

Harborough Mail

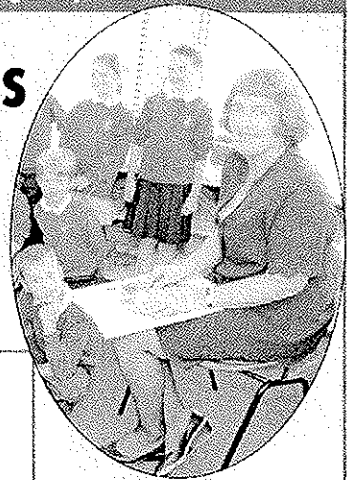
SERVING HARBOROUGH FOR 150 YEARS

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2004

40p

Top Teachers
- the final
entries

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GLOBETROTTER TURNS CHARITY CHAMP

A COMPASSIONATE Harborough solicitor who left Dingley Hall in 1990 to travel the world has given over half a million pounds to Third World children.

By Alex Blackwell

Sharon Beesley (47), formerly of Mowsley and then Dingley, left on a marathon mountain bike trip 14 years ago, visiting every continent.

The Mail reported Sharon's departure. She was not sure at the time whether she would return to the legal profession after her globetrotting adventures.

But after spending time at a Romanian orphanage, Sharon and New Zealand-born friend and fellow solicitor Audette Exel were inspired to raise money for sick and poor children.

The pair set up a firm in a picturesque Bermuda cottage seven years ago offering legal consultancy to corporate finance and insurance companies.

Their aim was to give the profits to the poor - and to date they have handed over £607,000!

The money has been sent to impoverished communities in Nepal and Uganda, funding hospitals, mobile clinics, medication, food, beds and education.

Sharon said: "It is not an exaggeration to say that thousands of



● Fundraising champions...Sharon Beesley and Audette Exel.

children have benefited from the work of the charity, whether they were one of the 500-odd babies born into the neo-natal unit built and supported in Uganda, or one of the thousands of children in the mountains of Nepal who have received flu injections, de-worming medication and immunisations in measles outbreaks."

Her father, Neville Beesley, who also wanted to see the world but never realised his ambition, died of a heart attack in 1982.

Brother-in-law Chris Beesley-Reynolds, of Palmerston Close, Kibworth, said: "Sharon and Audette decided they could do so much more for the less well-off and set up a charity to help

sick children. "Many charities treat them whilst they are sick, but they wanted to do something to prevent them getting ill in the first place, which is why they set up neo-natal clinics.

"They also put into operation a system of returning children who die back to their villages so that parents and relatives can give them a proper burial and say goodbye to their loved ones.

"A new project is smokeless stoves which are going to save generations of children living treatment and will continue to give relief to treatment centres so they can concentrate on other problems."



● Flashback...how The Mail reported Sharon's departure 14 years ago.

Win! great prizes

competitions pages 15 & 22

A £28,000
thank you

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All set to put on blooming good show

ANOTHER blooming great year could be in store for Harborough. East Midlands in Bloom judges will descend on the town on Wednesday - and there is a chance Harborough could notch up a hat-trick of wins after being triumphant in the last two years. And it is not just a question of the

town looking pretty - the judges will look at environmental aspects and their eagle eyes will focus on private gardens and industrial estates as well as public areas.

They will be given a guided tour of the town by Gordon Ethenington, who is town leader of Harborough's rival

clean-up squad, and Richard Moss from the nursery based at Wolland Park.

And there could be further glory in store for the town - it will be judged on August 12 for the Britain in Bloom competition after winning the regional contest last year.

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