesday 5th December 2023** at The Bricklayers. This is to discuss the future of the Fete and discuss if we can feasibly hold one in 2024. We desperately need new volunteers to help with planning and running the fete activities. Also 2 of the 3 official positions on the committee need to be filled.

If you would like a say in the future of the fete and can help in any way, then please either pop down to the meeting on 5th December or message either myself or Jack Feast to express your interest. If there is not sufficient interest, then there may not be a 2024 fete. Please do not wait until Fete day to show your interest – help is needed before then.

Sue Stanley (Tel: 273861) - SGJC Secretary



SHARNFORD LADIES GROUP

Sharnford Ladies Group have been living it up with our annual dinner at the Bricklayers in October and a cheese and wine meeting with Call My Bluff in November! In September Wendy Martin gave us an illustrated talk on her travels in South Africa, where she did a lot of trekking! There were some wonderful photographs. She also told us about the Ripple Effect charity which she supports, she was donating her fee to them.

In December, Fourplay are coming to give us a musical recital as we tuck into mulled wine and mince pies! In January Roxanne Dinsdale will be returning to tell us about the Myths of Middle Eastern Dance with some demonstrations and in February we have the AGM.

Ladies group meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Evergreen Hall at 7.30pm, everyone is welcome and the meeting fee is £4 to include coffee.

Lynda

HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE

Deadline 1 Submission on Behalf of Sharnford Parish Council

REP1-210

Relevant Representation

Sharnford is a small village in Blaby District 3 miles away from the HNRFI project. The village already experiences heavy traffic, due to its proximity to the A5, Magna Park at Lutterworth and the new DPD and Amazon facilities near M69 Junction 1.

At the Boundary with Leicester City lies Croft Quarry. This quarry is one of the largest excavated holes in Europe and is a major source of granite for the construction industry and, when it reaches the end of its mining life, it is expected to become a landfill site with vast quantities of London's waste as well as rubble from the HS2 rail line being dumped there. Most tipper lorries to and from this site travel through Sharnford, losing some of their load on the tight corners adjacent to the Bricklayers Public House. The proposed interchange will increase the amount of traffic in the area, not to mention the effect it will have on the environment!

This national infrastructure project will never use the proposed rail link due to the major constraints at Narborough Railway level crossing. The rail aspect is being used to circumvent normal local authority planning processes. The project is a method of constructing major warehousing in the countryside with all traffic travelling by road. Currently Sharnford, a small village adjacent to the major trunk road A5, has seen an increase in HGV traffic of over 500 thousand vehicle movements per year due to existing expansion of local warehousing developments. It is envisaged that the HNRFI will see all traffic through Sharnford double to over 7 million vehicle movements on the already overburdened B-road, causing major increases in pollution.

BACKGROUND

1. Sharnford, a village of 1100 residents, lies approximately 3 miles Southeast of the proposed HNRFI development
2. The village is mainly residential but includes a small industrial estate straddling Aston Lane, comprising of a HGV transport company, a container hire company with storage facilities, a forklift hire company, and various SME's. In addition, there is a post office, garage and two pubs.
3. There is a Village Hall opposite the Bricklayers pub where the B4114 splits in two.
4. There is a play area with a Youth/Community Hall north of the B4114 on the Soar Brook that runs through the village, and a Recreation Ground immediately South of the B4114.
5. Sharnford CofE Primary School is on the Northern edge of the village.
6. There is no regular bus service and villagers rely on private cars to access Hinckley for many services.

7. The village straddles the B4114, which is a major HGV route from the A5 to Leicester and links to the B4669 towards Jn2 of the M69 (and the proposed HNRFi site).
8. Sharnford has suffered over many years with the increase in HGV traffic and was recommended for a bypass in the Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2007. This did not take place due to financial constraints. Since then, traffic volume through the village has risen from just under 3 million vehicles per year to well over 3.5 million.
9. After many appeals to Leicestershire County Council and news reports on BBC radio and television, Leicestershire County Council relented, and average speed cameras were installed. Speeds have reduced but traffic volumes continue to increase.
10. Refuges at the entrance to the village have also been put in to reduce speeding traffic.
11. At the B4669 end the B4114 passes residential estates before it narrows at the Church. The hill from the Church down towards the centre of the village is so narrow that two HGVs cannot pass each other without mounting the pavement. The properties along this section of road do not have off-street parking and must find alternative parking solutions.
12. The B4114 splits in the middle of the village into two one-way sections through residential areas and emerges to a short stretch before a second refuge indicates the end of the village, also with speed signs.
13. There are tight bends on both the one-way sections, most notably exactly at the Junction with Aston Road, where there is a warning to slow down.
14. Access to Sharnford can also be gained via Aston Lane, through Aston Flamville. There is a pinch point on Aston Lane close to the Junction due to a Grade 2 listed farm building where only one Lorry can enter the narrow section.
15. There is one pedestrian crossing on the B4114, close to the garage, which is used particularly by children going to school and has a patrol sign. The CofE school no longer take children to St Helens church because of the near misses on the pedestrian crossing and the narrowness of the pavement adjacent to the post office. There is also a sign for children crossing adjacent to Fox Hollies.
16. We consider it is already hazardous for pedestrians trying to access the only shop/post office in the village, especially as lorries must mount the narrow pavements on the B4114 to pass each other.
17. The junction of the B4114 with the A5, known locally as Smockington Hollow, has caused concerns over the number of accidents and fatalities. Crashmaps shows 4 (one serious) in the last five years, as well as a series of accidents along the B4114 between Sharnford and the Junction (up to 2021).
18. There have also been many crashes on the Aston Lane route, including the very tight bend just outside the village where vehicles have overturned or gone through hedges and fences into fields.

19. Sadly, there have also been two fatal cycling accidents at the junction of the B4669/B4114 since 2020. There are no dedicated cycling lanes so most local cycling is done on road. The bridleways are not generally suitable for cyclists.
20. Like many of the local villages Sharnford is linked into the extensive local Public Rights of Way network, notably the bridleway which extends towards the proposed HRNFI site and a bridleway to Sapcote. Villagers also enjoy their proximity to Burbage Common and are particularly concerned about threats to this amenity.

CONCERNS

21. We are concerned that the HNRFI proposals could have a cumulative effect of adding some 10,000+ vehicle movements per day onto rural roads.
22. Their premise is that traffic will use the M69 towards either M1 or M6 which ignores the current congestion at these junctions.
23. We think the effect of M69 congestion and motorway closures will be to push vehicles, including HGVs, onto roads through Sapcote, Hinckley, Aston Flamville and Sharnford.
24. We note that at present the evidence does not include the 'emergency' plan if the M69 is not available and we cannot find any evidence on where HGVs would go in this 'worst-case' scenario.
25. As shown in the photos, the road through Aston Flamville (a conservation village) and Sharnford, are not suitable for high levels of traffic, especially HGVs.
26. The Transport Assessment (acknowledges that the B4114 is an undesirable route for lorries) and local people will continue to use the Sharnford Road cut-through



27. Not only that but as well as the development traffic which appears to be under-estimated, certainly not a worst-case scenario, the introduction of the slip roads as well as proposals for new housing around the Junction, facilitated by the slip road changes, will lead to worse traffic problems, including more HGVs through all the villages.
28. Knock on effects include pollution and noise, including night-time traffic to the site.
29. We are also concerned particularly about the impact on vulnerable users, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians as well as access to amenities such as Burbage Common.

We consider all these findings are highly speculative and that the capacity constraints which already exist (and will only get worse) meaning that these benefits will never emerge. For these reasons we continue to oppose development of the HNRFi site and believe it should be refused permission.



HINCKLEY BULLOCKERS



Hinckley Bullockers practice on Tuesday nights in the Evergreen Hall. Our weekly practice sessions start on 28th November from 8pm and run through until Christmas with the dance out on 6th January 2024 at 9:00am, Bricklayers car park. If there are any male dancers, male or female musicians that would like to join us it will be great to see you.

Emma

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SHARNFORD – HEDGEHOG UPDATE

Just a few lines updating from the last info on hedgehogs in our garden. Truth is, we haven't seen much of them!! The two we regularly saw, and successfully over-wintered, disappeared with the first heat wave in June! We spoke to the wildlife centre, and they had no idea why they would disappear, unless something had frightened them off, maybe a fox? And there are no badgers in our garden, so we can't blame them!

So the hog houses have been cleaned and a small amount of hay added, together with the normal food supply. It was suggested to us that we use cat food, but our local cats find it too much of a temptation and squeeze themselves into the house to feast!

Then came a text from Kibworth Wildlife Centre – could we re-home 3 hogs? “YES please” we said and collected them next day. 2 females and 1 male, all a good size.

We regularly put out the night camera and see them sometimes, but it's getting close to hibernation time, so we hope they choose to stay the winter with us. We will let you know in the Spring.

Finally we are grateful to the villager who contacted the SN editor with more information on his garden visitors (hogs), and we were able to see them on You Tube, visiting his patio. A happy sighting indeed.

SHARNFORD SICK AND DIVIDEND FUND

Our annual prize draw takes place at the Bricklayers on Friday evening, the 15^h of December starting at 8:00 pm. We are still looking for donations of prizes for the raffle – these can be accepted right up until the date of the draw. Last year we were supported by many local businesses and individuals with prizes/gifts and most are supporting us again this year.

The continued success of the event is mainly reliant on tickets sold for the raffle so please be sure to buy yours; these are on sale at the village Post Office or directly from myself. For ticket sales and prize/gift donations I can be contacted on 01455 274678. Distribution of the festive food bags will be on Saturday morning, the 16th of December. Thank you for your continued support.

Jack Feast - for the Sharnford S & D Fund

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



HIGHCROSS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

No.10 Downing Street

On October 17th your District Councillors, together with Cllr Terry Richardson, Leader of Blaby District Council, and Cllr Maggie Wright, our County Councillor, were invited by Alberto Costa MP to join him to present a petition against Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange, at No.10 Downing Street. That evening Alberto Costa MP spoke on the petition in the House of Commons.



Your councillors and Member of Parliament will fight the HNRFI proposals at every opportunity, continuing with the Planning

Inspectorate examination on Monday 30th October through to Friday 3rd November. One or both of your district councillors will attend the seven separate hearings, raising any matters on the Scheme.



Cost-of-Living Information Event

Blaby District Council is running a series of drop-in events to help residents find support with the cost-of-living crisis. The events will give residents an opportunity to speak face to face with council staff and staff from other organisations who can help with problems including benefits, housing, debt, and food support.

The events are drop-in sessions, so no appointment is needed, and they are open to all residents across the district. Tea and coffee will be provided. Agencies will bring along a range of free merchandise.

The last event will be held at Enderby Civic Centre, King St., Enderby, LE19 4NT on Thursday 7th December between 12pm to 2pm.

All Saints School, Sapcote

On 25th October we had the privilege, together with Cllr Maggie Wright (County Councillor), to attend All Saints CE Primary School in Sapcote, to take part in the blessing of the new buildings by the Rt. Revd. Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough, who blessed each part of the buildings as we walked around, and then led the children and staff in prayer.

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

Remembrance Sunday

It was a pleasure to attend the Remembrance Day service at St Helens Church in Sharnford to lay a wreath on behalf of Blaby District Council. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Planning

In the previous Sharnford News we commented on our objections to two Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council planning applications:

- Jelson Homes – 343 homes, either side of Aston Flamville Road. This refused application has now gone to the Planning Inspectorate under appeal. Cllr Shirley has requested to speak at the appeal in objection to the application.
- Lychgate Lane – 85 homes on Lychgate Lane which went to appeal have, unfortunately, been approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

Arsonists Destroy Nature Area Toilets

Councillor Nigel Grundy, Blaby District Council's portfolio holder for neighbourhood services and assets, said: "I'm at a loss to understand what pleasure anyone gets out of wilfully destroying facilities like these. "A mindless few spoiling it for the many." He said the toilets were installed after calls from visitors to have the facility about four years ago.

Cllr Grundy added: "Sadly, they have been a constant target for vandals, with attacks ranging from the small scale to this last incident, which has left just a puddle of plastic where the toilets used to stand."

Since their introduction by Blaby District Council around four years ago, the units have been subject to sporadic vandalism, requiring repair and replacement at a cost of between £2,000 to £3,000 each time. A Leicestershire Police spokesman said no arrests had yet been made, and anyone with any information has been urged to contact the force.

We continue to attend Parish Council meetings each and every month and also produce a monthly report on the work we do across Fosse Highcross. Please check out the Sharnford Parish Facebook, and website for the latest reports, and also our website www.Fosse-Highcross.UK

Please do reach out if you have any local issues and thank you for your support.

Your District Councillors – Mike Shirley and Ben Taylor



SHARNFORD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



We have had a busy few months attempting to bring the building back to life after Covid put a hold on everything. We have had a few new groups started (and starting in the new year) which has meant the building is now used daily.

We have been visited by Cadet Gas volunteers who helped tidy up the outside areas and plant bulbs ready for spring. Special thanks to them and they have requested to return to help with future projects.

With the help of volunteers from the Evergreen and the Parish Council we have set up a small food bank to help the residents of Sharnford that may be struggling. We stock a supply of long life items such as tinned food, cereals and nappies. If you feel you may require assistance please contact Laura on 07825924506 or Rosemarie on 07831371515. I know we have had requests for items to donate, so at present we are currently looking for sponge puddings, breakfast bars, hot chocolate, selection boxes, christmas biscuits/confectionery. Please contact the above numbers if you wish to donate.

In addition to the above we have been partnered with Lidl and are currently the beneficiary of toy items donated by their customers in the Hinckley branch. If you need help this Christmas with providing a gift for your child/children please also get in touch.

Join our facebook page 'Sharnford Youth and Community Centre' for all our future events and information on Youth Club REOPENING!

Sharnford Youth Club - Charity Number 502213

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YOUR SHARNFORD NEWS - CAN YOU HELP

We have been distributing SHARNFORD News to all residents in the parish for over 20 years. We have a small team of volunteers who deliver each Issue, which is just 4 times a year. Some of us have been doing it from the start in 2000, so it's time for new blood. I will continue to coordinate the distribution but we need more help.

The rounds are relatively small and only take a hour or so. If anyone would like to volunteer to join us, please contact myself, Dave 272901, our editor Ian 699051 or via email at sharnfordnews@gmail.com, thank you.

SAPCOTE COMMUNITY LIBRARY



www.sapcotecommunitylibrary.org.uk

Opening Hours:
Monday 10am – 1pm
Tuesday 10am – 12pm
Thursday 2pm – 5pm
Friday 2pm – 5pm
Saturday 10am – 1pm

During the Christmas period there are changes to the above that we will be closed: Mon 25th December, Tue 26th December and Monday 1st January

Dear Sharnford Resident

The library has been welcoming local residents to its current premises since 2016 and a group of friendly volunteers are always on hand, during its opening hour to assist all visitors. We have an ever changing stock of fiction, reference and children's books available to be borrowed and also, some for sale.

We have a Coffee Morning on Monday mornings and Knitting, Crochet and Chatting on Monday afternoons from 1:00pm to which everyone is welcome. Wi-Fi, computers and a printer are available for your use along with a free ancestry search facility. There is also an online E-reader service available.

We would like to improve our service to the community and would really appreciate your input. Could you please spare just a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below and return it to the library next to All Saints church on Church Street, or take a photo of the completed questionnaire and email to: sapcotecommunitylibrary@gmail.com?

The questionnaire can be completed anonymously.

1. **Do you currently use the library in any way? YES / NO**
2. **Are the current opening hours convenient for you? YES / NO**

A promotional poster for 'Stories & Rhymes' at Sapcote Community Library. The poster features the library's logo at the top center, flanked by two small illustrations of children's bookshelves. The text is centered and reads: 'Stories & Rhymes' in blue, 'For the under 5's' in blue, 'Every Tuesday' in red, '(Term Time Only)' in red, and '10.30am—11am' in red. Below this, it says 'Sapcote Community Library, Church Street' in blue, 'Come with your children and share Stories, Songs & Rhymes' in blue, and 'FREE – DONATIONS APPRECIATED' in blue. At the bottom, there is a colorful 'STORYTIME' logo with a sun and clouds.

3. **What changes to the hours would make it more convenient for you?**

4. **Do you anticipate using the library in the future? YES / NO**

5. **What other community facilities would you like the library to offer?**

In order to adapt ourselves to the needs of our villages, please circle the description which you feel most closely describes your circumstances:

Parent with young children at home

Parent with older children at home

Adult with no children at home

Senior citizen

We are always looking for extra volunteers to help run the library. If you are interested in helping out at any time which are convenient for you, or would like more information, please enter your name and contact details below and our Volunteer Co-ordinator will be in touch.

SAPCOTE CRICKET CLUB



Fancy trying something different?

We are your local Cricket Club with a very close connection to Sharnford. Many players both past and present have either lived in or still live in the Village.

We play in the Leicestershire & Rutland League with our 1st XI in Division 7 and our 2nd XI in Division 9. We are always looking for new players both experienced 1st teamers who are just looking for a change of Club down to novices that want to progress their game.

We are a very friendly, sociable, supportive Club that prides itself on playing the game in the correct manner and having fun at the same time. We run regular nets and have two coaches with ECB coaching qualifications. Our wickets, outfield and facilities are some of the best in the area.

Come and join us in a fun, inclusive team atmosphere. You'll be made to feel very welcome. We start winter nets on Sunday January 14th at Countesthorpe College 10.30-11.30am. If you are interested in joining us please phone or text **Ian Root** on 07971 619557.



Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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SHARNFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



We've had a very busy Autumn term so far here at Sharnford Primary and the children have been amazing!

At the beginning of term, the Y6 children took a special trip to 'Warning Zone', which teaches them all about understanding risk, peer pressure, staying safe and anti-social behaviour. The children were specifically praised by the volunteers there who commented on their super behaviour and their excellent questions.

Earlier in the term the Y4 children went to Beaumanor Hall for their two-night residential. It's a great visit and the children access a brilliant range of experiences such as rafting, canoeing, archery and orienteering – often for the first time!

We were fortunate in Redwood and Hazel Class to have Jed from Up and at 'em History to come and talk to the children. He led an interactive session about the Vikings & Saxons for Y3/4 and all about WW2, The Blitz and Evacuation for Y5/6.

We've also been busy with our charity work and, with the continued support of our parents/carers, have raised money for Hello Yellow, Hinckley Food Bank, The Royal British Legion and Children in Need.

We have had four children from Redwood class attend the Well-Being Ambassadors training. They were brilliant whilst there and, with the guidance of Miss Spence, we hope they will be looking out for our children's well-being in school, organising events for charity and taking on wider school roles such as eco events and being spokes people for the children.

Our delivery of Collective Worship continues to benefit so much from the visitors we are fortunate to have in school. Every week the children receive excellent worship from either the Open the Book team, Mr & Mrs Lambert, Mrs Grice or Rev Jo. We're also lucky that Mrs Sutcliffe sets up special Prayer Spaces in school for our children each term too.

Over the next few weeks we will be serenaded at school as the EYFS & KS1 children get ready for their nativity, and we have the Panto to look forward to as well....Oh yes we do!

A huge thanks to our parents/carers for their continued support, our governors for all their hard work behind the scenes and to our PTA for their continual fundraising and dedication which helps us to buy essentials for the children in school.

Looking ahead, we hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and wish all our families and stakeholders a Happy New Year!



Mrs Boyd-Hope & Sharnford Primary staff.



WALKIES

NEED HELP WITH PET SERVICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD?

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DOG FOULING/WASTE

We published a similar article a couple of years ago and feel duty bound to highlight the issue once more. Over the last few months it has become more evident of an increase in dog fouling around the village.

Within our little village we are blessed with two parks and we are located next to Fosse Meadows, these are all utilised by all villagers including children. **They should not have to avoid dog waste whilst using these facilities.**

The local council are always looking to invest/improve the facilities of the local parks, but it would be a shame if the parks were a “no go zone” due to dog waste deeming these investments a complete waste of time and money. It’s also not limited to the parks as evidence can be found in streets and footpaths.

- Don’t forget that leaving dog mess behind is actually illegal, and dog owners can be prosecuted and fined for doing so. If you spot somebody leaving dog mess behind when out on a walk, particularly if they do this regularly, this can be reported to the local council.
- Don’t forget dog waste is harmful to the health of both people and the land that it pollutes, as well as posing an eyesore, and potentially causing further mess, unpleasantness and inconvenience if stepped in or tracked about, particularly if it is unwittingly walked back into the home/school/local business.
- Don’t forget that dog mess can carry parasites and diseases such as toxocarasis, and always wash your hands thoroughly after dealing with dog waste; even if you do not physically touch it with your bare hands.

Please can we ask dog owners to help keep our village clean and utilise the provided dog waste bins.

Sharnford news team



LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is to be made for the following location: Bumble Bee Lane, Sharnford approximately 250m south of Coventry Road. The purposal of the TTRO is to allow Openreach to safely facilitate pole testing. The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure.

The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of one day commencing on the 15th January 2024. Closures are proposed to be in place between 09:30 and 15:30

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



AUTUMN DIARY – ST HELEN'S

1 st Sunday in the month 9:15am	Holy Communion
2 nd Sunday 9:15am	Breakfast Club
3 rd Sunday 9:15am	Holy Communion
4 th Sunday 9:15am	Morning Worship

When there are 5 Sundays in any month, a service is held alternatively at Sharnford or at all saints, Sapcote at 10 am

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING ADVENT



Sat 9 th December 1:00 – 3:00PM	'Light a Candle' to remember loved ones who have passed away and also those who we remember at this time
Sun 10 th December 9:15AM	Breakfast Church
Sat 16 th December 6:00PM	Carols at St Helen's
Sun 24 th December 9:15AM	Christingle
Sun 24 th December 11:30PM	Midnight Communion
Mon 25 th December 10:00AM	Holy Communion (Sapcote)
Sun 31 st December 10:00AM	United Benefice Morning Worship

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ST MARY'S, WIGSTON PARVA

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 3:00PM

Carol Service

We would like to thank everyone who continues to support the Church on a regular basis. Without your contribution we would not be able to continue. THANK YOU

BREAKFAST CHURCH

We held our first Breakfast Church in October which everyone enjoyed. We did not sit in pews but at tables enjoying pastries and toast and a hot drink whilst trying to do word searches and crafts. The service was informal which we all joined in with. Come and share Breakfast with us, all ages - young and old. Everyone is welcome Next one is December 10th 9.15 am

HOPE SCHEME

During the Christmas holidays the Hope scheme run by Churches in Sharnford and Sapcote will be delivering our usual help to families in both Parishes. Thank you to all who support this valuable scheme.

Rosemarie Simpson



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SHARNFORD EVERGREEN VILLAGE HALL AND EVERGREEN CLUB



***** Next Bacon Buttie Date ***
Saturday 9th December**

13 th January	2 nd March – Fairtrade	27 th April
22 nd June	3 rd August	21 st September – Macmillan
26 th October	7 th December – Christmas	

Future 2024 dates - all subject to confirmation nearer the time

During the year our Buttie mornings raised over £1000 for Charities and £1500 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 regular fortnightly meetings continue with games, quizzes and an afternoon tea, always accompanied by lots of chat. We would love to have you join us. There was a delicious fish and chip supper at The Bricklayers in September and we are now looking forward to our Christmas Bingo Social.

As always we are going to the Concordia pantomime in January. There will also be a lunch out in January and there will be another lunch in the spring with an afternoon tea or lunch in the summer, so we have all seasons covered with our annual events.

The Club is open to everyone over the age of 60 and who lives in the Blaby District. A warm welcome awaits new members and if you would like further information please contact Karen Smith on 07952 893156.

Carol Hunter

SHARNFORD CRAFT GROUP..... IS BACK!

We finally managed to start meeting again late June. Having advertised that we were starting up again at the Fete, we have since had the pleasure of several new people joining us.

We are a small group, who enjoy bringing our own projects to work on, and having a chat whilst we do so. We are now meeting the 1st * & 3rd Monday of each month at the Evergreen Hall from 7pm-9pm. Cost is £2 per session.

*There will be no Craft Group Monday 1st January or Monday 1st April (Easter Monday) 2024.

Gabrielle Bryan - gab.h.bryan@googlemail.com

Page 26

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OVER 60s YOUTH CLUB

Just look what happened to Annette!

At the age of 70 Annette Barber of Park View had never played Table-tennis in her life – now she is playing in the Leicestershire League as a representative of the Nomads Club, and not in the Veterans or Pensioners categories either! “Last week we were up against a team of 17 & 18 year-olds” she says. So how has this transformation come about? Well, it’s all the fault of Sharnford Over 60s Youth Club.



Looking for new opportunities to meet other residents of the village Annette went along to their Wednesday morning sessions and was soon drawn into the table-tennis group – very friendly, very welcoming, and very tolerant of those who had not played before, and that was most of them. But Annette is competitive by nature and soon found that the more experienced players were encouraging her to rather more than the “ping-pong” levels. After quite a short time she was moved to join a proper Table-Tennis Club in South Wigston where trained coaches encouraged her to try much more advanced techniques. There she made so much progress that in September she was selected as a member of one of the Club’s League teams to take part in a fully competitive match. What is more, this three person team beat their opponents 8 matches to 2, with Annette winning two of her three games.

Thrilled with her success, and now having become a regular member of the team and played in a number of subsequent matches, Annette confesses that all of this has come entirely unexpectedly and has in many ways transformed her life. “I never anticipated becoming a competitive sportsperson at my age,” she says, “with training sessions and matches. I just went along to the Youth Centre for a bit of a laugh!”

And of course, the Sharnford Over 60s Club is just the place for a bit of a laugh...and table tennis, bowls, darts, cards and coffee. Any Wednesday; Community & Youth Centre; 10.00 – 12.00

Derek Gibbons

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SHARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

This is my first report since taking over as Chairman of Sharnford Parish from Mike Shirley in May, and four years since my previous time in the Chair. The changes in those last four years have been remarkable, with new councillors and clerk, experiencing a higher workload and responsibilities, especially the clerk.



We have taken over maintenance of grass verges and hedges from Leicestershire County Council, increasing the number of cuts to vastly improve the look of the village.

Resident's Christmas lights in the village have brightened up

the dull winter lights and we hope to see even more this year, with the Parish Council lighting up the tree next to the Sharnford Evergreen Hall. Hopefully the competition for best lights and dressed window will continue with cash prizes.

The cemetery on Mill Lane has been due for a makeover and, as I am writing this, the work is ending. It has been a costly venture, but the improvements should help with maintenance over the coming years. The next job is to replace the heavy wooden gates, which have seen better days, with wrought iron ones. We are currently reviewing quotes for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

You cannot have missed the proposal for a National Rail Freight Interchange sandwiched between the M69 motorway and the Leicester to Nuneaton rail line. The parish council, together with Sapcote, employed a consultant on your behalf to challenge the proposal and produce a report. We now feel that we have enough knowledge and experience to continue with any further objections on our own, at a considerable cost saving.

We have continued to keep a watching brief, together with a concerned resident who has taken the lead, on the amount of sewage being allowed into the river by Severn Trent Water with the full knowledge of the Environment Agency.

If you have experienced problems with toilet 'back-up' or flooding due to heavy rainfall, please let our clerk know by email or phone. Tel: 07422 718186



Residents and public are welcome to attend the parish council meeting on the third Thursday of every month in the Sharnford Evergreen Hall at 7.30pm.

For up to date information about Sharnford Parish Council go to our Facebook page or Website www.sharnfordparishcouncil.co.uk.

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

For some Christmas fun how many skating Santa did you find in this issue? Answer on last page

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

Editor: Ian 699051 and Treasurer: Dave Sewell 272901

Email: sharnfordnews@gmail.com

**Deadline for articles for the next issue of Sharnford News is
Friday 16th February 2024**

SHARNFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY	OVER 50'S BALLE	09:30 - 11:30	Silver Swans
	KIDS ART & CRAFT CLUB	18:00 - 19:00	COMING SOON
TUESDAY	YOGA	10:00 – 11:00	Yoga with Adele
	KIDS LEGO CLUB	18:00 - 19:00	COMING SOON
WEDNESDAY	OVER 60'S YOUTH CLUB	10:00 – 12:30	Derek Gibbons
THURSDAY	OVER 50'S BALLE	09:30 - 11:30	Silver Swans
FRIDAY	YOGA WITH ADELE	10:00 – 11:00	Yoga with Adele
	YOUTH CLUB	18:00 - 20:00	COMING SOON
SATURDAY	TOTS FOOTBALL CLUB	09:30 – 12:00	Footicubs

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

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 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



SHARNFORD VILLAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Organisation	Contact	Details
Blaby District Cllrs.	Ben Taylor 01455 712108 Mike Shirley 07539 994707	
Community Centre	Laura 07825 924506	
Doctors-Broughton Astley	(01455) 282599	
Doctors-Burbage	(01455) 634879	
Doctors-Stoney Stanton	(01455) 271442	
Evergreen Club	Karen Smith 07952 893156	Wednesdays twice monthly
Evergreen Hall	Dawn Maclaren 01455 273751/ 07854 635976 mackey358@hotmail.com	
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	
Over 60's Youth Club	Derek Gibbons 272401	Community Centre Weds 10 - 12.30
Parish Council Chair	Jack Feast 274678 Jack.feast@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 Washbrook 272210	
Sapcote Library	Lorraine 3053674	
St. Helen's Church	Rev Jo Hover 07796 413883 rev.io.hover@gmail.com	9:15am every Sunday
Sharnford Ladies Group	Wendy Kendall 273889	1st Wednesday of month
Sharnford Pre-School	Victoria Stone victoriastonemanagement@gmail.com	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	

Skating Santa = 11