

BARROW Voice



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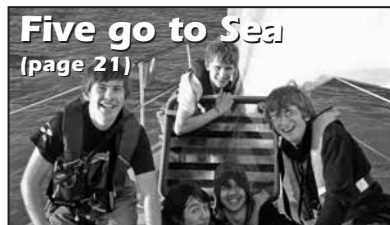
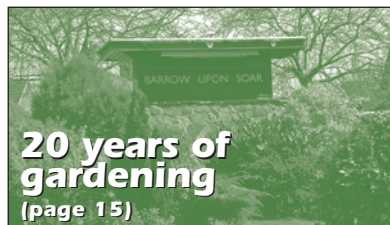
WINTER 2008

Barrow Voice Photo Competition

Congratulations to Michelle Watson for her winning entry
featured here, taken in Barrow upon Soar

Find out how you can take part in the new **SPRING COMPETITION**
(page 34)

photo: Michelle Watson



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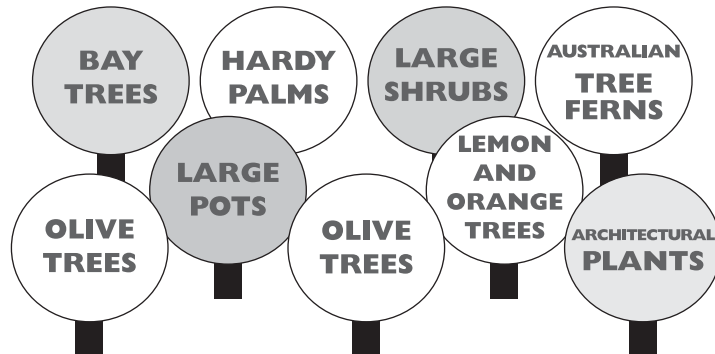
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Yes, it's Christmas and we try not to be too heavy and serious at this time of year. However, we did promise an update on how the downturn in the housing market is affecting the Willow Way development and the impact this will have on benefits for the village. This relates to money which the developers have pledged to improve facilities in Barrow.

So, a quick run down on what is and isn't happening yet: some good news and some not so good. The money to assist schools (Hall Orchard, Humphrey Perkins and Rawlins) has been passed over and in this edition you can read about the new sports hall on the HPHS campus, just one of the projects which has benefited. Funding to improve health facilities is in place and awaiting a decision on spending. The installation of cycle lockers at the station and of new bus shelters is also likely to go ahead.

In some cases a certain number of houses need to be occupied before money is released by the developers. At the time of writing there are only about 125 on the David Wilson and Miller Homes sites and this means that traffic calming on Nottingham and Cotes roads is delayed. The developers are not obliged to fund playground facilities until the tally is 200 so children in the new houses could be waiting a while.

We'll be keeping an eye on this issue in future editions. Until then, it's time for the traditional end-of-year thank yous – to the Barrow Voice and Mulberry Square teams including our distributors, to our advertisers for their support for another year and to all you contributors and readers. Have a good Christmas and we'll be back in 2009.

Frances Thompson

(Information courtesy of Barrow PC and Charnwood BC)



How would you like a photo you have taken in or around Barrow upon Soar to appear in Barrow Voice? Now is your chance! Check out BARROW VOICE'S PHOTO COMPETITION on page 34

HPHS awarded the status of Arts College

David Edwards shares his vision for the future with Judith Rodgers

When I interviewed David Edwards, Humphrey Perkins High School's head teacher recently, he explained that he saw this as an endorsement for his vision for promoting the arts. And the vision? – to create a community in which involvement in the arts is seen as the entitlement of all, not of the few. His targets are not only his 900+ pupils but also the feeder primary schools and the wider community.

Great strides are being made already towards achieving the vision. Year 9 children are thoroughly enjoying an extensive Arts curriculum option that includes music, drama, art, film, dance, media and stagecraft. To facilitate this, the old gym has been transformed into an Arts Theatre, the school hall has been kitted out as a dedicated performance space with new lighting and a splendid sound system and the foyer now doubles up as an impressive art gallery and dining hall. If you could pop your nose through the hall doors on a Tuesday afternoon, you would find lots of young children strumming, plucking, blowing and bowing a variety of musical instruments, all totally engrossed in the very beginnings of music making. Serious music-making but it is clearly such fun. Recently a choral festival involved schools from all over Leicestershire; there were performances of Shakespeare, of dance, of cheer-leading; you name it, it's happening.

I asked David where the community fits into all this. He pointed out that there are already several well-established arts groups that use HPHS regularly: the Youth Theatre, Panto Group and four dancing schools including Charnwood School of Dance. From now on, they will all enjoy the much improved performance facilities. But he also hopes to see new community arts activities particularly involving families, senior citizens and mothers and young children. For example: come-and-play opportunities, a community arts festival, therapeutic art workshops and a family learning arts activity day. He also wants to build community choirs, bands and an area orchestra based at HPHS where adults and children work together to practise and develop their creative skills. He would like to re-establish the tradition of singing that is fast disappearing from our lives. His dream is that from their earliest days, children grow up with the assumption that singing, playing music, dancing, drawing etc are activities that can be for all, not just the chosen few and that they will want to continue these throughout their lives. David says 'it is a vision. It won't happen in my life time but I want to set the foundation for all this to be started'.



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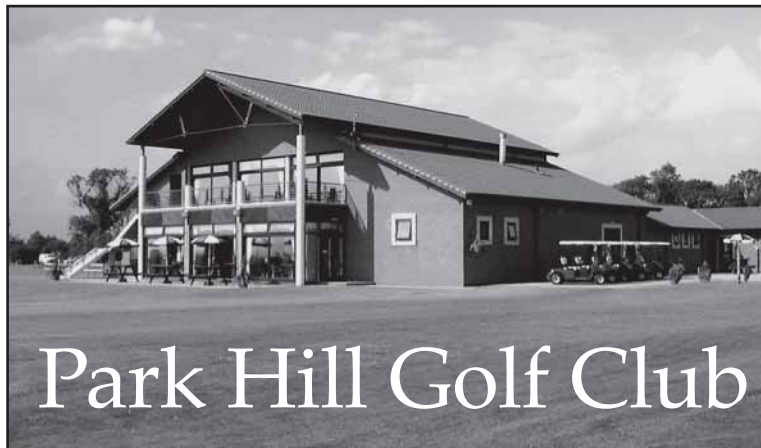
The Boat House at Barrow

Perhaps you witnessed the unveiling of the new pub signs in August that marked the return of the Boat House at Barrow. When the original Boat House and café closed down in the 1970s, it was replaced by a pub, the Riverside. In August, the wheel turned full circle because we now have a pub, a restaurant and a new boating business all situated by one of the prettiest stretches of the river.

Even if you weren't actually there when John Wilford pulled the cord to reveal the attractive new sign, you should have received a publication that outlines some of the exciting things that will go on at The Boat House at Barrow. There has already been one session of coracle building and next summer you can expect to be able to cheer on your favourite team in a Dragon Boat race. Or perhaps you will form your own team of 20 to compete in a 200 metre dash up the river, complete with steersman and drummer. I remember hiring a skiff from the old Boat House when I first came to live in Barrow. Come the Spring, this will be once more an option at the new Boat House, along with punting, canoeing and guided tours in 10-seater bell boats. And if messing around in boats isn't your scene, perhaps you will enjoy some gentle live music in the garden or simply drinking and eating in the tastefully refurbished interior of the pub. Or you may want a room in which to hold a meeting - free if you are a local community group.

The man behind the scenes is Colin Broadway. As managing director of the company that runs the Boat House at Barrow, he is the man with the vision. As he explained to me, this represents a complete change of career for him. He was a youth and community worker for 25 years and later manufactured canoes in Leicester. He has canoed from the age of four, competing all over the world in marathon canoe races, and has been a British Canoe Union coach for most of his life. It is obvious why a riverside pub has long been his dream. He explained that he wants to run the business as part of the community. Just as his old job of youth and community work can only be successful when it is done within the community setting, so too must this pub reach out to Barrow residents.

With Pillings Lock and Meadow Farm marinas providing permanent moorings for boats and Barrow Boating providing narrow boats for hire as well as pedaloes, family rowing boats, canoes, hydrobikes and seacycles, the Boat House at Barrow nicely complements our boating provision and we should now see a great revival of boating activities in Barrow.



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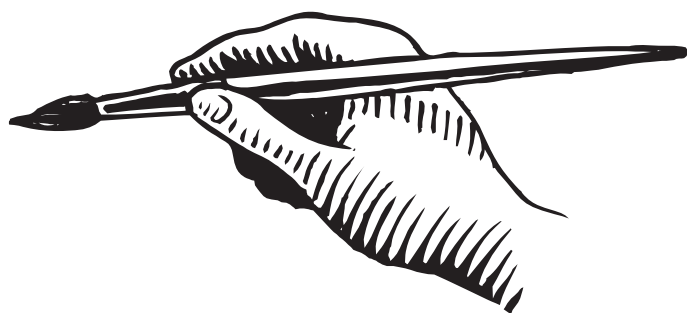


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We are delighted to announce that following the departure of our nurse specialist, Sister Armstrong in July, we now have a replacement nurse specialist, Sister Davis. She started work with us on 28th September.

Blood tests

We are now able to offer a phlebotomy service (blood testing) at the surgery again. Currently, there is one session each week but this will increase to two sessions in the near future.

HPV jabs

We are now able to offer cervical cancer jabs for girls privately. This is intended for girls who will miss out on the government scheme for 12 - 13 year olds. There will be a charge. If you wish to know more, please contact the Practice Manager, Mrs Spence on 01509 410920



Footpath reopens with new railway bridge

Sometime shortly after 6.00am on 1 February 2008, a tipper truck working on rail maintenance in the dark backed into the old wrought iron pedestrian bridge and pulled a large section down and onto the lines. At 6.30am, a local train came off the rails having hit the fallen bridge. Fortunately, no-one was seriously hurt and what could have been a horrendous calamity was averted.

On Monday 13 September, the three sections of a new pedestrian bridge were brought to Barrow by low loaders from Lanarkshire. They had set off the day before on their laborious journey from the Lanarkshire Welding Company where they had been made. They were assembled on the ground beside the track over the next few days and then on Saturday night, the rail track was closed. The 60 tonne stretch of steel was erected remarkably quickly by a single 400 tonne crane onto the new concrete abutments. Everything was bolted together, finishing work was completed and now Barrow is enjoying the re-opened foot path....once again. Users are commenting on the better non-slip surface of the bridge and there seems to be general approval for its design; not perhaps as elegant as the old wrought iron, but quite pleasing nevertheless.

A spokesman for the installing contractors complimented Barrow residents on their patience and understanding.

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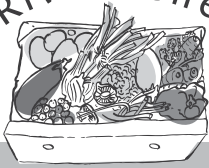
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New look for Barrow library

Barrow library is to be refurbished and given a brand new look.

In order to minimise disruption to services and ensure that the library remains open during the Christmas period, the refurbishment will take place in two phases.

The library will initially close from Monday 24th November when work begins on the replacement windows, and reopen on Monday 15th December in time for Christmas. Please join us on the 15th for coffee and a mince pie.

During the second phase the library will be redecorated, and alterations made to the internal layout to provide a modern environment with enhanced browser, computer and children's areas. It will be closed from Monday 19th January and re-open on Monday 26th January.

In advance of the closure, library users will be able to borrow more items and for an extended loan period. Books can also be renewed using our 24 hour renewal line: 0845 6022815. Library cards can be used in all county libraries. Please check our website (<http://website/index/libraries.htm>) for details of nearby libraries and their opening hours, or call 0116 3056988.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused during this period.

Long library service

Janet Thompson (Library Services Assistant- Barrow library) and Eileen Wilson (Deputy Manager of Birstall Group Libraries) have both been with the Leicestershire libraries for the past 40 years. Leicestershire County Council Chairman Tony Kershaw and his wife are congratulating them on their long commitment to the service. The staff group would also like to add their congratulations



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Marlene Allcock, one of the really good people in this world

A personal view by Jan Hind

John Allcock very kindly agreed to talk to me about Marlene, himself, their family and their lives together for the Barrow Voice. I was delighted, if apprehensive when I was asked to do this, as Marlene was an important part of my life over many years and a good friend.

I had first met Marlene at school when my family had just moved back to Loughborough, the move meaning a change of school for me. On the first day, I felt rather lonely and insecure, surrounded by strangers, and Marlene recognised that. She spoke to me and made sure I settled in. I was 13 at the time and I never forgot that kindness.

Marlene worked at Herbert Morris when she left school, later leaving to become a secretary at Brush, as was I, so our paths crossed yet again. Some years later I was delighted to discover that Marlene and John had moved into a house in Barrow upon Soar, just around the corner from the road where we were to live.

We all settled into our new homes and first Marlene, and then I, produced our various children, whilst still continuing our friendship. Eventually we were both asked by Judith Rodgers if we would be interested in helping to run a playgroup. She needed two pairs of people to work, each for two days a week. Marlene and I took on the Monday/Wednesday shifts and had a wonderful time caring for, and keeping occupied, the children in our care.

As our children grew older, I moved on to other things whereas Marlene continued with the playgroup, in all, for a staggering total of 30 years. At one time she also worked as an ancillary at the village school, so the children had even more continuity through her continued care. Barrow has reason to be very grateful to

Marlene for the kindness and love expended on all those children over many years. With her kindness, fairness and obvious love for all the children, whether well-behaved or not, Marlene was a shining example of a loving, and lovable, adult and a fine role model for all children and young people.

Marlene didn't like fuss and when she became ill she took the decision to keep the news to herself. She was a very brave woman, but eventually it became obvious that she was seriously ill and, sadly, she died in March this year.

Last week it would have been her 67th birthday and I'm sure that there are many, many of us who wish we could have been able to say 'Happy Birthday' to her once again.

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Allotment Diary 2

A profile of Sandy Buckley, allotment holder extraordinaire by Judith Rodgers

By the time you read this, Sandy Buckley will have celebrated his 90th birthday. But even on that special day he will probably have kept to his routine of two hours hard work in his allotment. For Sandy tends not one but two allotments and he keeps them in tip top condition. What is more, they are bigger than the standard. The National Allotment Society pronouncement is that one allotment should be 10 rods, ie an area of 100 feet x 50 feet. That was identified years ago as the area needed to 'feed a family'. Sandy has 50 rods! And he has to work really hard to give his produce away. He told me that next year he really will cut down on the number of plants he grows. But I suspect he has said that before.

I could have spent hours in Sandy's potting shed listening to his anecdotes. For example, at age five his doctor advised that, because he had contracted a lung disease, he should not go to school. He says 'I just disappeared. I had a wonderful childhood just roaming the countryside. I taught myself to read and write (upside down and back to front!) and I learnt things by experience. I was even taught how to do Pythagoras' Theorem on the school coach to Bradgate Park. No-one seemed to notice that I had sneaked on board. At 13, people realised that I had slipped through the education system and pointed me to the classroom.' I spent a grand total of four months at school until I was 14 and could get a job", he says. Despite his lack of formal education, Sandy is an avid reader and very keen chess player.

He has always had a passionate interest in politics. When Chamberlain went to Munich in 1938, Sandy, aged 19, realised that there was going to be a war and signed up with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment as an infantryman. He spent 7 years, 14 days, 13 hours and 27 minutes as a soldier in the Second World War! He was very badly wounded and invalided

out. Sandy says, 'I couldn't wait to get home to start gardening again'.

The period in the army was the only time that Sandy hasn't gardened. For years, he had a patch of land in Sibleby that belonged to Towles. It was during that time that he attended evening classes in horticulture at Brooksby College. He became involved in a trial to test whether deep digging was beneficial to the growth of sweet peas. His conclusion was easy: sweet peas grown on soil that had been dug to a depth of four feet were no better or worse than those grown in soil that had had no preparation. Sandy puts this conclusion to good effect in his approach to soil preparation in the allotment. He pulls a breathtakingly simple one-man 'plough' through the soil. It consists of a vertical blade that is weighted with several bricks. These keep the blade pushed down into the soil to a depth of two or three inches. By pulling the plough down the length of a 'furrow', he creates a shallow trench that is ready for planting in soil with a very fine 'tilth' (ie the small soil crumbs are light and airy). When I looked in other allotments, I could see different versions of this gadget. I'm not clear whether it is Sandy's invention or as old as the hills.

He also uses another intriguing gadget. It is a mechanical 'dibber'. It consists of a cylinder that is pressed a short depth into the soil. A trigger is then pulled and a core of soil is pulled out leaving a hole. Sandy says that each morning, he reads the Daily Telegraph from cover to cover and then tears it up to create tiny newspaper 'modules' for his seedlings. When the seedlings are ready, he pops a module in each hole without the need to disturb the roots.

Sandy's crops are a straightforward range of vegetables including enough potatoes and asparagus to feed his regiment plus gladioli and sweet peas... 'to improve my relationship with the ladies'.

Barrow Voice wishes Sandy a Happy 90th Birthday!





Jerusalem Island as we see it today

Jerusalem Island

Come up the hill from the Soar Bridge and let your spirits rise with the vision of a blue/green pencil shape, *Juniperus virginiana*, reaching for the skies and at its feet as the summer fades, the light blue haze of *Perovskia atriplicifolia*; not quite so much fun if you are stuck in the evening traffic. The walker enjoys a wider all round view of Jerusalem island.

It is 20 years since Barrow Gardening Club asked the Parish Council for their consent in bringing colour to the main traffic island leading into the centre of the village. No conditions were laid down on either side but for this happy state to continue the Club members involved have always appreciated that working in full view of the village population, the outcome over the years had to do credit to the village and respect the view of the famous fossil and village sign.

Apart from the four existing trees and monument, the Club volunteers started with a blank sheet. The then Chairman secured a load of granite sets in order that the first beds might tilt outwards to create greater visibility for the first plantings. These inevitably began with a high proportion of summer bedding, a labour intensive exercise and multiple problems, not least watering cans carried across the road courtesy of the then occupants of 'Falstaff'. Fortunately this was soon resolved thanks to the Parish Council providing safe storage for the Club hose reel, water access and a secure power supply.

Look at any house front. Gardeners are notoriously free spirits and individual members of the group quickly identified themselves with, and took responsibility for, particular beds. However, the exposed position of the island and all year round visibility has its own compelling logic. A broad consensus

tended to emerge that shrubs offering variations of form, colour and texture of foliage were the answer. These needed to be set alight with a few compact splashes of seasonal colour which only clumped annuals could provide. From the outset these were provided by keen members potting on plugs and seedlings from their own gardens but more recently annual grants from the Parish Council have helped with this provision.

The beds facing the High Street and the top side of South Street are the most visible to walkers, shoppers and bystanders. Here the Club has concentrated its efforts to provide these seasonal highlights and keep the shrubs from obstructing the view of the monument and the beds beyond. This has been particularly challenging and will be so in the future. The odd hardy Fuchsia and well trimmed Potentillas make their seasonal contributions



The island at the start of the transformation

20 years of gardening

assisted in early summer by the striking blue from a clump of *Geranium pratense*, better known as Meadow Cranesbill which arrived mysteriously amongst the foliage of a prostrate juniper and may eventually become a nuisance.

The four trees the Club inherited are now down to three; one became unsafe and had to be cut down. A circular bed was created in its place and it now displays in late spring the striking white plumes of *Spirea*, *Bridal Wreath*, the golden foliage of *Philadelphus*, *Mock Orange* and amongst others a pink flowering variegated *Weigela praecox*; all more worthy of a presence than the *Sorbus* they replaced

Perhaps against expectations the oak, *Quercus robur*, being deep rooted and thus able to penetrate the detritus of the former buildings has prospered and is host to a spring flowering *Clematis montana* whose subsequent dark green

foliage makes a striking contrast to the lighter green and autumn gold of the oak. The future of the two *Mountain ash* trees is more problematical, one currently looking sad. It would be a shame to lose their seasonal variations, leafless in winter, flowering in early summer and bearing a glorious crop of red berries each autumn

Problem areas needing brutal treatment every year are the margins above the granite walls where the different ivies display an unwelcome vigour. All is not gloom, the honeysuckle, despite savage pruning produces a magnificent crop of golden blooms shortly after its latest haircut. Keeping the many varieties of shrubs and would-be trees within bounds, the team now and in future will have to be both drastic and discriminating. The *Corkscrew willow* is a straight forward cutting down to base each year. The dwarf conifers are more of challenge, very few keeping their

characteristic shape when pruned and some will not make new growth if cut into much more than the preceding year or two's extension.

In 20 years, members come and go. All but one of the original team are no longer active; enthusiastic new members have joined; others will be welcome and if sometimes our standards slip a little we say to the observant passer-by, remember the poet's words:

A sweet disorder in the dress
Kindles in clothes a wantonness

Brian Carruthers

Wishing all my customers & readers of Barrow Voice a happy, healthy and relaxed Christmas time.

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Happiness after fasting: the celebration of Eid ul Fitr

Gaynor Barton visits Barrow's 'Bengal' and 'Masala' to find out what happens in Leicestershire

The joy with which Muslims the world over celebrate the end of the fasting month of Ramadan finds expression in tables groaning with a huge array of dishes and non-alcoholic drinks and a great outpouring of hospitality to family, friends and neighbours. Just imagine how much you would enjoy a feast if you'd been going without food or drink between dawn and dusk for 30 days!

Eid ul Fitr (the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast) took place in early October this year and to find out more about how the festival was celebrated locally I talked to Mr. Mohammed Abdul Majid and Mr. Tomim Choudhury of Barrow's 'The Bengal' restaurant and Mr. Mohammed Abdul Kashime of 'Masala' take-away.

CALLS ON FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

I learnt that it was traditional for the men of the community to start the Eid celebrations with prayer. Going to the mosque is regarded as being essential and although some women go too, most do not, as they are very busy getting food ready to receive guests or going out themselves making calls on their friends and neighbours. It is a very happy time when new clothes are worn by everyone: the men often choosing to wear new white Punjabi suits (known as 'jubbah' in Arabic) to the mosque and covering their hair with a topi - the little cap. At the end of the service the men exchange hugs and wish each other 'Eid Mubarak' 'Congratulations for Eid'. They feel that the usual divisions between rich and poor have been abolished as they are so conscious of being equal in the sight of Allah. And this is a day when anger is simply not allowed! Just hugs – no fights!

The day itself, Eid Ul Fitr, is the culmination of many weeks of preparation; some spiritual, some charitable and some practical. Many Muslims read the Qur'an more frequently than usual at this time and some even read the whole of the holy book within the month. Spirituality and charity go hand in hand as the month of fasting is aimed at not only strengthening a person's ability to control their basic desires for food and drink but also to experience the gnawing hunger of the very poor and be prepared, through charity, to do something about it.

SENDING MONEY ABROAD

The mosques play a crucial role here as they set the amount each person has to contribute to the charitable fund. It varies between the mosques but this year the King Street Mosque in Loughborough set the Sadaqa-e-Fitr (donation for the poor) at £3 per per head whereas other mosques in Leicester varied between £2 and £4. Therefore a Loughborough family of two adults and three children would contribute £15.00 and all families have to pay. With British citizens being able to rely on the NHS and Social Services the money isn't distributed to the relatively poor here but is channelled through the mosques to the desperately poor in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nigeria or Somalia.

For wealthier members of the Muslim community there is a much heavier religious tithing usually paid at this time. It's called 'Zakah' and is an annual alms giving fixed at 2.5% of the balance of your assets, once your family and business costs have been taken away. So for every £1,000 of your assets being in surplus, £25 is given to the poor. As you can see the emphasis on being charitable is very strong within Islam.

Finally there's the practical side of Eid. Earlier in the month Eid cards have been written and sent, members of families working away from



home have made plans to return for the big day and new clothes have been bought as gifts and exchanged the day before so they are ready to wear on the day itself.

And on this very happy day departed members of the Muslim family are included too as visits are often made to cemeteries. Standing simply by the side of the graves, prayers are said for their souls.

So in all important respects celebrating Eid ul Fitr in Leicestershire is essentially the same as it is in a Muslim country but there's one big difference: the day isn't a national holiday. I heard that Eid was much more fun in Bangladesh as everyone is on holiday and celebrating in the streets, perhaps going to cinemas in the evening. Here Muslims can enjoy the day immensely but in the evening if you manage a restaurant or run a Take Away you have to return to work. However, negotiations are taking place that may bring about change. In future Indian and Bangladeshi restaurants throughout Britain may close for Eid Ul Fitr if the day itself doesn't fall at the weekend. So, fingers crossed, because for thousands of British Muslim restaurant staff that would be the best Eid present ever!



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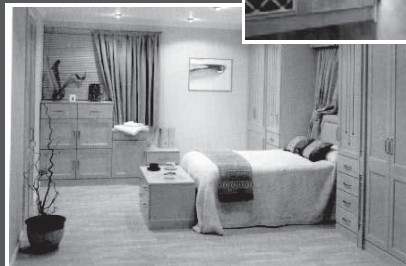
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My Wormery Experience

Because our garden is quite small we have little room for conventional composting, so about 18 months ago whilst visiting the Three Counties Gardening Show we invested in a wormery.

After adding a reasonable amount of kitchen waste I sat back and waited for my compost to appear. The wormery will provide not only compost, but a liquid fertiliser which I collect via a tap using empty 2 litre milk containers. This can then be diluted and used to feed all your plants.

After waiting the recommended 6 months and the coming of winter I decided to remove and empty the bottom tray although the compost didn't look much different and most of the waste was still there. (I think this was a mistake and I was too eager.) A little disappointed I moved the wormery into my cold greenhouse to protect it from the coming frosts and during this time I basically ignored it apart from occasionally adding a bit more waste.

In the spring it was my intention to buy more worms as there didn't seem to be enough. (Thankfully I didn't.) I refreshed the system with new waste and also added a little soil, just a sprinkling to cover the old uneaten waste. During this wet summer the worms have been multiplying like mad. I am now topping up with regular amounts of waste and producing good compost. It's possible to use all kinds of waste, not just kitchen waste but egg boxes, shredded paper, human, cat & dog hair and even the contents of your cleaner bag.

My advice to anyone setting out on this venture is that they should be patient, treat your worms like any other pet, give them a good home, a good variety of food cut up small and make sure the first tray is over full before adding a second. Use worm treats and anti-acid lime mix to keep the system fresh and finally always cover the waste with a moisture mat.

You can find all these products at www.wigglywiggers.co.uk

John Nurse



Master-composter has signed up with Switch for a Bokashi Bin

I re-cycle/conserves/compost pretty well everything you can do (and some you shouldn't). One thing has always been a problem: meat and fish scraps, not that we generate much. Scraps put in the wormery cause disaster. Before you know where you are, you get an evil smelling mess and the worms disappear. If I put them on the bird table for the wood peckers, I see rats climbing up to have their fill. If I put them in the bin bag (we are on a rural service- no wheelie bin), the foxes demolish the bag and scatter the contents far and wide.

The Bokashi Bin promises to decompose all food waste including meat and fish scraps within two weeks so that you can safely add the mix to the main compost heap. You sprinkle a special bran-based Bokashi onto the scraps in the bin and put the lid on tight. The bran has been fermented with molasses by 'effective microbes' (EM for short). The EM consist of a mixture of friendly bacteria, fungi and yeasts. The system has been developed by the Japanese who have an even greater need to reduce what goes into their landfill sites than we do in the UK.

I've only had the bin for a few weeks and it's too soon to comment on how successful or easy it is going to be. I was startled, however, to discover that I will have to buy more Bokashi on a frequent and costly basis. I'm investigating the feasibility of generating my own by inoculating a bran and molasses mix with some of the bought Bokashi.

Judith Rodgers



SWITCH Trial

Saving Waste in the Charnwood Home

SWITCH is a trial covering 1300 properties in Charnwood, aiming to establish which methods of waste minimisation are most popular and most effective for the residents of the Borough. It also aims to identify how high the recycling, re-use and composting rates can be pushed, and how much waste can be diverted from landfill.

Many people are already using traditional methods to turn waste into compost and some of us in Barrow have also been asked to take part in the trial. John Nurse shares some tips on getting the best out of a wormery and Judith Rodgers signs up for a Bokashi bin.

If you have any tips you would like to share with us please get in touch.

Tall ships experience

On 22 August, I set off from Gatwick to Amsterdam to embark on a voyage on a tall ship. I had an amazing week at sea - including some nights out at the ports of Den Helder (Holland), Dieppe (France) and Southampton. During the week, I slept for around two hours a night - there were plenty of things to do during the day, and the boat had to be manned throughout the night too. Even when I wasn't on watch, there were always people to talk to. The weather was cold - especially from the top of the mast that we had to climb in order to set the sails. However, it was worth it, as the view was amazing, and it was definitely an experience I will never forget. I particularly enjoyed steering the ship, meeting all sorts of different people from all sorts of different places, and sleeping in a hammock. It was an exhausting but amazing week, and I will never forget the people I met, the knots I learned to tie, and how welcome lunch can be after a morning pulling on ropes, cleaning stairs, and racing rowing boats.

Jess Acton

To sum my experience up, it was a fantastic time! The crewmembers were all lovely and polite. The week was packed full of fun and excitement and not a day went by when I had nothing to do. It is an experience not to missed. I would definitely go again next year!

Chelsea Longstaff



Wing commander invites Barrow Scouts to RAF Wittering

In early September the Scouts were captivated by an illustrated talk given to them by a former member of the village group, Dan Stellmacher, about his experiences as a Harrier pilot in the RAF. This included an account of his using his ejector seat whilst on exercise over the sea. Now a Wing-Commander, Dan issued an invitation to the Scouts to visit RAF Wittering, which they eagerly accepted. Together with leaders Angela and Danny Stevens, 16 Scouts and explorer Scouts spent an exciting day touring the base. They were joined by ex-leaders John Wilford and Malcolm Barsby, who were involved in the Scouts when Dan was a member during the 1970s.

RAF Wittering is the main training base for Harrier pilots, both for the RAF and Navy. From the control tower, the Scouts were able to see planes returning from exercise and carrying out various types of landing including vertical landing techniques. Then it was on to the survival unit where they were shown the equipment needed when a pilot has to 'bale out'. Finally they were given a close quarters tour of a harrier, with each member getting the honour of sitting in the cockpit and being shown the instrumentation.

The Wing-Commander joined them for an official photo and was presented with a group necker to commemorate the visit and his previous membership of the Scout group. Malcolm Barsby had earlier produced a photo of Dan in his Scouting days which will, no doubt, prove amusing to his colleagues on the base!

John Wilford



Five go to sea

Barrow Community Association (the Parish Council) provided sponsorship towards the cost of an off shore sailing weekend on a 49ft yacht for five Barrow Explorer Scouts. Here are the boys' comments on their adventure:

Cameron: I had a great weekend learning how to sail the yacht and learned loads about sailing at sea. Even though Simon did put the boat on a collision course with another yacht and Chris did empty his stomach overboard, I would definitely do it again.

Chris: Despite the fog, self cooked food and our poor singing we all had a great time learning how to sail and eat cake! The days were taken up with learning new knots, changing sails and how not to fall overboard. The nights, playing cards, visiting the yacht club and being told to be quiet at lights out!

Philip: The best thing about sailing was the experience of being on a big ship on the sea, and the fun we had as a group and rocking the boat when Caz was up the mast. Overall **it was great fun.**

Johnny: Sailing over the weekend was an unforgettable experience for all of us. We all had a great time, especially those who were trying to overcome being sea sick! It was a

nice clear day and an outstanding one for sailing. Also, one of the moments that made me laugh is the amount of cake we had onboard!

Simon: It was a very different experience to any I'd had before which was very enjoyable. I also enjoyed the team work required to work the boat and make the weekend as easy as possible.

We would all like to thank Barrow Community Association and the Parish Council for their financial help. Thank you also to John Wilford for arranging the trip and helping us with fund raising, and to Ed and Caz for coming with us and returning us home safely.

You don't need to be a Scout

John Wilford adds: The Scouts' Offshore Scheme operates two boats: 'Ocean Scout' and 'Offshore Scout' out of Ipswich Marina and gives young people the opportunity to

enjoy this exciting activity. The scheme offers cruises ranging from weekends to one or two weeks' passage to the continent, for up to 10 crew with a fully qualified skipper and mate. Each year they take part in the Tall Ships Race which offers, an exciting experience in this major international event.

To find out more about the scheme, which is open to all young people, log on to:
www.adventuresoffshore.co.uk



Thanks from BYAG

The Barrow Youth Action Group committee was delighted to receive an invitation to The Trap on the evening of 5 October to receive a gift of £340 which was raised by patrons throughout the summer. We would like to express our thanks to all who contributed to this.

We are also very grateful to the businesses and groups in Barrow who display posters advertising our events: those on the High Street and beyond. A special mention must go to The Paper Shop, which not only displays posters but also sells tickets for our events. In addition the YAG committee would like to welcome our new members Cheryl Gray, Paul Aston, Helen Nurse and Jane Moore. A few extra people make a huge difference to organising and running events!

If you would like to help, have some ideas, want to receive news, updates on events, or display posters for us please contact Ralph on 07535342464.



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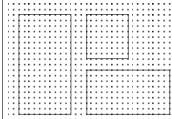
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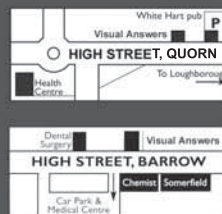
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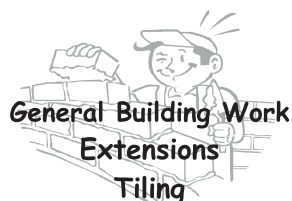


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Answers to Tall Ships quiz, autumn edition

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. TMCSTB = Too many cooks spoil the broth | TCOTPATPWTCOT = Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves | MAMMAM = Many a mickle makes a muckle |
| 2. HALIBTNB = Half a loaf is better than no bread | MATWSIJ = Many a true word spoken in jest | ARSGNM = A rolling stone gathers no moss |
| 3. AWANPMJADB = All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy | INRBIP = It never rains but it pours | MHMLVW = Many hands make light work |
| 4. DCYCBTAH = Don't count your chickens before they are hatched | MMWTTSS,BAWWIND = Men may work till the sun sets, but a woman's work is never done | ETBAETRMAMH,WAW = Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise |
| 5. RSAN,SD,RSITM,SW = Red sky at night, shepherd's delight, red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning | NCACTMBO = Ne'er cast a clout till May be out | DAAGBF = Diamonds are a girl's best friend |
| 6. NUCOSM = No use crying over spilt milk | SWRD = Still waters run deep | HIWTHI = Home is where the heart is |
| 7. WN,WN = Waste not, want not | TEBCTW = The early bird catches the worm | TNP = Take no prisoners |
| 8. ATSIATH = A trouble shared is a trouble halved | AAADKTDA = An apple a day keeps the doctor away | PCBAF = Pride comes before a fall |
| | | GAMAFAHEFAD,TAMTFAHEFAL = Give a man a feast and he eats for a day. Teach a man to farm and he eats for a life |
- The winner was Ceri Fairbrother:
Well done Ceri!

Seasonal

Christmas puns quiz

Choose the right missing word to make the pun:

- If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in.....
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd.....
- Time flies like an arrow; flies like a banana.
- When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a
- He had a photographic memory which was never.....
- Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de
- If you don't pay your exorcist you can get.....
- With her marriage she got a new name and a.....
- Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you miner.
- When a clock is hungry it goes backseconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully
- A grenade falling onto a kitchen floor in France resulted in Linoleumapart,.
- You are stuck with your debt if you can't.....it.
- Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN.....under.
- He broke into song because he couldn't find the...
- The short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a smallat large.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a to know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate.....
- Acupuncture: a well done.
- A chicken crossing the road: in motion.

- dye
- mall
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- fruit
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- key
- medium
- knead
- jab
- A-flat
- Seine
- four
- feet
- poultry



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Barrow WinterWatch

On a winter morning with the frost still on the ground as the sun comes up and when the air is crystal clear, cold and still; colourful leaves carpeting the grass under the hedges; what a wonderful time of year.

It's now that some birds tend to come together in flocks to feed and roost. Wood pigeons can be seen feeding on the winter rape and provide good shooting sport. Starlings gather on the power lines or perform aerial displays before descending into a small spinney and just recently I've been seeing Canada geese in a large group flying overhead just as it begins to get dark at

almost exactly at the same time every night. They feed on and near some fishing lakes then leave to stay overnight on a larger expanse of water where I presume they feel safer. Winter visitors include fieldfare and redwing mixed in with the starlings. They are now searching for insects and grubs on the grass pastures along with noisy rooks from the nearby rookery.

I leave my hedges untrimmed for as long as I can to preserve the berries for wildlife. There is a hawthorn bush just outside my office and a mistle thrush, the larger of the two thrushes, has claimed ownership, chasing off any other bird that

tries to take the berries.

The other day as I was checking a fence boundary, I saw a rat, which had climbed very close to the top of the hedge. I know rats can climb but was surprised to see it quite so high until I realised that a stoat was eyeing it hungrily from a lower branch.

Because I keep my hedges high, some of the bigger birds roost in them and on a clear moonlight night I can often make out the shape of a cock pheasant. One regularly sleeps in an old magpie nest.

Dave Bird

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
2. When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye
3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
4. When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
5. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
6. Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet
7. If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
8. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
9. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
10. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
11. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
12. A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.
13. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
14. Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.
15. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
16. The short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.
17. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
18. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
19. Acupuncture: a jab well done.
20. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

The terror in the darkness

When I was five or six, my father kept a ferret. It lived in a cage suspended from the rafters of the old barn. The barn was dark, there were no windows; you could just make out the ferret's eyes in the dim light and hear him rasping the bars with his teeth. At times it was also very noisy when the plate mill was running to grind corn for the stock. This was not a place I liked to be. Occasionally I would go into the barn to fetch a hammer or some nails for my father and see that the cage was empty: the ferret had escaped and was lurking somewhere among the sacks of corn and cow cake.

This was now definitely not the place to be. Some of the young hens and chickens would scratch about in the barn to pick up the spilt grain and the ferret, seizing its chance, would leap out from the sacks and kill one. It would not try to conceal its foul deed and would usually be captured while still enjoying its meal. I'm not sure what happened to the ferret; I think it went rabbiting one day with my father and never came back. While I didn't particularly like the ferret, one cannot criticise its choice of lunch.

Take a young bird no more than 20 weeks old; pluck and prepare then roast while basting in a sauce made from a knob of butter and honey. Continue to baste until the bird is well cooked and the skin crisp and caramelised. Then enjoy with a glass of cider. Nothing else is required, not even a knife or fork.

Dave Bird



Community makes use of new sports hall

You must have seen the vast white sports hall by now. It is something that school and community have worked together for years to achieve. It is a four badminton court sports hall built as a pioneering structure composed of a steel frame on which is stretched a flexible fabric. It is equipped for netball, basketball, 5-aside football and has one tennis court. It will shortly have indoor cricket nets and trampolining equipment. Planning conditions limit opening times for community use to 5.00pm - 8.00pm on weekdays, 9.00am - 6.00pm on Saturdays and 9.00am - 4.00pm on Sundays and bank holidays. The School Governors intend to apply for an extension of these times to make the sports hall more available to the community.

Mark Beeby, the new 'Extended Services Co-ordinator' at HPHS is charged with getting all the facilities of the school, including the sports hall, fully used by the community. Working with Carol Westbury, the Community Secretary, he reports that during weekdays the sports hall already has badminton groups, a BOSCAPS mixed sports sessions for 5 - 12 year olds, mini tennis, Barrow Belles girl's football team, netball, taekwondo and gymnastics sessions. Understandably, most of these involve children for whom the restricted opening hours is not a problem. However, there are adult groups 'braying at the doors' to come in between 8.00 and 9.30pm.

Mark's ambitions for the future use of the sports hall include regular bookings of Brazilian football, basketball, Boccia (a very competitive bowls game played from a seated position, suitable for older people and those with a disability), trampolining and tennis. Then in the blank slots, there will be public sessions that can be booked by individuals or groups for the sport of their choice, such as adult 5-aside football or a game of badminton or tennis. At the moment, the sports hall is hardly used at weekends and its availability is being flagged up to the public. If you are interested, contact Carol Westbury on 412385.

Mark also hopes to fill HPHS with other community users such as arts and crafts groups, achieve fuller use of the swimming pool by clubs and classes, and offer children's birthday parties complete with bouncy castle, food and a swim.

Barrow Town F.C. Youth join forces with Leicester City

Barrow Town F.C. Youth have recently announced a unique partnership with Leicester City F.C. This arrangement is one of only two such partnerships throughout all clubs in Leicestershire.

This agreement was made at the end of last season but it is only this season that the club will start to see the benefits of the arrangement. The partnership gives access to professional football coaching, which will add to the coaching that is already part of the club set up. There will also be the prospect of soccer schools, run by qualified coaches during school holidays. Other benefits will include a closer working relationship with the academy at Leicester City.

Mark Reeves, who is the Chairman of Barrow Town Youth, spoke of his delight at

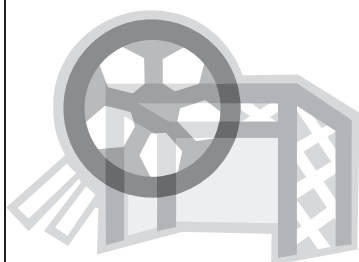
this partnership, 'This arrangement will provide a close working relationship with a professional football set up. It presents a great opportunity for Barrow Town players to become known to academy coaches, as more coaching becomes available. In return, it is anticipated that Leicester City will recommend players to Barrow Town, if they are released by the academy.

The chairman added that other benefits should accrue from the arrangement, through the provision of training equipment, free match tickets and special appearances by Leicester City players at club functions.

The club has made a very positive start to the season at a number of different age groups and it is hoped that the partnership with Leicester City will go a long way to make it one of the clubs most successful seasons to date.

Steve Jordan

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Lunch break – refreshments provided
12.45 p.m. – 1.30 swimming



Cost: £6.00 per day (£15.00 for 3 days)
For further information or to enrol telephone 01509 412385

REGULAR CLASSES

Swimming Lessons with Mark Beeby on Wednesday evenings

- 5.00 - 5.30 beginners plus
- 5.30 – 6.00 intermediate
- 6.00 – 6.30 training session (not lessons)

New Sessions: 5.00 – 5.30 beginners (NON SWIMMERS aged 4 – 6 years)
(at the same time as the beginners plus are having their lesson with a different teacher)

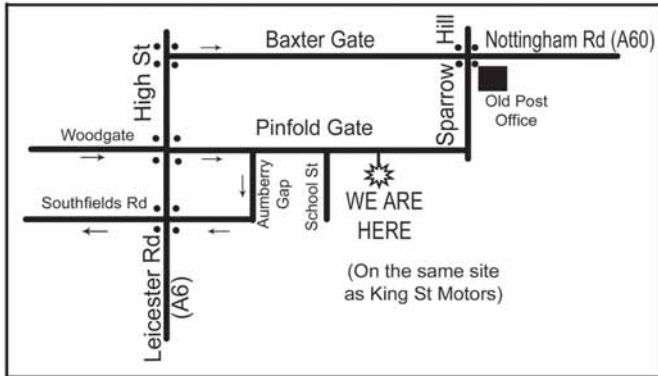
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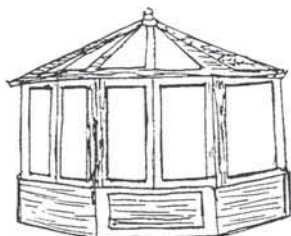
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Victoria Jane Gifts, one year on

It is a year since Victoria set up her High Street gift shop. It has been a huge success and she would like to thank all her customers who have made this possible and given her so much support. Her shop makes its presence known to all of us as we walk past: the scents that waft from her doorway are most enticing!

Soar Valley Dentists achieve Good Practice status

Ash and the team on the High Street in Barrow are delighted to announce that we have achieved the prestigious merit of becoming a BDA 'Good Practice'. The BDA Good Practice Scheme shows our patients that we are committed to working to a nationally agreed standard of good practice set by the profession's national association. Joining the BDA Good Practice Scheme is a great way to show our patients that the practice is continually working to and exceeding the highest quality standards.



For the last 10 months, our team at Soar Valley Dental Practice has been working hard to comply with the 102 requirements at the heart of the Scheme. To meet this commitment and join the Scheme, our practice must satisfy a number of relevant standards, all of which are based upon a consensus of what is regarded as good practice by the profession. Mrs Faye Perry, Practice Manager, said 'It's nice that the practice can show we provide a good service and that the BDA has recognised our efforts. Good Practice is not another inspection scheme. Inspections alone do not guarantee the ongoing delivery of quality dental care; only the commitment of everyone working in the practice can do that. If you would like more details about the Good Practice Scheme please visit our website www.soarvalleydental.com and click on 'The Practice', or pick up a leaflet at your next visit with us.'

Ash, the practice owner, and dentist said, 'Good practice has finally allowed the practice to be recognised for the high standards we've committed ourselves to for years'.

Ash would like to take this opportunity to thank all of his dedicated staff for their continued hard work in providing the service for which we are proud.



THE BOAT HOUSE AT BARROW

The staff at the Boat House wish all the Voice readers and residents of Barrow upon Soar a Very Merry Christmas



Christmas Lights

Grand Christmas Lights will be turned on at 6.30pm on Saturday 6th December at the Boat House at Barrow.

Christmas Menu

Our five course traditional Christmas menu will be available daily from Sunday 7th December - Booking is highly recommended. Groups catered for.

Festive Soup
Mango Sorbet with Melon Balls
Roast Turkey
with all the trimmings
Christmas Pudding
Cheese & Biscuits
(Vegetarian option available)

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Meeting Room

Need a meeting room, it's here and it will be fully refurbished early in the new year. Lecture facilities available with projectors and free wi-fi. Refreshments from tea and biscuits to a sit down meal can be provided.

Free Room Hire for Local Voluntary Groups

Sunday Roasts

We are now preparing traditional Sunday Roasts from 12 noon to 4pm. From £7.95.

Santa's Visit

Father Christmas will be calling at the Boat House on Monday 22nd December from 6 - 8pm, gifts for under 8's. Tickets in advance £5, limited availability on the day.

Gourmet Club

Stuck for an original Christmas present? How about membership of our new Gourmet Club.

Starting in February, an exclusive fine dining club with limited membership. Meeting the first Monday of each month to savour the finest seasonal culinary delights prepared by our chef Luke and his team. Guaranteed to be at least four courses with wine accompanying each course.

Business Lunches

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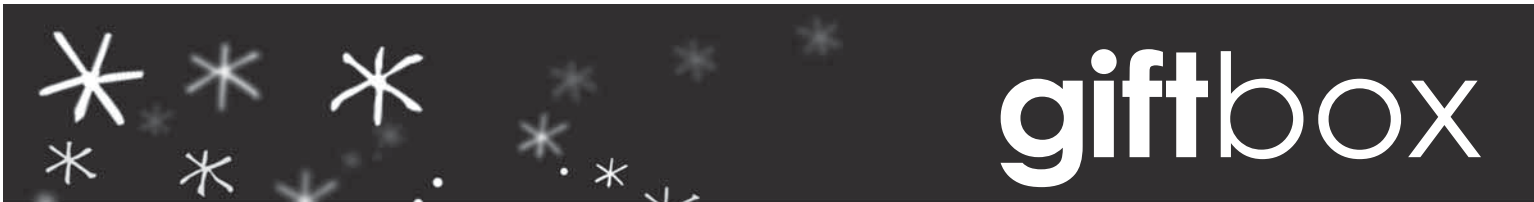
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We publish 2,700 copies quarterly and deliver FREE to all households in Barrow

Barrow Voice Photo Competition a success

Our first photograph competition for Barrow Voice has gone splendidly with many of you sending in your favourite photos for our competition, some of which you can see here.

The winner of the winter 2008 competition is Michelle Watson whose dramatic photo you can see on this issue's cover. Thanks to all who took part.

We are inviting people once again to take part in our **Spring Photography Competition**.

TO ENTER

Please submit your photos to: photocompetition@barrowvoice.co.uk

or send the photograph on a disc to:

The Editor
17 North Street
Barrow upon Soar
Leics LE12 8PZ

Don't forget to title your entry and give your details if you want crediting

Closing date for entries is 28/02/09



photo: Margaret Orton



photo: Richard Dalton Moore



photo: Richard Joyce

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.

Conditions – The judges decision is final. There is no cash alternative to the prizes. Copyright of the images remains with the entrant but Barrow Voice reserves the right to exhibit, reproduce or publish any winning entry without payment to promote the competition. Entry to the competition confirms acceptance of these conditions.

Village's generous contribution to LOROS

The village has responded most generously to the 2008 house to house appeal and has surpassed all expectations. With £876.49 of the collection being gift aided, the grand total this year comes to £2807.32.

Our thanks go to all who have contributed and to the wonderful team of collectors who gave their time so willingly; it's also good to know that everyone at LOROS greatly appreciates the village's generous contribution.

Rosemary and Michael Sholl



Open Gardens June 2009

The June 2008 event was very successful with 24 very different gardens open for the everyone to enjoy.

We invite you to join us on June 13 & 14 2009 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 2009 will again 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.

The Barrow Voice reporter commented about this year's event, 'Walking around the 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.'

We would like to have even more gardens open next year and make the event even more enjoyable and successful so if you are prepared to join us or want more information then please contact

Mike Morley 01509 412982

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BARROW Voice

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Advertising Deadline
31st January 2009

Copy Deadline
31st January 2009

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

- Sat 6th Methodist Church Christmas Minimart and coffee morning; 10.00am;
Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival from 9.30 all day
Switching on of Christmas Lights and Street entertainment: starts 4.15pm with children singing and playing at Church. (Road closed from 4.00) Lights on at 5.00pm
Baptist concert: "Stilltime Jazz"; 7.30; Baptist Church
- Sun 7th Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival
BUSCA presents a Centre Stage performance: 'Swingers in Suspenders'; HPHS; 7.00pm
- Mon 8th WI: 'Islands in the Indian Ocean' by Ann Thorne; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
- Tues 9th Neighbourhood Watch; Cons Club; 7.30pm;
Hall Orchard OAP tea and entertainment; 1.30pm
- Fri 12th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
- Sat 13th Clock Club Jumble Sale; Church Rooms; 10.00-11.30am
- Sat 20th Holy Trinity Church Coffee Morning 9.00-11.30am; Church Rooms
- Sun 28th Holy Trinity Carol Service
- Sun 31st BUSCA New Year's Eve Ball; Community Centre; 8.00; Tickets from the Paper Shop
-
- Tues 6th Parish Council meeting; Parish Office; 7.15. All are welcome
- Wed 7th Gardening Club 7.30; Community Lounge
- Fri 9th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
- Tues 13th Neighbourhood Watch; Cons Club; 7.30
- Mon 19th Twinning Association AGM; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
-
- Tues 3rd Parish Council meeting; Parish Office; 7.15. All are welcome
- Wed 4th Gardening Club 7.30; Community Lounge
- Tues 10th Neighbourhood Watch; Cons Club; 7.30
- Fri 13th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
- Sat 14th Valentine's Supper and Ball with 'Just Us'; HPHS; Bar opens at 7.00
-
- Wed 4th Gardening Club 7.30; Community Lounge
- Fri 6th Barrow Panto Group performs Aladdin; HPHS; 7.00;
Holy Trinity Whist Drive
- Sat 7th Barrow Panto Group performs Aladdin; HPHS; 2.00 and 7.00
- Fri 13th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
- Sat 14th Holy Trinity Ball at Prestwold Hall

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

BUSCA EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 6th December | Street Entertainment, Street Market and shop window competition at the Switching of the Christmas Lights |
| 7th December | Centre Stage event- 'Swingers in Suspenders' |
| 31st December | New Year Ball and Party with Judy Nichol's Big Band |
| 14th February | Valentine's Dinner Dance |
| 6th & 7th March | Barrow Panto Group's 'Aladdin' |

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