

# BARROW *Voice*



[www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)

SPRING 2009



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

# Our Barrow Heritage

BARROW UPON SOAR  
HERITAGE GROUP

Streets Group – Looking for memories of Black and Drivers

Take a look at what has already been achieved at [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk). The website was very much the idea of Arthur Gardner and we are anxious to keep it developing and adding to it in his memory. We are always interested to hear from people who can add to what is there, or even offer an alternative version of the stories.

## Black and Drivers

In the summer we are planning a small exhibition of photos taken at the factory and hope this will be an opportunity for people to come along and share their memories of working there. For such a large employer, there seems little written evidence about the firm. The building still exists on Sibley Road (*see photo opposite*)

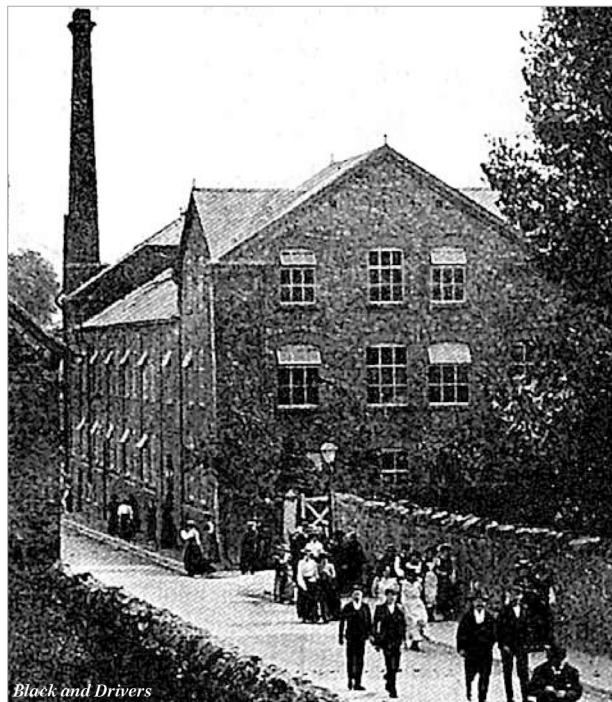
If you have any ideas for further projects or would like to get involved in any way please let us know either through the web site or by phone to Kathryn Timmons 01509 416168.

## NATURAL HISTORY – Calling all wildlife enthusiasts

We are always looking for 'eager – beavers' of all ages to participate in observing and recording any aspect of our local natural history. You may even have kept records or a diary for your own information which we could incorporate in the records. We know many residents are fascinated with bird life but perhaps there are others who are equally interested in insects or wild flowers, fish or fungi.

You don't need to be an expert to take part. There is plenty of help and support available. We have a tailor-made website to record your photos and observations [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk) and we can lay on talks and exhibitions.

Please contact Bob Mudge on [busnaturalhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:busnaturalhistory@btinternet.com) or 01509 620966



STREETS



NATURE

## Barrow Baptist Church 'Holiday at Home' 2009

This popular event for over 60s will run this year from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

With holiday companies 'going bust' in the present economic climate, who dare make bookings too far in advance?

With us there are no long journeys to face, your own comfy bed to relax in each night, good food, and plenty of it, friendly faces and support offered to those who want it. We aim to please!

Our theme for the week is 'GARDENS' but you don't need to be green-fingered.

We are still at the planning stage but details of the week's events and information about booking will be available nearer the time in all the usual places.

We see this as an opportunity to do something different, enjoy some good meals, eat loads of cake, drink gallons of tea and make new friends.

Sounds like a good holiday to me. Will you join us? I look forward to seeing you.

Feel free to ring me on 01509 412770

Judith Morrison

# River news

Things are stirring on the river. Here is news of two exciting ventures for Barrow.

**O**ver the Easter weekend, from 10.00 – 4.00 on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> and Sun 12<sup>th</sup> April, Pillings Lock Marina is organising a “Try a Boat” event as part of its Spring Open Days.

Paul Lillie hopes to have a dedicated sales team present to promote his growing on-site brokerage and berth sales, have local hire-boat firms present for a “Try-a-Boat” activity and even a local trip-boat firm to run a waterbus service from Barrow to Pillings Lock. The licensed café will be fully staffed and stocked with home made goodies and Paul expects that there will be activities for children too including canoes or small sailboats on the big lake.

Paul says “Poor exchange rates and slow economy could see this year as an opportunity to take the “Great British Holiday” and we’re really keen to get the summer off to a waterway-focused start for days out on our local canals and rivers. The industry definitely needs as much publicity as possible in these challenging times and Pillings Lock want to make this an affordable, accessible event that catches the eye of the local area as well as beyond!

Negotiations have been taking place with a large boat manufacturer and local estate agent to promote floating apartments based here at Pillings Lock.

We would also like to offer some of our vacant berths to other local boat-builders for the weekend so they can promote their products and be present to give advice about boat ownership. We can accommodate other boats for sale locally if they want to rent a berth for the weekend here too. We are happy for other marine services to be present to help provide a very full experience for customers and their families.

*For more information, contact Paul Lillie on 01509 620990*

## Dragon Boat Festival

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009, the Boat House in Barrow will host a Dragon Boat Festival in aid of Loughborough Womens Aid.

**T**his is a spectacular team event where crews in dragon boats will be racing down the river (alongside ‘The Slabs’) with the finishing line just above Barrow Road bridge.

These Chinese dragon boats hold eight to ten crew members and they will be battling along the River Soar, in the brightly painted boats, chasing that prestigious 1st place trophy and medal. This ancient festival promises a fantastic, fun packed day for competitors, spectators, family and friends alike. There will be many attractions for all ages... including

Chinese lion dancing, a full children’s entertainment program, music, excellent food and most importantly... exciting dragon boat racing.

This event is to raise money for the very worthwhile local charity Loughborough Women’s Aid [LWA]. LWA is a registered charity which over the past 30 years has been providing support services for people experiencing domestic abuse throughout Charnwood/ and North West Leicestershire.



*For further information on crewing a boat or the day’s events contact Michele Walker on 01509 550317, Fax: 01509 552559 or email Michele@lwa.org.uk*

# Changes to local health care – your chance to find out more

Many of us will have received a leaflet entitled 'GP services in your area are improving' through our letter boxes in the last month or so. In addition, Barrow Voice received the following press release from Dr N H R Simpson & Partners at the Health Centre, which we print in full:

**Protecting Family Practice – why we have decided not to extend surgery opening hours.**

*The Government is putting pressure on all surgeries to open for longer and this is supposed to provide patients with more choice. However, the Government is not giving GP's the support we need to make these extended opening hours work, and it is not allowing flexibility about what hours we can open. We are given the choice of either opening for extended periods dictated by the Government or to keep our opening hours as they are. We very much want to improve our service to patients, but we object to being pressurised to change our opening hours without taking into account the individual needs of our patients and our practice.*

*If we apply the Government's 'one-size-fits all' approach to extended opening, it will mean doctors working new shifts, and that will mean many of our patients will no longer be able to see the doctor of their choice at the time they prefer.*

*If we open outside normal hours, support services (such as nursing, blood tests, x-rays, investigation and results) will not be available, and doctors will have to cover more surgeries. We think that threatens the quality of care.*

*All practices struggle to staff extra opening hours, particularly reception and security roles, and that can mean doctors putting themselves at risk, working alone at night or over weekends.*

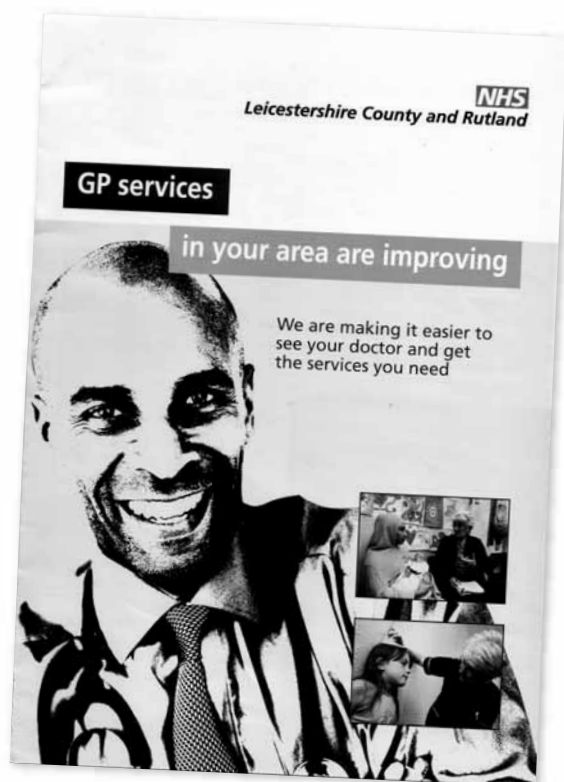
*We are proud of the standards of care that we provide in this practice, and we are totally committed to improving our services to meet the needs of our patients. To protect that service, we have currently decided not to extend our opening hours.*

In order to inform readers further and to provide a balanced view, we contacted the Health Centre and asked them for some more information about how they had reached their decision; for example, did they consider the recommendations of the Parish Plan (which asked for improved accessibility and appointments), did they consult patients and do they plan to review their decision in the future? We also offered them space to publicise their current system for urgent, short and longer term appointments. At the time of going to press, we had not received a reply.

## Keeping informed

We have, however, made our own enquiries and it is clear that there are a number of issues and that Barrow doctors are not alone in feeling that the government is imposing changes rather than consulting on them, eg there is no local flexibility on what extended hours can be offered.

Many local health centres have, however, decided to offer extended hours and will 'see how it goes': in our area, Quorn and the Highgates Medical Centre, Sileby and four practices in Loughborough are already offering this service. If any readers are patients at these surgeries, we would welcome your feedback.



While researching this article, we also found that some local health centres have quite sophisticated websites. These contain lots of useful information on opening hours, clinics, surgery newsletters, results of customer satisfaction surveys and have the facility for patients to make appointments and order prescriptions on line. While we appreciate that not everyone is able or wants to use the internet, this does offer a welcome element of choice. It must also cut down on the phone calls which surgeries receive, enabling staff to concentrate on dealing with people who really need to talk to someone. Another useful website if you are looking at what is being offered is [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

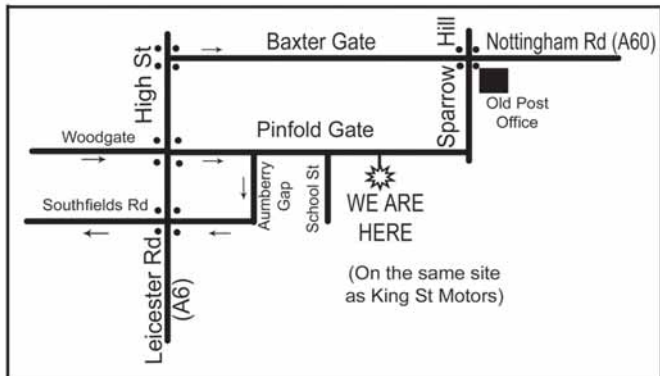
***If you have a view about how local health care could best work for you, please write to the editor, or email [editor@barrowvoice.co.uk](mailto:editor@barrowvoice.co.uk)***

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# Neighbours voice concerns over sports hall noise



**W**e were interested to read the article in the winter Barrow Voice regarding the new Sports Hall and have a few comments from the folks who live within a short distance from that 'vast white pioneering structure' which is only a rigid tent.

(1) The original structure proposed for the Sports Hall was a traditional solid and soundproof building (as presented by school representatives during a presentation evening two years ago). This was changed for a cheaper 'tent structure' – reason not known, possibly cost/funding?

(2) A planning condition was imposed on the opening hours due to the possibility of additional noise generation transmitted through a single skin PVC structure (well-grounded based on the current experience).

(3) The current structure when used acts as an amplifier and causes extreme noise and low frequency vibrations, some being caused by balls being kicked against the main structure etc (felt within our house). This is causing both stress and loss of quality of life.

(4) Adults may be 'braying at the doors' to use the hall but the current structure needs soundproofing before an extension to hours is considered (noise can be seven days a week, not even a weekend break),

(5) Mark Beeby's ambition may be to fill the Sports Hall – ours is to get improved soundproofing

(6) All the above concerns have been notified to the school and planning officers, along with some possible ideas to help solve the noise and vibration issues.

We support such facilities within both school and community but unfortunately all our original concerns with regard to the position (20 metres from our boundaries) and the type of structure have been realised. It should be noted that the original planning approval (traditional structure) had the opening hours that would have satisfied late users.

*Mike Anderson (and the neighbours)*

Barrow Voice approached Humphrey Perkins School with these concerns and received this statement:

*'The school and governors are taking the complaints of residents about noise from the new sports hall most seriously. An audit of noise levels has been commissioned from an independent firm of acoustic engineers with a view to identifying the nature and scale of offending noise emissions. In response to this complaint, the school governors, Local Authority and sports hall contractors are committed to implementing measures designed to mitigate the noise problems.'*

***Readers of Barrow Voice will know how long we have waited to have improved community sporting facilities in the village. We are therefore very keen for a solution to be found to this problem which will secure, and enhance this provision, for the future. When there is more news on this, we will bring it to you – Editor***



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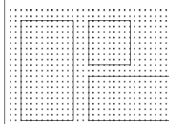
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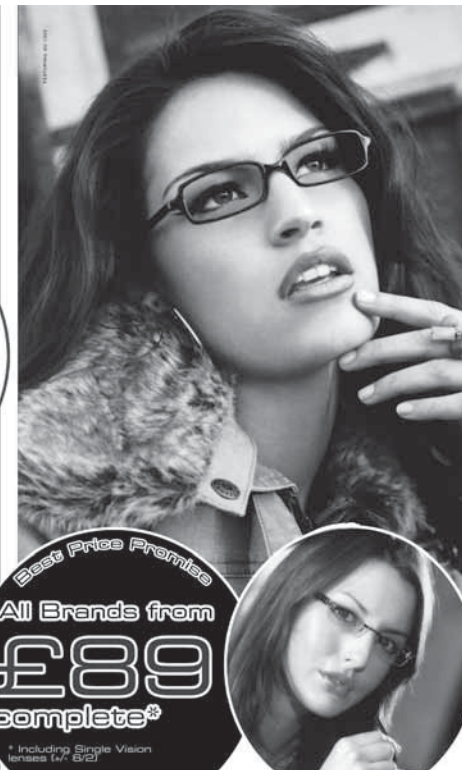
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# Ralph Bowles, an American friend

*Jan Hind tells of the legacy Ralph leaves to Barrow, his adopted village*

**I** have recently been in conversation with Ralph Bowles, our resident American friend, about his long association with our village and the tremendous amount of work he has put into honouring the War Dead of Barrow-upon-Soar.

Ralph has designed, and maintains, a fascinating website which stands as tribute to the 90 men of Barrow who died in the two World Wars. The website can be visited at: [www.barrowuponsoarwarmemorial.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarwarmemorial.co.uk) and I am sure that you will be amazed at the sheer scope of Ralph's research and the wonderful archive which he has provided for the village.

Ralph, born in Gary/Indiana, first came to England in 1957 as a 17 year-old Airman with the United States Air Force based at RAF Bruntingthorpe. He was assigned Flight Engineer on the base C-47 Dakota. The young Airman bought an ex-USAF Staff car, a 1952 Chevrolet, and travelled all over England and Wales along with some of his local mates. Palais de Dance was his favourite place on a Friday and Saturday night. He supplied a young Leicester singer, Jerry Dorsey, with cigarettes from the base. What ever happened to that singer?

However, in 1961, the time came to return to America. He worked nights to put himself through the University of Southern California earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. In 1965 Ralph was called back to active duty and served in Vietnam as Flight Engineer on a Dakota which had been converted to a combat aircraft designated 'Puff The Magic Dragon', or a 'Spooky Gunship'. Sergeant Bowles returned to the USA in late 1966 as a wounded and decorated Vietnam War Veteran.

After his tour in Vietnam, he pursued a short three year career in banking. Because of his love for travel, he then moved on to a 15 year career with Air New Zealand as Sales

Manager in Hawaii where he met the love of his life. Christmas 1980 was to have been their wedding day. Gail was expecting their child when she became very ill and, sadly, died of breast cancer. Ralph was completely devastated by this and still mourns her and the child he never saw.

Promoted to Sales Manager for Air New Zealand – North America, Ralph, who was a member of Rotary International for 40 years, held this job until he joined a large corporation in San Francisco which owns Life-Care Retirement Communities and several

convalescent homes in Northern California. Respect for the elderly was part of Ralph's upbringing. Being raised by his grandparents, this was probably not surprising.

However, Ralph never forgot England and visited several times each year, always bringing gifts for his English friends. He estimates that he made over 200 trips. He has travelled extensively and has been involved in many initiatives all around the world, but he has come to the UK every Remembrance Day and hasn't missed one since 1970.

*(cont over)*





(cont back)

Fifteen years ago Ralph moved to Barrow and attended his first ever Service of Remembrance in our village. Two wreaths were placed on the memorial. He was shocked to see so few people there to honour the War Dead of Barrow - less than a hundred - and there and then he decided to do something about it. He felt that more people should be involved in Remembrance Day and the families of the men named on the War Memorial should be asked to participate in honouring their loved ones.

It was at this time that he met and became friends with Lilian Middleton, then a Parish Councillor, who greatly encouraged him in his project. None of the then Council had served in the War so Ralph decided to do some research. The following Remembrance Sunday saw 18 wreaths of Remembrance placed by family and veterans of all wars. The Brookes brothers were the first to be asked and the first to place their wreath. Last year there were an estimated

1,400 village residents at the Holy Trinity service and the War Memorial.

This summer will see Ralph leave his adopted home in Barrow and move to the small town of Meadow Creek, West Virginia, population 39, where his father was born. Without our good friend Ralph, Barrow War Memorial and the Remembrance Service would not be as well known and honoured as it is today. Ralph has continued to be deeply involved in the village, and the villagers of Barrow have a great deal for which to thank our American friend.

Each year, in future, as we stand at the War Memorial with our wooden crosses, let us just say a quiet thank you to Ralph and others like him who, when they see a lack of something, be it respect, love, thanksgiving or whatever, do not simply walk by, but get on and do something about it.

Ralph is appealing to our readers for photographs of the men listed on the Memorial. If you have a photograph and would be prepared to let Ralph have a copy, or would loan the photo to him to copy, he would be most grateful. He can be contacted on 01509 621712.

Certainly, we in Barrow will not forget Ralph, and we shall soon have another aid to our memories in the form of a book. Ralph has been writing this book about the men whom we honour every year as we stand at the memorial, and this book is to be printed very soon and will be generally available. Keep a look out for information on this publication which will ensure that the men who died are not forgotten, and as we remember them, I am sure that we will also be remembering our friend Ralph who has done so much work in memory of our War Dead.

*Jan Hind*

# A famous son of Barrow upon Soar *(who was he?)*



*Born here*



*Schooled here*



*Remembered here*

**O**lder people, especially those who've lived in Barrow for many years, will know immediately that the pictures (above) all relate to the life of Air Vice Marshal Johnnie Johnson who was born at 21 Warner Street, spent his earliest schooldays at the Board School in Cotes Road and after an outstanding career as a fighter pilot is remembered in a village street name.

But newer residents will have more difficulty as it's now over 60 years since the end of the war and eight since Johnnie Johnson's death, from cancer, at the age of 85. For this latter group I hope this article will introduce you to a man described by a childhood friend, Harold Mitchell, as 'a brave Barrow born hero'.

Johnnie Johnson was a hero because he flew as a fighter pilot throughout the war and

shot down more German planes than anyone else in the RAF. He had 38 definite 'kills' to his name and probably one or two more but he was a generous guy and if there was any doubt gave others the recognition. He flew over 1,000 combat missions between 1940 and 1945, was never shot down himself and his Spitfire was only damaged once. His outstanding courage and technical ability in flying a plane whilst shooting down others was recognised not only by the RAF, who

loaded him with medals, but by Belgium and France who made him a member of the Legion of Honour and gave him the Croix de Guerre respectively.

But how did it start? The simple answer to that is in Warner Street. In March 1915, when Johnnie was born, Number 21 was owned by the Leicestershire Constabulary and let to the village police sergeant who was married to Beatrice, a woman from Shepshed. They christened their son James Edgar; the nickname 'Johnnie' accrued later and stuck for a lifetime. Johnnie went to the Barrow Board School, now School Court, where at that time there was no electricity, no central heating and sums were done on slates. When Johnnie was seven his family left Barrow and moved to Melton Mowbray as his father had been promoted to the rank of Inspector.

So when Johnnie was seven the link with Barrow itself was severed, as his home in Melton and schooling at Loughborough Grammar become the new centres of his life. However, it wasn't really anything in the towns that made Johnnie such a good fighter pilot - it was rabbits! Johnnie was a very keen shot and bought his own BSA 12 bore hammer gun as a teenager for £10. He couldn't pay for it outright so he put £5 down and paid off the rest by selling the rabbits he'd shot on Melton market! It was in the Leicestershire countryside with the rabbits and pigeons that he developed the skill of 'deflection shooting' where you fire at a point you think the animal will be in a second or two, not where it is at present. It

was this skill that he transferred to aerial combat and together with his excellent eyesight, extremely fast reflexes and tremendous understanding of what his plane could do, that made him into such a formidable fighter pilot.

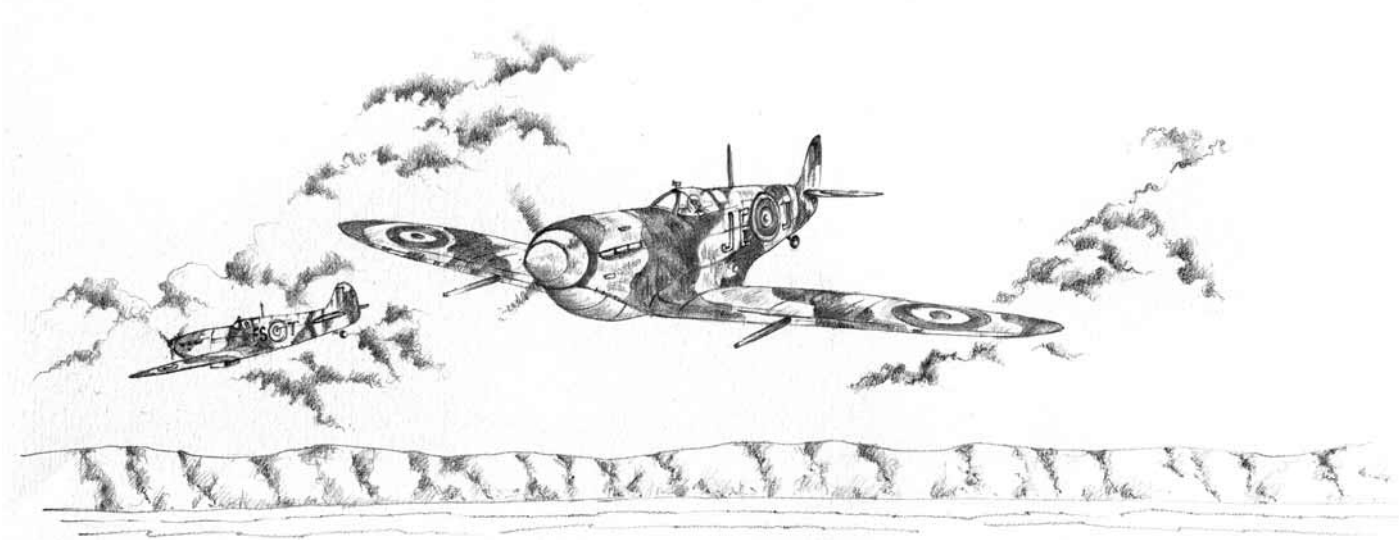
After Johnnie Johnson's death a small plaque was placed in his memory at Barrow War Memorial and can easily be seen just to the left of the memorial itself. Johnson Close was named in his honour too - perhaps because it is near to where he was born. Melton Mowbray recorded his deeds on a plaque on the wall of the Corn Cross in the town centre. So he certainly wasn't forgotten by his early roots but his name lives on in other more practical ways: housing and travel bursaries for boys.

In 1965 after leaving the RAF Johnnie, together with a friend who was a builder, constructed a block of flats 'on spec'. Later he sat on the board of a housing association and realised the tremendous need for good but cheap accommodation for ex-servicemen, disabled people and the elderly. Therefore in 1969, the Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust was set up with Douglas Bader a board member. Today the organisation is flourishing, employing 250 people and managing more than 4,300 units spread across the country but still wholeheartedly 'not-for-profit'. (Tenants pay on average between £55 and £78 a week for a flat depending on its size and the area it's in. There's one in Macclesfield for £55).

However, the Johnnie Johnson Travel Awards aren't national at all; they are just awarded by Johnnie's old school Loughborough Grammar and fiercely fought over by boys in years 12 and 13. Each year about £2,000 is divided up amongst the winners so that they can travel in twos, or threes, to places which will deepen their understanding of a subject. For example, over the last few years two boys have been to Italy to study classical ruins, another two visited France in connection with engineering, three went to Poland and Eastern Europe researching jazz and a further couple, studying renewable energy, went to Iceland and Wales. But did Johnnie Johnson set up these bursaries with fond memories of the school in his heart? No-one will ever know, but it's likely his memories were somewhat mixed as he was expelled from Loughborough Grammar for being found in the school swimming pool with a young lady. Enough said.

If you would like to learn more about Johnnie Johnson, he is listed in Wikipedia and simply Googling his name as a Keyword brings up many RAF related web-sites. To find out more about the housing association go to [www.jjhousing.co.uk](http://www.jjhousing.co.uk)

*Gaynor Barton*



*Illustration by Chris Bates*

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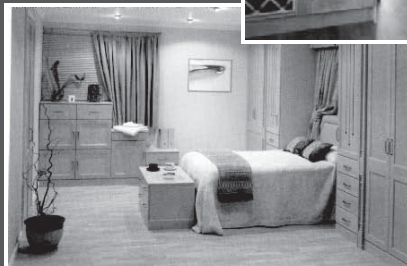
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# Barrow's got talent



I'm sure you have all enjoyed Britain's Got Talent, which is ITV1's highly successful talent show. Barrow Youth Theatre is planning an exciting new venture this year with their version: "Barrow's Got Talent".

This one night only extravaganza will be hosted by Barrow Youth Theatre's talented young cast who will perform a few musical

numbers to kick off the evening from recent and new youth theatre productions.

We need YOU to come forward with a polished ready-to perform act, which could be singing, dancing, magic, playing a musical instrument, juggling, comedy or just surprise us. We would like as many varied acts of all ages to fill a full night's entertainment.

What you need to do is get in touch with Carol or Gordon on 01509 620572 to book your place on the stage! Your audience will be your judges and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a celebrity to present the winner of the "Barrow's Got Talent" trophy.



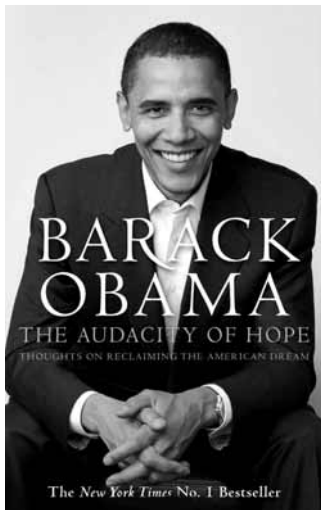
The fun starts on Saturday June 13th 2009 at 7.00pm at Humphrey Perkins High School.

Tickets will be on sale for this great night's entertainment at The Paper Shop, High St.

**Barrow Youth Theatre**

## Book review

### Barack Obama 'The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream'



Many politicians write, but few write with elegance and beauty whilst being insightful and honest. Barack Obama's semi autobiographical book does just that. His analysis of key themes which shape the nature and character of the United States and indeed the world, is destined to be a classic comment on the early 21st century as well as being a compelling and enjoyable read.

Barack's chapter on faith is the one I found particularly interesting. His mother had a profound influence on his development and her view of religion was that it was important to embrace a range of belief systems, to sample different religions without sustained commitment to any. He discovered himself to be an adult with deeply held beliefs but with no community or shared tradition in which to ground them. He realized that without a vessel for his beliefs, with a clear commitment to a particular community of faith, he would 'be consigned at some level to always remain apart, free in the way that my mother was free, but also alone in the same ways that she was ultimately alone.'

Obama worked through his reservations about religion and in particular Christianity and came to a point of conversion which he describes in a moving paragraph:

*'It was because of these new found understandings – that religious commitment*

*did not require me to suspend critical thinking, disengage from the battle for economic and social justice, or otherwise retreat from the world that I know and loved that I was finally able to walk down the aisle of Trinity United Church of Christ one day and be baptized. It came about as a choice and not an epiphany; the questions I had did not magically disappear. But kneeling beneath that cross on the South Side of Chicago, I felt God's spirit beckoning to me. I submitted myself to his will, and dedicated myself to discovering his truth.'*

If you want to read a well written, frank and perceptive account of his views on values and politics, race and family, opportunities and faith plus much more do get hold of this book – you won't regret it.

**Rev'd John Whittaker**  
**Holy Trinity Church**

✓ RECOMMENDED

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# Centre Stage is back this spring with a working man's Titanic

For our 14<sup>th</sup> Centre Stage show, we offer professional theatre for your enjoyment. The OTTC (Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company) will perform the play 'River's Up' by Alex Jones. It has been bringing high quality, challenging and entertaining theatre to people in Oxfordshire and beyond for 30 years.

River's Up is a small masterpiece. Funny, tragic and a poignant love story; this play could be said to be a working man's Titanic! Tom takes trips up the river while Sally works at a local supermarket. Together they discover the true consequences of global warming as local flooding turns into a nightmare, leaving them floating out to sea with little more than a tin of beans and a can of cat food, perhaps the only people left alive.

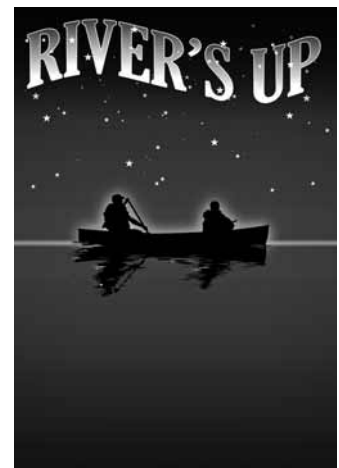
When the river's up and the chips are down, do you drift apart or pull together? Whichever way you look at it, it's sink or swim.

Join them on their sometimes funny, sometimes poignant journey in this domestic tragi-comedy of epic proportions.

The play comes to Humphrey Perkins Community Centre (as long as the Soar isn't flooded!) on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30pm. As usual, the generosity of the various councils, including Charnwood, means that we can offer tickets for this professional production at only £7.00 (£8.00 on the door) or £5.00 (£6.00 on the door) for concessions. Tickets are available from the Paper Shop and from 07718 153117. The show is recommended for young people of 14+ and family tickets are available on request.

Because the staging will be 'in the round', disabled access will be particularly easy and the venue has a full range of facilities for disabled people. Please let us know if you need a T loop.

Judith Rodgers (07718153117)



## Barrow Voice Poetry Competition

Barrow Voice is organising a poetry competition in memory of Arthur Gardner, poet, Heritage Warden and Barrow mover and shaker in so many areas. Tragically, Arthur died of motor neurone disease in April 2008 (*see Jan Hind's article in the Summer edition*).

### RULES

1. There will be two categories – children (up to 16) and adults.
2. Maximum length: 40 lines.
3. All poems must be based on the loose theme of 'Barrow upon Soar'. Your poem might refer to a favourite place, an experience you have had here, an event, the local landscape or dialect, but there should be some connection to Barrow.
4. The winning poem in each category will be published in the June edition of Barrow Voice.
5. To enter your poem, email it to [editor@barrowvoice.co.uk](mailto:editor@barrowvoice.co.uk) or post it to *Frances Thompson, 17, North Street, Barrow LE12 8PZ* giving your age (if 16 or under), address and contact details.
6. Deadline: Your entry must be with us by April 24<sup>th</sup>.
7. The judge will be Jo Bell, Cheshire Poet Laureate 2007 and friend of Arthur's. Her decision is final!

*If you would like to read some of the poems that Arthur himself wrote, you could buy 'Lifemarks' from the Motor Neurone Disease website [www.mndassociation.org/shop](http://www.mndassociation.org/shop) It costs £6.99 all of which goes to MND. 'Lifemarks' contains some of Britain's finest poets, including Arthur, writing about the great events of our lives.*

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# Securing our inheritance, building for the future

*Pam Brown updates us on the project to build an extension to Holy Trinity Church*

In November 2007 the fundraising campaign was launched with an estimated total of £530,000 needing to be raised. It was anticipated that £230,000 would be raised from the sale of the Church Rooms, £200,000 from fundraising and donations with the balance of £100,000 coming from successful grant applications.

By November 2008, £143,000 had been raised or promised through fundraising and donations from church members, including £80,000 set aside by the Church Council from a recent legacy. Grant applications have now begun in earnest. Our first application was in December, to the Parish Council. We are delighted that, at

the January meeting, £5000 was allocated to the project and this show of support from our Parish Councillors will be of great help to us when making future applications.

Other fundraising – innovative, enjoyable and fun – has produced the following results:

Easter £10 give-away	£4,800
Bbay@Barrow	£2,300
Christmas Tree Festival	£4,900
Other events	£1,232
<b>Total as of mid February</b>	<b>£158,265</b>

*We are delighted to announce that planning permission was granted on the 12<sup>th</sup> February.*

All this is most encouraging to members of the committee who are working extremely hard and are most grateful to the many people who have supported us in any way. Later in the year we will be writing to everyone in the village to update you on the present situation and also to invite you to make a donation to the project at our Gift Day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The Parish Church is at the centre of our village and is available for all to use and we hope that those who appreciate this facility will feel able to contribute to the project at this time.

*For details of future events call Pam Brown 01509 412929; for information on the development of the building, call Mike Neale on 01509 412204*

## Barrow folk are 'imaginative'

The fifth Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival produced a record number of trees on display - 83 in total in all kinds of shapes and sizes. John Florance from Radio Leicester, who opened the event commented in an article that, 'the folk of Barrow-on-Soar are an imaginative lot'.

Many thanks go to all those who gave up so much time to decorate the trees and to all of the 1,800 who attended during the four days of the Festival and to those who kindly made donations for the Festival which helped to raise almost £5,000 which will go towards the £530,000 required to develop the new church rooms.

The Festival is now well established in the village calendar and planning for the coming Festival in December is already in the process. So please, all present contributors and potential Christmas Tree providers make a note in your diaries now!

*John Beaumont*

## Sell-out curry night raises £348.00

It was a full house on 22<sup>nd</sup> January when 56 people supporting the fundraising for the extension to Holy Trinity Church went for an Indian meal at the Bengal Tandoori Restaurant, Bridge Street, Barrow upon Soar.



Mr Mohammed Abdul Mazid and his staff looked after everyone, always with a smile, and they made the serving of such delicious food to so many people, at the same time, seem so easy! The occasion was a most enjoyable part of the fundraising for the extension to improve community facilities at Holy Trinity Church.

The fundraising committee were delighted when Mr Mazid presented Revd John Whittaker with a cheque for £348.00 towards the extension and are grateful to him and his staff for their support.



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# Famous first lines, corners, Vivaldi, Christmas and cream eggs

*Go on, have a crack at this one: for which book is this the famous first line: 'Last night I dreamt I went to Manderlay again. It seemed to me I stood by the iron gate leading to the drive, and for a while I could not enter, for the way was barred to me.'*

**W**ell done if you got Daphne Du Maurier's 'Rebecca', a novel, memorably filmed by Alfred Hitchcock. Judith Anderson's portrayal of Mrs Danvers still sends shivers down my spine.

This film also sparked my interest in the idea of turning a corner and finding something different or strange or astonishing. So, it was with great delight that some 18 months ago I listened to a Radio Four programme about the year having four corners. The two days of equal daylight and night time (equinoxes) in spring and autumn form two of the corners. The shortest and longest days (solstices) in summer and winter are two more. I like that division. The solstices mark the middle of the seasons of summer and winter, whilst the equinoxes form the great signposts that mark the spring and autumn. And we do need those markers. The ready availability of seasonal produce such as salads and strawberries and apples all year round somehow has robbed us of our sense of season. If Vivaldi had been composing music today instead of in the eighteenth century, would he have named his four violin concertos the 'Four Seasons'? The four corners of the year stand and remind us that the rhythm of the seasons is still there.

The church too celebrates these rhythms. The autumn season of Advent takes us through to the heart of winter in a journey of watching and waiting, a journey of expectancy and excitement as we look for the coming of Jesus into the world. Then, as the year turns the corner of the winter solstice, we celebrate the great bursting out of light that is Christmas: the birth of God's Son. Over the 2008 Christmas season, the four faith communities that form 'Churches Together in Barrow' (Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics and Methodists) recorded over two and a half thousand attendees at Christmas services. Yes, that's right, you read it correctly, over two and a half thousand; at least a fifth of those were children.

As the Christmas season winds down and the days get steadily lighter we travel through the season of Lent, a season of preparation and clearing away and cleansing, (a bit like the spring digging and preparation in the garden!) until around the time of the spring equinox, Easter comes along, with its story of resurrection, of life conquering death. It brilliantly reflects that 'turning of the corner' in spring. Of course, if we're not careful we can be cheated out of that expectation and surprise too as the hot cross buns, chocolate eggs and

fluffy rabbits and chicks appear earlier and earlier in our shops. And as for the appearance of the first creme egg...

So, why not give in to your inner biological clock and come and join any of the churches in Barrow and walk through the seasons or turn a corner with us? Remember, unlike those famous first lines from 'Rebecca', church is real, and not a dream and no iron gates bar the way. All are welcome to walk through the seasons with us. We don't rush, we move gently and enjoy that rhythm of time. There won't be a creme egg in sight... until the right moment. Which is good news, I can't stand creme eggs.

*Rev. Tony Edmonds*

*Further details of the churches and services in Barrow can be obtained from:*

*Jane Carter (Methodists) 01509 812302*

*Brian Ratcliffe (Catholics) 01509 412505*

*Mark Turner (Baptists) 01509 416603*

*John Whittaker (Anglicans) 01509 621834*

## New village banner expresses the unity of churches together

**C**hris Thompson, the Baptist Pastor, has had the idea of creating a processional banner to represent the unity of the four Barrow churches: Baptists, Catholics, Church of England and Methodists. Some sixteen ladies from the four churches have worked together over the past year to turn his idea into a reality.

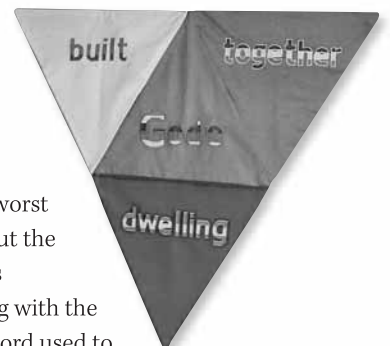
There are four smaller triangles which can be joined together to make one large

brightly coloured double-sided triangle. Each piece has been designed to be displayed alone in the owner church but when joined together in a united service, the whole gives a simple message: 'Built Together God's Dwelling' in red, yellow, blue and green.

It has been a challenge to get it completed but it will be carried in the joint service on Palm Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The worst bit about the job was working with the white cord used to create some of the letters. It seemed to have a life of its own. The best bit was working in groups to help and encourage each other to get it done. It was truly a uniting experience.

*Tilly Yates*



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# Keeping your own chickens

*Dave Bird has some tips on getting started*



**M**y mother used to keep hens. The term chicken was then only used to describe baby hens or cockerels but now it seems to be a generic term meaning any age of bird.

She kept about a 100 and the eggs would be regularly collected, placed in trays, then these would be put into crates and sent off about once a fortnight to the egg marketing board. I have to admit I didn't take a lot of notice, so now I have had to start from scratch with little knowledge and learn on the job.

## What you need

Hut and run – This is the most expensive item so if you can make your own or utilise an existing shed this will greatly save costs.

Birds - buying hens or chickens has as many pitfalls as buying a horse or second-hand car because the purveyors of these items don't always mean exactly what they say. That is, how old the bird is; its egg laying capacity etc.

I bought mine from the market, which is probably the riskiest method but also potentially the cheapest way to get started.

## Getting started

I bought: 10 two-week-old chicks for £4 and some older birds for £2 each.

They need warmth until they have developed their full feathers (at about 12 weeks). After that a dry, draft-proof hut is sufficient

## Feeding

Chicks require chick crumb feed which costs £4 for the bag and lasted my birds until they were old enough to go on to growers feed. In reality, the birds much prefer mixed corn or even better, household scraps: bread, cake, veg, fruit etc and I'm sure you could keep two or three birds on this at virtually no cost.

## Hens or cockerels?

Because birds are difficult to sex until they are about 16 weeks old, you could end up with 50 to 60 percent of your birds being cockerels

if you buy at the chick stage. Of course you don't need any cockerels for hens to lay but you do need one if you want fertile eggs to hatch out into another batch of chickens.

Of my 10 chicks, I lost three in the first fortnight but then reared the rest to adulthood only to lose another to a fox. Of the six left, only one is a cockerel; the rest are a complete mixture of breeds, one being an Arucuna which should lay bluish or greenish eggs. Of the older birds, I have eaten one or two that didn't lay and the fox, not apparently understanding this policy, ate one that did.

## Foxes

Even in an urban garden, the fox will still be the main threat and good security is essential; shutting the birds up at night especially through the winter months of November to April, when food for the fox is scarce.

*Interested? Go online at [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk) to see Dave's guide to making your own hut and run.*



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**H**ave you ever dreamed of going into your garden and picking fresh vegetables for your dinner? And that dream never becoming a reality because you are not green fingered or you just don't have the time or the inclination? Then it's time to send for the Vegetable Gardener.

Mark Medhurst is an engineer by trade, but has always longed to work out of doors as a gardener. It all began when, at an early age, his dad used to push him in a wheelbarrow to his allotment, where Mark was a willing helper. He has been gardening seriously for over 20 years and has plenty of vegetables he can harvest all year round, many of which can be stored for future use.

Whether you have a large plot or a pocket handkerchief, Mark can plant and cultivate the vegetables of your choice. Even if you only have a small back yard, patio pots can be planted up with such things as salads, carrots and runner beans. It is possible with a certain type of carrot to have three sowings a year in the same pot and when we were talking about the taste of freshly picked runner beans, I loved a quote that Mark used 'from plant to plate in 20 minutes'. All of the vegetables are grown organically and being on your doorstep there is a big cut in your carbon footprint and of course there is a financial saving.

It was Mark's wife Carolyn that put the idea of this new venture into his head. She had noticed that there were plenty of people advertising to cut your lawn or trim your hedges but no one offering to grow vegetables in your own soil, so the Vegetable Gardener came into being. Obviously Mark doesn't limit his skills to just vegetables. He will maintain all aspects of your garden, if required, through all of the seasons.

It was fascinating talking to Mark, finding out that carrots are not only orange, but red, yellow, purple and white. Think of all that

colour you could have on your dinner plate! And what about white beetroot: all the flavour of the red variety, but none of the stains which is great for the clumsy ones amongst us.

Mark is a great believer that children will eat what they have grown and his little granddaughter is living proof of this. She loves brussel sprouts and eating raw carrots straight from the ground, after they have been washed, of course.

This philosophy ties in well with the project he is working on with a pre-school nursery in Birstall. A half allotment has been acquired, and once the ground is prepared, the children will be planting their own vegetables, and hopefully will enjoy eating them when they are harvested.

After talking to Mark I came away full of enthusiasm and good intentions but my dream quickly faded. I realised it was something I would never get around to doing, but now I know a man who will.

*Val Gillings*

## Allotment Diary 3 – Muck-spreading

**M**anure is a wonderful resource for any gardener. A nice example of the sense of community found amongst Barrow allotment holders is embodied in the communal distribution of the muck supply.

The weekly delivery of horse manure began in 2000 as a result of the foot and mouth epidemic. There are two symbols that represent 'crisis' in Mandarin Chinese. One stands for 'opportunity' when on its own. In a sense the foot and mouth crisis has proved to be an opportunity for 'allotmenters'. Claire Necchi, who keeps Walton Lodge stables, found herself suddenly unable to get rid of her horse manure to the neighbouring farmer. A commercial stables generates a lot of manure and it can't be left to build up. When one of the allotment holders found there was a free supply going begging, Claire was delighted to respond and started to make weekly

deliveries. Initially, deliveries worked on the basis of putting out signs or flagging the tractor and trailer down; now Claire and Tim (who also keeps horses and delivers on a regular basis) deliver to one or more designated communal heaps.

The allotment holders now share from three steaming piles and everyone is happy. These quickly disappear when delivered. Sandy at 90 years of age is perhaps the most enthusiastic user of the manure. For a man of his age it is incredible that he can ferry in excess of ten barrows of manure from the communal heaps to his plot. He will cover each of his asparagus rows with countless barrows of manure. And if you read the last issue of Barrow Voice, you will remember that Sandy grows a lot of asparagus!!

The true fertilizer value of the manure is reaped after a year of two of its standing; faster with frequent turning. If you grow two



rows of brussel sprouts, one with plenty of well-rotted manure and the other with none, you can expect to see the first row at man-height and with rows of large tight brussels while the other row is diminutive with a few tiny brussels.

However, there has been such an explosion in allotment interest in the last two or three years, with rising food prices and the organic trend, that one or two trailer-loads a week may cease to be enough. But that's another story.

*Simon Grant*

# THE BOAT HOUSE AT BARROW

## Dragon Boat Festival

Barrow/Quorn River Border  
Sunday 24th May

We are pleased to be hosting this spectacular team event from our garden in aid of **Loughborough Women's Aid**, a worthwhile local charity. In addition to the Dragon Boat events, which are always worth watching, our garden will be full of other fun, family activities, and of course good food too. Interested in entering a team, contact Michele Walker Tel: 01509 550 317 Email: Michele@lwa.org.uk



## Coracle Building Workshop

13/14th June 2009



Once again Kevin, Leicester's Coracle Man, will be running a Coracle Building Workshop in our gardens. Sign up for a course, build your own coracle and take it away. Book with Stuart: 07545 022 573

We will be running a 'Try a Coracle' event, and plan to hold some fun coracle competitions on the Sunday afternoon.

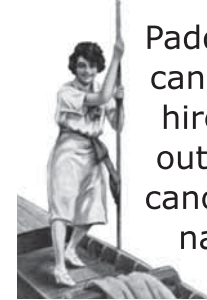
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# Looking for Bishop Beveridge...

## ...a visit to St. Asaph

Last November, Adrian and I spent a pleasant weekend at Bodelwyddan Castle in North Wales. We spent a couple of days enjoying the sites, Llandudno, the great Orme and Conway Estuary and saw our first (British) snow of the year on the peaks of the Snowdon range.

Before leaving we felt we must visit St. Asaph Cathedral, which was only a few miles away – in the footsteps of our village's most famous son, William Beveridge. Even without this interesting association, it is a beautiful building and well worth the visit. The church dates from the year 520 when it was part of a monastery, founded by St. Kentigen, the Bishop of Strathclyde. He was succeeded by Asaph in 1570, who gave his name to the church and the small town in which it is situated.

Of Bishop Beveridge- our first clue was a list of Bishops on which he appeared.

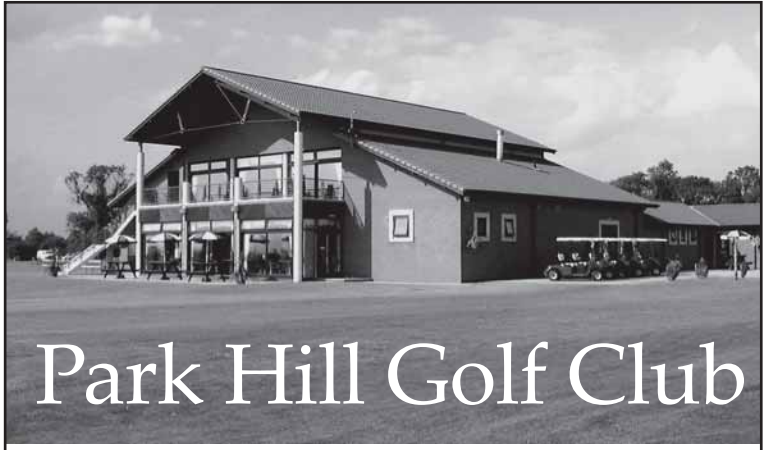
Apparently he was Bishop from 1704-08, which seemed a relatively short time. However we then found a picture of him in the presbytery (the area in front of the altar) and later discovered that he had died as Bishop. The Bishop's throne beside the picture had been purchased with subscriptions given in his memory. This gives him an added importance as it is the Bishop's Throne – the cathedral, which makes the place a cathedral, rather than just a church. The diocese of St Asaph covers about one quarter of Wales from the North Coast to Wrexham and as far south as Newtown. The cathedral also makes little St. Asaph a city – perhaps the smallest in Britain.

We would thoroughly recommend a visit to this place, not least because placed at the back of the cathedral was a table set out with hot and cold water, coffee, tea and squash with an invitation to all visitors to help themselves – most welcome indeed!

*Sue Speight*







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# Invaders from the Russian Taiga

**O**n the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, Waxwings were seen on Sileby Road feeding on Rowan Berries and they spent most of the week being admired by a succession of birdwatchers.

Waxwings are plump birds with a crest, slightly larger than a starling and breed in north Norway, Finland and Russia, in the northern conifer belt. They are brownish birds and get their name from a bright red patch on the wing feathers that resemble a blob of sealing wax.

Summer is spent breeding in stunted Conifers and feeding largely on Mosquitoes and Midges, which they catch on the wing in the manner of flycatchers. As the insect prey diminishes the birds turn to fruit and berries, however in certain years the supply of food is limited and the birds move south into Western Europe. Occasionally after a good breeding season and poor berry crops, the Waxwing population is forced into north eastern Britain. Usually a few are found every year on the east coast but occasionally, huge numbers are involved and this is known as a Waxwing invasion.



This is such a year and the birds have spread over the entire country and will be with us until March. The feeding birds can turn up almost anywhere and are usually very mobile, sometimes spending only a short time in one berry tree, at other times a week. There have been up to 60 in the Loughborough B&Q car park!

In Barrow there were up to 20 on Sileby Rd., but they have now moved on, but where to? They could be coming to a garden near you. Be sure to keep a look out and just think of where they will be in the summer!

*Bob Orton*

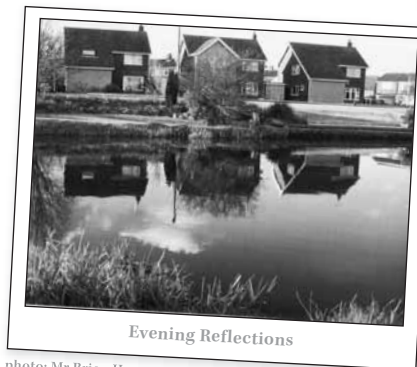
## Keep on taking your photographs



photo: Mr Richard Jayes

**A** big thank you to all who sent photos in to be displayed in Barrow Voice. Here are a few more for you to enjoy.

Keep on taking those photos, in and around Barrow and you too could have your work printed in or on the cover of Barrow Voice.



Evening Reflections

photo: Mr Brian Henman



photo: Mr Richard Jayes



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# A big thank you to Barrow Playgroup



Last September, three-year-old Ellemae Robinson tripped on a wire in a field and broke her leg really badly. During a difficult eight weeks in plaster from her chest down to her toes, a neighbour from Barrow Playgroup suggested that she might enjoy a morning at playgroup.

So Ellemae took to making occasional visits and really enjoyed herself. Her mum, Jane was extremely impressed at how the playgroup staff looked after her.

While visiting the Santa's Coffee morning arranged by playgroup staff, Jane also noted how hard the staff work to raise money for new equipment and facilities. She decided to arrange her own fund-raising event to put something back into Playgroup funds.

Ellemae is one of the youngest members of the Soar Valley Riding Club and even at her tender age and despite her accident, she has won many trophies. So on February 22nd Ellemae completed a three mile sponsored ride on her 29 year old Shetland Pony Buttons. The ride went around and

about Barrow's countryside and the two of them along with her Mum and Dad were able to present £260.00 to the playgroup.

Ellemae and Buttons would like to say a big 'thank you' to Barrow Playgroup and to all the sponsors.



---

## It's easy to get in touch with Barrow Youth Action



It was lovely to see photos of so many young people from the village on our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. Congratulations to Beth-Anne Heath who came first in the quiz and has won a £5 gift voucher for Victoria Jane.

During November, fifteen young people enjoyed learning Christmas crafts new and old under the expert tutelage of Pam Knowles and Mary Thompson. We aim to continue these craft events as they are always popular and we have more exciting

activities in the pipeline. Keep a look-out for posters advertising events throughout the village or send a text to the mobile number below asking to be kept informed.

We are always looking for new ideas from young people about what they would like to do, so please email us at [byag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:byag@hotmail.co.uk), or text us on 07535 342464. You are also very welcome to pop in and meet us at our monthly meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Conservative Club, North Street.

*Judith Spence*

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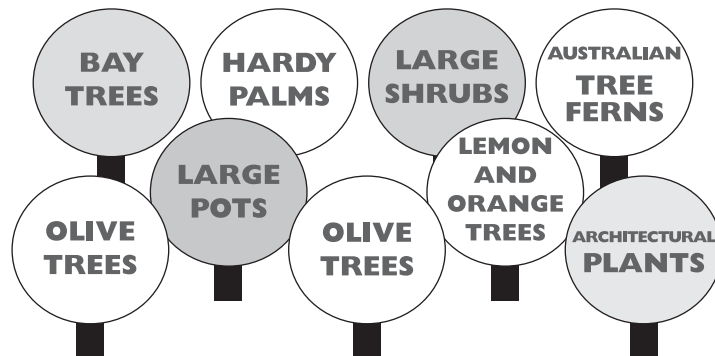
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# Giving young people a voice

**B**arrow Youth Council is what you might call the young people's branch of Barrow Parish Council. It exists to give young residents a voice in how things are run in Barrow.

It was formed seven months ago and consists of five Youth Councillors: Ben Gladwin, Andy Kenneth, George Stephens and Ciaran Clarke and Max Wendorf-Brown (*some of whom can be seen in the photograph above*).

Starting from scratch, as they did, they had to form relationships within the group, decide what their aims were and what issues they could and could not tackle. Ben has

become a great Chairman and has the support of all the others. With very little prior experience they gathered donations for a most amazing raffle at the switching on of the Christmas Lights, raising over £130. They have listened to concerns that others have brought to them and have done all they can to solve matters. As with the full Parish Council, they are here to represent all the young people of Barrow, so if you know someone with issues to raise or ideas pouring out of them (no matter how big or small), ask them to get in touch.

This is Ben's report: Barrow Youth Council has been running for quite a while now and we are already coming up with ideas to make

our village better for young people. I don't think we knew when we joined last June what sort of thing we would be doing but it is run like a proper meeting. We have an agenda with issues we want to discuss and solutions to problems we may have. I would say it has been a very grown up experience and teaches us organisation skills. We do have a few long term ideas like a youth club for our village and that's why we're fundraising and asking for grants so we have some money we can spend on our village.

*We are always looking for ideas and we would be grateful for any suggestions – here is the Youth Council email address: [b.y.c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:b.y.c@hotmail.co.uk)*

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# Barrow Parish Council Annual Talk

Stroke Awareness 24<sup>th</sup> March, from 7pm

**H**ave you suffered a stroke, care for or know someone who has? Maybe you are concerned for your own or someone else's health and would appreciate a deeper understanding of causes and the best remedial supports that are available.

The Parish Council, having agreed to hold an annual talk in the village, invites all parishioners to an evening presented by Christine Bell, Midlands (East) Regional Information Officer, Stroke Association.

The evening will be devoted to the issues of prevention, recognition and support. There will be short presentations, an open forum and an opportunity to talk personally with Christine Bell.

*In The Gap (behind the Baptist Church), Beveridge Street.*

*Light refreshments will be served*

# Meeting Place

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm in the Methodist Church Hall

**T**his is an opportunity for people in the village to have a chat and catch up on news in an informal setting. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available and you are welcome to drop in for a while or talk the afternoon away as you wish.

The idea came from a remark made to me at a village funeral: "Hello, it's lovely to see you but I wish it was under different circumstances."

All ages are invited. Tell your friends and come for a natter.

*Tilly Yates*



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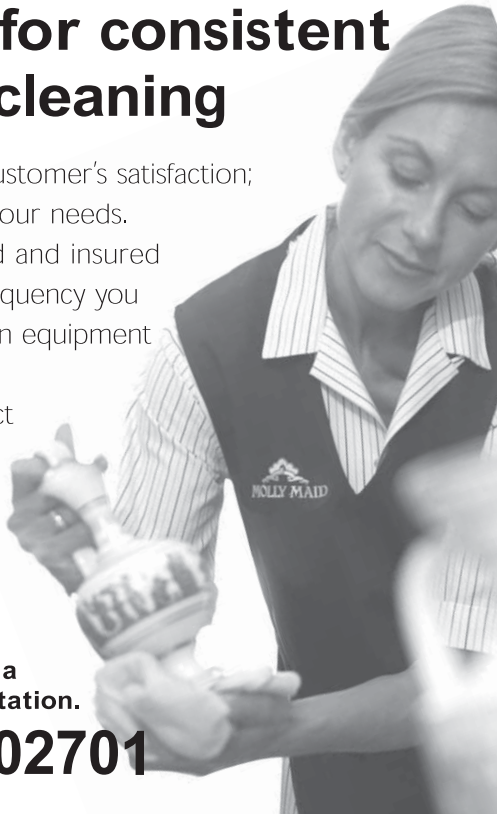






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# Our Barrow Heritage

BARROW UPON SOAR  
HERITAGE GROUP

Streets Group – Looking for memories of Black and Drivers

Take a look at what has already been achieved at [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk). The website was very much the idea of Arthur Gardner and we are anxious to keep it developing and adding to it in his memory. We are always interested to hear from people who can add to what is there, or even offer an alternative version of the stories.

## Black and Drivers

In the summer we are planning a small exhibition of photos taken at the factory and hope this will be an opportunity for people to come along and share their memories of working there. For such a large employer, there seems little written evidence about the firm. The building still exists on Sibley Road (*see photo opposite*)

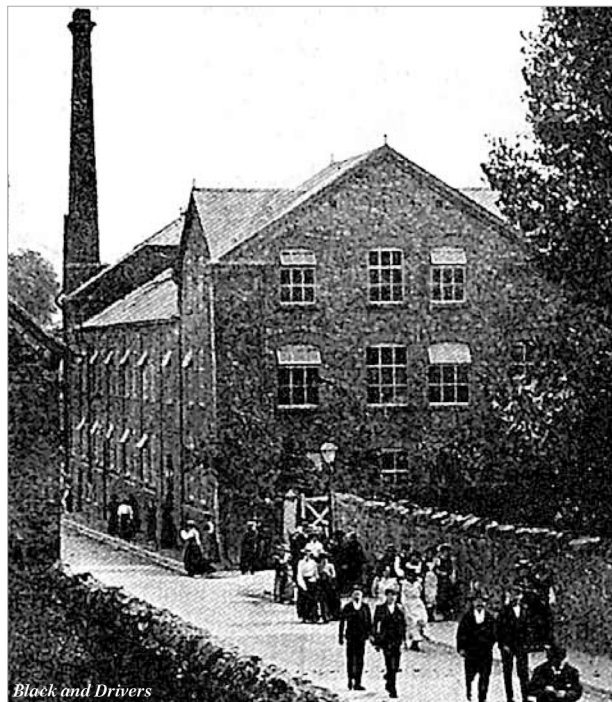
If you have any ideas for further projects or would like to get involved in any way please let us know either through the web site or by phone to Kathryn Timmons 01509 416168.

## NATURAL HISTORY – Calling all wildlife enthusiasts

We are always looking for 'eager – beavers' of all ages to participate in observing and recording any aspect of our local natural history. You may even have kept records or a diary for your own information which we could incorporate in the records. We know many residents are fascinated with bird life but perhaps there are others who are equally interested in insects or wild flowers, fish or fungi.

You don't need to be an expert to take part. There is plenty of help and support available. We have a tailor-made website to record your photos and observations [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk) and we can lay on talks and exhibitions.

Please contact Bob Mudge on [busnaturalhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:busnaturalhistory@btinternet.com) or 01509 620966



STREETS



NATURE

## Barrow Baptist Church 'Holiday at Home' 2009

This popular event for over 60s will run this year from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

With holiday companies 'going bust' in the present economic climate, who dare make bookings too far in advance?

With us there are no long journeys to face, your own comfy bed to relax in each night, good food, and plenty of it, friendly faces and support offered to those who want it. We aim to please!

Our theme for the week is 'GARDENS' but you don't need to be green-fingered.

We are still at the planning stage but details of the week's events and information about booking will be available nearer the time in all the usual places.

We see this as an opportunity to do something different, enjoy some good meals, eat loads of cake, drink gallons of tea and make new friends.

Sounds like a good holiday to me. Will you join us? I look forward to seeing you.

Feel free to ring me on 01509 412770

Judith Morrison

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

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## Advertising Deadline

30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

## Copy Deadline

30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm Lent Lunch; Church Rooms
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Trinity Ball at Prestwold Hall
Fri 20	Lent Lunch; Church Rooms
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Trinity War time sing
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Annual Talk: Christine Bell: "Care for those who have suffered a stroke"; 7.30; The Gap, Beveridge St
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Circle "The work of the Salvation Army" Nigel and Jean Denton Methodist Church Coffee Lounge 8.00pm
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Centre Stage theatre performance by OTTC: "River's Up"; 7.30; HPHS Hall; tickets from Paper Shop Lent Lunch; Church Rooms
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Party Spring Fair; Church Rooms; 10.00am - 12.00 noon BUSCA Spring Dance: Ballroom and sequence dancing with Just Us; bar opens 7.00 for 7.30; HPHS; tickets from Paper Shop
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Gardening Club: "A riot of colour"; Brian Ellis; 7.30pm HPHS Community Lounge Lent Lunch; Church Rooms Mother's Union: "A childhood in Africa" by Rev John Whittaker; 2.30; Church Rooms
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent Lunch; Church Rooms
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Methodist Church Minimarket; Methodist Church Hall; 10.00am
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	New Horizons Bereavement Group; Methodist Church Coffee Lounge; 2.00pm Holy Trinity Men's Group meeting; Church Rooms; 8.00pm WI: Spring flower Demonstration by Irene James; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council meeting; 7.15; Parish Council office Mother's Union and men's Group: Holy Week service; 8.00pm; Holy Trinity Church
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Circle: Easter Devotions led by Deacon Ellie Griffin; Methodist Church Coffee Lounge; 8.00pm
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm Family Service; 12.00; Methodist Church; followed by frugal lunch
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Trinity Coffee Morning
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Parish Meeting; 7.30; Methodist Church Rooms
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ladies Circle "Cheeses of the World" by Ian Rogerson; Methodist Church Coffee Lounge 8.00pm
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Clock Club Jumble Sale; Church Rooms; 10.00 - 11.30am
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Parish Meeting
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Methodist Church Minimarket; Methodist Church Hall; 10.00am
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting; 7.15pm; Parish Council Office Parish Council meeting; 7.15pm; Parish Council Office; All welcome
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Circle: AGM; Methodist Church Coffee Lounge 8.00pm Gardening Club: "Geraniums" by Michael Darch; 7.30pm; HPHS School library Mother's Union talk: Celia Harris "Countdown"; 2.30pm;
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	WI Spring Fair; 10.00 - 11.30; Bishop Beveridge Club
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Civic Service; 10.00; Holy Trinity Church; followed by refreshments
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	WI: Resolutions; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm Holy Trinity Men's Group meeting; : Loughborough Carillon by Carol Sharpe, Church Rooms; 8.00pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Trinity coffee morning; Church Rooms
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Circle: Jane Barnes tells of her life as a farmer's wife and florist and demonstrates her skill with flowers; Methodist Church Coffee Lounge 8.00pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	Clock Club Jumble Sale; Church Rooms; 10.00 - 11.30am
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Horizons Bereavement Group; Methodist Church Coffee Lounge; 2.00pm Holy Trinity Men's Group visit to Shuttleworth Clarke Foundation at Havenscroft Manor, Ulverscroft
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Council meeting; 7.15pm; Parish Council office; All welcome
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mother's Union talk by Rev Tony Edmonds "Pigs: old, new and biblical" followed by afternoon tea; 2.30; Church Rooms
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ladies Circle Woodhouse Eaves walk Gardening Club Evening outing
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Methodist Church Minimarket; Methodist Church Hall; 10.00am BUSCA dance with the Quartz Quartet; HPHS; 7.00 for 7.30
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	WI: Walking quiz by John Wilford; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Barrow Open Gardens Barrow Youth Theatre hosts "Barrow's Got Talent"; HPHS
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Barrow Open Gardens
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	BUSCA Signpost meeting: a platform for all community groups; 7.30pm; Community Centre; All welcome



Centre Stage stage play  
'River's Up'  
by the Oxfordshire  
Touring Theatre Company  
**27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Spring Dance  
with 'Just Us'  
**28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Summer Dance  
with the Quartz Quartet  
**6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



organised by Carol and Gordon Kenneth and  
Barrow Youth Theatre Group for all the village  
**13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**