

BARROW Voice



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SUMMER 2009

Inside this issue

Your pullout
guide to
WHAT'S ON
this Summer



PHOTO: IAN BURSILL PHOTOGRAPHY

Competition...
Win a free meal for two!
page 29

A small photograph showing a plate of food, possibly a burger or sandwich, and a glass of wine on a table.

Holy Trinity Church
- an update page 5

A photograph of four people (two men and two women) dressed in formal evening wear, standing together.

Barrow photo quiz
page 27

A graphic for a photo quiz, featuring a grid of numbers and a central image of a building.

Library reopens
page 7

A photograph of three children smiling in what appears to be a library or bookstore setting.

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In this summer edition, we focus on how you can enjoy yourself even if the credit crunch means that you are not going away on holiday. There's lots to do in and around Barrow; most things are modestly priced – some are even free!

The weather forecasters are promising us a 'barbeque summer' so get out and enjoy the sunshine. And while you are doing it, keep a look out for our photo quiz subjects – can you track them all down? Then there's BOSCAPS, Holiday at Home, activities at Humphrey Perkins, fun to be had on the river and in the garden.

Whatever you're doing, enjoy the summer and we will be back in the autumn.

Frances Thompson



News

BUSCA* offers a 'Barrow Signpost evening': meet our community groups

So successful was last year's event to introduce new residents to the wealth of community groups that we have decided to invite the whole village this year!

The Barrow Signpost evening will be on Wednesday June 24th at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road starting at 7.30.

You can come along and find out what's going on in this community-minded village of ours. Last year there were 26 organisations represented with stalls and displays to catch your eye. You don't have to commit yourself to anything; just wander round and latch on to what takes your fancy. It's a bit like a Freshers' Fair at Uni without the gallons of beer. There will, however, be free wine and soft drinks and a selection of nibbles.

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Extension to Holy Trinity Church for improved community facilities – *an update*

We are delighted that we now have a total of over £170,000 towards the extension. Our second grant application was successful and we are now forging ahead with further applications. Having now received the planning permission from Charnwood Borough Council, we aim to start the build in Spring 2010 and to do so aim to raise £100,000 from grant applications, leaving a balance of £30,000 to be raised within Barrow. We hope our CHALLENGE 09 will result in a variety of events, similar to last year's £10 give away, and look forward to announcing that total at our Christmas Tree Festival in December.

The Prestwold Ball in March added £3,700 to our funds and was a most enjoyable evening with excellent food and fine wine served followed by dancing to the Leicester Grammar School Dance Band and ending with John Bourne's disco. We are most grateful to the Packe-Drury-Lowe family for allowing us to use Prestwold Hall and to all who contributed

to making the evening a success. Elizabeth Michael Photography kindly photographed guests arriving, donating the proceeds to the fund.

More recently a Fashion Show run by the Social Committee raised over £600 and was extremely well attended by members of the village. The May Day Bank Holiday Teddy Bear Bungee Jump and Fair brought lots of visitors and local families to the church. Two Teddy Bears suffered injuries but both were quickly treated on the spot and able to be reunited with their owners! The event raised £970 and we were most

grateful to the Junior Church for their organisation.

Dates for your diary are the Safari Supper on Saturday 20th June and Friday, 3rd July when the pupils of Alison Print will once again be performing in the church. Alison is also hoping to come with her quartet, Élanaura Ensemble to perform at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday 30th July.

Details of future events or progress with the project can be obtained from Pam Brown, 01509 412929, Mike Neale on 01509 412204 or John Whittaker on 01509 621834.

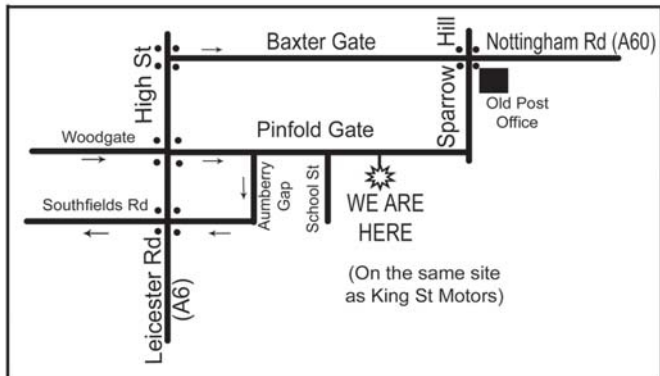


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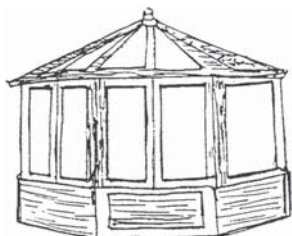
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Barrow Library re-opens its doors

Barrow-Up-on-Soar Library reopened its doors to the public on 16th February, following a major refurbishment

Bharti Acharya, Library Development Worker, said: 'We have had a total face lift creating more space plus a designated space for the computer users. New windows, carpets and lighting all assist in making a welcoming change for all, we hope. New books have also been added to our shelves, arranging the latter a little differently, but we hope that our regular customers will have no difficulty finding what they want'.

The official launch took place on March 4 when our County Councillor, Tony Kershaw, now Chairman of Leicestershire County Council, cut the ribbon.

Libraries across Leicestershire are seeing an increase in visitors in the UK due to the 'credit crunch'. Traditionally, people turn to public libraries during hard economic times - for cheaper entertainment, to help with employment, for free access to computers and to help them save money and to be 'greener' by borrowing free books rather than buying.

Leicestershire Libraries have seen vast improvements recently as part of the

£8 million transformation programme and staff are inviting the public to step into their local library to discover all the up to date services and facilities available for no or little cost. Visitors will be supported by libraries over the coming months in their health, wellbeing, career prospects, lifestyle and general enjoyment.



You can find lots of useful information about Barrow Library from its website - http://www.leics.gov.uk/barrow_library





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In conversation with Jan Hind



For this issue I have been talking to Elsie Pagett. Elsie is Barrow, born and bred, and a great lover of this village of ours. When I approached her to share some recollections of her granddad, John (Jack) Illston with Barrow Voice readers, she kindly agreed and we got together for a jolly good chat. Elsie later supplied me with some very interesting written information too, some of which is included in this article.

Elsie's Grandad and Grandma Illston came to Barrow from Leicester in 1910. Jack had been running a business driving and supplying horse-drawn cabs and carriages – mainly used for funerals and weddings, but he was finding, more and more, that the new-fangled trams were taking business away from the cabbies. With a family to support, Jack had heard that the licence of the Three Crowns Public House at Barrow-upon-Soar had fallen vacant so, after due consideration, he applied for the licence. Jack brought his horses, his cabs and his carriages with him and was able to keep them in the stables at the back of the pub, where there was plenty of room.

Never one to miss an opportunity to help his friends and fellow Barrovians he soon identified a need for regular cost effective transport into Loughborough for the locals, especially on market days. With this in mind, he set up a Barrow to Loughborough horse drawn taxi service which was greeted with great enthusiasm.

Eventually, however, Jack and his wife decided to retire from the pub business. They moved in to live with their daughter and her family in a new house in Melton Road, and started a smallholding. Jack still had his horse

drawn cabs which were popular for weddings and funerals in and around the village. There was never a shortage of children coming round to their house: the family also had an old bus in the back garden and the local children loved to come and play on it and there were always several horses and ponies around. The horses pulled the drays during the working day and then, when taken back to the fields, would be in great demand for giving rides to the children. The children also used to queue up to beg for rides in the carriages when they were on the return journey from a funeral.

Jack also owned and farmed a few fields in various parts of the village, mainly around the bottom of Mill Lane. At haymaking time Jack was there in the forefront. When the Mill Lane Fields were ready to be cut he would turn up with his refreshments – a bottle of cold tea and some sandwiches. He has been described as 'a man of strength, well over six feet in height' and I am sure he could have cut hay all day if he so decided, without exhausting himself.

Jack also served on the Co-operative Committee. He did this for several years as part of his commitment to the Village. Elsie says that, when it came to Committee Night at the Co-op, Jack used to say that he was 'off to grease the bacon!' Elsie also recalls going to the Co-op in the dray and assumes that her grandfather was delivering goods from the station.

Jack was always willing to help people if he possibly could. One lady recollected that, when she had to move house, she was completely at her wits end as to how she could manage it. When Jack heard about this, he turned up and loaded all her furniture on to the dray and then drove it to the new house for her. Job done! Truly a good neighbour.

After his death various articles and tributes appeared in the local papers. This is one of them:

'Mr Tom Corbett, of Barrow-on-Soar, sends us the following appreciation of the late Mr John Illstone.

'Jack Illstone, as he was affectionately known, came with his parents to Barrow on Soar some 27 years ago as Mine Host of the Three Crowns

Inn. He was a man of strength, well over six feet in height and his profession of cab and carriage driver had given him a sunburnt and weather-beaten face. He had a fund of humour and a merry twinkle in his eyes, and the ready wit of the old London cabby.

Jack soon became a village institution; he was at the call of all and sundry to attend weddings, christenings, funerals and other events. He was tenant of the old Salter's, Playing Field, now the King George Playing fields, where many hard-fought battles at one time took place between the Holy Trinity football team and their rivals, the Three Crowns, this being the headquarters, with Jack a member of the committee.

When anyone was in trouble, or needed a little help with horses or cattle, the expression 'Fetch Jack' was common, and sure enough Jack would leave his wife to carry on while he helped to smooth the path of the neighbour.

It became obvious to me, whilst talking to Elsie, how very much she had loved her Granddad and, also how very much he had been loved and respected by people in Barrow. Elsie's memories of him are still crystal clear and she knows that his example has given her a yardstick with which to measure her own life. For my part, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to learn, and to write about this energetic, hard-working man, who is still remembered by so many people in the village, and whose name, until now, I had only known from the street sign for Illston Gardens, just off Melton Road near the junction with Babington Road.

A longer version of this article with more photos, and another tribute, are available on the Barrow Voice website at www.barrowvoice.co.uk

Jack with Elsie (foreground) and a little girl





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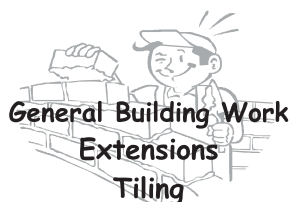
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New and familiar faces on stage



Sam Butler, a past junior member of Barrow Panto Group, returns to review the latest production

There were enough custard pies and cross-dressing to rival any decent pantomime when Barrow Panto Group performed their annual show in March. The popular tale of Aladdin was given the Barrow treatment to a packed opening night audience at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, complete with vigorous villains, a Geordie Genie and plenty of improvised banter from Gordon Kenneth's sparkling Widow Twankey.

It's rare that such collective community effort is ever properly realised and the group's commitment to sociability within Barrow should be strongly applauded. As new faces mingled with familiar ones, it was refreshing to see the group making good use of the young talent within the village, both onstage and off.

There might have been bad jokes aplenty, but it was Barrow Panto Group who had the last laugh. Thirteen years strong and there's no sign of them slowing down yet.

Just for a bit of context...

I began performing with the group back in 1997, first appearing as a London urchin in the group's Old Time Music Hall. I played Buttons in Cinderella (the first time round) and bowed out climbing Beanstalks in 2000.

After graduating from university in Edinburgh, I have been living and writing in Melbourne, Australia. Now I am back in the area working as a Learning Practitioner for Learndirect whilst writing education packs for a theatre company based in London.



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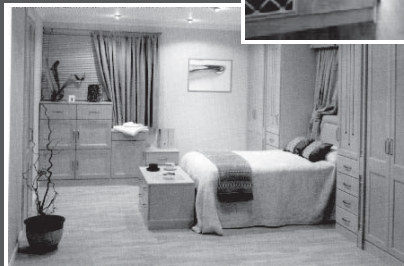
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Poetry Competition winners

We had quite a lot of entries. This would have tickled Arthur Gardner, in whose memory Barrow Voice ran the competition.

Poetry judge, Jo Bell who was a very good friend of Arthur's, felt that there was a clear winner in both the adult category, Doug Kennett and in the junior category,

Liam Patrick who is a pupil at Humphrey Perkins High School. We congratulate both of them. Their poems are printed below. Thanks too to everyone else who sent in their poems.

And for good measure, here is a short poem by Arthur. It appears in that lovely publication **'People and Places'** by Arthur with wonderful line illustrations by Chris

Bates. You can get your copy from the Paper Shop for only £2.00.

The Millennium Sundial

*I am the sentinel of Paudy Hill
watching the shadows roll around me
watching the village.*

Like Greenwich

I make time palpable

BARROW UPON SOAR!

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Liam Patrick

The River at Barrow

*The river, dark and still, reflects a cold, bright sun,
But briefly now,*

*For days grow shorter with a year long-run,
And shadows lengthen into early darkness.*

*A skein of sun-gold strands hangs down to meet
Reflecting water,*

*As fully wept, no leaves to shed, deplete,
The drooping, barren willows wait for spring.*

*The darkening sky snow's silent blanket throws
On empty fields.*

*The swelling river ever faster flows,
And to the weir gives winter's full spate spume.*

*Brief winter sun, weir's briefer rainbows cast
Amidst the roar.*

*Sluice gated free, the river rushes past,
Part tamed by man, if nature so decrees.*

*Birdsong broken silence heralds spring's return,
Reeds become alive.*

*Cygnets, ducklings, moorhens, family swimming learn,
And first steps take white, stumbling, newborn lambs.*

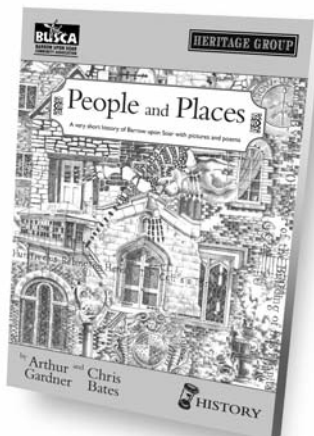
*Soon locks and towpaths full with summer noise
The river change.*

*No chance to see the heron's silent poise,
Or swan wings' whine above one's head hear soar.*

*Then full year on the crows caw autumn loud
Mid pensive mist.*

*All still again, there is no maddening crowd,
The river flows, but does not age with time.*

Doug Kennett



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- Our management committee consists of parent volunteers
- We are a registered charity

We are located in the Barrow Methodist Church Rooms, within
easy walking distance of the village centre and our sessions run 5
days a week from 9.15am until 12.15am.

To place your child's name on the waiting list
call **07975 957 242** (24 answerphone).

Other enquiries please contact the Registrar:
Wendy Worrall: **01509 413423**

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HOMEGROWN EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH



FREE

Walking in and around Barrow

Barrow is surrounded by attractive rural scenery that provides many gentle rambles along the well-maintained network of footpaths. For ideas of routes, you can pick up several leaflets of walks and trails from the usual points in Barrow including the Post Office, The Paper Shop, library and several pubs. You can also find information from the village website www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk and from the Heritage website www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk Some of the leaflets can be downloaded and printed.

Barrow has its own Parish Council Rights of Way walks publicised in its newsletter and on posters around the village. The LCC Barrow Parish walks leaflet outlines three routes ranging from 4¾ to 2¾ miles.

Also find the two Heritage Walks leaflets: Walking the Edge describes a 3½ mile circuit and a pick and mix of jitties. No 2 has three longer walks which explore the river (4+ miles), take you to Seagrave, Sibley and Mountsorrel (9 miles) and to Swithland reservoir (8 miles). Along with the route description, you also get some really interesting information about the heritage of the area: history, geology and natural history.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust has produced a beautiful leaflet 'Rewilding the Soar Valley' that guides



you to seven sites along the River Soar (sadly not including Barrow) where a project is underway to restore wildlife and wild places.

Walking within the village can be given a purpose by following the Fossil Trail. This is a circular route that finds the 10 groups of fossil sculptures that were created over 10 years ago by students of Loughborough College of Art. There are two leaflets: one for adults that contains a map locating the fossils and an activity-based one for children.

If your interest in history is a bit more recent, the booklet 'Places of Historic

Interest' locates 24 sites with information about each. You can enrich this still further by buying the booklet 'People and Places' that provides delightful pen and ink drawings and poems about the places and people of Barrow's past. The booklet costs only £2.00 from the Paper Shop. All the other publications mentioned above are free.

You can make a very short walk around the Millennium Park. Before you go, pick up an interesting leaflet that describes the creation and workings of Barrow's unique Millennium sundial.

Judith Rodgers

Beautiful gardens

Many of the local villages' Open Gardens, including Barrow's, will have happened by mid June. However, **Sutton Bonington** has about 30 gardens open on June 20th and 21st 1- 6pm with entry costing £2.50.

Approx. 20 gardens are open in **Old Dalby** on Sunday June 21st 11 - 6 with entry at £3.

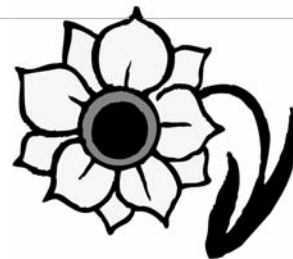
Wymeswold has its Open Gardens on 27th and 28th June with about 20 gardens open between 2 and 6pm at £3.

Shepshed's is on July 4th and 5th 1 - 6pm with 12 gardens open. Entry costs £2.50.

On Sun 12th July Pochin Hall Gardens in **Barkby** are open 2 - 6pm at £3.

Further information about village Open Gardens can be obtained by phoning 01509 413230.

Gardens in the National Gardens Scheme can be researched by visiting the website www.ngs.org.uk



The nearest is **Long Close**

Gardens on Main Street in **Woodhouse Eaves** which are open daily on Tuesdays to Saturdays and bank holiday weekends. There are delightful gardens spreading over five acres and with features of interest all year. Particularly impressive in summer is the enormous Gunnera in the wildlife meadow. There is a good website www.longclose.org.uk

HOMEGROWN EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

CENTREPAGE
PULL-OUT



Around the villages

(FREE) Wymeswold Washdyke Free Music Festival will be held on Sunday 5th July from 2.30 to 7.30 on Washdyke Field, Wymeswold. It's a new, informal alfresco event featuring local groups, choirs and ensembles. It is FREE. Bring your own fold-up chair, blanket and picnic and enjoy a lazy afternoon of music entertainment for all the family. Contact Nick Shaw on 01509 880543

Seagrave Village Fete is on Sunday 21st June (Fathers Day). It will be held in the Memorial Hall and grounds from 11.00. There will be Craft stalls, games, all sorts of displays (including the Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight), Dog Show (12:30pm), Tug'O War Challenge, Classic Bikes, Bouncy Castle, Bar-B-Q, Ice Cream, Teas, live music, all day bar and the now famous 'My Dad's A Knockout' competition. Admission is 50p. Contact Gemma on 01509 814715.

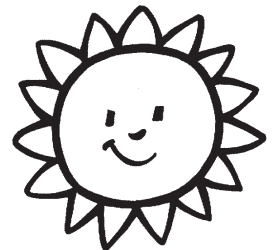
(FREE) Seagrave Show is on Saturday 5th September in the Memorial Hall and grounds from 8.00 for entrants. Judging is between 1.00 and 3.00 and the doors open again at 3.15 for viewing. There are classes for fruit, vegetables, cakes, jams, pickles and bread as well as a specialist children's section. There is free entrance with prize giving and a charity auction of the produce from 6.00.
www.seagraveshow.btik.com

Quorn swimming pool will have fun sessions with the giant inflatables every day during the summer holidays apart from Wednesdays and not 13th – 17th July. There will also be multi-sport and multi-art sessions on Mondays to Fridays throughout the holidays from 10.00 – 4.00. These cost £12 per day. Contact Rawlins Community Office on 622827.

Birstall Gala is an exciting annual event on 27th and 28th June this year. On Saturday the Gala opens at 1.30 and ends with a disco. There will be stalls of all sorts, food and a beer tent. The music stage will concentrate on modern pop music for the young and young at heart. On Sunday, there is a Grand Opening at 10.00 followed by an outdoor church service. The music stage will have more traditional music and also big band music. There will be a display of classic cars, a boxing display and a Last Night of the Proms from 7 – 10 ending with fireworks. Contact Birstall Parish Council on 0116 267 6191.

Mountsorrel Youth Activity Fun Day is on Saturday August 15th at Halstead Road Playing Fields. Contact Mountsorrel Parish Office on 0116 230 3809.

Days out



Stonehurst Farm, Bond Lane, Mountsorrel - Animals you can touch, farm walk, pond dipping & tractor rides. Indoor & outdoor play areas, also motor museum, tea rooms and farm shop selling produce from the family farm

National Forest Wood Fair - Beacon Hill August 31st Various crafts and wood sculpture on a grand scale.

Donington-le-Heath Manor House, Manor Rd, Donington le Heath, Coalville, LE67 2FW 01530 831259

(FREE) Medieval house. Exhibitions that change regularly, walks and re-enactments, usually free.

Abbey Park Leicester – usual park attractions including large duck pond for feeding the ducks, miniature railway that runs 1st & 3rd Sundays in the month 2pm – 5pm with working parties on Saturdays 2pm – 5pm, model boats sail on the boating pond most Sundays. There is also a cafe.

Gorse Hill Farm, Anstey Ln, Leicester, LE4 0FJ, 0116 253 7582 – Open every day of the week. Meet the animals and stroll around the nature trails, Recommended donation: £2 adults and £1 children.

Watermead Park, access off Wanlip Road, near Syston, Leicestershire, LE7 1PD. Walking and cycle paths, nature reserves and bird watching hides. Model boats sail on the King Lear Lake mostly Sundays.

Hose Village Fete – Hose Village hall & grounds 4th July, 2 – 5 pm. including street entertainers, birds of prey, dog demonstration, beer festival and a variety of stalls.

Rempstone Steam & Country Fair – July 11th. Working steam engines, crafts, medieval jousting, dog show and lots of other entertainments. Adults £6 children £4.

Wistow Maze south of Wigston LE8 0QF Winner of the Leicestershire Best Visitors attraction. Follow the fun quiz trail through the 8 acres of living maize & sunflowers. July 18th to September 6th then just weekends until September 27th.

Launde Abbey East Norton, Leicester LE7 9XB Open Days on 29th – 31st August. 12 noon till 5pm on all three days. Craft Fair, car boot, stalls. games rides. Also home made teas and lunches.

St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1DJ. Brass Rubbing July 23rd. 10am – 12 noon and 2pm – 4pm.

Teddy Bears Picnic – Melton Town Park July 3rd, 10am – 12 noon and 2 – 4pm. Various activities.

Rockingham Castle, Rockingham, Market Harborough, LE16 8TH. 01536 770240 Falconry & Owl Day – July 12th, 10am - 5pm. Two arenas with flying demonstrations. Also Vikings of Middle England – August 30th & 31st. 12noon. Be prepared for battle, horses pageant, living history camp and much more.



Watery pursuits

Barrow Boating in the old Mill Basin at the bottom of Mill Lane and an attractive stretch of the River Soar. Owner Frank Reeves is offering a not-to-be-missed £3 river trip for 30 minutes. There are also family rowing boats, hydrobikes (cycling your way over the water), Canadian canoes, pedaloos, single canoes and motor boats, a narrow boat for a full or a half day (the boats take 12 people and you can spend as little as £14 per person for a 9am – 5pm activity).

For full details, pick up a leaflet from Barrow Boating or go to www.barrowboating.co.uk

The Boat House at Barrow

In addition to being able to paddle your own canoe or kayak, you can also hire a punt. Learning to wield the pole is quite a challenge and you certainly must expect to get wet if only from the drips that run down your arms. Or try a guided canoe tour that navigates the Quorn loop in a 10-person canoe. You can even order a traditional picnic hamper. Phone 412260 to make arrangements.

Pillings Lock Marina

You can now hire a 6 berth narrow boat that is available for short-break or weekly holiday hire and a Day-Boat which seats 7 and can be hired by the hour. The café-bar is open 7 days per week with breakfasts, lunches and a special evening menu of Modern British Food. Wednesday nights will be a great value BBQ aimed at families and friends. Sundays will still be the Traditional Sunday Roast too! For other summer activities such as music events and possibly even a raft race see www.pillingslock.com

Sixhills Jetski Company runs RYA Personal Water Craft one day training courses for £130 per person including a light lunch and refreshments. You can either bring your own jetski or hire a Yamaha Waverunner at an extra £50. To find more information go to www.sixhills-jetski.co.uk

Useful websites

www.wherewecanwego.com a national site guiding you to local and other events.

www.whatcanwedotoday.co.uk a local site hosted by our very own Mulberry Square (who produce Barrow Voice) bursting with ideas and information.

www.goleicestershire.com/thingstodo/ describes itself as the official guide to Leicestershire and Rutland and is the website for the Tourist Information Centre.

www.whatson.charnwood-arts.org.uk gives information about events in all the arts including all kinds of music, theatre, cinema, visual art, musicals, dance, poetry etc

www.leics.gov.uk is the very useful Leicestershire County Council site. Take the Leisure & Tourism option and then What's On-search. You mostly get information about community events.

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk our own village website. Find Barrow on Soar pages then click on Walks and Places to visit (right at the bottom of the list). In addition to information about local walks there is also a long list of tourist attractions that you can visit in a day from Barrow. If you click on a place you are taken straight to that website (eg Alton Towers).

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT HPHS

27 July – 30 July

Multi-sports / swimming with Mark Beeby for children aged 5 – 12 years

10 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Sport

1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. Swimming

Cost: £25 for 4 days



3 August – 7 August

BOSCAPS Playscheme

9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

For children aged 5 – 12 years of age

Sport / Crafts / Workshops / Trips

Cost: £17.50 on Registration days / £15.00 concessions/benefits

£20.00 after Registration days

10 August – 13 August

Football week with Mark Beeby for children aged 5 – 12 years

5-a-side (season in a week)

Matches / Cup Competitions / Penalty shoot outs

10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Cost: £25.00 for 4 days

Swimming: 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. public session

Special rate if attended Football @ 50p per hour

17 August

Arts and Crafts week

Paint a Mural (on the walls of Orchard Block) with Vanilla Galleries

Monday 17 – Friday 21 August 9.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. for 11 – 16s £3 per day. Bring a packed lunch

24 August – 2 August

Brazilian Soccer for children aged 5 – 12 years

10.00 a.m. – 12 noon 5 – 7 year olds £30 for week

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. 8 – 11 year olds £60 for week

SWIMMING POOL PUBLIC SESSIONS

Tuesday and Thursday

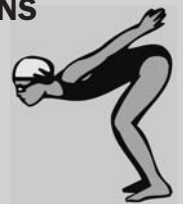
28 July 30 July

4 August 6 August

11 August 13 August

18 August 20 August

Cost: Adults: £3.00 Children & Senior Citizens £1.50



FAMILY BADMINTON - Courts available throughout the holiday period

£5.00 per court per hour booked in advance

Saturdays: 12 noon – 2.00 p.m.

Sundays: 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

All enquiries / information or to book a place on any activity please call the Community Office at Humphrey Perkins High School: 01509 412385

Look out for FREE SWIMS for over 60's

Under 16's Parties / Special Events

The Special Olympics July 25th to July 31st Leicester

This summer the Special Olympics Great Britain National Summer Games are to be held in Leicester between 25th - 31st July. This is a major sporting scoop for the city as over 2,700 athletes, all with some degree of learning disability, will come to the city together with their coaches, 1,200 of them, their families and friends and be supported by 1,500 local volunteers. It's going to make the front pages of the national dailies not just the Leicester Mercury!

In Barrow we're fortunate as we're near enough to go to watch the events ourselves and apart from the opening

ceremony on 25th July at 6.30pm (£5 adults, £3 concessions, £1 children) they are all completely free. There are 21 different sports to watch: athletics, badminton, boccia, bowling, cycling, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics, judo, Kayaking, Kwik cricket, MATP, netball, sailing, power-lifting, swimming, table-tennis, tenpin bowling and tennis. The events are spread around the city taking place in venues such as the County Cricket Club, Leicester City Football Club, Rutland Water, Abbey Park and various university sports stadiums.

There is a wealth of information, and a draft timetable for each day of the week on view at the Special Olympics website www.sol2009.com Cycling is one of the first events of the games as the cyclists get going from Abbey Park at 10am on 25th July. You could watch them leave. The atmosphere will be tremendous.



Special Olympics
Great Britain

BOSCAPS 2009

Humphrey Perkins High School & Community Centre Cotes Road, Barrow-upon-Soar,

Tel: 01509 412385 Fax: 01509 620902 c.westbury@humphreyperkins.leics.sch.uk

BOSCAPS 2009 playscheme will run from Monday 3 August – Friday 7 August. The playscheme is open to all children aged 5 – 12 resident in Barrow upon Soar and surrounding villages. The scheme is run with the support of Leicestershire County Council, Barrow Parish Council, Charnwood Borough Council and BUSCA.

The playscheme has a proven record and been running for many years. Helpers are CRB checked.

It is held at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre and provides children with the opportunity to take part in wide variety of exciting craft, sporting and other activities and trips in a safe environment. The cost per child is £17.50 with a concessionary rate of £15 on proof of benefits.

For further details please call the Community Office on the above number. BOSCAPS is always looking for more volunteers to help with the playscheme and if you would like to help, please give me a call. It's really good fun and very rewarding.

Carol Westbury

BARGAIN BREAK at Barrow Baptist Church

HOLIDAY AT HOME 2009 – WELCOME TO ALL OVER 60s

If you have not already taken advantage of our hospitality offers, then what are you waiting for?

When is it? Monday 27th July – Sunday 2nd August 2009

Where is it? Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street (Apart from Wed 29th July = Day Out)

How much does it cost? Prices range from 'free' to 'very cheap'.

What's new? Several ideas, but not forgetting our old favourite pastimes.

Our theme this year is **GARDENS**.

Transport to and from all these events will be provided for those who need it. Just ask.

Want to find out more? Contact Judith Morrison 01509 412770 and look in the Library, Post Office, Church and the Paper Shop for details

There
is bound to
be something
to appeal to
YOU.

Old St. Alban's on the Fossil Trail

If you try out Barrow's Fossil Trail this summer, your leaflet will tell you to turn down the Hollybush jitty. At the bottom you will find a representation of a trapped Jurassic dragonfly in a beautifully shaped lump of orange 'amber' protruding from a bracket on the wall of an old building.

This is now in private hands but used to be St. Alban's, Barrow's Roman Catholic Church and was built in 1839 by Irish Navvies working on the railway. As there is little space in the leaflet for other than the bare bones I thought it would be interesting to find out what had happened. Why did this tucked away church with its 'attached dwelling' become de-consecrated and given a new lease of life as two residential houses? And what was the area like when it was first built?

The second question is the easier to answer. Although the building is surrounded on all sides by houses now, when it was spanking new it was sited amongst fields and orchards and slightly away from the heart of the village. This was probably deliberate as it was only ten years since the 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act had been passed and in those distant days many still thought of Roman Catholics as different from Protestant folk; they were even regarded with a little suspicion. The area remained rural until the 1950's when more houses were built along Church Street.

The church finally closed its doors in 1989. Many people, especially those who had regularly worshipped there were very saddened by the closure but it wasn't just the Catholic community that missed the church; others of different faiths in the village regretted the loss as it had become part of Barrow. Over the years the worshippers had made many repairs themselves, and collected money to keep things going, but by this time there were major problems they couldn't rectify. The walls were bowing outwards, the heavy Swithland roof slates and ground liable to subsidence from old nearby lime workings were said to be the culprits. The interior



walls had been cracked for years. But perhaps most tellingly of all is that a priest, Father Cunningham, wanted to restart ringing the bell before Sunday Mass. Sadly he had to be tactfully dissuaded. The bell had long been silent as the regular worshippers feared that if it were enthusiastically rung the fragile enclosing brickwork might fall down and cause even the wall to collapse!

So the church was de-consecrated and sold. This resulted in the Catholic community becoming a less obvious presence in the village as people now worshipped at St Gregory's in Sileby, in the Bishop Beveridge Club or each others homes. Yet there were advantages to worshipping in Sileby particularly in relation to music. In the old days St Alban's had a good choir but only an old hand pumped organ whereas St. Gregory's now has the benefit of electricity and a regular organist. There is therefore greater scope for the singing of sacred music.

In the 1990's the church and 'attached dwelling' were gutted. This 'attached dwelling' now called 'The Priest House' had often been used as such in the 19th century. However, in the mid twentieth it

had become the church caretaker's home. Mr and Mrs. Hubbard were the last to occupy the house in its original

And what's it like to live there now? Well, I asked Jane Melbourne, the present owner of The Priest House and she loves it. Jane and her family moved in over a year ago. She particularly likes its quiriness - the little passageways, the different heights of its doors, the low windows, the way the rooms exude a feeling of warmth and cosyness and the ease of access to the flower beds and rambling clematis of the cottage garden. Since moving in she has noticed several little groups of Fossil Trail folk walking along the jitty. This summer make sure you are one of them too.

Gaynor Barton

A longer version of this article is on the BV website And to read more about St. Alban's in the 19th century please go to the Leicestershire Villages website www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk/catholicchurch or Barrow's 'Heritage Group' website www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk To find St. Alban's go to 'View all Projects', then 'Places of Historic Interest in Barrow Upon Soar' then 'Historic Buildings in Church Street'.



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New beginnings and changes to Barrow businesses

There have been three pretty visible changes on the High Street recently and several new businesses set up in Barrow: an encouraging sign in the present economic climate.

Strawberry Lettings, located in what used to be Robert's barbers is a residential lettings service owned and run by Nicola Higginbotham. Until she moved into the High Street, Nicola worked from her home in Sileby. With her assistant Claire Bateman, they clock up over 25 years of experience in lettings. Nicola is delighted with the dramatic increase in business resulting from greater visibility. She is also one of the lucky few whose business can benefit from the economic downturn: more people are renting because they don't want to risk big mortgages. There are also more investment possibilities for landlords.

Strawberry Lettings provides an investment search service finding appropriate properties for investors to buy as well as marketing properties and finding tenants. And of course she finds accommodation for customers who want to rent.



Nicola is enthusiastic about her business. Her aim is to make it both friendly and professional, utilising her local knowledge to enrich her services. She is very proud of her ARLA professional accreditation and is also a member of Barrow Business Forum.

roomtowork is a new business that is carrying on the function of Digi (the old Webster and Barnes site that was beautifully

refurbished by John Lockwood). Sean O'Neill, the Director and co-owner employs four local people and has made it his policy to use local trades people whenever he needs work doing to the building.

roomtowork offers a number of services to businesses, including serviced office space to rent; a fully manned reception and secretarial service; 3 serviced meeting rooms including catering facilities for between 2 and 50 people; a virtual office for small businesses who want a bespoke telephone answering service that gives a very professional image.

Sean brings a wealth of experience of both Big Business and small companies and is very keen to become part of the commercial life of Barrow and to provide a really valuable service to local businesses. He expects to become a member of Barrow Business Forum shortly. His motto is 'sell globally; think locally'. **roomtowork** is a very pleasing environment further enhanced by the artwork of a small number of Loughborough Uni art students.

Sean offers a discount to anyone coming in with a copy of this article.

(cont on page 25)



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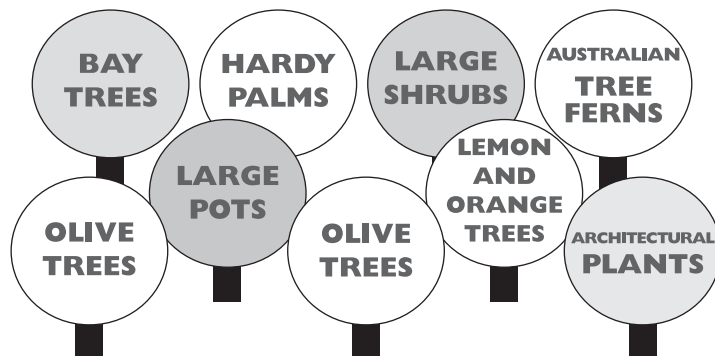
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(cont from page 23)



The third change on Barrow High Street affects the chemists: Alliance Pharmacy merged with Boots three years ago and gradually, all their shops have been transformed into **Boots Local**. The transformation in Barrow started in April and ended with a Grand Opening on May 5th by Lilian Middleton, who was Barrow's independent pharmacist for many years.

There have been no changes of staff or opening times (still Mon – Fri 8.30 – 6.00, Sat 9 – 5, with lunchtime closing 1 - 2). All the services that had been developed by Alliance remain with an improved prescription dispensary, private consultations, medicine usage reviews, prescription collection service and Quit Smoking advice. What is new is the facility to use the Boots Advantage Card (described as the most generous loyalty card in the UK). Manager Janis Bishop also explained about the new Health Club and the Parenting Club (for details, pick up a leaflet from Barrow **Boots Local**).

And now a new photography business '**Elizabeth Michael Modern Life Photography**' set up by Barrow girl Liz Domokos. You might know her better as Liz Beaumont, daughter of Ann and John Beaumont. All four of them are very involved in village projects, notably in organising the Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival.

'**Elizabeth Michael**' is a husband and wife enterprise. Both Liz and Mike are employed in other professions but they share a passion for photography and particularly enjoy 'capturing those moments that show true emotion and life as it happens'. Liz hopes that the business will grow to become her main occupation (in addition to looking after their growing family). She explained their Jack Spratt relationship: Mike provides the technical skills, building from his computing day job

while Liz provides the creative flair (from her experiences in the fashion industry).

Since the business began in May 2008 it has really taken off. Although they undertake all sorts of commissions, Liz specialises in 'bump to baby' and family portraits. They work from home and aim to provide a relaxed and comfortable environment and an affordable product. We wish them both well.

Judith Rodgers



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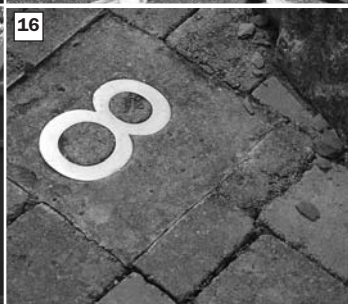
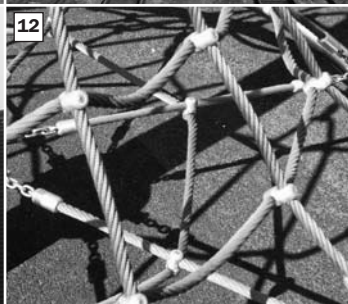
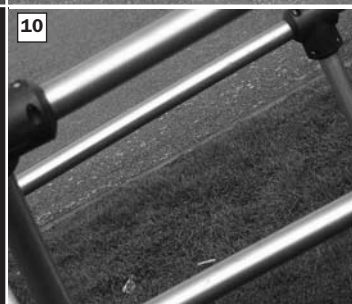
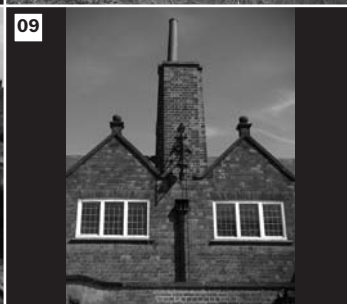
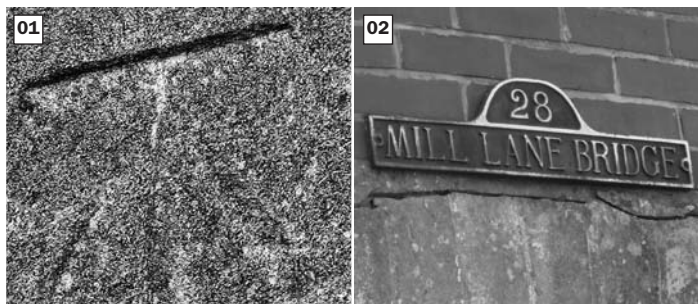
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Barrow Photo Quiz

There are 22 photographs that were taken in Barrow. Have a wander round and see how many you can spot. There are no prizes, just an excuse to get out and about with a purpose.

The answers will be on Barrow Voice website www.barrowvoice.co.uk straight away, or you can wait until the September edition for answers in the magazine.

Jan and Mike Hind



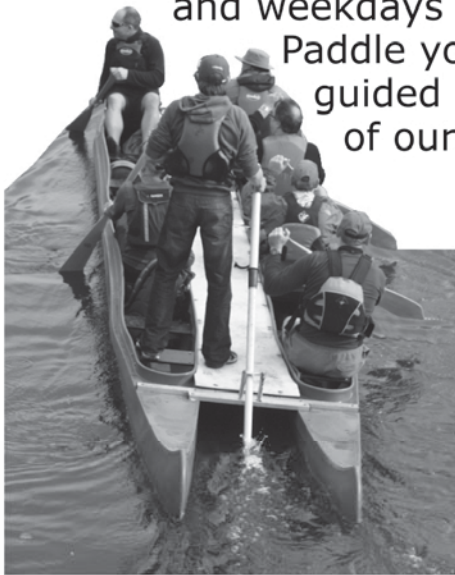
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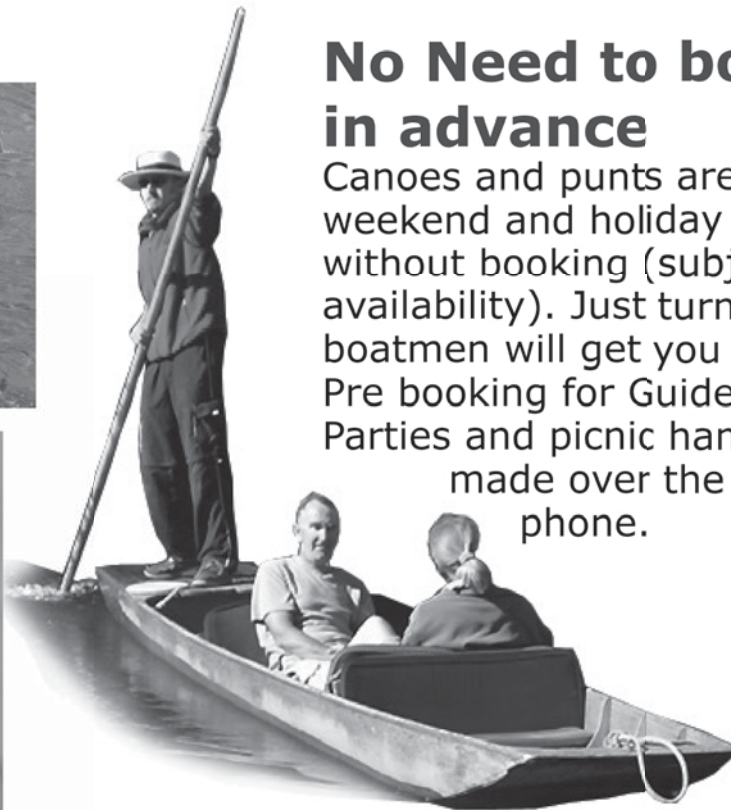
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THE PULLMAN INN WIDMERPOOL

Nostalgia and a faultless performance

Craig Johnstone reviews the Pullman Inn

In my mind, The Pullman Inn at Widmerpool has always had a great reputation for its food, but casting my mind back, I'm sure that for whatever reasons it must be nearly 20 years since I last set foot in the place. So following an invitation from the new manager Paul Hubbard, it was with great promise that my family and I set off there for Sunday lunch.

With The Pullman being set in an old railway station and its location just off of the A46 to Newark, outside the village by about a mile, it is one of those quirky places that really sticks in your memory and driving up to the pub all of those distant memories came flooding back. On entering The Pullman, formerly known as 'The Schooner', we were not only welcomed by an appetising carvery counter, but a reassuring blend of 'Orient Express' luxury and nostalgia from a bygone era.

The Pullman prides itself on fresh, traditional home-cooked food, sourced from local suppliers and we were not to be disappointed - my father-in-law even stated

that it was the best carvery he had ever experienced... and if you knew the man, that kind of comment does not come easily. The kids were spoilt for choice with the selection of perfectly prepared vegetables on offer and it was refreshing to find an eatery that was happy for our two little ones to share a child portion. And the deserts... wow, truly splendid... what an ice-cream sundae - you have got to try one to believe it!

In short, faultless.

They serve their famous carvery all day on Sunday, and a sensational Summer menu salad carte in the week. In addition to their evening 'a la carte' menu they also offer other 'special' dishes.

Wednesdays is 'Curry Night' where you can enjoy a variety of freshly prepared curries, accompanied by pickles, poppadoms with other extras. Thursday is 'Steak Night' and on Friday night they offer freshly prepared fish and chips for you to choose from.

From time to time they have special events for you to enjoy including a 'Psychic Night' so be sure to regularly

check their website:

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You will also find their drinks list full of full bodied, flavoursome wines for you to try as well as a wide selection of draught and bottled beers.

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Question: What was The Pullman formerly known as?

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Send your answer to:
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Closing date: 31st July

The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



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Playgroup fundraisers Karen Walker and Claire Bateman selling cakes to Nicola Barber (playgroup treasurer) and family at a recent fundraising cake stall on Loughborough Market. This event raised £190. Well done to everyone who contributed. We are very pleased to tell you that £1,000 of fund-raising money this year will be spent on lots of new toys, books, games, costumes and so much more for the children to enjoy, at playgroup.

Your playgroup needs you!

says Alison Shaw, Playgroup Committee member

Did you know Barrow Pre-School Playgroup was established in 1971? The group is now Ofsted registered and runs for three hours every term time weekday morning from 9.15am to 12.15pm for children aged 2 to 5 in the Methodist Church Rooms. Playgroup has always been popular with the very young members of our community as well as neighbouring villages. In fact, many parents who attended themselves as children in the early days are now bringing their own children. There are also a lot of new faces which is great. Barrow is growing and has a lot to offer.

What isn't always known is that playgroup is a registered charity and whilst the very qualified and enthusiastic staff are employed to provide professional care during the sessions, behind the scenes the playgroup is managed by a committee of volunteer parents. This involves attending a few meetings (usually one every half term) covering a wide variety of subjects such as decisions about fees, fundraising ideas and social events. Each year at an AGM in July a group of new parents is elected to oversee the administration of playgroup. This year we are sadly losing some key committee members, who have all served for several years and no longer have children at playgroup. They have all enjoyed their

involvement and friendships gained by giving their time to the committee. We will be sad to lose them.

Being involved is a great way to get to know other parents and the staff, understand how playgroup works and therefore better understand what your child gets up to! If you use playgroup please consider becoming more involved. Without a full committee playgroup would struggle to operate and we'd love to see it still going strong for our grandchildren in another 30 years time! To find out more please see the notice board in playgroup or speak to a member of staff.





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Barrow Under 13's achieve unique league record

Barrow Town Football U13's have achieved a unique playing record during the league season, which has just concluded.

They went into their last league game with the league championship in their pocket and having won all of their previous 21 league games, with the prospect of winning their final game to achieve a 100% record.

The last league game was scheduled to be away at the team who were lying second in

the league and therefore would provide Barrow's sternest test of the season. The game did not start well and at half time they found themselves trailing 2-0. At this stage the 100% record was looking distinctly remote. However in true Rocky fashion and with a couple of inspired substitutions, the team picked themselves up and staged a dramatic fight-back, emerging 3-2 winners.

At the final whistle there were wild scenes of celebration as the achievement of winning all of their league games began to sink in.

According to sources at Riverside Park no one can recall this ever been achieved by a Barrow age group.

At the presentation night, Mick Beattie the manager of the U13's side said 'The lads should be very proud of their achievement and should not let anyone put that achievement down. The players may play for twenty years and never repeat this. It's been down to hard work on the part of all of the players and has been a real squad effort'.

Steve Jordan

Barrow TYFC roar in Lions International tournament

Barrow Town Youth U14's have reached the semi-final of a prestigious national football club competition, run by the Lions Club.

Barrow were invited into the competition by the Club and initially paired against teams from the east region, which covered the East Midlands across to Lincolnshire and Humberside. They played teams from areas such as Grimsby and Scunthorpe before reaching the East final where they

played Dresden Colts from Mansfield at Riverside Park. In front of a large crowd they won 3-0 and were thus crowned as the East region champions.

This advanced the team into the quarter-final stage where they were drawn at home to the winners of the West region, Oswestry Boys Club. Again the match was played at Riverside Park and Barrow Town emerged as the victors in a hard fought game 2-0. At the time of going to press they will now play their semi-final against Harrogate.

Mark Reeves, who is the Chairman of Barrow Town Youth Football and also manager of the U14's, spoke of his delight at reaching this stage of the competition. 'I must thank the Loughborough Lions Club for inviting Barrow Town into the competition. This has given the players a unique opportunity to play against players from other parts of the country and can only advance both their football and social education'.

Steve Jordan

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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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31st July

Copy Deadline

31st July

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17 North Street
Barrow upon Soar
Leics LE12 8PZ
editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

Village Diary

Fri 12 th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 13 th	Barrow Open Gardens Barrow Youth Theatre hosts "Barrow's Got Talent"; HPHS
Sun 14 th	Barrow Open Gardens
Wed 17 th	Methodist Church Ladies Circle BBQ at Meadow View Farm, Sileby Annual Village Bike Ride at back of Humphrey Perkins School; 6.00pm
Sat 20 th	Holy Trinity Church Coffee morning; Church Rooms
Wed 24 th	BUSCA "Meet the Community: Barrow Signpost" evening; 7.30pm; Community Centre; Everyone welcome.
Sat 27 th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; Church Rooms; 10.00 – 11.30am
Sat 4 th	Methodist Church Minimart and coffee morning; 10.00am
Mon 6 th	New Horizons Bereavement Group; Methodist Church Coffee Longe; 2.00pm Holy Trinity Mens' Group walk 7.00pm
Tues 7 th	Parish Council meeting; Parish Office; 7.15. All are welcome.
Fri 10 th	Baptist Church: Strawberry Tea; 3.00; entertainment and musical quiz by Terry Lock on keyboard
Mon 13 th	WI: "Old fashioned remedies" by Fiona Ure; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 14 th	Kwik Cricket for 5 – 7s, 2.00-4.00pm, King George playing fields
Sat 18 th	Holy Trinity Church Coffee morning; Church Rooms
Mon 27 th	Sports Roadshow for 5 – 11s, (FREE range of games), King George playing fields Holiday at Home for the over 60s until Sun 2 nd August
Thur 30 th	Élanaura Ensemble at Holy Trinity Church
Sat 1 st	Methodist Church Minimart and coffee morning; 10.00am
Tues 4 th	Parish Council meeting; Parish Office; 7.15. All are welcome.
Mon 10 th	WI: "Privvies past and present" by Joyce Lucas; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Sat 15 th	Holy Trinity Church Coffee morning; Church Rooms
Mon 24 th	Mini Soccer for 5-7s, 10.00 – 12.00, King George playing fields King George playing fields
Wed 26 th	Rounders for 8-11s, 10.00 – 12.00, King George playing fields
Fri 28 th	Mini Moves for 0 – 5s in Church Rooms. Range of physical activities for tinies
Sat 29 th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; Church Rooms; 10.00 – 11.30am
Tues 1 st	Parish Council meeting; Parish Office; 7.15. All are welcome.
Wed 2 nd	Mothers' Union: Leicester Fire and Rescue Community Support team; Church Rooms Barrow Gardening Club: "Using your Weeds" by Lynne Tan-Watson; Community Lounge; 7.30pm
Sat 5 th	Methodist Church Minimart and coffee morning; 10.00am
Mon 7 th	New Horizons Bereavement Group; Methodist Church Coffee Longe; 2.00pm Holy Trinity Mens' Group; Church Rooms; 8.00pm
Mon 14 th	WI: Antiques Roadshow by Sheila Mosely; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm



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3RD OCTOBER

WINTER
Warmer Dance
with Bob Hargreaves
on keyboard

7TH NOVEMBER

New Year's Eve
Party

with Ben and
the Big Taste Disco

31ST DECEMBER