

BARROW Voice



www.barrowvoice.co.uk

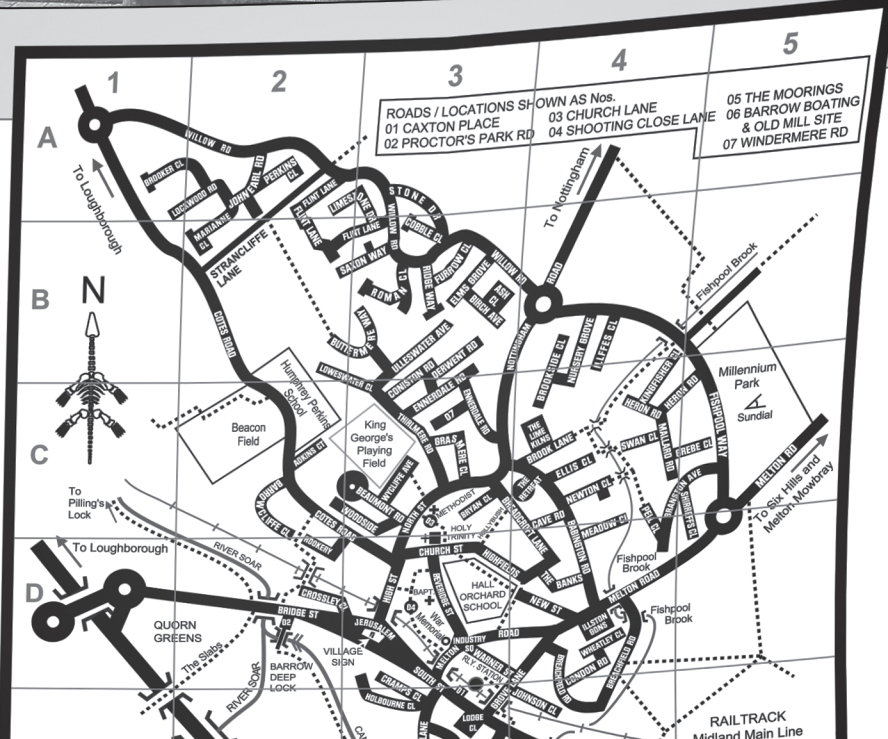
SPRING 2007



Pull out and keep (page 7)

A-Z list of streets and other important places in Barrow upon Soar

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Adkin's Court 2C | Furrow Close 3B | Nottingham Road 3C-4A |
| Ash Close 3B | Grasmere Close 3C | Nursery Grove 4B-4C |
| Avon Road 3E | Grays Court 3C | Pastures (The) 4E |
| Babington Road 4C-4D | Grebe Close 4C-5C | Pell Close 4D |
| Banks (The) 4D | Grove Lane 3E-4D | Perkins Close 2A |
| Barrow Boating (see 06) 3E | Hall Orchard | Pingle Nook home 4E |
| Barrow Mill 3E | Primary School 3D | Proctor's Park Road (see 02) 2D |
| Barrowcliffe Close 2C | Heron Road 4C-5C | Proctor's Pleasure Park (see 02) 2D |
| Barrow Town | High Street 3D | Railway Station 3E |
| Cricknet Club B4 | Highfields 3D-4D | Retreat (The) 4C |
| Barrow Town | Holbourne Close 3E | Ribble Drive 3E |
| Beacon Field 2C | Humphrey Perkins | Ridgeway 3B |
| Beaumont Road 3C | High School 2C | River View 4E |
| Beveridge Street 3D | Huston Close 5E | Roman Close 3B |
| Birch Avenue 3B | Iliffes Close 4B | Rookery (The) 2D |
| Branton Avenue 4D-5C | Ilston Gardens 4D | Saxon Way 2B-3B |
| Breachfield Road 4D-4E | Industry Square 3D | Shirreffs Close 5C-5D |
| Breadcroft Lane 3C-4D | Jerusalem | Shooting Close Lane (see 04) 3D |
| Bridge Street 2D | roundabout 3D | Sibley Road 3E-5E |
| Brook Lane 4C | John Earle Road 2A | Slabs (The) footpath 2D |
| Brookside Close 1A-2A | Johnson Close 4E | South Street 3D-3E |
| Bryant Close 3C | King George's playing field 3C | Stone Drive 3A-3B |
| Buttermere Way 2B-3B | Kingfisher Close 4C | Strancliffe Lane 2B-3A |
| Cave Road 4C-4D | Library 3C | Swan Close 4C |
| Caxton Place (see 01) 3E | Lime Kilns (The) 4C | The Banks 4D |
| Cherwell Road 3E-4E | Limestone Drive 2A-3B | The Lime Kilns 4C |
| Church Lane (see 03) 3C | Lockwood Road 1A-2A | The Moorings (see 05) 4E |
| Church Street 3D | Lodge Close 3E | The Pastures 4E |
| Cobble Close 3B | Loweswater Close 2B-3C | The Retreat 4C |
| Condon Road 4E-4D | Mallard Road 4C | The Rookery 2D |
| Coniston Road 3B-3C | Marianne Close 2B | The Slabs footpath 2D |
| Cotes Road 1A-3D | Martin Avenue 3E | Thirmere Road 3B-3C |
| Cramps Close 3E | Meadow Close 4D | Ullswater Avenue 3E |
| Crossley Close 2D | Meadow Farm marina 4F | |
| Derwent Road 3B | Melton Road 3D-5C | |
| Ellis Close 4C | Mill Lane 3E | |



The Slabs - What's happening? (page 11)



Centre Stage is back (page 21)



New Look Sibley Road (page 9)



Tree Festival another great success (page 27)



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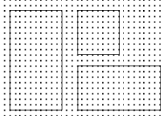


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Editorial

Footpaths, Forthcoming Elections and Fortune Cookies

This first Barrow Voice for the new year is a bumper edition both in size and content.

Is The Slabs footpath under threat? Some of us remember Barrow Voice holding a vote on just this question some years ago. Feelings ran high then on the subject of cycling and lighting and if you have an opinion we would like to hear from you.

Talking of voting, we highlight the forthcoming Parish Council elections in May. Do you have the time and energy to be a member of the team which makes decisions about our village? If you are not sure, we point out where you can find information about the commitment you would be making.

We have an impressive roundup of the activities of the Parish Plan action groups and find out what New Year means to Barrow's Chinese families. There is even a recipe for fortune cookies.

On page 7 Arthur Gardner introduces a new guide which in the spirit of partnership with other village organisations we are happy to include in this issue.

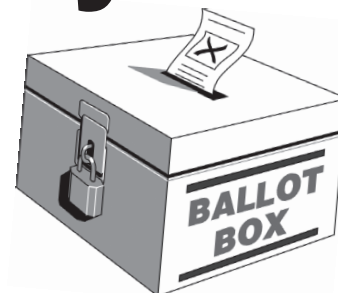
Frances Thompson

News

Barrow Parish Council Elections: Thursday May 3rd

DON'T MISS OUT – IT MATTERS!

On 3rd May 2007 local elections will take place for your Parish Council. This is the chance to have your say by voting for the people you want to look after your community. Or perhaps you would like to become a councillor yourself and then you could help shape it. Either way your vote in the elections is important. It is your opportunity to help decide who runs your Parish Council.



The Government is keen for local communities to have a real influence on those things which directly affect them. For this reason Parish Councils are to be given new powers so that they have an even more important role to play in local affairs. Not only will Parish Councils be given an increased role in delivering local services but they will also be given a stronger voice in representing the community's interests and make sure that local people are listened to.

If you would like to be involved in this, now is the time for you to come forward. Providing you are a registered local government elector for the area (or meet certain other requirements) and will be at least 18 years old on election day you can stand for election. There are no other special qualifications needed to be a councillor. You just need to care about your community and be keen enough to make a difference.

If you are interested and want to know more, you can contact your local Parish Clerk, Lesley Bell (01509 416016 or barrowparishcouncil@ukonline.co.uk) or Charnwood Borough Council for more details and to check that you are eligible to stand as a councillor. Alternatively, you can contact the Association of Parish Councils on 01509 816400 or email lrapl@btconnect.com to obtain an information pack.

This year you will be able to vote at your usual polling station in the Church Rooms, which will be open longer than before (7.00am to 10.00pm), or you can simply request a postal form from Charnwood Borough Council's elections office.

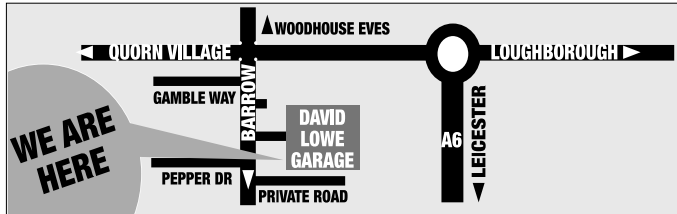
Remember, every vote counts and your vote could tip the balance!

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Barrow Signpost Welcomes New Residents

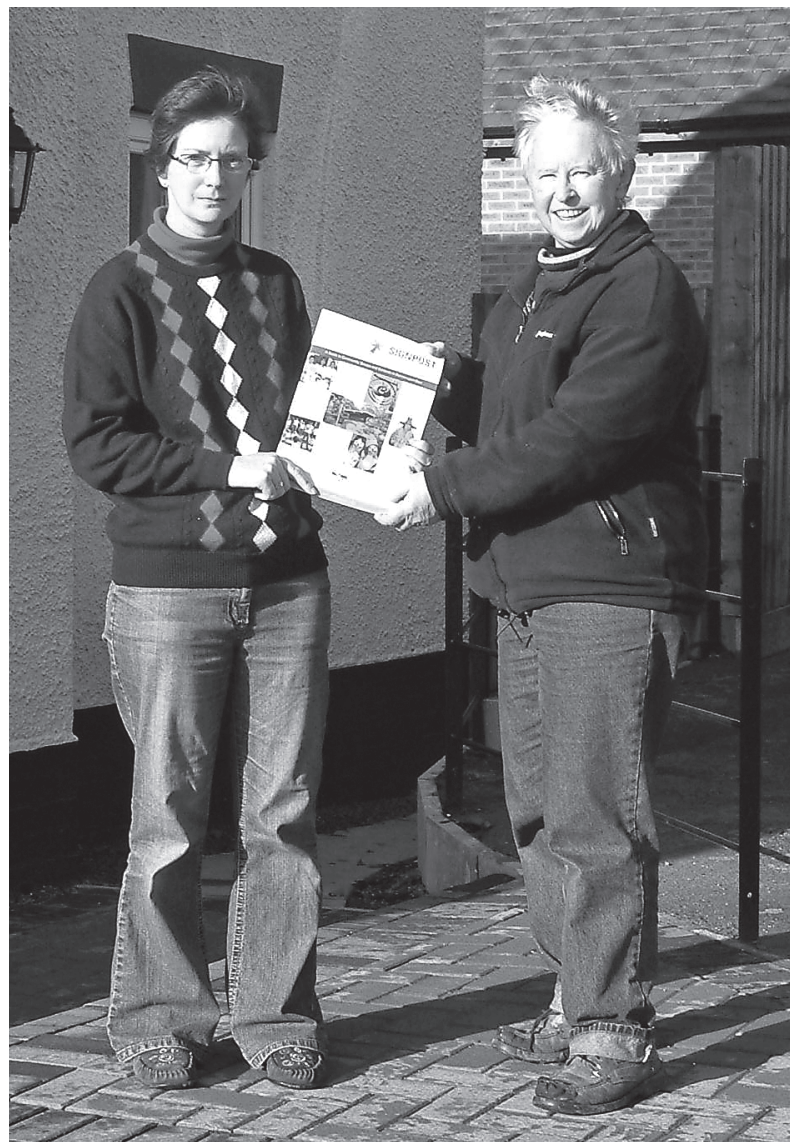
The first residents of the two estates between Nottingham and Cotes Roads moved in just before Christmas. Since then, a number more houses have become occupied so that by mid March, we expect about 25 families to be in residence.

WE WELCOME YOU TO BARROW UPON SOAR AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL QUICKLY BECOME PART OF THE VILLAGE.

Each family has received its Barrow Signpost Welcome Pack, filled with leaflets, map and newsletters. We hope that the information contained in the booklet will be a useful introduction to the many activities that go on in this community-minded village. Of course, the Signpost isn't just for new residents. It is for anyone in Barrow who wants one. So far, we have distributed about 1000 Signposts, many to be given out by groups to their members.

If you would like a Barrow Signpost, just pick up a copy from one of the following: Post Office, Parish Office, Library, Paper Shop or Central Businesses (John Perry). Perhaps you have a friend or neighbour who would like one or someone who has just moved in near to you. And don't forget the Signpost website: www.barrowsignpost.info. This will help you navigate around the information to find what you are looking for.

If you find a mistake or if some details change, please let us know straight away by phoning Judith Rodgers on 412063 or by emailing her on judith@barrowsignpost.info or by using the website itself.



Has Barrow Signpost shown you the way?

Since the launch of the Barrow Signpost site in December the number of visitors has been increasing at an impressive rate.

The number of unique visitors in February broke 300, even better when you consider that this only counts each computer once, not taking into account families or offices who share computers. With the number of households in Barrow estimated at 2500 this means more than 10% of the village could have visited the site in February alone! There were over 500 total visits to the site and more people are using it every day.

Our own site is also getting a decent amount of traffic, averaging over 500 unique and over 700 total visits each month. If you haven't checked out either barrowsignpost.info or barrowvoice.co.uk yet then take a look.

Then there's the village website, www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk, which broke all leicestershirevillages.com records last month during the (short) month of February. The village website is packed with useful information including a large section on family history.



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FREE Sustainable Travel Offer Comes To Barrow

One of the 'benefits' to Barrow negotiated by the planners of the new Willow Road estate is a travel offer to the first 50 new residents.

Valid from the day they move in, each household is entitled to two free adult travel passes for unlimited use on the Service 2 Kinchbus route between Loughborough and Leicester, calling at Quorn, Barrow, Sileby, Cossington and Birstall. The offer is valid for 3 months after the new residents move in. They have to complete an application form to get their free bus pass.

The scheme also includes a concessionary taxi service for holders of the bus pass. It allows free taxi rides with A2B Taxis from Monday to Saturday between the new estate and Barrow High Street or train station or Baxtergate in Loughborough. Before 9.30am on Mon to Friday, the taxi service is half price. This service has to be booked by 5.00pm the day before.

Clearly, the idea is to get people to try out public transport before they get too set in their ways in their new homes. Hopefully, they will find the services so acceptable while things are being made easy and cheap for them that when the three months run out, they will decide to carry on NOT USING THE CAR.

I have spoken to some of the new residents to see how the scheme is working in practice. A significant number had no idea that the offers exist, largely because they have been overwhelmed with all the urgent things to sort out as a result of moving into a new house. One lady said 'there's a great pile of Welcome material that has come showering through the letterbox. I haven't had time to do anything apart from put it all in one big pile. I haven't a clue what's in it'. This lady moved in before Christmas and meanwhile, the three months are ticking away.

I left one gentleman enthusiastically sorting through his pile to try to find the information pack. As a regular bus user, he was now very anxious to get his free bus pass with no further delay. A few residents knew about the scheme and one couple had just tried out the bus service to go into Leicester: 'it only took 45 minutes. I didn't think that was too bad. I'll probably go on using the pass until it runs out'.

A depressingly large number of people explained that they wouldn't be using the offer, some because they need their cars for their work and others because they have to get children to school; the scheme doesn't apply to children.

I have more than a suspicion that this 'sustainable travel scheme' is just tinkering at the fringes. It is going to take a mighty social revolution to get people to leave their cars at home in favour of walking, cycling, and catching the bus or train.

Judith Rodgers

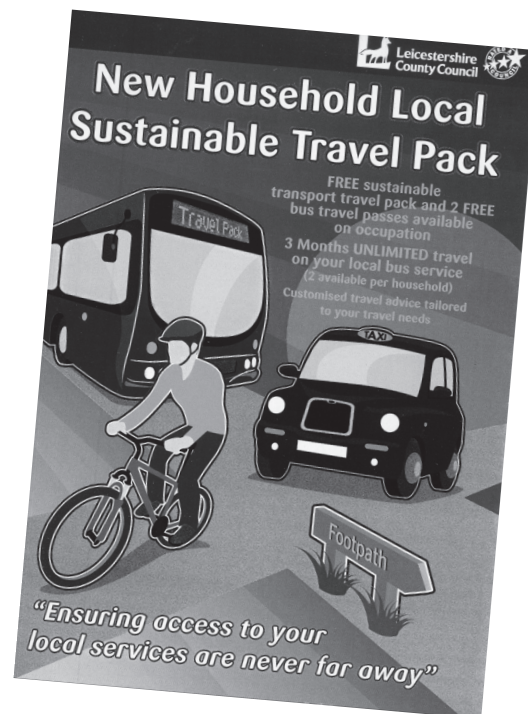
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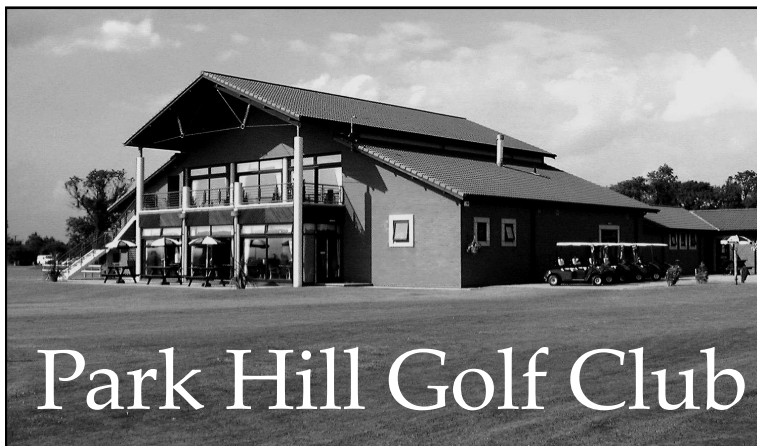
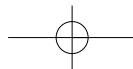
The middle pages of this Barrow Voice are a street map of the village produced by the BuSCA Heritage Group. Kevon Thompson has drawn a new map of the village streets and jitties – a huge effort for which many thanks – and a team from the Heritage Group, led by Kathryn Timmons, has added an A-Z of the streets and other key places. This makes a small leaflet for you to pull out and keep. Thanks to Barrow Voice for helping us distribute the new guide.

Kevon's map is symbolic rather than geographically correct. He had to distort the layout in places to fit in the detail (not an easy task!). If you want to know the exact layouts then you need to get a large-scale, OS map.

(Copies of the new guide will be made available in the Library and several other places in the village so you can get extra copies. Alternatively, copies can be downloaded from the Barrow Voice and village websites.)

Arthur Gardner





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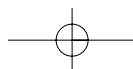
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News



New Look Sileby Road

‘We can start to be proud, rather than embarrassed, about living on Sileby Road’

People living along the Sileby Road cannot have failed to notice the posts which are now sunk into the ground to prevent cars being driven, or parked, on grass verges. The posts are part of the development of Sileby Road, giving it a more residential feel. I recently spoke with several residents to hear their views about whether they think it is a good thing, or not. The opinions are mixed and some were quite strong – both for and against.

Those in favour of the restrictions hope that in the summer, the grass will grow and Sileby Road will be a more attractive place. ‘We can start to be proud, rather than embarrassed, about living on Sileby Road,’ one resident told me. The worn-out grass and tyre tracks were a real eyesore and some people felt that drivers cutting corners as they came out of their drives were a hazard to pedestrians – especially children on their way to school. Many residents are pleased, too, that the posts are wood and have some element of design to them, making them attractive to look at. Somebody told me ‘It looks more like a street of houses and less like a supermarket car park. That’s got to be a good thing, hasn’t it?’ People living further along the road are worried that space outside their homes will disappear. Some said that Sileby Road is where they live and it doesn’t matter if it doesn’t fit the ideal image of what a village should be. Several residents expressed the view that, ‘Just because I can’t afford to buy a big house with a big drive, doesn’t mean I shouldn’t be allowed to park outside my house. What’s going to happen along this bit of the road?’

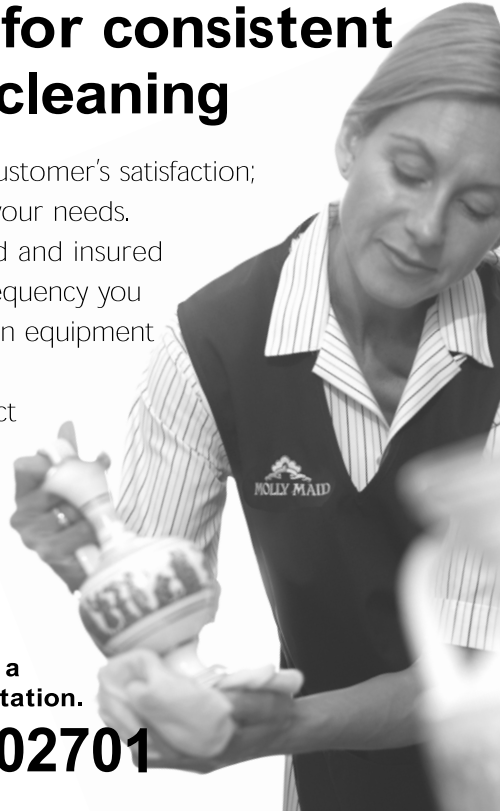
In response to that, I got in touch with a parish councillor who told me that there are hopes to extend the scheme, but only when grants are available. The posts there now, were put in after considerable opportunity for consultation with residents and if, and when, the scheme is extended along the road, then there will be further opportunity for residents to voice their ideas. The Parish Council hopes to create a balance between tidying up the road and making it look more attractive, and providing more organised and safer parking space for residents.

Karisa Krcmar



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News



The Slabs: What's Happening?

At a meeting of representatives from, Barrow and Quorn Parish Councils and Leicestershire County Council, it came as a great surprise to our Parish Council, that the CC Rights of Way officer announced that there were plans to close the Slabs footpath.

It was considered a hazard, because the wear and tear of the surface constitutes a danger to users and did not meet modern safety standards. This statement was met with great concern by both parish councils and a representative of Barrow commented that his council would strongly object to a closure. The reply to this was that in these circumstances no consultation was required. There was however a glimmer of hope when the CC indicated that the closure would be temporary until a conclusion is reached.

Here in Barrow we are well aware of temporary closures: remember the Rookery footpath from Cotes Road over the railway that was closed for many years? The representative for the CC informed the meeting that the closure would be an 'improvement opportunity'. One proposal put forward was that the slabs would be lifted and have a grassed path. This was deemed not viable due to the amount of use the footpath gets. Another option was to make it into a cycle route as well as a footpath. Cyclists using the path at the moment do so illegally. This option would involve making the path three metres wide with lighting. The inclusion of lighting means the path would be adopted by the county council as part of the highway network and would therefore be subject to ongoing maintenance. The type of lighting in this rural setting would need to be sympathetic. The county council is on record as saying it would not be averse to heritage style lighting and felt the lights could be switched off between 12.00 - 5.00am at night. This would make it a little more environmentally friendly in an age where we are being urged to conserve energy and wildlife live in almost constant light. It was also suggested that some of the old slabs could be reset to preserve a link with the past and that it may be possible to install historical information boards. All this of course is subject to the necessary finances being available.

The representatives of the parish councils are to report back their respective councils and make it known that the county council needs to be clear that the parish councils will not object to the re-classification of 'The Slabs' as a cycle route. A further meeting is to be arranged.

'The Slabs' are used on a daily basis by many people: pupils of Humphrey Perkins and Rawlins going to and from school, joggers, dog walkers and folk just taking a stroll in a pleasant rural setting on the edge of our village. If this proposal goes ahead, it will make a significant impact on the area. We need reassurances that there will be minimal disruption to what is, after all a public right of way.

What are your views? Will it be an improvement or another part of our diminishing rural countryside going for good? Let us know how you feel. Why not write to the Editor!. Or you could log onto the Discussion Forum on the village website:

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk and exchange views with other people.

Val Gillings





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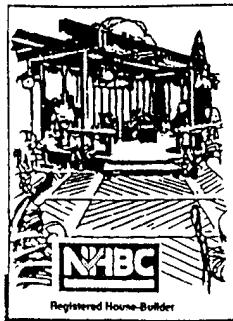
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Barrow Pre-School Playgroup received an Ofsted inspection on 6th & 7th November 2006. After spending two days with staff and children, Ofsted gave the Playgroup a "good" result which is an improvement on the last inspection's "satisfactory" result. The Ofsted inspection highlighted what excellent provision staff provide and as quoted in their report "Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment that is well organised to meet their needs". If you would like to see a copy of this report you can access it through the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk.



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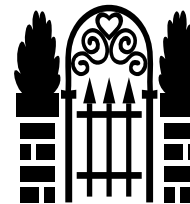
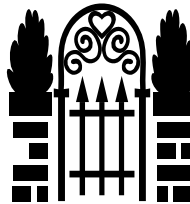
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People



New faces at the Soar Bridge

John and Di Rozentals moved into the Soar Bridge Inn last September along with their golden labrador, Charlie. John has been in the licensed trade for a good long time, moving to Barrow from the Portland Arms in Nottingham's Canning Circus-rather a change of scenery!

They have a number of ambitions for the Soar Bridge including building up the food trade, promoting the use of the skittle alley and encouraging local organisations as well as private groups to use the function room. Already a number of village organisations hold regular meetings in the function room and John and Di would also like to see it used for weddings and parties. It holds up to 50 people seated at tables and once it is refurbished, it will be a welcome additional village facility.

John prides himself on his catering skills and he cooks to order from a wide and ever changing menu. Tuesday is steak night and he cooks traditional roasts for Sunday lunch. It is a good idea to book on 412686. He hopes to introduce breakfasts in the spring.

The Soar Bridge will shortly have an outdoor covered smoking area in anticipation of the July ban on smoking in public places. Also outside beside the garden is a petanque court, currently the home for two teams.

When I first met them, this friendly couple had just returned from a dog walk to Mountsorrel so dog-lovers can certainly expect a warm welcome- perhaps beside the crackling log fire.

Feature



Sun Lin Fai Lok (Happy New Year – Cantonese style)

This year the biggest day in the Chinese calendar was February 18th when people all over the world with even the most tenuous links to China celebrate the start of the New Year. There were the usual shots on the television news of colourful lion-dancers snaking through London's China Town to a noisy back drop of firecrackers but what about the people in Barrow who share a Chinese heritage? How do they celebrate the the arrival of 2007 - 'The Year of the Boar'?

Barrow Voice is very grateful to two people; Mr. Lee the owner of ' Lee's Garden' and Sam Chung whose parents own ' Pearl City' for answering a few questions on the subject.

It is clear that in the past in China and Hong Kong the celebrations were massive, lasting at least five days, and filled with visits to friends and neighbours. Most people wore new clothes and for children this celebration marked the happiest and wealthiest period of their year. Every child had the right to go up to any older man, either a relative or neighbour, and with hands cupped politely one over the other, and bowing slightly, wish them a Happy New Year. In return they received a

special red envelope emblazoned with gold characters containing money. As important as visiting each others homes and giving children red envelopes were huge family meals held in parental homes. In Barrow the Lee and Chung households maintain some of these traditions although they say that the celebrations here are far less elaborate than those they remember from Hong Kong years ago. However, they both distribute the much coveted red envelopes to children in the family and hold festive family meals on the day itself.

In Mr. Lee's household it is a traditional, Buddhist influenced, vegetarian meal of a very wide range of vegetables

including wild mushrooms, lettuce, peas, bean-curd and dried oysters together with Chinese vermicelli. This will have followed starters of preserved sweet melon, sugared lotus roots and sweet water-chestnuts and followed by dishes of peeled, sliced fresh fruit and Fortune Cookies. One tradition Mr. Lee's family keep is not to lose their tempers or have arguments on that day, thus ensuring the family start the new year with harmony in the home. Mr. Lee also offers incense to the Bhuddist deity worshipped in the little shrine at his home together with prayers for good health, good luck and good fortune for the coming year.

Feature

The Chung family push the boat out too but their meal isn't vegetarian. Sam struggled to remember all the dishes he ate last year but amongst them were chicken, fish and shark- fin dishes with others containing a wide range of vegetables and rice. He said that sweet dishes were not served as a desert as such but there were many delicious sweet treats around the house available all day. The family and their friends also join other members of the Chinese community in Leicester for a traditional Chinese New Year's Show held at Leicester University which they always enjoy. These shows attract Chinese people from all over the county so people often meet relatives there. Interestingly the Chungs have relatives, uncles and cousins, in Oadby with their own ' Pearl City ' take-away business. As Barrow's ' Pearl City ' was established in 1997 it was opened after the ' Pearl ' in Oadby thus adding a second Pearl to the family chain.

However, the Chinese New Year celebrations have to be fitted into a normal working week for both families as neither outlet closed for the festival on February 18th.

And what do they cook for us, their Barrow customers? Well, it seems young people love the cheap and cheerful 'Number 108', the £2.00 Special from ' Pearl City ' with the more discriminating choosing Sweet and Sour Chicken Cantonese Style or Crispy Beef and from ' Lee's Garden ' the Chow Mien range is very popular as is their Special Fried Rice and the selection of Chinese Curries. I learnt that the Cantonese food sold to us is very similar to that you find in Hong Kong but with two exceptions. The first is that the range of food items is far smaller than in Hong Kong as food regarded as delicious when correctly prepared and cooked, such as hen's feet, duck's tongues, pig's intestines and snake, is so unfamiliar as to be thought weird here. The second major difference is that in Hong Kong fish and shell fish in restaurants are usually seen alive, swimming around in tanks, or in the case of crabs, sitting on ice, trussed



up but blowing little bubbles and therefore showing they are still breathing. Once the customer is reassured the fish is alive, and therefore fresh, one is chosen and cooked. In Britain we expect to buy dead fish and our restaurants to stock dead ones too.

But what is life like for Chinese families in Barrow? I'm glad to say both interviewees were very positive. They agreed that it was a nice, friendly, quiet place to live and work with only the occasional problem. In fact Mr. and Mrs. Chung, who at present live above ' Pearl City ', enjoy life in the village so much they plan to retire here.

Gaynor Barton



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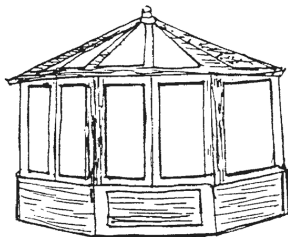
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Features

Orchard Kennels Opens Hydrotherapy Facility

Orchard Kennels Hydrotherapy Centre opened in October 2006 and the team who run it have been very pleased with the positive response to this new facility. It consists of a tiny indoor swimming pool/very large paddling pool (a spa pool?) with a ramp for animals to get in and out of the water. So far, it has only been used for dogs but in theory, it could be used for quite a wide range of other animals although cats wouldn't be too pleased with the idea!



On average, a dog will start off with two five minute swims. Each five minute swim is the equivalent of a five mile walk. The therapist may go into the water with the dog and then she can encourage the dog to swim a sensible circuit. Over several sessions, the duration of the swim may be extended. It depends on why the therapy is being given.

Hydrotherapy is a form of rehabilitation therapy which helps to improve general fitness and stamina, improves muscle tone and is particularly helpful with the recovery from injury or operation. Some dogs are referred by their vet because of injury or arthritis or just overweight. Swimming is also an excellent form of exercise because most of the muscles normally used in movement are involved without the stress caused by running on hard ground.

Since October, the Hydrotherapy Centre hasn't experienced any seriously funny incidents but when I went to take photos, the little terrier, Bonnie, was paddling away furiously with a rubber bone clenched between her jaws. This, apparently is a must for Bonnie. Then there is Bully who sounds as though he is. He has to be accompanied by two blond-haired members of the team. Bully doesn't like anyone with dark hair. I didn't dare ask how Bully showed his disapproval.

Most of the dogs show every sign of enjoying their therapy. Some by rushing back in after the shower and blow dry.

For more information and bookings please contact Clare Weiss on 01509 412300.

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Centre Stage Is Back With 'Spaghetti Opera'

It is a year since Barrow was treated to one of the Centre Stage productions. This time, we have a touring company called Opera on the Run who will entertain us marvellously with 'Spaghetti Opera'. The show takes place at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre on Wednesday April 25th, starting at 7.30.

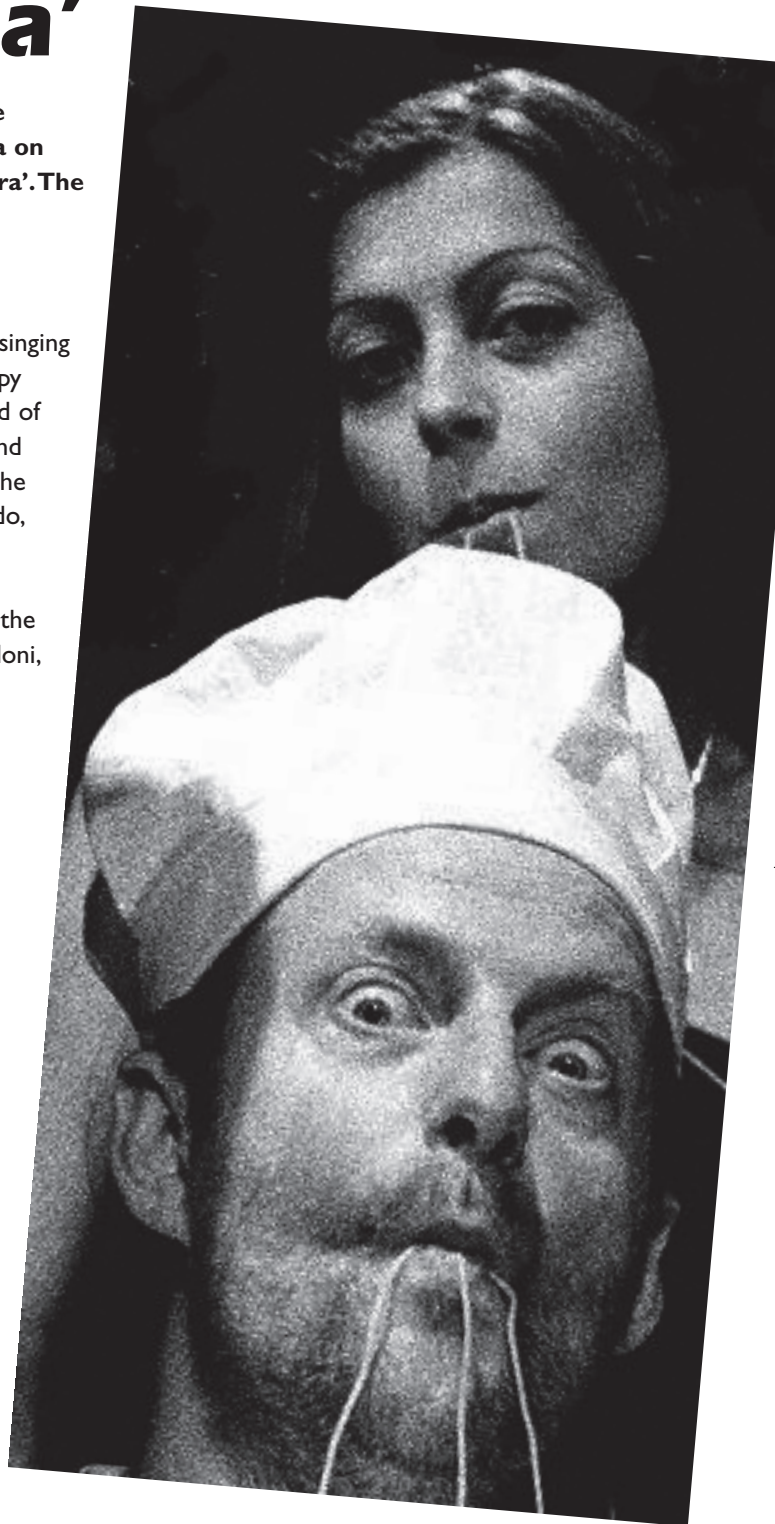
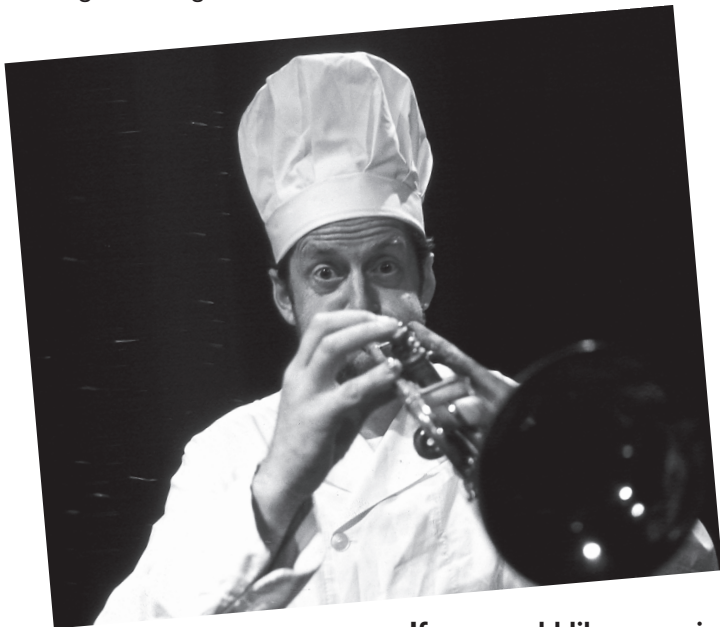


Spaghetti Opera is the hilarious story of two singing waiters and their bumpy ride through the world of restaurants, women and opera. When one of the waiters, Roger Bravado, finally opens his own Opera café, he unwittingly employs the help of Tony Cannelloni, the local mafia.

Realising his error, Roger plans his escape from the clutches of Tony by enlisting the help of his pretty young waitress, who serves up a lethal cocktail of rude desserts.

This is a wonderful mixture of favourites from the operas of Puccini and Verdi set to a tale of love, betrayal and cuisine. It will delight everyone who likes a good story set to a good tune, including opera buffs and those who wouldn't touch opera with a barge pole.

When Opera on the Run visited a village in Derbyshire, a member of the audience wrote 'what a superb show! I didn't know what to expect and I was thrilled to be treated to such a unique entertainment. The creativity and professionalism of the performance was absolutely wonderful. The whole audience enjoyed it; the 'opera doubters' in particular. I feel really sorry for the 'not my cup of tea' brigade who gave this one a miss.'



If you buy your tickets in advance, you will get a discount price of £6.00 and £4.00. If you buy on the door, tickets will cost £7.00 and £5.00 (concessions). The show is highly suitable for families with children from 11+ and a special family ticket will cost £16.00 for 2 adults and 2 young people. Tickets can be bought from The Paper Shop, High Street, Barrow and from the Box Office on 01509 412063 or by email rogers_david@hotmail.com

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Parish Plan

Group seeks new hall for expanding village



The Barrow Parish Plan revealed a groundswell of opinion among village residents that there should be additional facilities for social activities in Barrow. This is particularly appropriate now, when so many new homes are being built and it is forecast that these will result in an increase of more than 1000 in our population.

The Village Hall Action Group has already made tremendous progress and is currently undertaking further research to identify what facilities are currently lacking in the village and which groups or organisations have particular need of additional facilities. This is ongoing but so far responses from individual households strongly suggest that there is a need for a nice modern, accessible facility in which to hold parties and celebrations. Responses from groups are highlighting a lack of facilities appropriate for young children and young people as well as a need for extra space for adult activities.

When this fact finding and initial consultation process is complete, draft proposals and plans will be drawn up. It is envisaged that at this stage an exhibition and open meeting will be held to share ideas and allow further input from interested parties. The dates for these will appear on notices in the village; come along and see what is planned.

Following all the consultations we will have a clear picture of the requirements that a new building will need to fulfil. The next stage will be to find a plot of land, which will be appropriate to the building and to apply for grant funding in order to carry out the project.

The Village Hall Action Group consists of a number of enthusiastic individuals dedicated to ensuring that there is a modern, multipurpose facility to serve the needs of an expanding village in the 21st Century. This will need to complement those spaces that already exist.

If you are interested in this project please join us, particularly if you have skills that would help to carry it forward.

Sue Rodgers 01509 416533

Business Forum – making progress and plans

Barrow Business Forum was only formed last summer and already is playing an active role in the business life of the village. There are now 17 members from all sectors of the business community. You will see the Barrow Business Forum stickers in the shop windows and on the sides of members' vans. The target membership is 50 by the end of next spring.

The aims of the Forum are fourfold.

- To represent a business voice to the councils and other organisations
- To promote and develop Barrow as a vibrant place for retail, manufacture, services and commerce
- To provide a forum for managers to meet/learn/communicate on issues which will assist the growth of their businesses
- To assist individual members with personal business issues.

So far, actions have been successful on all four objectives. A briefing on business views was given to the Parish Council chairman and to Charnwood Regeneration team. Open meetings have been held to agree an agenda for the coming year and to hear a speaker on the new Fire Regulations for public premises. More meetings and workshops are planned for the rest of the year and all business people are welcome.

The Forum is planning a major village promotion for the spring. This promotion will provide incentives for each household to find out more about the wide range of business activities in the area and to visit the local shops and businesses to enjoy the experience of shopping locally.

The members of Barrow Business Forum are keen to provide all customers with an attractive and wide range of shopping and business opportunities within their own village. Any business manager who would like more information should contact John Lockwood at Digiti (01509 410355) or Barrie Atkinson (01509 414498)

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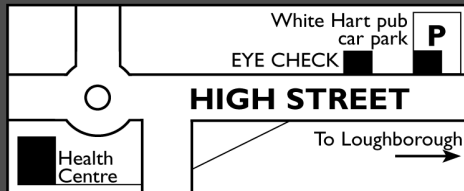
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M J Bhojani BSc (Hons) MC Optom

Parish Plan

Action Group Accepted On Speedwatch Scheme

A Traffic Action Group was formed following completion of the Parish Plan. The group first met in June last year and continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. We usually meet at the Bishop Beveridge Club on South Street but the venue is subject to change so it is best to check. Details of meetings, minutes and agendas are published on the Barrow Upon Soar website www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk.

The group is looking at ways to improve traffic flow in the village, ease congestion, reduce speeding traffic and make it safer and easier to walk (including the use of wheelchairs and push chairs).

So far, we have been accepted on the Community Speedwatch Scheme where we will be checking the speed of traffic in various parts of the village. We are looking at ways in which we can achieve the other aims.

If you would like your say or you have skills to offer the group please come along to one of our meetings.

Further information can be obtained from the village website or by contacting the group secretary – Wendy Woodhouse – 413212.

Expert To Help Young Dog Owners

Barrow Youth Action Group will be hosting dog-training classes for the young people of Barrow during the May half-term. You must be eight or over to take part (that's the young people, not the dogs).

Sarah Whittaker, director of WitsEnd in Leicester, will be the instructor. She is well known in 'doggy' circles; amongst other things Sarah runs a training school and pet behaviour therapy business, she has written a book and had articles in various canine magazines. We are very privileged to have her expertise available for the week.

The sessions will be on the King George playing fields at 2pm on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a test on the Friday afternoon. Youngsters will be taught basic canine care, how to train the dog in key commands such as 'sit', 'down' and 'wait', and much more.

Numbers have had to be limited to six dogs so keep a look out for more details which will be advertised in the village nearer the time.

Lively Discussions On Health And Welfare

Following the publication of the Village Plan, the group responsible for Village Health and Welfare held an open evening in January at the GAP where a lively discussion took place around this subject.

Topics included;

- Concerns over giving better access to information about benefits and existing caring services and activities in Barrow. There are already a number of groups in the village who provide a range of care but how do people find out? One answer is to encourage lots of residents to get hold of a free copy of the new Barrow Signpost which contains a very full summary of what goes on and who to contact.
- The lack of facilities for disabled young people
- How to involve people in volunteering, participating in activities including befriending networks
- How to help people apply for benefits
- Citizens Advice

It was agreed to form a Health and Welfare Action Group and to hold further discussions in the future. Our next meeting will be on Monday 12th March at the Gap, Beveridge Street from 7.00 – 8.30pm. We hope that this will include an informal discussion with a representative from Charnwood Voluntary Services about how to get people to volunteer in the field of health care and disability.

If you have any queries, please contact Ann Childs 01509 412104 or Pauline Ranson 01509416928.

THE ANCHOR INN



The Anchor Inn offers a warm welcome, friendly service, traditional beers and home-cooked food. Daily Specials, Lighter lunches, Special Lunch menu for Senior Citizens and Traditional Sunday Lunch.

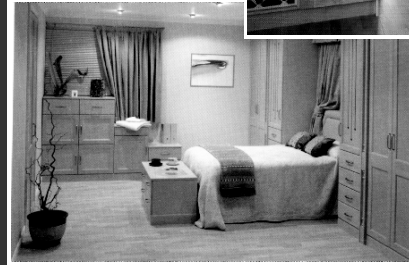
Opening hours:

Monday evenings only 6.30 – 11.00pm; no food
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 12.00 – 3.00 and 6.30 – 11.00pm
Sunday 12.00 – 3.00 with lunches, 7.00 – 10.30; no food
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Village Life



Tree festival another great success

The Third Christmas Tree Festival was opened by Councillor Roger Wilson, Deputy Mayor of Charnwood, and attracted almost 1900 people over the last weekend in November. They were amazed by the imagination and effort that had once again gone into the 64 trees on display.

A varied programme of festive music and readings were provided on the Friday evening by the Ratcliffe Chorale which was well received by all. The Sunday Christingale and Festival of Light Services were enriched further by the trees. Altogether over £4,000 was raised, which will go to the fund for much needed repair work to the exterior of the church.

All our thanks go to everyone who attended the Festival and to those who made it the success that it was. Any ideas for 2007? If so, please give Ann and John Beaumont a ring on 412609.

Forthcoming name change at village opticians

Eye Check Opticians in Barrow will be changing its name to VISUAL ANSWERS OPTICIANS some time early in the New Year.

"Nothing else is changing - just the name", said Mohammed Bhojani - principal optometrist and company director, "all the existing staff will be here as normal too". Eye check Opticians was originally founded and run by Mr Bhojani and developed into Leicestershire's largest and fastest growing independent opticians with 10 practices in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire but the decision to change the name comes after the parent company was recently acquired by another national optical chain. "We do not share the same philosophy as Scrivens Opticians - who recently acquired the majority - but not all of the practices - we offer a much more personal service and our prices are much more competitive - hence the reason to change the name to reinforce the fact we are local independent opticians".

The official name change is likely to occur some time in February. Visual Answers Opticians practices are at 22 High St Quorn and also at 28a High Street Barrow Upon Soar.

Essential Oil Therapy For Animals

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"Before using the oils, Gloria was very nervous and hated going in a stable and being handled by strangers. She also suffered from frequent nosebleeds. She became much calmer and a lot more comfortable in her stable. Her nosebleeds stopped immediately and she has not had one since. A gel made with oils also healed her rainscald quickly." *N Dawkins*

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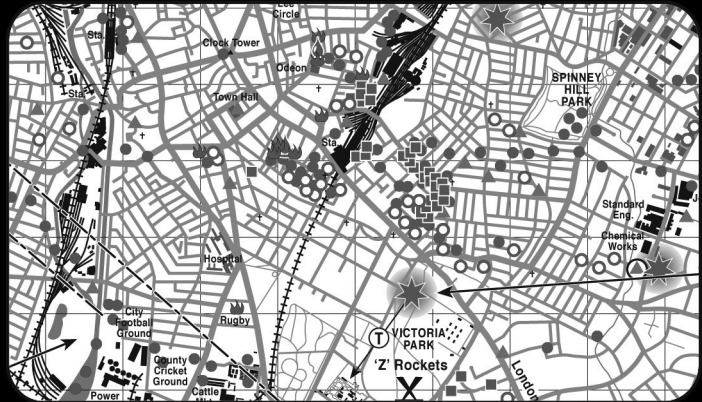
Local Clinic (Friday only)
The Orange Box
43 Melton Road
Barrow Upon Soar LE12 8NS
Telephone: 07940 498453

Main Clinic
76 Telford Way, Thurnby,
Leicester LE5 2LX
Telephone: (0116) 241 2661
Home Visits also available

www.annegregoryclinic.com
or call for a brochure

Wartime Leicestershire

Two essential books on Second World War Leicestershire
by Terence C. Cartwright.



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Midsummer Music 2007

The annual 'Trapday' charity music festival will be held at The Trap on Saturday June 16th.

As usual, a wide variety of acts will appear, ranging from Jazz through Blues to Pop and Rock. This year we are supporting the Air Ambulance, Rainbows and Barrow Playgroup. If you wish to sponsor the event, or to contribute in any way, please contact John Price on 01509 621269 or john.price50@btinternet.com.

Running from 2pm until 11pm this is a wonderful day out for all the family. Come and support us and help us to beat last year's total of five and a half thousand pounds.

Looking for funding for your community group?

Voluntary Action Charnwood is holding 'Find the Funding' sessions

at Barrow Library
Monday 26th March 2007

We are taking bookings for hourly sessions, between 2pm-7pm.

To book a slot, please contact Cath Walker or Vicci Barrett on 01509 631784/787

We can also help you with setting up and running your community group.

Registered Charity No. 1087692

Sports Camps At Rawlins Community College

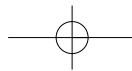
Rawlins Community College ran a second very popular sports camp during the first week of the Christmas holidays. Approximately 40 children aged 5-13 years attended each day, with many who'd booked for one day only coming back every day. The main camp ran from 10-4pm, with the opportunity to book an extra couple of hours each end. Sports offered included swimming, basketball, football, badminton, trampolining, athletics, netball, rounders and parachute games. Older young people were also encouraged to attend to assist with coaching. Coaches included the college's own students as well as students from the university's sports department. The feedback from parents was excellent, and many were asking about next time!

Planning has begun for both Easter and summer holiday camps – the dates for Easter are;

- Week one: Monday 2nd to 5th April
- Week two: Tues 10th to Fri 13th April

For further information, contact Nick Farmer or Sharon Scott on 01509 622827.





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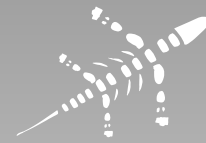
All enquiries should be made through:

Judith Rodgers - 412063 or advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk

Barrow Voice is published by Barrow upon Soar Community Association. Opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the editorial committee or the Community Association. Barrow Community Association is a registered Charity No: 505692.

We publish 2,700 copies quarterly and deliver FREE to all households in Barrow

ADVERTISING RATE CARD AUTUMN 2006



In each issue....

The Latest Village News Items

Last Minute Village News

Reports On Issues Affecting People In The Street - Young & Old

Articles With A Historical Perspective

The Latest Community Events

Celebrity Reports

Sports News

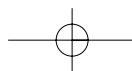
Diary of forthcoming Events

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Celebrations in Marans

This year will see the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Charter with Marans. Many of us will be travelling to France for the celebrations. Some will be including the visit within their holidays and some will be going in an organised party from June 28th to July 3rd. Why not join us and enjoy the hospitality of our French friends? During the celebrations we stay in the homes of our French hosts and many lasting friendships have been made. If you would like to be included in the trip, numbers were supposed to be in by the end of February, but this issue will be delivered later than that so please let Mike Morley know as soon as possible on 01509 412982.

We are a friendly group and would like new members. It is not necessary to speak French. The membership fee is £6 per family for the year and we have a varied social programme. Events planned for this year so far include a wine tasting evening, a treasure hunt, long alley skittles and a barbeque, so come and join in the fun. You will be made very welcome.

Val Gillings



'What's on in Barrow'

'What's on in Barrow' is a new venture. By now, you may have seen the February and March editions. The idea is that at the beginning of each month the list of events happening in the village will be placed in the Library, The Paper Shop and the Post Office for you to collect. Initially 100 will be printed. 'What's on in Barrow' will also be posted on the Village website www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk.

If you would like an event included then please place brief details in the boxes available in each of the 'outlets' by the 24th of the previous month, add details to the village diary in the library or contact Mike Morley on 412982.

BUSCA

Barrow Upon Soar Community Association

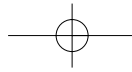
BUSCA Events – Dates for your diaries

The following entertainments have been organised by the Events committee of BUSCA for your enjoyment, so please support us. All these events take place at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre.

March 24 th	Spring Dance
April 25 th	'Centre Stage' brings the professional theatre group 'Opera on the Run' who present 'Spaghetti Opera', a seriously funny spoof.
June 9 th	Summer Ball: a chance to get dressed up and dance to some good live music.
Sept 29 th	Autumn Dance.
November 3 rd	Winter Warmer Dance
December 31 st	New Year's Eve Ball with dancing to the 'Danny Rogers Big Band'

Tickets for all these events can be obtained from the Paper Shop, Betty Turner (416185), Sue Rodgers (416533) or Val Gillings (413227).

Don't forget the Parish Council's Village Bike Rides on June 20th with a BBQ with BUSCA.



Village Diary



www.barrowvoice.co.uk

Barrow Voice is published by Barrow upon Soar Community Association. Opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the editorial committee or the Community Association. Barrow Community Association is a registered Charity No: 505692.

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Advertising Deadline
23rd April 2007

Copy Deadline
30th April 2007

Copy to: The Editor
17 North Street
Barrow upon Soar
Leics LE12 8PZ
editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

- Sat 17th** Holy Trinity coffee morning; Church rooms
 - Tues 20th** Barrow Youth Action Group meeting Barrow Conservative Club 7.30pm; Everyone welcome Mothers Union: Gift box from paper; 9, Welland Road; 8.00pm
 - Fri 23rd** Barrow Scouts Film evening: "Men in Black" a spoof Sci-Fi; Scout HQ; 7.00pm (doors open at 6.30pm), everyone welcome Hall Orchard PTFA "Murder Mystery Night"
 - Sat 24th** BUSCA Spring Dance; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; dancing with "Just Us"; 7.30pm (bar opens at 7.00pm); tickets from The Paper Shop
 - Tues 27th** Heritage Group talk "Barrow in the Industrial Revolution"; Beveridge Club 7.30pm Annual Parish meeting; Methodist Hall; 7.30pm
 - Fr 30th** Easter "Wriggly Readers"; Barrow library
 - Sat 31st** Labour Party Spring Fayre; Church Rooms
-
- Mon 2nd** Bereavement Group; meeting at Methodist Church; 2.00pm Holy Trinity Men's Group: "Life in Belarus"; speaker: Bob Holownia; 8.00pm
 - Tues 3rd** Mothers Union/Wives/Men's Group: Holy Week service; Holy Trinity Church Parish Council meeting; 7.15pm; Parish Office; everyone welcome
 - Wed 4th** Gardening Club: "Flower Power Plus" by RJ Gregory; Humphrey Perkins Community Lounge; 7.30pm; visitors welcome
 - Sat 7th** Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; Methodist Church Hall
 - Fri 13th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30; Baptist Church Hall
 - Mon 16th** WI: "The benefits of Aloe Vera" by Mrs P Lewenthall; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
 - Tues 17th** Barrow Youth Action Group meeting Barrow Conservative Club 7.30pm; Everyone welcome
 - Sat 21st** Holy Trinity coffee morning; Church rooms
 - Wed 25th** Centre Stage Professional Theatre: "Spaghetti Opera"; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.30pm; tickets from the Paper Shop
-
- Tues 1st** Parish Council meeting; 7.15pm; Parish Office; everyone welcome
 - Wed 2nd** Mothers Union: "fabulous Phonographs" by Tony Edmonds; Church Rooms; 2.30pm Gardening Club: "Bee keeping" by Graham Law; Humphrey Perkins Humanities Block; 7.30pm; visitors welcome
 - Thurs 3rd** Parish Council Elections; Church Rooms; 7.00am – 10.00pm
 - Sat 5th** Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; Methodist Church Hall
 - Wed 9th** BUSCA AGM; HPHA Community Lounge; 7.30pm; all welcome
 - Fri 11th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30; Baptist Church Hall
 - Sat 12th** Friends of St Gregory Coffee Morning; Bishop Beveridge Club; 9.00 - 11.00am
 - Mon 14th** Holy Trinity Men's Group: Open Meeting: "Action for Birds. The work of the RSPB" by John Clews; 8.00pm WI: Resolutions; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
 - Tues 15th** Mothers Union: Evening Stroll; 8.00pm; meet at the Church
 - Sat 19th** Holy Trinity coffee morning; Church rooms
 - Tues 22nd** Barrow Youth Action Group meeting Barrow Conservative Club 7.30pm; Everyone welcome
-
- Sat 2nd** Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; Methodist Church Hall
 - Mon 4th** Holy Trinity Men's Group: visit Watermead Park
 - Tues 5th** Parish Council meeting; 7.15pm; Parish Office; everyone welcome
 - Wed 6th** Mothers Union: Tea and Cakes; Church Rooms; 2.30
 - Fri 8th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30; Baptist Church Hall
 - Mon 11th** WI: The Funny side of the travel business" : Steve Brooks of Glenfield Travel; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

FORTUNE COOKIES

These cookies don't have to be confined to Chinese meals as they make wonderful party favors or place cards. The key to success is to shape the cookies quickly while still soft and warm from the oven.

Ingredients:

- 3 egg whites
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter (melted)
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon instant tea powder
- 2 tablespoons water



****Beforehand:**
Cut some paper into 2 inch x 1/2 inch strips. Type or write fortunes on them, to insert in cookies.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine ingredients in order, mixing well after each addition. Chill 20 minutes.

Make cookies two at a time. On a greased cookie sheet, drop a spoonful of dough for each cookie. It is very important to spread dough very thinly with back of spoon to about 3 inch diameter. Bake about 5 minutes or until edges are lightly brown. Working quickly, place a fortune** in the center of each cookie. Fold cookie in half enclosing fortune, to form a semi-circle. Grasp rounded edges of semi-circle between thumb and forefinger on one hand. Place forefinger of other hand at center of folded edge, and push in, making certain solid sides of cookie puff out. Place each cookie in small size muffin tin, open edges up, until cookie is set. Store in airtight container.

donta forgeta' to pudda your fortuna in ze cookie!



Gianlucca Bazucca

