

BARROW *Voice*



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SPRING 2008



Barrow beats the BBC (page 4)



Wintering on the Water (page 12)



Sports Hall a Reality (page 7)



Barrow Invader (page 15)

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Looking forward to hearing from you

Spring is traditionally a time for new beginnings and Barrow is certainly living up to this. Inside we feature new businesses, play equipment, the prospect of a new sports hall, dance group, heritage wardens, sports writer, initiatives for young and old and plans for new facilities at Holy Trinity Church.

We are 'Barrow upon Soar' so we thought it was time to take a look at life on the water, not just for a quick summer outing but what it's like to be afloat all the year round. There is also an in depth look at the invasive aquatic plant that threatens to smother our waterways.

We have two tributes to Barry Leader who left the village some years ago but who, together with his wife Heather and family, was at the forefront of community life for more than a decade.

And as the days begin to lengthen we have our very own Barrow Springwatch and a look ahead to Open Gardens in June.

At this time we also plan and budget for the year ahead. We always welcome feedback on what you like and don't like about Barrow Voice but it would be particularly useful to hear from you now. So please put pen to paper or email to editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

Frances Thompson

News

Pillings Lock Marina opens

16th March 2007 was the date that Pilling's Lock Marina Ltd took possession of the Quorn Marina Site from the London Rock Ltd (after gravel mining was completed). What a year it's been! Building work both on and off the water has driven on at a good pace. There were a few hiccups along the way, but then this is something outside the ordinary of your usual building site.

The marina is now home to over 100 boats with a further 80 or so booked in and arriving soon. The demographics of the users are very encouraging for the area too, as currently 48.6% of all boat owners do not live in an "LE" postcode area - surely this is great news for local businesses of all kinds?



There are still many berths available for rent and all details are just a click away - www.pillingslock.com - or call Paul at the marina office on 0116 2301 778.

Open days planned for Sunday 27th April 2008 and Sunday 22nd June 2008. 10am-4pm - all welcome!



The day Barrow beat the BBC at the news game

The Barrow Train Crash happened on Friday February 1st at 6.30am. By 7.30am the following report along with a photo gallery appeared as a news flash on the village website: 'A lorry hit the footbridge, the bridge was dislodged and the train hit the footbridge causing the train to derail. The driver was trapped in his cab for several hours and had to be freed by the emergency services. Some of the six passengers suffered minor injuries. The centre of the village was blocked off until the incident was cleared.'

Thirty minutes later, a report first appeared on the BBC website.

This use of our village website, www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk to give instant news to the world made a county-wide first for leicestershirevillages.com. Site Editor, John Nurse who created the news flash said, 'We kept getting requests from all over the country for our photos. It was certainly a very new way to use the village website which is mostly full of rather static information: family history records, opening times of shops, village walks, details of village organisations, places to visit and the like'.

Why not have a look and see what there is? You will be astonished at the amount and range of useful and interesting information stored on www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk

David Rodgers



Holy Trinity Church, Barrow upon Soar

'Fundraising for the future at Holy Trinity Church'

On Thursday 29 November The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Lady Gretton, JP, launched a major fundraising project at Holy Trinity Church. This is to enable an extension to be built on to the church which will provide much needed toilets, together with a hall, meeting room and kitchen, replacing the current Church Rooms building on the opposite side of Church Street.

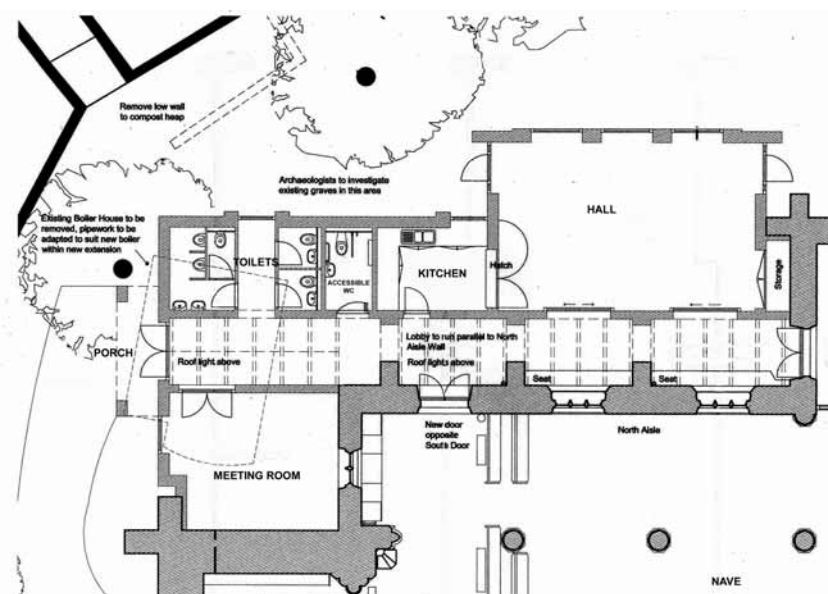
In opening the fourth Christmas Tree Festival, the Lord Lieutenant drew attention to the project and to the £530,000 which is required to be raised over the next three to four years. The Fundraising Committee under the chair of Mrs Pam Brown has many exciting fundraising activities planned and in addition will be making grant applications to achieve the target. Over the last three years the Development Committee, chaired by Dr Michael Neale, has worked with architects to produce the outline for the extension and both committees are now working together to complete a successful project.

Holy Trinity Church has already provided £80,000 towards the total and a further £13,500 has been added from a variety of sources: Helena Whittaker completed a sponsored half marathon in September; October's Organ Recital which marked the centenary of the church organ; the successful Christmas Tree Festival; and miscellaneous donations and the collections received from Baptism and Wedding services.

There will be many fund-raising activities organised over the coming months, and the latest event was a Wine Tasting on Friday, 22 February at which which our wine-loving Priest-in-Charge, Rev'd John Whittaker, teased and tested our palates with a selection of white Rhone and red Bordeaux wines accompanied by some excellent refreshments.



Lady Gretton with Ann & John Beaumont



We will let you know about more of these activities in due course as the dates approach.

If you would like tickets for the Comedy Evening by the nationally renowned Andy Kind (<http://www.isaacproject.co.uk/>) or the Jazz Picnic Concert, please do give Pam Brown a call - 01509 412929.

VICAR GIVES AWAY MONEY!

If you are in Church on Easter Day, then you will be offered £10 to take away with you to be returned at Harvest Festival in October. Rev'd John Whittaker will be urging everyone to use their time and skills to multiply the money given out so expect to hear of lots of small events going on in support of Holy Trinity Church's extension project!

Future Events

- * A Comedy Evening on Friday 11 April at which Andy Kind will entertain us
- * An afternoon open air Jazz Picnic Concert on Saturday 7 June with the band Peter Yates plays in, Sounds Like Swing
- * Alison Print's pupils will give a recital on Sat 5th July in the Church
- * After the summer break there will be a Fashion Show in September
- * An Auction of Promises and Talents during late autumn on Friday 31 October



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New sports hall is a reality at last

The need for a sports hall in the village has been recognised for several decades but at last we can announce that a sports hall will be built at Humphrey Perkins. A sub-committee of Governors and representatives of the community has been working on this project for almost two years and is now delighted to see all their work become a reality.

Humphrey Perkins High School and Community Centre, with other local schools, has received funding linked to a number of major local housing developments (Section 106 agreement) and Governors agreed that some of this money should go to provide a new sports hall on the HPHS campus. Planning permission and full support for the project was received from Leicestershire County Council just before Christmas (2007) and it is intended to start work this Spring with the project hopefully completed towards the end of summer 2008.

The four-badminton court sports hall will be positioned next to the newly refurbished changing rooms which adjoin the main school hall. It will be available for use by the local sporting community when not in use by the school(s) so community use will be in weekday evenings and weekends. There will, of course, be a schedule of fees for community use.

Further details on the use of the facility and the sports and activities provided will come later but in the meantime more information can be obtained from the school by calling 01509 412385.

Alan Willcocks



How the new Sports Hall might look

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Barrow Voice is pleased to welcome five new businesses to High Street and North Street

The shop that used to house Robert's Barber is now occupied by two new businesses: Julie Astill's 'The Footings' offers chiropody, podiatry and foot health. Julie is already well known locally and the village will benefit from her new Barrow base. The building will also house 'Bliss Health and Beauty' run by Amanda Thurman. She is offering an extensive range of therapies including body massage and pedicure.

Next door, we have all been watching the changes to 'Frame It' with curiosity. This is to become a combined tearoom, internet cafe and old fashioned sweet shop also selling horticultural produce, handmade crafts and cards produced by the students of Homefield College. It will not only provide Barrow with a dedicated café but will also give first class work experience placements to the students and residents of Homefield College. The window display put up in January shows a small insight into the activities that the students engage in. This new project will stretch and develop the students further towards achieving their maximum potential with hands-on experience of waitressing, menu planning, food ordering & purchasing, food preparation, the handling of money & independent travel from Sileby by train.



The new 10 seater venue will hopefully include a wireless hot spot, but you may alternatively want to hire a computer along with your latte. It is due to open shortly.

Meanwhile, Ian Cawood will continue to run 'Frame It' from Hoton.

You may not have realised it but Sylvia's florist shop has also recently changed hands. Sylvia Steen retired after Christmas and the business was taken over by Kelly Taylor. The business is now technically called Sylvia's; Taylor Florist Ltd. We hope Sylvia enjoys her retirement and that the business continues to thrive with Kelly at the helm.

Last but not least, the shop next door to the Fish and Chip shop on North Street is now Eaton Electrical. Bill Eaton is



running a domestic electrical retailers and commercial electrical contractors so you will now be able to buy your light fittings etc in the village.

It is encouraging to see such variety amongst these businesses and Barrow Voice wishes them well.

Look opposite for their advertisements.

Judith Rodgers



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Early closing or flushed away altogether?

It's 4.20pm and the public toilet in the village car-park, opposite the Three Crowns, has been cleaned and closed for the day. "It's too early," complained one 'Barrow Voice' reader, "Why doesn't it stay open longer? I'm sure it did in the past".

Well, our reader was correct; in the past the loos were open longer. When a local lady Mrs. Aideen Perry was in charge she opened the toilets between 6.30 and 7.00 am and only locked them up after the shops had closed. Mrs Perry, who took over the job from her father, retired about five years ago. Now the responsibility lies with Charnwood Borough Council.

To learn more I rang Charnwood BC and spoke to Mr. Karl Harrison, the person in charge of street management. He told me that the public toilet should be open during 'daylight hours'. However, he said he wasn't directly responsible for the people who actually opened and closed the toilets, known as the 'mobile workers'.

This is Anita Magee who explained that the toilets were open from 7am, seven days a week, but are closed mid afternoon because her two ladies, the 'mobile workers', have to open, clean and close the public toilets not only in Barrow but Quorn, Sileby, Syston, Anstey, Birstall, Woodhouse Eaves, Charnwood Water, Shepshed, Newtown Linford and the Outwoods. These ladies start about 5.30 am and must have finished their shift by 6 pm. The Borough Council say there is a Health and Safety risk to their employees if they are asked to close toilets after dark as the loos are sometimes occupied by the less law abiding members of the community who can be particularly foul mouthed when asked to leave.

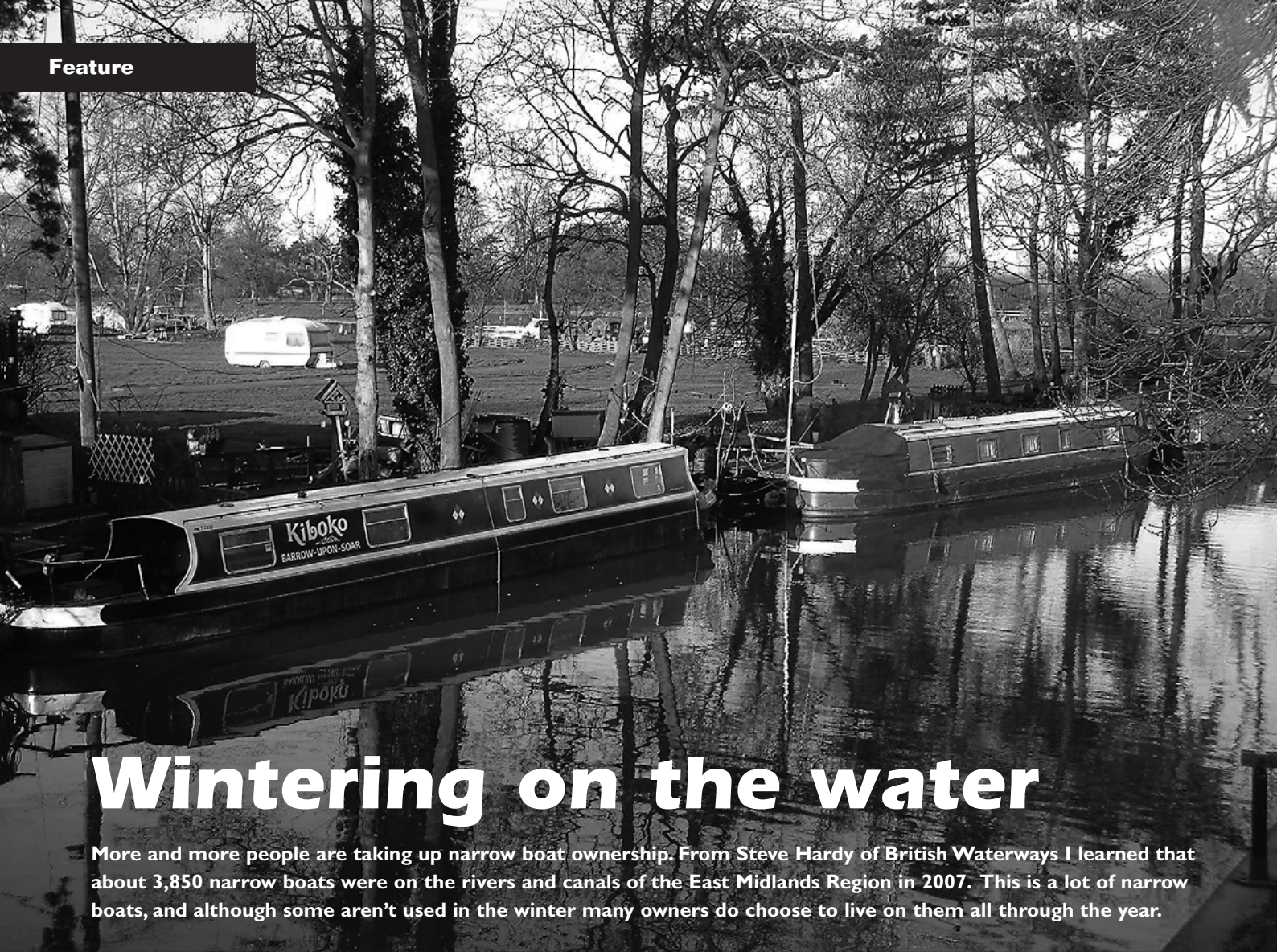


So quite simply Barrow's Public Toilets are closed early as we have to share our mobile workers with so many other villages. Yet special events are treated differently. The loos should be closed on Boxing Day but are open for The Boxing Day Run as the organizers are allowed a key; in the future the loos will be open at the 'Switching on of the Christmas Lights'. Any Barrow events organizer is advised to put in a request for a loo key well in advance.

Another loo- related cause of dissatisfaction is the lack of information at the toilet itself as there are no opening and closing times listed. From Mrs Magee I learnt that the mobile workers don't follow a regular opening and closing routine. If a toilet, in Newton Linford say, has been reported as being in need of urgent attention, the workers will be sent there first to clean it up . This may take longer than usual and so alter the times other loos are normally opened or closed.

Years ago the job of looking after Barrow's public toilet was advertised locally but there were no takers. Unless someone wants to do it now, mid afternoon closing is here to stay.

Gaynor Barton



Wintering on the water

More and more people are taking up narrow boat ownership. From Steve Hardy of British Waterways I learned that about 3,850 narrow boats were on the rivers and canals of the East Midlands Region in 2007. This is a lot of narrow boats, and although some aren't used in the winter many owners do choose to live on them all through the year.

As a 'nice-warm-house-in winter' sort of person I often wondered what it must be like on a boat, especially when driving over Barrow Bridge and seeing boats rising and falling with the height of the river, soggy grass all around. Was it a cold and miserable life, isolated for weeks on end and terribly wet?

So in late January I visited Barrow's marinas, Meadow Farm, Pilling's Lock and Proctor's Park to find out the truth. I discovered I couldn't have been more mistaken and I'm grateful to three narrow boat owners for putting me right; Darren Cross at Pilling's Lock, Mike Evardson at Meadow Farm and Ron Findlay at Proctor's Park.

Gadgets down below

All agreed that narrow boats were wonderfully easy to heat, far easier than houses, and extremely cosy. The only problem with the stoves was that once you had lit one it quickly made the boat too hot! However having a stove burning

away in the evening was a pleasant backdrop to the chatting, eating, drinking, reading, watching TV or DVD's that went on in the lounge areas on winter nights.

As I saw for myself, narrow boats are full of creature comforts. Anything you might have in your house you can get on a narrow boat; central heating, fridges, microwaves, computers, even dishwashers, all are run off the 'hook up', the electricity supplied to the pontoon at your moorings. When you cruise away from your mooring you have to change the voltage from the 12 volts of your engine to 240 volts through your 'inverter'. You've not much room but you can run loads of gadgets.

So boats are warm and well equipped. What other advantages does life on a boat offer? One common answer was the greater neighbourliness. There was a sense of community at all the marinas and a willingness to help out whenever asked. Everyone said this was far more

pronounced than amongst land based communities. "After all", as one boater said wryly, "we're all in the same boat." When recent floods did adversely affect life 4x4 owners helped those without tough vehicles, chest waders were lent around and shopping brought in. Dogs too play their part. Dogs and narrow boats go hand in hand so boaters often meet exercising their animals. This leads to conversations and friendships.

Up sticks and change your neighbour

But if you fancy a change of neighbour it's the easiest thing in the world - you just up sticks and cruise away. But you've got to have all the right bits of paper first! If British Waterways aren't much of a presence in your marina they certainly are as soon as you enter 'the network' - the 4,000 miles of navigable canals and rivers in Britain. All the boat owners said the freedom to cruise the network was fantastic but they made sure they'd got their licences first and that their boats

were insured and checked off for safety. Sailing to Loughborough was a pleasant winter trip as you could do your shopping at Sainsbury's, have a drink at The Albion and cruise home for tea. But even this little trip needed a one day licence obtained from Sibley in advance.

Boaters appreciate being much closer to the weather and nature. It was good to hear the rain on your roof and feel the boat sway in the wind, said Darren. Mike very much enjoyed coming out in a morning to see a kingfisher sitting on a nearby mooring rope. Herons, magpies and flocks of finches flew above the marinas and boaters commented on spotting river wild life such as water voles and rats with the odd mink now and then.

So wintering on a narrow boat is usually enjoyable but there are times when it does get difficult. Ron told me that if things went wrong it was cold sorting them out. For example if a shopping trolley got tangled up in your propeller

or a rope got caught in a lock gate you had to untangle in very cold water. Ice too could be a problem for although the boat broke it up as it chugged along it could freeze you in overnight. Then you had to get out with a pole to break it up to give you room to manoeuvre. It could take the paint off your boat leaving a line where the ice had been. Ron was unusual in that he preferred cruising in winter. He found the waterways very busy in summer and disliked the queues at locks.

Going out to sea

But it is winter floods that are the worst problem. As narrow boats are 'homes' as well as 'boats' few risk cruising on a flooded river. "It's a bit like going out to sea" said Mike, and others told me that although the Soar looks quite tame, when in flood it has such strong currents it can carry narrow boats over weirs.

The river at Proctor's flooded in January 2008 and mooring areas which had been

made into little gardens lost their plant pots. Some boaters had to wear their chest-waders to leave their boats but the worst of floods has only resulted in Ron being cut off for 3 or 4 days. Fear of floods and gusty winds stop many from adventurous cruising in the winter as do 'stoppages' when engineering works are carried out by British Waterways. Lock repairs, canal cleaning, bank work etc result in sections being closed completely but they are planned months ahead. Boaters can go on a website < enquiries-eastmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk > to find out which parts are blocked or ring up for details.

So even though there are problems in 'wintering on the water' everyone I spoke to said that on the whole it was a great life. You don't do much cruising but you can plan your summer months when taking your narrow boat out on the network is absolute bliss!

Gaynor Barton



Mick Dobson with his dog Charlie

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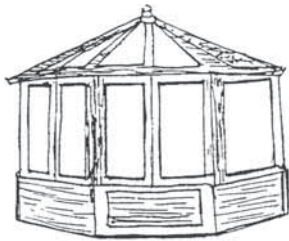
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Floating Pennywort: The new Barrow invader

If you've walked beside the Soar over the last year, you must have noticed green mats of a rather pretty water plant hugging the banks but spreading out into the central channel. It has circular leaves roughly the size of an old penny, hence its name, Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*).

Although it looks quite attractive, it is becoming a very major nuisance and is spreading like wild fire. It was first reported growing wild in 1991. Seventeen years later it is already doing serious environmental damage and hampering water management in many sites in southern and now, middle England. I spoke to a fisherman near Barrow Deep Lock. He said it has never actually stopped him fishing but he now usually has to clear it away in the stretch he wants to fish. He has seen it almost completely covering the surface from bank to bank, just leaving a very narrow channel in the middle. Apparently it is still quite easy to clear away in Barrow but in some rivers, mats of one metre (or yard) deep have been reported. It makes boating very tricky because the Pennywort quickly tangles up the propeller. It is also edible to cows and there are several reported cases of cows drowning after they have ventured onto one of these mats to enjoy a tasty meal. There are cases of sluices becoming blocked with resultant flooding. The mats block off the light to plants below; they die and decompose; water becomes short of oxygen and then the fish die. We may even find that Pennywort becomes established in the water meadows near Pillings Lock, damaging the whole of this rich ecosystem.



Why has Floating Pennywort suddenly become such a nuisance? The answer is a familiar one. Like Japanese Knotweed and other invaders, it has escaped from its country of origin, in this case North America. It has no local pests and is extraordinarily tolerant to cold and heat as well as drought. It just grows and grows. It is becoming a pest in parts of Europe as well as Australia.

Its introduction to England was in the 1980's through the nursery trade for water garden planting, sometimes incorrectly sold as the native Marsh Pennywort, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*. Despite being so invasive it is still available from suppliers. There are active moves for it to be classified under Schedule 9, section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Thus Floating Pennywort may well join the rogues gallery of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, in the near future. These provisions will make it illegal to plant or cause these plants to grow in the wild.

As I was talking to the fisherman, I noticed a British Waterways boat that had just been scooping Pennywort out of the water in very large quantities. Unfortunately, BW had then dumped it in the hedges by the tow path. When stem bits dry up, some will blow back into the water. Even the tiniest fragments will re-grow with a vengeance. There's nothing Pennywort likes more than being cut up. It's like the Sorcerer's Apprentice. One bit becomes two becomes four becomes 16 becomes 32, etc. Better techniques are being researched currently but the invasion is so new that there hasn't been time to find chemicals that will only kill the pest.

So, for the moment, Floating Pennywort is here in the River Soar to make a real nuisance of itself.

Judith Rodgers



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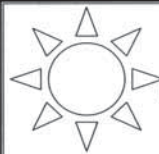
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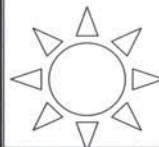
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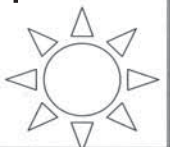
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Footpath News

Several people have asked Barrow Voice to try to clarify some footpath issues. This is what I have been advised:

The jitty from Bridge Street to Proctors is a popular route that was blocked off two or three years ago by the placing of a succession of obstacles including a trailer and metal grills. More recently, a proper fence has been erected and however much you might want to walk the jitty, you can't. The Parish Council has been active in trying to get it re-opened. Reports have been collected from previous users of the route. Then, starting on January 30th, a consultation began between Leicestershire County Council and any affected person or body. This will take eight weeks. Next, the County Council will report to Cabinet who will decide whether the path can be designated as an official footpath. If this happens, then the County Council will have it re-opened although this procedure may not be as straightforward as it sounds.

However, better news comes from the Willow Road estate. An un-official route across fields from Nottingham Road to Strancliffe Lane now lies on public open space. The path has been tarmaced so you can get to Strancliffe Lane legally and without getting your boots muddy. What happens at the Nottingham Road end of Strancliffe is a different story although it is pleasing to see that the vegetation has been cut well back.



Barry Leader, "a lovely man"

People who knew Barry will be sad to hear that he passed away at the end of January. Barry and Heather and their four children, David, Stephen, Katrina and Andrea lived in Breadcroft Lane and were always in the thick of all Barrow's community activities. So much so that when Barry was diagnosed with a serious heart condition and needed to live a quiet life, he and Heather moved to South Wales in 1990.

Barry had time for everyone. He was always cheerful and ready to give a helping hand. I well remember when he and I built the most elaborate scaffolding tower for children to climb at BOSCAPS. (You'd never be allowed to do that nowadays!). And he undertook that thankless task of supervising the children on the dreaded bouncy inflatable (no safety walls, no soft landing). He was Chair of the Community Association Entertainments Committee for years, involved in organising Donkey Derbys, Fun Runs, discos and other CA events. The villagers were the losers when Barry and Heather moved to Wales.

The Barrow Voice team offers its heartfelt sympathies to Heather and her family.

David Rodgers

It was a beautiful, clear, frosty spring day as Pete and I set off for South Wales to attend the funeral of Barry Leader. We both thought that it was a great shame that we hadn't managed to get down to see Barry and Heather sooner but have resolved to be better at visiting people in future. I sat on a wall outside the crematorium and introduced myself to the lady next to me. She knew Barry through the Art group in their village. "Lovely man" she said. This phrase was repeated by everyone that I had the chance to talk with.

On the journey, we followed a Google map which was fine until we were quite close to the crematorium. Gradually the roads got narrower as we wound our way up the hill and arrived at an equestrian centre. We fell about laughing, abandoned the map, and used our common sense to get to the right place. I'm quite sure that Barry would have roared with sympathetic laughter at our efforts-that was the sort of man he was.

It was a very simple, moving service to celebrate Barry's life and the way in which he lived it. We felt proud to be there as part of his 'Barrow life'. It had been such a big part, for him and for Barrow.

Tilly Yates

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New Horizons

New Horizons, previously called the Barrow upon Soar Bereavement Support Group, was set up in 2006 and held its first meeting in September of that year when four people enjoyed a chat and refreshments with the volunteer helpers. From those early beginnings we have now grown to some 20 members.

The group is a friendship group that gives the opportunity for those who have been bereaved to meet others at different stages of bereavement. The group is run by volunteers and membership is free.

We have a programme of events each month and we also offer a listening service when required. There is the opportunity for members to socialise with refreshments after the meeting. It is a wonderful way to meet new friends.

Last year, apart from our Spring lunch, Summer outing and Christmas party, we enjoyed listening to a number of speakers. The topics ranged from My Memory Box to exploring Life's Journey using beads. We got hands on experience of making homemade greeting cards, autumn flower arrangements and aromatherapy.

Our programme in 2008 is described briefly below. Look out for more details in the library, Health Centre and local churches. Information on New Horizons and its events is also on the village website www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk.

The Group is grateful for the support which it has received from the community including financial donations which allow it to continue and grow within Barrow upon Soar and the wider community.

We meet in the Methodist Church coffee lounge, North Street on the first Monday of every month generally from 2.00 until 3.30pm. Sometimes we start earlier for lunch and for our outings. We welcome any new members to come along to our monthly get-togethers - both men and women, or contact us:-

Rev Jane Carter 812302

Barbara Mitchell 412534

Pauline Ranson 416928



NEW HORIZONS PROGRAMME 2008

APRIL 7th - 2.00pm

DIY for Ladies - Alistair Riach

APRIL 28th - 12noon departure

Springtime Lunch at Woodlands Garden Centre

JUNE 2nd - 2.00pm

Coffee & Chat

JULY 7th - 1.00pm

Summer Starters & Puddings Lunch. Bring your favourite dish to share

AUGUST 4th - 12 noon departure

Summer Outing- Market Bosworth & Whitemores Antiques & Craft Centre

SEPTEMBER 1st - 2.00pm

Reflexology - Anne Hughes

OCTOBER 6th - 2.00pm

**Coffee and Chat - My Grandchildren & Other Animals.
Please bring your photos**

NOVEMBER 3rd - 2.00pm

Christmas Remembrance Tree

DECEMBER 1st - 1.00pm

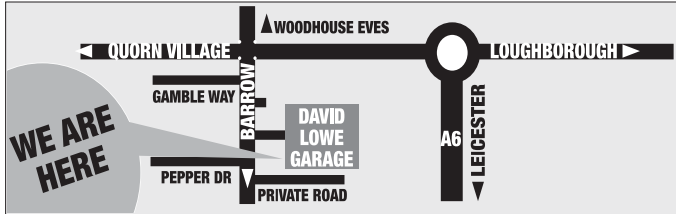
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Wednesday 10.45-11.45am 8-9pm	Barrow on Soar Holy Trinity Church Rooms Hall Orchard Main Hall

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Care for the elderly in the village, a new Parish Council initiative

There are many good schemes in the community for supporting and offering care for the elderly of the village. It may be that residents are not always aware of what is available. Sometimes there are gaps in the provision and if these are within the voluntary services provision, they may be difficult to plug. It could be that there is duplication with several groups all offering the same support without 'joined up thinking'. In some cases, we might as a Parish Council be able to offer some support to an existing programme but we don't know where that support is needed.

The Parish Council has set about the task of trying to identify provision currently offered. We hope to draw up a brochure that could be given to the seniors of the village informing them of the opportunities for support and care. We also thought that residents might find it helpful if we arranged talks in the village relating to a topic that touches on a particular area of need, eg. coping with a stroke in the family.

We would be so grateful for any help that you could offer in drawing the information together. We would like to hear from you if you help to manage a group, club or association that already engages with the elderly. You may be a member of such a group that you could tell us about. Or perhaps you would just like to suggest an idea to us.

Please contact the Parish Council office on 416016 and your information and suggestions will be passed on to the working group chaired by myself, Tony Childs.

Our real thanks

Tony Childs

Open Gardens - June 2008

In June 2006 we had a very successful Open Gardens event with 18 very different gardens open for the enjoyment of the public.

We invite you to join us on June 14th and 15th 2008 and open your garden. No garden is too small or too large, the greater the variety, the better the event will be.

Proceeds raised in 2008 will be for the benefit of the Rainbows Children's Hospice. They are busy raising funds to provide a separate facility for teenagers so that they do not have to be with the younger children. I'm sure you will agree that this is a worthy cause.

We would like to have even more gardens open this year so if you are prepared to join us or want more information then please contact Mike Morley 01509 412982



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BUSCA brings you another Centre Stage Treat: 'The Cosmic Sausages'

After an audience of nearly 200 came to enjoy first 'Spaghetti Opera' in October and then 'The Hired Man' in December, it is clear that people are beginning to recognise Centre Stage performances as top notch theatre that is truly accessible to all: 'bringing professional live arts to local people in local venues; live arts on your doorstep!'

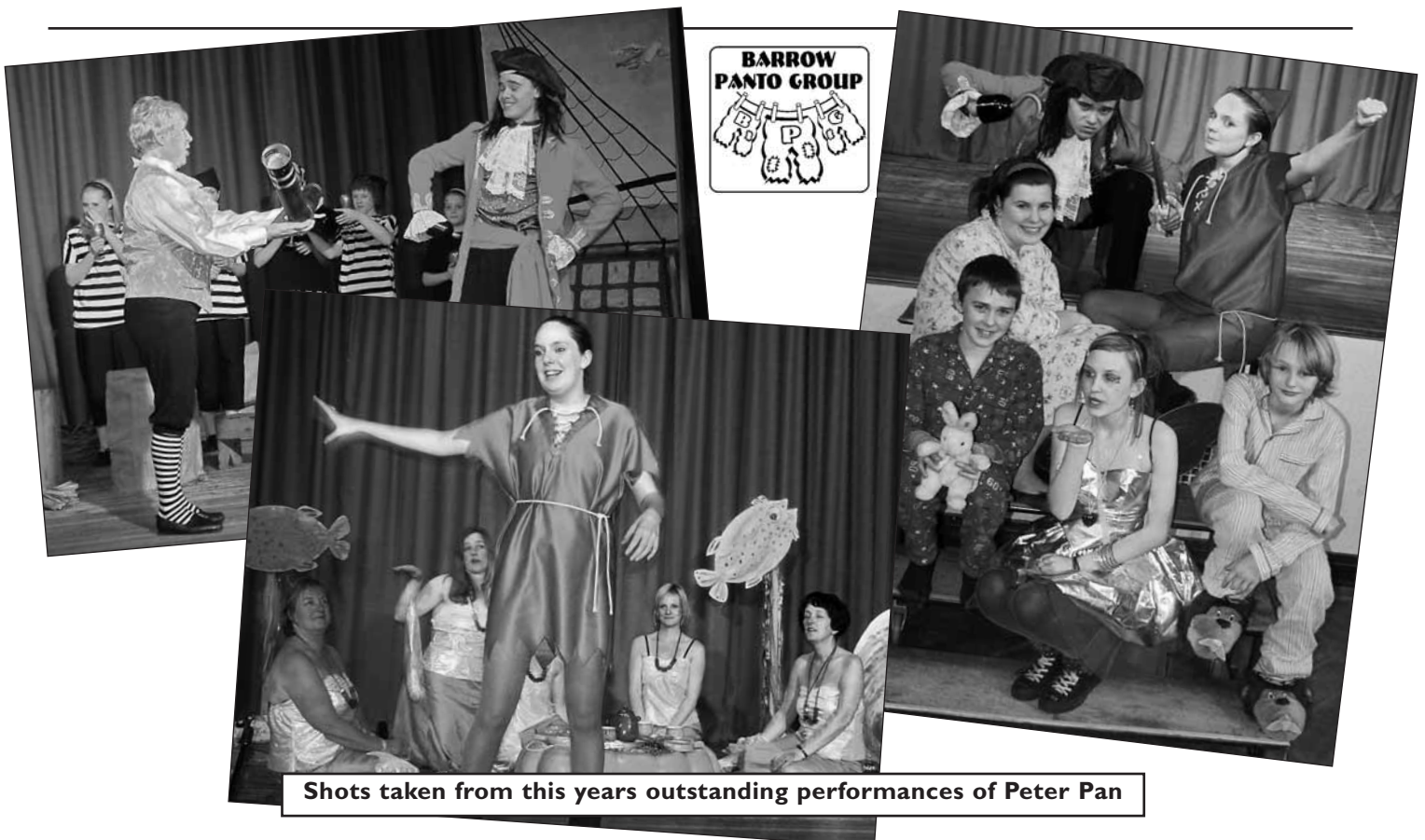
BUSCA was successful in its bid to get 'Cosmic Sausages' next, with a performance on Friday 4th April in the usual venue of Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road starting at 7.30pm. Described as wacky and wonderful, The Cosmic Sausages will provide us with a comic musical show featuring all styles of music in the world dressed up with comedy and fun!

With a repertoire of hundreds of songs, melodies and theme tunes, The Cosmic Sausages take their audience on a madcap musical tour of the world, meeting up with James Bond, Serge Gainsborough, the Mafia, deranged cowboys, faith-healers, Cossacks and overacting pop stars along the way.

Appearing first as a gentle folk band and armed only with acoustic instruments, close harmonies and a shared vision of the surreal, The Cosmic Sausages ambush their audience with a sustained barrage of pop classics, mixing theatre, circus, slapstick, competitions, crowd participation and insane walkabouts.

The Cosmic Sausages will give everyone a belting good time - fun and comedy and above all, great music. This band has it all. If you enjoyed the Old Rope String Band, this is the one for you. If you didn't, keep well away!! The show is suitable for all ages - a true family show.

Tickets will cost £7.00 (£8.00 if bought on the door) and £5.00 (concessions) (£6.00 if bought on the door). A family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) will cost £20 (£22 if bought on the door). Tickets can be bought from the Paper Shop or ordered by phone on 07718 153117 or by email on rodgers_david@hotmail.com



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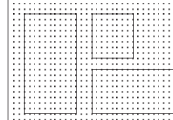
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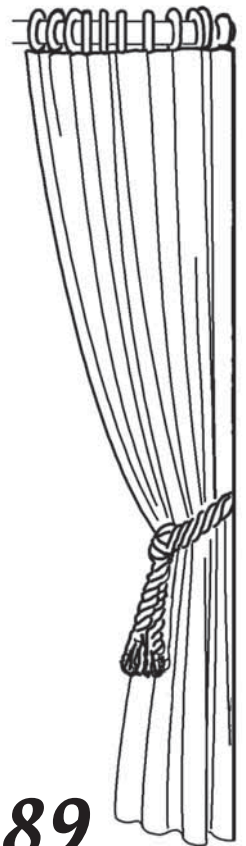
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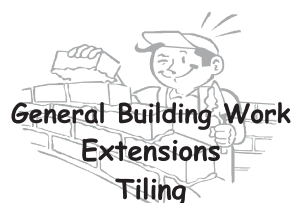
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Barrow Playgrounds get a face lift

It's now been a few months since lots of new play equipment was added to our play areas at King George V and Mill Lane.

At King George V the Parish Council has installed two springers, the Nexus Freeride which can simulate surfing and the Bravo Unit - a brilliant climbing and activity centre. Mill Lane's new equipment sees four new junior swings, another springer, the quartet carousel and the popular cone climber. I am really pleased to see this equipment in the play areas and also to see it is being well used by the children of the village. The Parish Council hopes, by putting in this equipment, that Mill Lane will appeal to toddlers and King George V to slightly older children up to their early teens.

This should be another exciting year for development of the play areas, as we are conscious of ensuring they are accessible to children of all abilities and so are looking at providing new paths and gateways which are wheelchair friendly.



We have also recently installed additional equipment at King George V. A youth shelter and high seating area had been requested by some of the young people in the village, as a place that they may meet up with their peers. We are delighted to have been able to provide this for them and trust that it will be used responsibly.

As with all the equipment, the Parish Council has used public money, along with masses of grant funding, to be able to provide these new pieces for Barrow. It goes without saying that we are proud to provide two such fantastic play areas in the village. Watch out for three more areas included on the Cotes Road/Willow Way development which the Parish Council will have a hand in designing.

We appeal to everyone, please play responsibly and look after the equipment. We want as many children to enjoy them over the years as do now.

Antonia Goater (Chair of Parish Council Playing Fields Committee)

PS. A note from the photographer

When I went to take photos, a young couple from Walton had brought their two toddlers to the Mill Lane playground. "It is absolutely perfect for our two" said the dad. And at the new Youth Shelter, teenagers agreed it was cool but declined the photo shoot!



An opportunity for our young people to make a difference

Barrow Youth Council: An opportunity for our young people to make a difference

Youth Councils operate successfully throughout the country and a number are in the East Midlands. The key to their success seems to be to ensure that the Council attracts a membership truly representative of all young people and to this end the Parish Council is seeking to work with existing youth groups and with those young people not associated with recognised organisations.

The Parish Council is keen to set up a 'Youth Council' which will actively involve our young people in decision making on various issues especially those affecting the younger generation. It is looking for young people aged between 13 and 18 years of age who would like to be a voice and who are prepared to seek solutions to some issues they face thus helping to influence and shape life within the village.

A spokesman for the Parish Council said "Young people can make a tremendous difference to the way a Parish Council relates to local matters. Their input is needed not just for this generation but for those yet to come. We are therefore asking teachers, sports coaches, family, friends and neighbours to encourage young people's involvement. We hope to hold an election in June following an open meeting and have a Youth Council up and running in September 2008".

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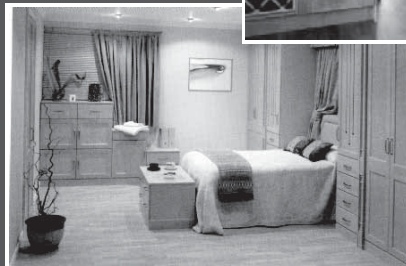
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New Dance School at the Church Rooms

The Motion Dance Company opened its doors in Barrow at the beginning of the year. This new dance school, following the Association of American Dancing syllabus, offers classes in tap, ballet, modern, acrobatics and street dance. Classes are held in the Church Rooms on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Motion Dance Company's principal, Amy Doughty started her career as a youngster at the Loughborough Dance Academy but went on to study at the Midland Academy of Dance and Drama. Graduating with a Diploma in Musical Theatre, Amy has since worked on TV shows and in the West End. She now wants to share that passion for dance with youngsters from the age of three years to teens.



For further information about times of classes, contact Amy Doughty at home on 414218 or her mobile number 07881593654

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Easter Holiday and Spring Half Term Events for Young People in Barrow

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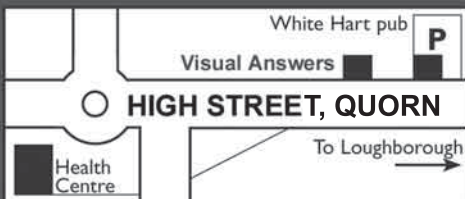
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Barrow SpringWatch

A sure sign of spring is the rooks refurbishing their nests ready for the next brood. There has been a rookery on the site of the old Quorn Kennels on Pawdy Lane since my father's time and probably for many many years before. Old folklore suggests that if the colony were to be abandoned, this would bring bad fortune for the family that owned the land.



Rooks eat leather jackets and other grubs and insects on growing crops which is of benefit to farmers. Unfortunately however they also have the habit of pulling up young field bean plants which is not so helpful and they are partial to the odd pheasant egg which does not endear them to game keepers.



Like all members of the crow family they are intelligent birds and particularly wary when you are carrying a gun but far less so when you are not.

I was sitting in my farm office one day early last summer when I noticed a young fox through the window just yards away. Further into the field about 15 yards away was a cock pheasant. He was scolding the fox with all the foul words he could think of. The fox took absolutely no notice and continued to scratch and yawn. After a while he sauntered off into the next field and both the pheasant and I lost sight of him. I was impressed by the fox's nonchalant attitude. It was not until the pheasant's noisy departure a few minutes later that I realized the fox had doubled back behind the hedge in order to get within striking distance of the pheasant. The term crafty fox is well justified.

The screaming we hear on dark December and January nights is the vixen trying to attract a mate. If she is successful cubs appear in late spring and if you are quiet and know where to look you can see them playing outside the den on late spring evenings.

Dave Bird

Three with one shot: A farmer's recipe

As a 10 year old, some things leave a lasting impression: I remember sitting at the breakfast table one morning with my father. He had collected some water hen eggs from one of our ponds. Normally mother would fry these. However, today he took one, cracked it open and put it in his cup of tea. I was never really sure whether he did this to entertain us children or whether it was a delicacy of past days.

While it may no longer be politically correct to eat water hen eggs, you can eat pigeons without too much criticism. When winter starts to bite they usually come together in large flocks to feed on oil seed rape or other winter greens. As a shooting man I've had many a good day's sport with wood pigeons. Once as a fourteen year old I got three with one shot. If you can't shoot your own, you can sometimes buy pigeons from Loughborough market.

The meat is dark and gamey in taste. I prefer to just cut off the breast as the rest is too fiddly to bother with plucking. Skin the breast as this helps to get rid of some of the shot trapped under it. Then marinate the meat for 24 hrs in rough cider. Roast the breast with some parsnips placing fat bacon over the breast to keep it moist. I was still finding bluestale mushrooms in January although they are normally finished by then. They make a good accompaniment to the meat with their rich distinctive taste. I usually fry the bluestales in butter with a drop of water and season with coarse pepper. Serve with a little thick beer gravy to make a cracking winter lunch.

Dave Bird

Correction: Jim and Lillie Bird did farm at Brook Farm, Pawdy Lane, contrary to correspondence which said otherwise in an earlier edition of Barrow Voice.

Keith Bennett

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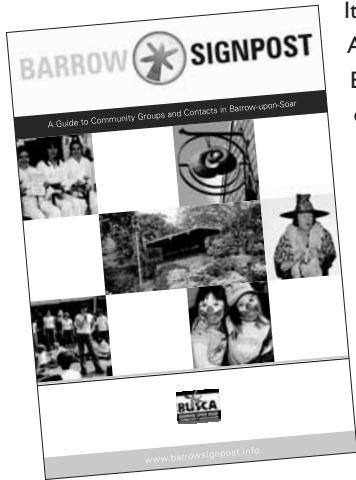
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Barrow Signpost one year on



It is just over a year since Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA) launched the new community directory, Barrow Signpost. It contains contact details and a brief description of (hopefully) all the village community organisations and a lot more besides. It is a resource for everyone in Barrow and you can get it, free, from the Paper Shop, the Post Office, library, parish office and lots of other places. If you haven't got one, why not pick one up straight away.



It has its own website, www.barrowsignpost.info and that is the solution to keeping the information up to date.

If you know of any changes that affect the contacts for an organisation, or details of meetings etc, please LET US KNOW: you can phone Judith Rodgers on 01509 412063 or 07718153117, or email her on rodgers_david@hotmail.com or send an email from the Barrow Signpost website itself.

The Signpost website is only as up to date as you make it. Please help us!

Judith Rodgers

Steve Jordan: The new Barrow Voice Sports Reporter

Although we have always tried to include articles about sporting events, the current BV team is definitely not sporty. So we are delighted to announce that footballer Steve Jordan has taken on the role of seeking out sporting news for the village.

If you have something to report or if you would like an article about your group/activity, please get in touch with Steve by phoning 07967731476 or emailing him on steve.jordan@courtaulds.com

Remember that our copy deadline is well before the next publication eg it is April 30th for the June edition.

Two years of expansion for BUSCA

One consequence of the Parish Plan undertaken by Barrow residents in 2005 has been a huge expansion in the range of activities of BUSCA (Barrow upon Soar Community Association). BUSCA, a registered charity, is currently the umbrella organisation for the following:

Barrow Voice

Village website

Panto Group

Youth Theatre

Events Group

Heritage Group

Youth Action Group

The latest group to become part of the charity is the Village Hall Action Group and BUSCA Trustees are delighted to welcome them in their challenge to acquire a purpose-built village hall for Barrow.

Sadly, the group learnt before Christmas that their bid for Big Lottery funding has not been successful. With their sights on an even more populous Barrow of the future, they remain undaunted and will press on.

If you would like to find out more about BUSCA, why not phone me, Judith Rodgers on 412063 or email me on Rodgers_david@hotmail.com

Judith Rodgers

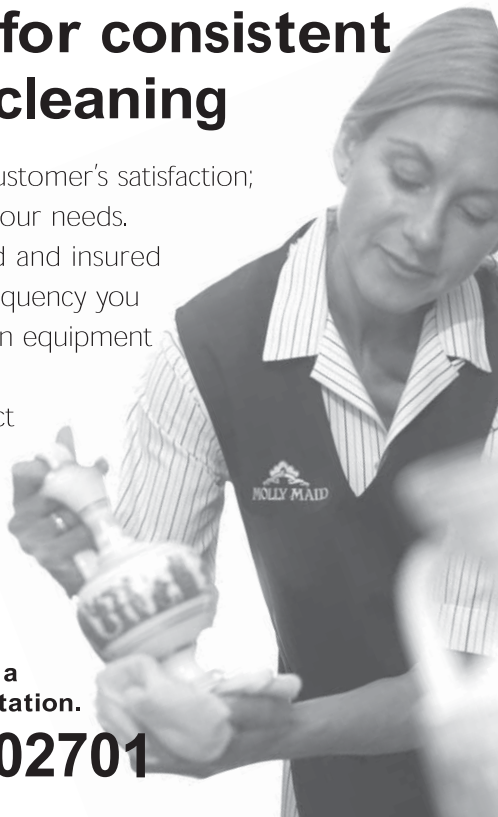


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Two New Heritage Wardens for Barrow

You must have noticed some of the high profile activities of the new **Barrow Heritage Group**: the most obvious have been all the fascinating booklets and leaflets that have been rolling off the press, thanks to a **Local Heritage Initiative grant** that started to run in **September 2006**.

Related to this is the appointment of two new Heritage Wardens: **Bob Mudge** has taken up the role of Natural History Heritage Warden and **Kathryn Timmons** is now the People and Buildings Heritage Warden.

Bob has an impressive list of ambitions which he hopes to achieve with the help of other interested people. He aims to build up a picture of Barrow local wildlife and monitor changes to it. If you are enthusiastic about wildlife and its conservation he would like your help. He hopes to carry out surveys of groups of plants and animals so, for instance, you may decide to do birds, flowers, lichens, spiders, reptiles, slugs and snails or anything else that interests you! Alternatively you might like to survey specific habitats such as hedgerows, verges, river-banks, flood plains or your garden. All of it will be valuable to build a picture of the wonderful wildlife around us.

Bob says: "You do not need to be an expert to participate - just to have the enthusiasm to do it. The plan is to identify habitats and the plants and animals which are present. There is plenty of information to help you carry out the surveys and support from the Leicestershire County Council's Community Heritage Initiative Team based at Holly Hayes in Birstall, including a programme of training and information sessions. If you have an interest in wildlife photography, your work would be of interest. A Barrow upon Soar heritage website is being developed and we plan to use this to display photographs of local wildlife as well as survey results".

If you would like to get involved please contact Bob Mudge on busnaturalhistory@btinternet.com.



Kathryn is part of the Streets Heritage Group who have already organised historical talks, published the very popular Street Map and the new Places of Historic Interest booklet and researched the origins of street names. They have listed the resources which are available in The Record Office, Loughborough Library Local Studies section and of course in the Barrow Library. They have a list of the listed buildings in the village and of the historic finds recorded by the county archaeology service.

They are currently engaged in a project which aims to tell the tale of certain village streets. Kathryn and her group have been collecting photos, documents and oral information to bring to life the history of Beveridge Street, New St, Warner Street and others. She will be looking at new projects when this one is completed.

If you would like to get involved or just want information, call Kathryn on 416168 or email her on kathryn_timmons@hotmail.com

'People and Places' by Arthur Gardner and Chris Bates

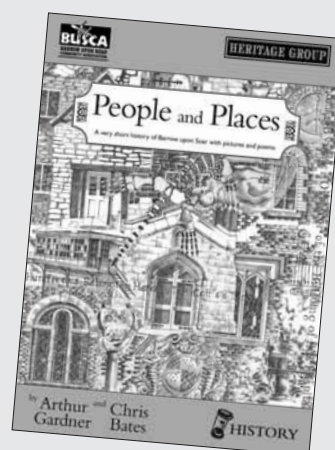
This is the latest publication produced by the Barrow upon Soar Heritage Group, it is a record of the village and some of its history, told in verse and in pictures.

Evocative poetry by Arthur Gardner together with many fine, detailed line drawings from artist Chris Bates meld beautifully to deliver a feast of nostalgia and enable us to take a very different view of some of the places we so often take for granted.

This latest Heritage Group publication offers a truly unique record of some of the people, places and buildings in Barrow through the years, giving an alternative viewpoint of something, or somewhere, or even 'somewhen', relating to Barrow - it will excite and delight.

Each page brings to life, in well chosen words and finely detailed drawings, the Barrow that we all know and love, both as it is, here and now, and also as it was in the past.

It will be available free from Barrow Library, however you will need to ask for a copy.



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Voice from the Past

Vol 3 No 1 September 1977

Parents of children attending Leicestershire schools were informed that the charge for school meals would be increased to 25p per day from September.

Calling All Musicians! A preliminary meeting was held at 19, Welland Road for people interested in forming an orchestra for young people.

Vol 3 No 2 November 1977

The First Team of Barrow Old Boys Football Club, who play at Riverside Park, had a great start to the season having had only one defeat in nine matches which is certainly promotion form.

Community Association Discos for 11 to 14 year olds were run in November and December.

A public meeting was held to discuss the feasibility of a bypass road to the East of Quorn and Mountsorrel, and also to discuss the request that a £6000 loan offered by the Parish Council to partly fund a new community building, be made into a grant.

A coffee bar opened at the community centre 3 nights a week.

From Vol 3 No 3 January 1978

The news of the appointment of Rev Anthony Herbert of Durham as our new vicar is greatly welcomed by many.

Plans of the new community centre are now complete and the building should take place this summer.

Advance notice was given for the Front Garden Competition to be held in the summer.

The Parish Council has considered entering Barrow in the Best Kept Village but declined due to excessive litter. They hope to see a big improvement so that the village can enter next year.

From Vol 3 No 4 March 1978

The Parish Council has received notice of a planning application by British Gypsum to build a mine and factory adjacent to the railway. When the factory is fully working, employment will be found for over 300 people. This will be discussed at the annual meeting of the Parish Council at which representatives of British Gypsum, a pollution expert, and County and Borough Councillors will be present.



BOSCAPS, the summer play scheme announced a series of seven craft afternoons to be held during April and May.

From Vol 3 No 5 June 1978

The Annual Donkey Derby on 24th June was announced with a Medieval Jousting display, backed up by Hathern Band, Archery, Balloon Race, Tote, Fun Bag, and afternoon teas. All for 20p!

The new vicar, Rev Anthony Herbert, asked for volunteers to help keep Holy Trinity Church open on Saturdays during the Summer.

BARROW Voice

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.

Our Team

Editor

Frances Thompson – 414068
editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

Advertising

Judith Rodgers – 412063
advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk

Distribution

Steve Morris – 412962
distribution@barrowvoice.co.uk

Churches

John Thursby – 412467

Community

David Rodgers – 412063

Arts

Karisa Krcmar – 412184

Subscriptions

Ann Higgins – 412746

Features

Ginny Willcocks
Judith Rodgers
Gaynor Barton
Val Gillings

Photography

Judith Rodgers & Ian Bursill

Advertising Artwork

James Thompson

Website

John Nurse

Artwork & Print

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Fri 14th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 15th	Scout Centre Screen: Flushed Away; Scout HQ; 7.30pm; tickets on sale at the door Holy Trinity Coffee Morning; Church Rooms Barrow Playgroup Indoor Car Boot Sale; Methodist Hall; 9.30-11.30am Village Hall Horse Racing Evening; Hall Orchard School; 7.30-10.30pm
Tues 18th	Holy Trinity Mother's Union and Men's Group; Holy Week Service in Church
Sat 29th	Labour Party Spring Fair; Church Rooms; 10.00-12.00 noon
Tues 1st	Parish Council meeting; starts 7.00pm with public session; Parish Council office; all welcome
Wed 2nd	Holy Trinity Mother's Union: the problem of waste and environmental services; 2.30pm; Church Rooms Gardening Club 'Interesting Plants for 2008' by David Penny; 7.30pm; HPHS Community Lounge
Fri 4th	BUSCA presents a Centre Stage show: "Cosmic Sausages"; 7.30pm; HPHS hall; tickets from the Paper Shop; enquiries from 412063
Sat 5th	Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning; Church Hall; 10.00am BUSCA Spring Dance; 7.00 for 7.30pm; HPHS; tickets from Paper Shop at £10.50
Mon 7th	Holy Trinity Men's Group; "Sailing and tall Ships" by Barrie Atkinson; 8.00pm; Church Rooms New Horizons; Methodist Hall; 2.00pm
Tues 8th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Fri 11th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm Holy Trinity Comedy Evening with Andy Kind
Sat 12th	W1 Spring Fair; Bishop Beveridge Club; 10.00-11.30am Village Hall Action Group coffee morning; Church Rooms
Mon 14th	Life on the Falkland Islands by Sylvia Cole; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Sun 19th	Holy Trinity Coffee Morning; Church Rooms
Sat 26th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; 10.00-11.30am; Church Rooms Friends of St Gregory Coffee Morning; 9.30-11.30am; Bishop Beveridge Club
Mon 28th	New Horizons; Methodist Hall; 12.00 noon
Sat 3rd	Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning; Church Hall; 10.00am
Tues 6th	Parish Council meeting; starts 7.00pm with public session; Parish Council office; all welcome
Wed 7th	Holy Trinity Mother's Union: "If I can do it anyone can do it" by Sue Wilson; Church Rooms; 2.30pm Gardening Club: "Auriculas" by DH Tarver; 7.30pm; HPHS Community Lounge
Fri 9th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Mon 12th	Holy Trinity Men's Group: visit to Welbeck College, Woodhouse W1, Resolutions; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 13th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Sat 17th	Holy Trinity Coffee Morning; Church Rooms
Mon 2nd	Holy Trinity Men's Group: "History and work of Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation"; speaker is Alan Norman; Church Rooms New Horizons; Methodist Hall; 1.00pm
Tues 3rd	Parish Council meeting; starts 7.00pm with public session; Parish Council office; all welcome
Wed 4th	Holy Trinity Mother's Union: Afternoon tea with Sutton Bonington United Choir; Church Rooms Gardening Club: Evening out; to be arranged
Sat 7th	Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning; Church Hall; 10.00am Holy Trinity Open air Jazz Picnic Concert with "Sounds Like Swing" BUSCA Summer Ball with Judy Nichol; HPHS; 7.00 for 7.30pm W1: Loughborough renal unit; speaker Laura Stevens; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Mon 9th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Tues 10th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Fri 13th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 14th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; 10.00-11.30am; Church Rooms Barrow Open Gardens
Sun 15th	Barrow Open Gardens

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

BUSCA EVENTS

April 4th	"Cosmic Sausages" music and comedy; another must see hilarious production from Centre Stage.
April 5th (new date)	Spring Dance: Dancing to the scintillating sound of Bob Hargreaves.
June 7th	Summer Ball: Music provided by the ever popular Judy Nichol Big Band.
June date tba	Village Bike Ride with the Parish Council
October 4th	Autumn Dance: Welcome back to Just Us, dances for everyone to enjoy.
October 31st	Family Halloween party and disco. Come and join in for good family fun.
November 8th	Winter Warmer Dance: Dancing to the Mike Graham Trio, a new group for BUSCA, but they are regular visitors to Barrow for the Cancer Research dance.
December 31st	New Years Eve Dance; return of Judy Nichols for a great evening. This dance is always a sell out.

Tickets for all these events can be bought from The Paper Shop, High Street, Barrow