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AUTUMN 2008



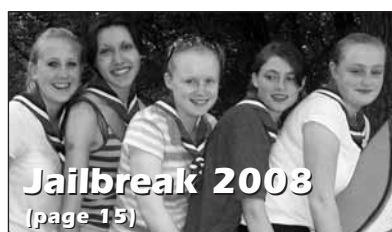
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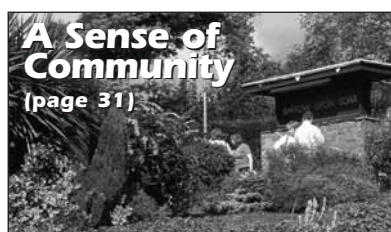
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Marie Slater
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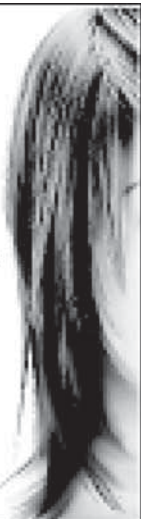
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This summer BUSCA (Barrow upon Soar Community Association) held a Welcome Evening for new residents. A large number of village groups and organisations came along to tell people new to Barrow about the opportunities open to them.

This issue finds Jan Hind in conversation with Marie Slater, chair of our parish council, who as a new resident many years ago was 'roped in' to join all sorts of things. Not everyone has the time and inclination for this but Barrow offers a whole variety of sport, social events, clubs for young and old which do not require you to join a committee. They are happy for you just to come along and see if you like it! The people at the Welcome Event seemed impressed at the number of things on offer and the commitment of the people who run them.

The 'credit crunch' is news in every newspaper and publication at the moment and I make no apology for mentioning it here. Also in this autumn edition, we welcome new residents Linda and Mark who have moved into the Willow Way development and aim to make Barrow their home for some time to come. The dramatic slow down in building and sale of new houses, is bound to have an effect on the number of people who will be moving to Barrow's new development and raises the question about the commitment to improve local school and health facilities as part of the planning conditions.

In the next edition we will be looking at what the implications are for Barrow.

Frances Thompson

Barrow Voice Photography Competition

BUSCA has teamed up with Mulberry Square to run a competition for budding photographers in and around Barrow upon Soar.

The theme is to take a photograph of somewhere or something in Barrow that you think would make a good front cover image for a future issue of Barrow Voice.



Your photo could be on the cover of BARROW VOICE!



TO ENTER
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Closing date for entries is 17th November 2008

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Digital photos must be at least 2600 pixels wide by 2200 pixels high in JPEG format or at least 10" by 7" if you are sending an actual photograph. If any entries are smaller than this then your entry may be disqualified.

Rules – Photographs can be black and white or colour. All people featured in a photograph must have agreed to have their picture taken and have agreed that the photograph is submitted to this competition.
Disclaimer – Unfortunately Barrow Voice cannot return the individual entries.

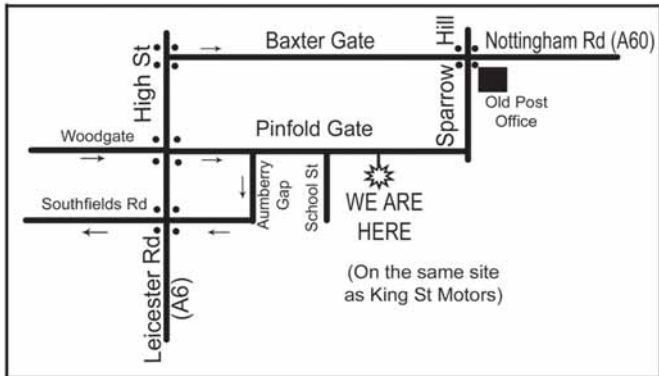
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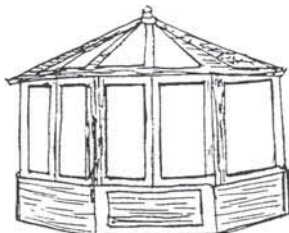
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Kellogg's Corn Flakes and Barrow's Best Kept Secret

Well, go on then, what's the connection between Kellogg's Corn Flakes and Barrow's best-kept secret? Are there Corn Flake mines under Barrow? No, I don't think so. Has a fossilized cereal packet been discovered in a Barrow back garden? Probably not. Is a new shop opening on the High St. that sells only breakfast cereals? Not to my knowledge. Well, what is it?

Think back to the late 1980's and one of Kellogg's most successful advertising campaigns: 'Have you forgotten how good they taste?' The campaign was designed to remind people who had strayed to new cereals just how good the 'original and best' could be. They came back in droves.

OK then, what is Barrow's best-kept secret? Every weekend hundreds of Barrovians gladly give up at least one or two hours to celebrate and enjoy themselves in this best-kept secret. Every weekday those same Barrovians go out voluntarily and work with the elderly and the young; they visit the bereaved and the lonely and the house-bound; they welcome newcomers and they spend time with young families. You'll find them in the schools and businesses and shops and clubs and societies of the village and on the council too. What is Barrow's best-kept secret? It's her four churches, the Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics and Methodists who make up Churches Together in Barrow (CTiB). Not only is CTiB one of Barrow's best-kept secrets, its one of her success stories too.

This year in September, CTiB will be taking part in a national scheme, that's pretty well a 'Have you forgotten how good they taste?' campaign for churches. It's called 'Back to church Sunday'. It all started four years ago when the Manchester Diocese first launched the scheme. The idea was that churchgoers were encouraged to invite friends to join them in church on the last Sunday in September. Using specially prepared invitations, posters and other resources just over 160 churches welcomed people who, for whatever reason, had lost contact with church and at least 886 people came back on that Sunday.

This year Back to Church Sunday is on September 28th, it's nationwide and Barrow will be part of it. All four of our churches will be inviting people and will follow up the Sunday with a series of special services to help get to grips with the Christian faith. We would love to welcome you back to our churches and into our story. Keep a look out for posters around the village.

Over two and half thousand years ago a Hebrew poet wrote: 'Taste and see that the Lord is good' On 'Back to Church Sunday' CtiB will be asking, 'Have you forgotten how good God tastes?' After all, He is the original and the best.

Rev. Tony Edmonds

Further Details about Back to Church Sunday from:

Rev. Jane Carter (Methodist) 01509 812302

Rev. Brian Ratcliffe (Catholic) 01509 412505

Rev. Mark Turner (Baptist) 01509 416603

Rev. John Whittaker (Anglican) 01509 621834

In this edition we return to two news stories featured in the summer issue, traffic calming on Sileby Road and the future of the Brook Lane playground. We are always happy to print letters or emails with your comments. Here we publish letters we have received on these two contentious subjects.

Sileby Road Postbag

Speed cushions spell punishment

How can it be right to punish someone for what they have not done? Surely it's against my Human Rights to be punished by these speed 'cushions' as I have never exceeded the speed limit in the village.

Are bus passengers guilty of speeding as they all have to suffer these humps? I note cyclists and motor cyclists carefully avoid the humps.

This collective punishment is typical of some dictator states. We now have to endure extra noise as vehicles hurtle over 'cushions' to land with a resounding crash, also several times items have flown off these vehicles, including a length of scaffolding pole.

As an HGV driver I know that you cannot straddle these 'cushions' completely but since the emergency services don't pay for their vehicles, why should they care what damage they do.

W Haynes, Sileby Road

Vans, 4x4s and lorries are major offenders

I would like to note the following points in regard to such a speed reduction scheme:

1) Such a speed reduction installation is totally ineffective in discouraging speeding by large vans, 4x4s, motor cycles and lorries. These categories of transport are not minor offenders in speeding statistics - a fact that I can vouch for since I walk along Sileby Road most days.

2) If one refers to the government's own research (ref: TRL report 614 Impact of road humps on vehicles and their

occupants) it will be noted that such can cause damage to cars even at speeds as low as 15mph and also to persons' spinal columns. In these circumstances the local authorities could be considered as somewhat open to expensive litigation - and of course it would be the community charge payers ultimately carrying the cost of such. Because of this at least one council has removed all its speed bumps.

3) Your previous correspondent quite rightly mentioned the pollution aspect but the cause of such has nothing to do with racing between them, rather it is the effect of the braking and lowering the average speed - and thus mpg. If one refers to the relevant AA study it is

quite possible that the speed bumps up CO2 emissions by some 10 per cent. But of course all arms of government are only really interested in ones' carbon footprint if they can make money out of sundry related legislation.

Let no-one think that I am anti speed reduction. There are plenty of more sensible methods that could have been employed more effectively in Barrow to stop excessive speed, whilst at the same time avoiding most of the disadvantages noted above, eg priority pinch points or built-in chicanes.

A R Williams, The Pastures

The views of the writers are their own and do not reflect those of the editorial team or BUSCA. The editor reserves the right to edit correspondence. Please send your comments to The Editor, 17 North Street, Barrow upon Soar, Leics, LE12 8PZ or email to editor@barrowvoice.co.uk.

Brook Lane Postbag

Anti-social behaviour

Following an article in the Barrow Voice I thought I would take an opportunity to send in my thoughts on the future of the play area as suggested. My preferred option would be to remove the play area - potentially to be relocated on a more appropriate area of open space within the same estate off Fishpool Way

Reasons as follows;

Having walked the route past the play area at different times of day and days of the week I have never seen it being used for the purpose it was installed ie by children at play. I have only ever seen it being used by older children - teenagers as a place to hang out.

Is in too secluded a location to be a children's play area - play areas need to be in visible locations to deter misuse, abuse, anti social behaviour , bullying etc

- in no way is the area overlooked. The above point also affects those walking past on the path - one can feel slightly uneasy using the path when a group of teenagers is hanging out in the play area even if they are just present and doing no harm. The area is often heavily littered and has broken glass both in the play area, on the path and in the brook - dangerous for children and dogs/pets

The mature trees around the play area are a mixture of willow and ash - willows in particular are not very long lived trees and can suffer from large limbs detaching from the trunk in strong winds. Even with extensive tree, shrub management I don't feel that the play area would be visible enough, if at all, from Brook Street, Heron Drive. It could become more visible from the path network, but that would be limited. Any re landscaping after removal of the play area should be carefully thought

through as new planting would probably get damaged on a frequent basis - again due to the secluded nature of the site.

As to walking to play areas - we often walk to King George V from Grove Lane, its only a short walk through the village, possibly via the shops or library - not a problem. A village the size of Barrow doesn't require loads of formal play areas with permanent equipment. It does, however, need to retain open spaces for safe informal play - which it has a number of - and mainly in the Fishpool Way area.

Kind regards

Andy Hayes,
Resident of Barrow upon Soar

Dark secluded corner

I am writing following the article in the Barrow Voice regarding the play area at the end of Brook Lane.

The article implied that the popular opinion of villagers was that this play area should be saved by renovating with new equipment and the surrounding area spruced up. I beg to differ. There are many reasons this play area is not used - least of all in my opinion is because of the state of the equipment.

I walk the path past the play area daily at differing times of the day. I have never seen the equipment being used in the manner that was intended.

The reason I feel the park has never been very appealing is mainly due to its location in the darkest secluded corner - giving opportunity for unchecked undesirable behaviour. Shaded and not overlooked in any way results in a threatening environment. Successful play areas are usually placed in open, airy

locations with good sight lines, enabling the user and parents to feel relaxed knowing there aren't any immediate dangers. The broken glass, graffiti, and general vandalism are all a result of people gathering - not to use the park equipment, but because they are not overlooked, and their activities can go unnoticed.

I would be extremely disappointed if money was spent on this area in an attempt to improve it. My vote would be to close the play area, and spend money in relocating/creating a park elsewhere. The Developer should be pressured into planning and providing suitably located play areas. I would say this was a last minute after thought to satisfy set planning regulations.

As to the comment that facilities should be readily available in the immediate area - the Mill Lane and St George's Parks are well equipped and within the village boundaries. A short walk is surely good for the health!!



If a new area were to be created in this housing estate, I would suggest the grass area off Branston Avenue would be a much better location.

As regards the path alongside the brook - this is a good, regularly used facility, and money should be allocated to its regular maintenance and hedge trimming. There are many times when these bordering shrubs and trees overhang the path. The end of Heron Road to Fishpool Way is currently difficult to pass due to the overgrown hawthorn hedge.

Sue Hayes
37 Grove Lane, Barrow



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An Alternative Resting Place

Gaynor Barton visits a Natural Burial Site

Autumn, Summer Winter, Spring,
The seasons come and go.
Always in this place
God has lovely things to show.

This poem, copied from a memorial post at the Natural Burial Site at Prestwold, would never win a prize for poetry but it must sum up what many families feel when they choose to bury their relatives in this peaceful rural setting. It is a lovely place in all seasons: spring with its flowering cherry trees, primrose and cowslip covered meadow, in summer a mass of ox-eye daisies and in autumn and winter a place with a quieter and more reflective mood.

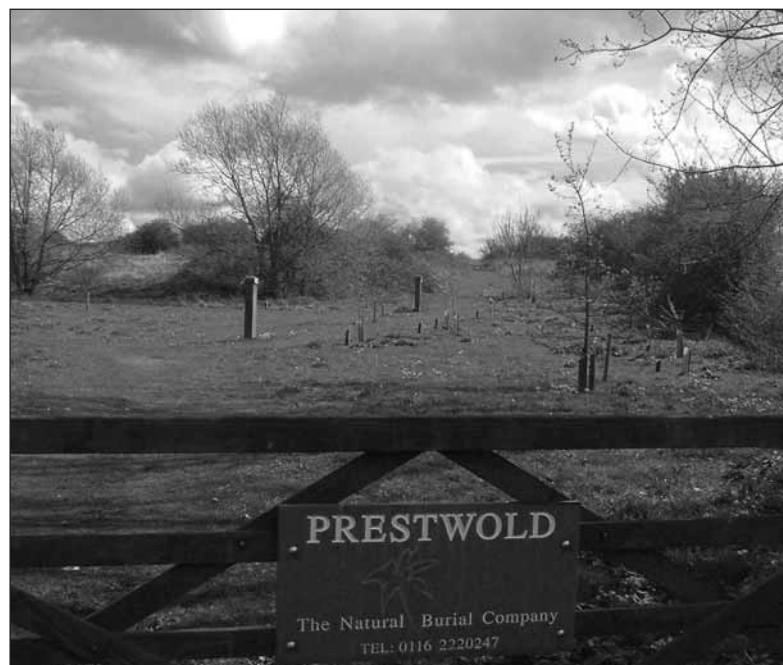
The site was opened in March 2000 and will be well known to some people in the village as they have relatives buried there but to most of us it is just an intriguing sign 'Natural Burial Site' on the Loughborough Road as you drive into the town from Burton on the Wolds. Yet everyone is welcome to visit this natural cemetery. It never closes so if you are interested turn off the main road (B 676) and drive slowly down the pot-holed lane towards the farm house. Where the lane forks keep left, a wooden sign points the way, and after driving with extreme care through two yellow posts continue along a rough track to a little car-park. If you've brought your dog then you'll have to leave him in your car as they aren't welcomed, but you are, so push the gate open and wander along the paths.

The main path meanders through an open area the right side of which is called the 'meadow'. This area contains many graves but retains an uncluttered naturalness as individual plaques are not allowed. Memorials are put on posts along the route so that it doesn't look at all like a conventional cemetery. On the left of the path is the 'woodland' area where individual plaques can be placed often next

to trees planted in memory of relatives or friends. Although the plaques are small there's enough room for the character of a person to come through. One simply reads: 'Brian Mullins Up The Shed' and another 'I love you more. Honest Injun'.

New graves are allowed to be marked with wreaths and flowers for the first few weeks but a time comes when these individual markers are removed by the site manager. The overall intention is to keep the site looking as natural as possible and family members who choose to bury a relative here have to sign a document promising that they won't create traditional graves. (A few still do, but other users of the site don't like it and express their disapproval.) It is easy to find a grave as there is usually a memorial tree and a little post marking the site and even if there is nothing and the site is completely grassed over, a long tube containing a microchip is placed in the coffin before burial which can be read. The number on the microchip matches the number given to the family on the grave-licence so there's no need to define graves in a traditional way. At the top of the path is a hillier area where there is a really good view of the countryside.

On your return to the entrance gate take the path marked 'Woodland Walk' before you leave the cemetery as you will see bird boxes and bat roosts high in the trees. The names of remembered relatives are written on the bases or sides. The trees planted here, and meadow flowers, have all been carefully chosen to ensure that they are not simply British native species but native to the East Midlands and so will not only thrive but continue to enrich the natural



order of things. Maintaining biodiversity is very important to the people who run the Natural Burial Company and they ban the use of chemicals of any kind in case plants and insects are harmed.

However, the site differs significantly from a churchyard not just in the way it looks but in the important fact that the ground isn't consecrated so can be used by anyone of any religious background or none. The Natural Burial Company never asks about a person's religious background believing that those who choose this kind of burial do so as part of a life-style choice. Many want to be buried here because they loved nature, or were aware of their carbon footprint and knew this kind of a burial in a cardboard or wicker coffin was more eco-friendly than either being cremated or buried in a heavy wooden coffin.

What is certain is that more and more people are choosing to be buried or bury their relatives at these natural sites and undertakers can always help with advice. There is already another site in Leicestershire at Scraptoft, and another two under consideration. As for cost, yes, a natural burial is cheaper, but this doesn't seem to be why they are chosen; it's much more a green way of life being continued into death.

For more information on any aspect of natural burials ring 0116 222 0247 The Natural Burial Company or e-mail info@naturalburial.co.uk

Jan Hind in conversation with Chair of the Parish Council, Marie Slater



Marie Slater was born in Luton. She was the middle one of five children, with two brothers and two sisters. The whole family, parents and children, attended the local Baptist Church. The church had a large group of young people who really enjoyed singing and Marie's mother played the piano and sang, as indeed did Marie; in fact, singing soon became a major part of her life.

Marie attended Luton High School and then moved on to 'Whitelands' in Putney, the Church of England Training College, where she became deeply involved in the Anglican liturgy, finding enormous pleasure in the wonderfully uplifting music and in sung liturgy. Here she studied divinity for three years prior to becoming a teacher, whilst continuing with her singing.

Upon completion of her training, Marie went home to work in Luton for two years, then moved to Sneinton in Nottingham in 1958. This time she had company, as a friend also wished to make a change and it transpired that there were two teaching posts going at the same school, so Marie and her friend applied and were both successful. Marie stayed at this school for six years, not only improving her teaching skills, but also learning about life and the wide differences which can be found in human nature. When she felt it was time to move on she took a post at West Bridgford. (Apparently, if you lived there you were considered rich for having bread and lard for your pack-up.)

Marie's singing tutor had a son, who was working away in Leicester, but she got to meet him one weekend when he was home. Ryan had an alcohol problem and was going,

with his brother and sister, to an AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) conference in Blackpool and Marie was invited to join them. Marie and Ryan hit it off immediately - they attended the daytime session of the conference, then went for a walk and didn't go back for the evening session.

Marie moved to Leicestershire at which point Ryan said, 'What church shall we be married in?'

That was the proposal!

They married in Edwalton and then came to live in Barrow where Christopher and David were both born. Mum and Dad also came to live here, settling in Thirlmere Road (just around the corner).

Marie decided to join the Anglican Church in Barrow as all of Ryan's family were Anglicans - in fact Ryan's Dad, a choirmaster and teacher, composer and organist, had actually taught Marie. A number of members of the family had tried to persuade Marie against marrying Ryan due to his alcohol problem but she had faith in his determination and she was proved right - in fact they had a party to celebrate when he reached the '20 years sober' anniversary.

Once settled in at Barrow, Marie joined the Young Wives' Group; she got 'roped in' for Sunday School and helped with the Toddlers' Club - and that was just for starters. She was asked to do one term covering Maths at Humphrey Perkins, and because she so loved teaching she agreed. The one term became 20 years, mostly spent teaching English. Then came promotion to Year Head for another seven or eight years. One Lent she decided to give up shouting at the young people for

Lent. She actually managed it and maintained it thereafter.

Marie has always loved singing, and has done some semi-professional singing over the years in Nottingham, Leicester, and even Kings Lynn, where she sang with the 'Fenland singers' in Westminster Abbey and also on TV. Marie's other interests during this happy time as the children grew up included Mothers Union, Play group, teaching, Sunday services, and Charnwood Choir. Later on came BOSCAPS and the Community Association (she had the privilege of being Chair in Millennium Year).

When she decided to retire, Humphrey Perkins High School did a 'This is your life' as a combined birthday and goodbye as Marie brought her teaching career to an end. Not one to sit back and grow old gracefully, Marie had a strong feeling that she would like to do more within the Church. She started training for the position of 'Reader Minister', (Reader for short), and was licensed in 1992. One day whilst she was accompanying Rev. Stephen Mitchell to speak to bereaved relatives about a loved one's funeral, Marie was speaking with these relatives and advising them. Afterwards Stephen commented on her interaction with the bereaved and, in particular, how she seemed to know naturally what words to use and how to comfort and reassure these people. She felt, and still feels, that the time spent in conversation with the bereaved is extremely important, and not to be cut short. Simply being willing to listen to someone telling how this or that person lived their lives is a gift to them - a gift of good memories - a gift worth more than gold, and, to Marie, the most important

person at any funeral is the relict (or closest member of the family).

After she had started her training as a Reader, she was put on the spot once more when Dr John Earl suggested that she should join the Parish Council. This consists of a diverse group of people from all backgrounds, all ages and all levels of education. They have differing abilities and varied enthusiasms, but all have something to offer and between them they represent the diverse nature of our lovely village. After consideration, Marie did as he suggested and served two full sessions on the Council. Eventually, she was proposed for election to Chair of the Council and

currently holds that position. Marie engenders great affection, respect, and admiration from other Council members as well as people of the village

Another of her current passions is the Youth Theatre. Working with Carol and Gordon Kenneth and 40 enthusiastic 9-18 year olds, is one of the highlights of her week - she describes it as 'sheer delight'.

As ever, her priorities in life remain her family and her Church. All other things come after that. She rejoices in her four grandchildren, Meredith (16), William (14), Ryan (12) and Thomas (9). After that come the many, many interests which she has. In

addition to those already mentioned she is a Lay Chair of Deanery Synod, Trustee of the Bishop Beveridge Club, and a lifetime member of Loughborough Male Voice Choir which she conducted for six years.

Marie says she now takes one day at a time. She admits to having slowed down a bit but says this has taught her to be more tolerant. She also admits that she might be getting just a little bit older, but apart from her heart problems, diabetes, arthritis, kidney disease I think that's it!!there's absolutely nothing wrong with her at all; her enthusiasm is as strong as it ever was and her brain is certainly in fine fettle.

New residents aim to make Barrow home

Two new Barrow residents of Barrow, Linda Beattie and Mark McCormick, have been talking to me about their impressions of the village, their reasons for coming here from Scotland and their recent engagement. They attended the welcome evening for new residents, at the Community Centre some weeks ago and we enjoyed meeting them and learning a little about them and their background, but on this second meeting, we went into rather more detail.

The couple first met at Linda's sister Heather's wedding in 2000 where Linda and Mark were bridesmaid and best man respectively. They found that they got on really well (and still do) and are planning to be married in Scotland in May 2009.

The young couple moved from Fife, in Scotland, due to Linda's work and spent three years in Kent. Mark's work as a civil engineer with a company called White, Young & Green then brought him to work in Leicestershire and, for some time, he commuted from Kent to Leicestershire. He was happy doing this except for the traffic on the M5 which was consistently horrendous. At this time Linda worked as Shopping Centre Manager at Bluewater, with 300 retailers to supervise. She was responsible for assessing performance and this was keeping her very busy.

Eventually, however, the couple decided that the commuting was just too much and the answer was to relocate to Leicestershire which was more convenient for Mark's job. At first, they rented a property in Anstey, moving to Barrow in late November 2007.

Mark is a keen golfer but finds it difficult to play as often as he would like, due to pressure of work. He is also a Formula One aficionado. Linda is very keen on Scottish Dancing and has danced consistently since she was just six years old. She used to dance in Edinburgh in the Military Tattoos. She has, more recently, taken up Yoga, which she tells me she finds really relaxing. The energetic couple are great lovers of hill walking and, to date, have done eight out of the two hundred Monroes in Scotland, most recently Lochnagar.

Monroes are Scottish peaks which are over 2000 feet high and Lochnagar or Beinn Chlòchan (as it is also known) is a mountain in the Grampians of Scotland, located about five miles south of the River Dee near Balmoral. It is named after Lochan na Gaire, the 'little loch of the noisy sound', a loch to be found in the mountain's northeast corrie.

Linda and Mark are also very keen on walking on more level ground and are planning to join in with the Parish Walks, as well as getting involved in other village activities. Although both their families are in Scotland, Linda and Mark's intention is to stay here, settle down, get married and become part of the village. I assured them that, as people who obviously want to be part of our community, they would meet with a warm and ready acceptance within Barrow upon Soar.



Jan Hind

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Holy Trinity fundraising for the future

Pam Brown updates us on events in aid of the new church extension

Jazz Picnic Concert - there was an excellent atmosphere at this June concert and we were so lucky with the weather. We were delighted that Sounds Like Swing were able to be present and to provide such a range of music whilst around 70 people drank Pimms and enjoyed their picnics. £500 was raised.

This was the first occasion that the Holy Trinity Cook Book was on sale and it has proved a great hit already. Melissa Howarth and Irene Jones have spent a long time requesting and collating the recipes given them into a very convenient Cook Book. This is on sale priced £5 from Holy Trinity Church or by contacting Pam Brown on 01509 412929.

Loughborough Orchestra held a concert in the church on Saturday 21 June and it was good to see so many people there. We are so lucky to have such excellent acoustics and enjoy welcoming visiting orchestras

and choirs. This was not an event for fundraising but one of the many occasions when the church is made available to outside users.

Alison Print masterminded an Evening of Music in July in which many of her pupils took part. For some, it was the first occasion to appear in public. The evening raised £357 for the Extension Fund and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming them back next year. Forthcoming events: both Charnwood Orchestra and the Shephed Singers will be visiting Holy Trinity in the autumn - look out for details when they advertise their events.

On Easter Day all members of the congregation were given £10 to take away to use in order to increase its value. Events have been taking place since then - sponsored litter pick in Barrow, afternoon teas, coffee mornings, lunches, bric-a-brac sales, sale of handmade cards, hanging

baskets and tomato plants, Bridge Drive, the list goes on and on. The money is due to be returned at Harvest and we are hopeful that this will be a sizeable amount. The Social Committee are organising a Harvest Supper on Friday 3 October with Bingo and a Fish and Chip Supper. Further details from John Whittaker on 621834.

The Fundraising Committee's major event in the autumn will be on Saturday 1 November - Ebay@ Barrow - an auction of Promises and Talents - with no computer needed! Items for this are already rolling in and star items so far include a driving experience at Prestwold and a local flying experience based at East Midlands Airport. Please keep this date and look out for more information nearer the time.

Further details of all events can be obtained from Pam Brown, 412929 or John Whittaker, 621834.

The 5th Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival

It may be a little early to be thinking of Christmas but plans for this year's Christmas Tree Festival are now well advanced.

John Florance from Radio Leicester will officially open the Festival on the evening of Thursday December 4th and it will continue until Sunday December 7th. An exciting evening is promised for the Friday, more details later.

We shall be contacting groups and individuals who have displayed their Christmas trees in the past very shortly but all are more than welcome to be involved, there is no charge to display a tree.

For more details or to apply for a booking form please contact Ann and John Beaumont on 01509 412609

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Leicestershire Bandit Backpackers Jailbreak 2008

Katie Brown shares with us some of the highlights of a challenge in Europe...

In September 2007 I went on a Girl Guiding International Selection Weekend and was one of six girls selected to represent our county in a Midlands event called Jailbreak 2008. The theme of the trip was to compete against other counties from the Midlands Region in Northern Europe. The first challenge was to raise £950 each. To do this I wrote letters asking for support as well as bag-packing, babysitting and a quiz evening. As a group we had to arrange everything ourselves. This included which flights/train journeys/ferries we chose to take. It also included the smaller details like timings to get to places and when we needed to be there. We had regular monthly planning meetings and then we were finally ready to go!

26th - 28th July - Edinburgh, Scotland.

- Released at 12-30pm on parole. Before release we had a challenge of answering a quiz out and about in Edinburgh.

28th - 30th July - Oslo, Norway.

- We visited Frogner Park and also visited the Norway cup (a football tournament) as part of our sporting event. We got to watch a team from London.

31st July - 3rd August - Stockholm, Sweden.

- Tour around the city hall which is the home to the Noble Prize Banquet as part of our challenge. We also remade our guiding promise in the Ice bar as an unusual place for this challenge.

- We visited the Vasa museum and the police museum as well as taking a canal boat tour and going to Skansen open-air museum as part of our rural event challenge.

- We had a meal prepared for us by the Swedish scouts who we were staying with.



4th - 5th August - Helsinki, Finland.

- We visited Plan B recycling centre for our recycling project. Spent time at the cathedral and Botanical Gardens as well as Helsinki Zoo.

6th August - Lapland

- We shook hands with Santa as part of our challenge and also visited a Husky Park and the Christmas Museum.

7th - 10th August - Tallinn, Estonia.

- We climbed the Kiek in de Kok tower for our challenge.
- We visited a Jewish synagogue as part of our visit a place of worship for a religion not your own, had a traditional Estonian meal, visited the cathedral and endured a 2 hour, 10km bike ride tour.
- We then met with the other counties to finish.

We also had other challenges that were to take place in every country.

- Have a photo taken Picture a with policeman and the national flag.
- Buy a postcard with a picture of a famous landmark on and send one signed by a uniformed person from every city to the regional international adviser
- Collect an A-Z of signs.
- Send an email from every country to Midlands HQ.
- Get the autograph of all the people that were helpful to us whilst away.
- Buy a present for your County Commissioner costing no more than 12 euros.
- Use as many different forms of transport as possible.





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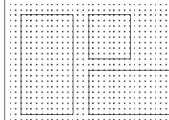
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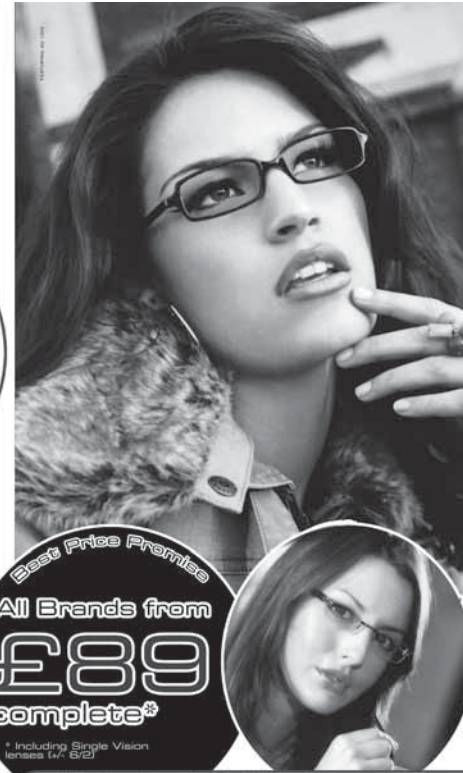
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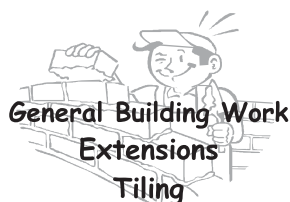
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The Youth Action Group now has a dedicated mobile 'phone number. This will enable parents to contact a member of the committee for example to confirm activities or get a message to their child during events. We also want to encourage the young people of the village to use it to keep in touch with us by voice or text. The number is 07535 342464.

We have many exciting activities and outings planned for the rest of the year, including the return of the climbing tower (yippee!!!) and another craft morning during half term!

Please keep your eye out for posters throughout the village and notifications in the Village Diary, or call the mobile phone number above for more details.

Tuesday October 21st; Craft morning in the Church Rooms. From 10am-12 noon

Saturday October 25th; from 11am-3pm, climbing tower & BBQ on KGV. If you can fit into the harnesses provided then you can have a go! We will also run the pavement art (that was rained off in September) at the same time.

Christmas Crafts; Details to be confirmed.

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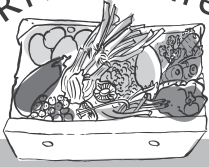
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Barrow of Treats for all – coming soon



During September a new tea room and coffee shop opened on Barrow High Street. After a long and difficult development phase to convert the former 'Frame It' shop, Homefield College (based in Sileby) is bringing a new service for busy shoppers. Service in the new café and shop is provided by students of Homefield College as part of their continuing development.

In the 'Barrow of Treats' there are the delights of a refreshing cup of tea with a slice (or two!!) of homemade cake and other light snacks freshly prepared on the premises. The 'Liquorice' sweet shop (in Sileby) has transferred to this new site, to serve the customers with a sweet tooth with the traditional sweets that many of us remember from our childhood. Finally the 21st Century is recognised through a small internet café area.

Homefield College has a good reputation for pioneering work with its students and residents who have a range of disabilities, including autistic spectrum conditions, communication difficulties and learning disabilities. The college strives

to give the students excellent opportunities to become more independent and to be more actively involved in the local communities. Barrow of Treats is another initiative to make that involvement a reality.

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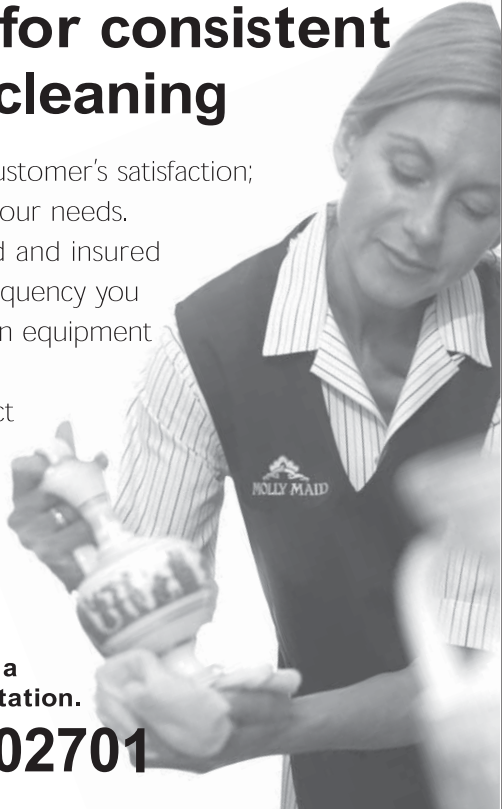
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Autumnwatch

A beautiful time in the countryside as the cooler air bites and turns the leaves to red, brown and gold and the colder evenings cause the 'Will of the Wisp'(mist) to lie in the hollows in late evenings and the early mornings before being burnt off by the sun.

It's now that nature (and a little hard work) provides us with a rich bounty.

Most wild animals are in peak condition as there is plenty of food about. Pheasant, partridge and duck are in season and all make a fine Sunday roast.

Sloes or wild damsons are in abundance, and pickled in gin add flavour to it. Crab apples if collected and cooked, make a tasty if rather tart sauce for pork. And late wild blackberries added to apples sweeten the pie. This is also the time to collect blue stale mushrooms or bluits as they are sometimes called. They are always to be found in the same place in my fields. Apparently for some reason they cannot be cultivated. They certainly command a high price in the markets when available. In the past, this time of the year would see the freezer full of fat lamb and pork joints which my father had produced over the spring and summer months on his farm. Working outside in the now colder weather certainly gives one an appetite.

Recently I've been noticing a hare lying against one of my field gates. She (I think it's a female) is surprisingly tame. At first I thought she was ill, as I could approach to within a few yards without her running off, but she is there regularly; eyes bright and coat in good condition, perfectly content to let me pass within a few yards as I go about my work. I did notice some hares mating late this summer so I'm beginning to wonder if she has leverets hidden near by.

Dave Bird



Murder in the Far Acres

Early one autumn morning as a young man my father went to the Far Acres field to check on the stock. To his horror he found the body of an old man lying against the hedge. The police were called and it was quickly established he had died from a severe head wound; what's more the murderer was still in the field. The old man had bent down to pick mushrooms and the ram, seeing him in this position and taking his posture as a challenge, charged hitting him square on the head.

Country breakfast

This story never put me off picking field mushrooms or enjoying eating them but I certainly keep a wary eye on any sheep that may be in the field. The field, horse or plate mushroom is far superior to the forced variety one buys in the supermarket. Lightly fried in a small amount of water with a knob of butter and a pinch of pepper and served with a free range egg, some quality back bacon and a Lincolnshire sausage, it is unbeatable. And the continental breakfast by comparison? Almost an insult.

Dave Bird

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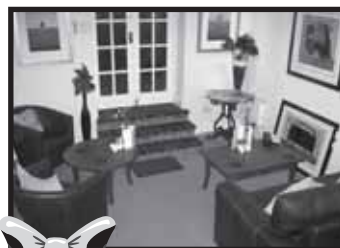
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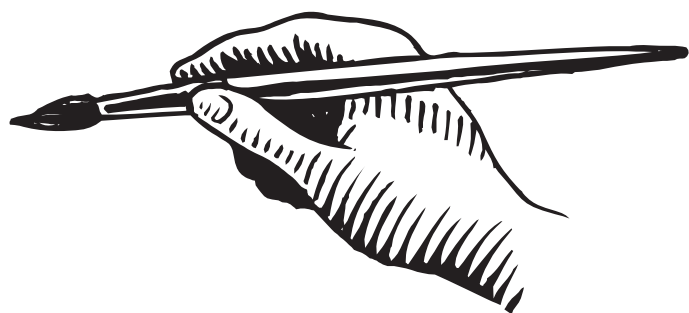


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Allotment Diary

Growing grapes for fun

Having grown grapes as a hobby for a number of years in my garden it seemed a natural progression to try the same on my first allotment when I acquired one in 2003. Having grown a selection of wine grapes in the garden namely Siegerrebe, Madeleine Angevine, Triomphe D'Alsace, Gagarin Blue and found them easy to grow, I thought I would try and grow them in greater numbers. As wine grapes they are wanting in comparison to dessert grapes for size, flavour and quality but they make superb juice when crushed either for wine production or to drink as is. Although they can achieve a very acceptable sweetness, they are thick skinned and contain pips. The smallest variety that I grow, Triomphe, produces tight bunches of pea sized grapes, whilst Gagarin Blue produces large open bunches with the grapes the size of small cherries that are passable as a dessert grape.

I sourced the vines at the allotment from cuttings of the garden grape vines as well as a small number of new varieties that I have bought. I am trying pinot noir and chardonnay as an experiment. They seem to flower later than the varieties I am used to and I think may not ripen easily. Having said that, the French have bought considerable acreage in southern England in anticipation of rising temperatures bringing England up to a par with northern 20th century France.

I very loosely follow the Guyot training method in which one rod (single Guyot) or two (double Guyot) is grown horizontally from the main trunk of the vine. The purpose of the training is to produce an open framework that lets light in and encourages fruiting. A vine will take three years before grapes begin to be produced from cuttings. The winter prune removes 90-95% of the new growth.

I currently have a small number of fruiting vines at the allotment and a large number that will come into fruiting over the next few years. There is a successful commercial vineyard at Costock, just north of Barrow. I think planting vines to add character to my allotment is not overly ambitious. The past two years have seen weather presenting a problem. Grapes favour a short cold winter period to allow a dormant period of rest followed by a long sunny warm to hot summer. They don't always get that in Barrow! Unseasonable warmth in February can spoil a crop just as much as a wet summer although wine grapes are less fussy because they are smaller. The allotment site, although south facing in aspect, is exposed and the season is four weeks shorter compared to my sheltered south facing garden.

Grape vines are vigorous once established and it is important to maintain the vines well. This is done principally during the autumn pruning. A vine can only support a certain number of grapes without vastly reducing the quality. This quantity is determined predominantly by age. The Hampton court vine, the well known black Hamburg dessert variety, in the 1840s averaged 2300 to 2400 bunches a year having been planted in 1769. However, pruning also has to be done in the summer as well in order to keep the vines open to light. Then there is the harvest which comes in September to October.

So grape growing is time consuming for a lot of the year, but worth it when you can sit and enjoy the fruits of your labour. I have made wine from the grapes, and shall do again, but it is more of a character building exercise for my allotment. I use the juices as a drink without fermentation.

Simon Grant



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A fangtastic horror spoof musical from Barrow Youth Theatre

Rehearsals are in full swing for our next musical "The Dracula Spectacula". With book and lyrics by John Gardiner and music by Andrew Parr, this rocky "spooky musical" is a fangtastic show not to be missed!

Barrow Youth Theatre's young talented vibrant cast tells of a young American schoolteacher, Nadia Naive and her party, who are grounded on a flight from Pennsylvania, landing in Transylvania - and you can guess what happens there!

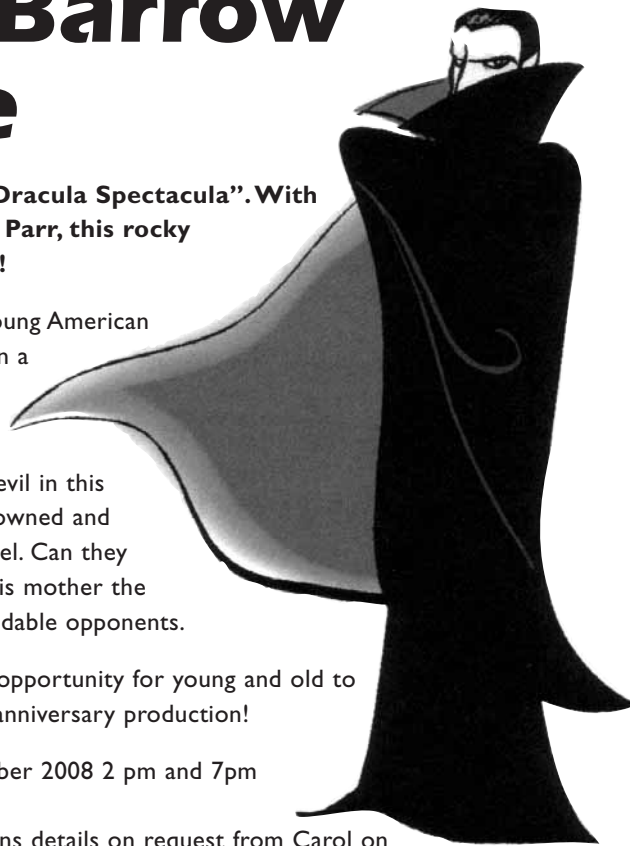
Schoolteacher Nadia Naive finds herself battling the power of evil in this full-of-fun spooky musical. At her side are noble Nick, the renowned and dashing scientist, Father O'Stake and the cuddly Hans and Gretel. Can they conquer the forces of darkness? Dracula, Prince of Darkness, his mother the Countess Wraith and their grovelling minion Genghis are formidable opponents.

A sizzling score and a hilarious script make this show another opportunity for young and old to be entertained in Barrow Youth Theatre's record-breaking 5th anniversary production!

Friday 21st November 2008 at 7pm and Saturday 22nd November 2008 2 pm and 7pm

At HPHS, Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar

Tickets Adults £6 Children £4 Special Party booking reservations details on request from Carol on 01509 620572. Barrow Youth Theatre is proud to be part of BUSCA



Charnwood Orchestra

Charnwood Orchestra will be giving its annual concert in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday October 11th starting at 7.45pm. The programme consists of three works: Haydn's Symphony no 96 'The Miracle', Bach's Harpsichord concerto in d minor and Mozart's Symphony no 41 'Jupiter'.

The Haydn symphony is popularly known as the Miracle because of a story that a chandelier fell from the ceiling of the concert hall in which it was first performed. The audience managed to dodge the chandelier successfully, and the symphony got its nickname. More careful research suggests that this event did indeed take place but during the premiere of a different symphony.

Bach wrote 14 harpsichord concertos, several of them for more than one harpsichord and even one with four! The mind boggles. The explanation is easy: his two sons, CPE Bach and WF Bach were both excellent players as was one of his students. Our soloist will be John Treherne.

Mozart's 41st Symphony is the last of a set of three that Mozart composed in rapid succession during the summer of 1788 and was therefore the very last symphony he ever wrote.

Tickets for this concert will cost £8.00 (£6.00 concessions) and will be on sale from the Paper Shop and from Judith Rodgers on 07718153117 or rodgers_david@hotmail.com

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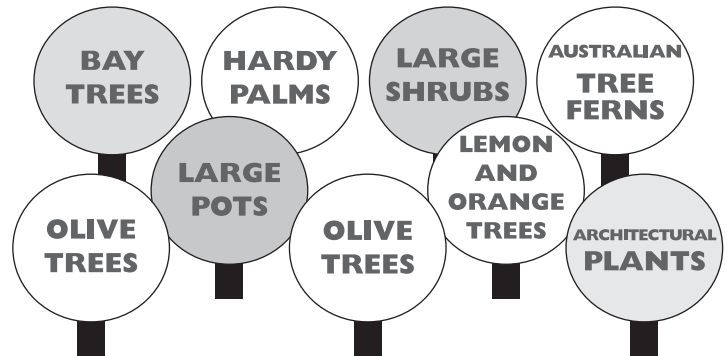
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Centre Stage this Autumn

Barrow is very lucky to have two Centre Stage events this autumn. The first is The Doudou Cissoko Trio 'In Concert' on Friday October 3rd and is quite unlike anything that we have hosted before. The trio will give us Senegalese kora music with vocals, and has been reviewed by The Guardian newspaper as 'Profound and spiritual, imbued with timeless wisdom, yet folksy and sun-splashed. In Cissoko's hands, the kora seems to evoke the entire sweep of creation'.

The kora is a 21 stringed African harp-lute and Doudou Cissoko is one of the new generation of kora virtuosi. The Cissokos are all celebrated Senegalese griots (West African poets, praise singers, and wandering musicians, considered a repository of oral tradition and folk wisdom). Doudou's father, Soundioulou, who is still a venerated kora player in Senegal, revolutionised the sound of this ancient instrument when he replaced the hide strings with plastic ones. Doudou, who has now settled in France, started to compose at the age of 14. As a singer-songwriter he continues his family tradition but also brings in western influences into his soothing, beautiful and very accessible music.

The show is in two parts, in the first half, the music is more meditative and quiet and then towards the end of the second half, the trio plays up-tempo music so that people can join in, dance if they wish to and sing along to the choruses.



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Sunday December 7th

The second Centre Stage event, 'Swingers in Suspenders' is on Sunday December 7th and will definitely help to get you into the festive mood. The show is described as 'cheeky cabaret with a swing; a show that will definitely appeal to the over 50s as well as the huge number of young swing fans. For anyone who likes MGM musicals, film noire, nostalgia, romance...and suspenders!'

The 1930s, 40s and 50s are brought back to life by performers Jo King and Alexi Harden with live piano, trumpet, sax and guitar. Dance, comedy, puppetry, fab costumes (including suspenders!). It is a family show weighted towards the grandparents...but with enough silliness to keep the youngsters amused!

Both events will take place in the Humphrey Perkins Community Centre starting at 7.00pm. Tickets for both, available from the Paper Shop, will cost £7.00 (£8.00 on the door) and concessions £5.00 (£6.00 on the door). A family ticket (two adults and two children) will cost £20 (£24 on the door). Or go mad and get a further discount by pre-buying tickets for both shows at £12.00 (£8.00 concessions).

If you want to know more, try phoning Judith

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

Don't be shy - join the twinnings

We are very pleased that, once again, our counterparts from Marans will be visiting us and staying in our homes. It is especially pleasing that this year there will be young people in the party.

Our visitors will be in Barrow from October 31 to November 4 and a busy programme of events is being organised. It is now 12 years since the twinning charter was signed in Barrow and since then we have had many excellent visits to Marans, with our French friends returning to Barrow in alternate years. The strong links that now exist will only continue if younger families join us.

Apart from the exchange visits we have a variety of social events throughout the year. In June, despite the English weather's attempt at sabotage, we had a very successful 'Party in the garden' with excellent food & wine, good company and very enjoyable live music.

So don't be shy. Come and join us. If you are worried about speaking French, don't be! There are several members who cannot speak any French but have made lasting friendships with the Marans' twinnings.

You can contact the Secretary, Kathryn Timmons on 416168



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A Tremendous Sense of Community

- Ginnie Willcocks is impressed by Barrow Open Gardens 2008

I think you'll agree that the weather in June this year was hardly 'flaming'! However, the weekend of the village Open Gardens was probably the best of the month. That Sunday was especially good.

I had spent three plus hours in the Parish Office on the Saturday of this particular weekend, on duty. It was called duty but actually it was an absolute delight and the time just flew by with so many visitors to the Heritage Exhibition, all with a genuine interest in the life of our village. This meant I only had from 12.30pm to 5.30pm, on Sunday, to pull in visits to 22 gardens, a war memorial and a traffic island. Quite a daunting prospect and I wanted to see all of them!

I sat for 10 minutes or so, with a list of the gardens, a scrap of paper and a pencil so I could plan a route without doubling back on myself. I set off at 12.45pm in my car, with a friend, to the gardens at the Cotes Road side of the village. After driving to these two locations I took the car home and walked around the rest of the gardens in and around the centre of the village and picked the car up again for the last two addresses on Nottingham Road, arriving for my final visit at 5.25pm just before closing time. Wow! Was I impressed?

There were arbours, gazebos and summerhouses, ponds and water features, low maintenance plots and raised beds, neat lawns, exotic shrubs, dazzling colour schemes and wooded walks. They were interspersed with stops for refreshments plus collections for charity. Quite a number opened for the first time including one in the Willow Road estate and Jerusalem Roundabout - well done the Gardening Club.

The different gardeners were more than willing to chat about their variety of plants especially if they had something unusual. They also talked about the ideas that had helped them to develop their plots and what they had achieved. It was all most impressive and I came away with grand plans for transforming my own haphazardly planted, secret, garden into something more imposing and colourful. Watch this space!

Walking around our village on that Sunday afternoon was an incredible experience. I felt that there was a tremendous sense of community and something that was worth belonging to. Anyone passing through Barrow, at that time, must have been both puzzled and amazed by the number of people wandering the streets clutching scraps of green paper (the Open Gardens leaflet).

I would like to express my thanks to Mike Morley and his team for the planning and organisation of this most pleasant event. Also, to all of those who opened their gardens, from the smallest to the largest, they were all brilliant. The total amount raised for Rainbows was an amazing £2,802. Well done to everyone!

You will be delighted to learn that the team, so thrilled with the success of the event, has decided to run Open Gardens next year on June 13th and 14th instead of waiting a couple of years.

BARROW Voice

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Sat 20th	Recycle for Charnwood Event 11.00-4.00 HPHS; Holy Trinity Coffee morning in Church Rooms; Hall Orchard Primary School Summer Fayre; 12.00 - 4.00pm; Loughborough Orchestra concert; Holy Trinity Church; 7.30
Fri 26th	Big Stir Macmillan Coffee mornings at Church Rooms, Bishop Beveridge Club & Pingle Nook
Sat 27th	Tango Night at HPHS, 7.30pm for 8pm start
Mon 29th	WI Harvest Supper; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Wed 1st	Holy Trinity Mothers' Union: 'About me' (adoption, protection, the Ministry) by Rev Mary Samuel; Church Rooms; Gardening Club: 'The Stories that flowers can tell' by Carolyn Holmes; Community Lounge; 7.30pm
Fri 3rd	Centre Stage: 'Doudou Cissoko and his Senegalese Trio In Concert'; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.00pm; Holy Trinity Harvest Bingo with a fish and chip supper
Sat 4th	Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning; Church Hall; 10.00am; BUSCA Autumn Dance with Just Us; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.00 for 7.30pm; tickets from the Paper Shop
Mon 6th	Holy Trinity Men's Group: Visit to the Space Centre, Leicester; New Horizons: a friendship group for bereaved people: coffee and chat; My Grandchildren and other animals; please bring your photos; Methodist Church, North St; 2.00pm
Tues 7th	Parish Council meeting; 7.15; PC Office; Public Participation at start. Everyone welcome
Fri 10th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club
Sat 11th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; 10.00 - 11.30; Church Rooms; Charnwood Orchestra concert at Holy Trinity Church; 7.45; tickets from the Paper Shop
Mon 13th	WI: 'Latvia-Past and present' by Mr V Ozolins; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 14th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Sat 18th	Childrens' Society Coffee morning and box opening; Church Rooms; 10.00pm
Sat 25th	Village hall Action Group Coffee Morning; Church Rooms; 10.00
Fri 31st	BUSCA Halloween Family Party and Disco with Ben; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from the Paper Shop
Sat 2nd	Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning; Church Hall; 10.00am Holy Trinity Church Auction of Promises and Talents; Hall Orchard School
Mon 3rd	New Horizons: a friendship group for bereaved people: Remembrance Christmas tree; Methodist Church, North St; 2.00pm Holy Trinity Men's Group: 'Royal Leicestershire Regiment' by Melvin Gould; Church Rooms; 7.00pm
Tues 4th	Parish Council meeting; 7.15; PC Office; Public Participation at start. Everyone welcome
Wed 5th	Holy Trinity Mothers' Union: 'The local Magistrates Court' by Ian Tansey and John Wilford; Church Rooms; 2.30pm Gardening Club: 'Dahlias' by Frank Keech; Community Lounge; 7.30pm
Sat 8th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; 10.00 - 11.30; Church Rooms; BUSCA Winter Warmer Dance with 'Just Us'; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.00 for 7.30pm; Tickets on sale at The Paper Shop
Mon 10th	WI: AGM; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 11th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Fri 14th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30; Holy Trinity Whist Drive; 7.00pm; Church Rooms
Sat 13th	CMS Coffee morning; 10.00am; Church Rooms
Fri 21st	Barrow Youth Theatre presents 'Dracula Spectacular', a junior musical; 7.00pm; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from The Paper Shop
Sat 22nd	Dracula Spectacular matinee starting at 2.00 and evening at 7.00pm.
Sat 29th	Bishop Beveridge Club Christmas Bazaar; 10.00am; Methodist Christmas Bazaar; 2.00pm
Mon 1st	New Horizons: a friendship group for bereaved people: Christmas Lunch; Methodist Church, North St; 2.00pm; Holy Trinity Men's group Annual Dinner; 8.00pm
Tues 2nd	Parish Council meeting; 7.15; PC Office; Public Participation at start. Everyone welcome
Wed 3rd	Holy Trinity Mothers' Union: Mince pies, carols and readings; Church Rooms; 2.30pm Gardening Club: AGM and party night; Community Lounge; 7.30pm
Thurs 4th	Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; starts at 7.30pm with a Grand Opening with cheese and wine and music
Fri 5th	Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; 9.30am - 5.30pm
Sat 6th	Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; 9.30 all day; Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning; Church Hall; 10.00am; Switching on of Christmas lights from 4.15pm
Sun 7th	Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; Centre Stage: 'Swingers in suspenders' a hilarious musical journey through the 40s and 50s; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.00; tickets from The Paper Shop
Mon 8th	WI: 'Islands in the Indian Ocean' by Ann Thorne; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 9th	Neighbourhood Watch; Conservative Club; 7.30pm
Fri 12th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30
Sat 13th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; 10.00 - 11.30; Church Rooms

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NOVEMBER

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BUSCA EVENTS

September 27th	Tango Night. Learn to Tango under the expert tuition of Ian Shonk. Proceeds in aid of the Village Hall Action Group
October 3rd	Centre Stage - "The Doudou Cissoko Trio" an entirely different entertainment for Barrow with African folk and world music
October 4th	Start of the new dance season: Autumn Dance with dances for everyone with 'Just Us'
October 31st	Halloween Family Party & Disco with 'Ben'
November 8th	Winter Warmer Dance with the return of 'Just Us'
December 6th	Street Market at the Switching on of the village Christmas lights
December 7th	Centre Stage - "Swingers in Suspenders" a must-see show celebrating the 1930s, 40s and 50s
December 31st	New Years Eve Ball: greet the New Year with 'The Judy Nichol Big Band' Get your tickets early

All the events take place at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre
Tickets for all these events can be bought from The Paper Shop, High Street, Barrow