

Barrow Voice



2,900 copies published quarterly and delivered FREE to all households in Barrow upon Soar

www.barrowvoice.co.uk

Winter 2010



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Landmark year

While writing this four weeks before BV will drop through your letterbox, Barrow has been enjoying an amazingly mild spell with temperatures in double figures even overnight. There is one thing for certain about British weather it's never boring. Perhaps that's why we are so obsessed with it.

So... I'm sure you'll be interested to look back at last winter's snowy weather: love it or hate it - it certainly caused problems for our intrepid Barrow posties who share their experiences with us. Thanks for the fine service you give us all the year round. And don't let's forget the generosity of Barrow folk. The LOROS house to house collection has been going for 20 years but this is likely to be its last so, again, thanks to the organisers, the collectors and all those who have given to this very worthwhile charity.

2010 has been a landmark year for Barrow Voice with the introduction of colour to the magazine. This, together with the new cover design, made the Autumn edition one to be especially proud of. The photo of the 'Holiday at Homers', complete with paddling pool and beach balls, is my absolute favourite.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to BV or supported us over the past year. Have a great Christmas and we will be back in the New Year.

Frances Thompson

On line EXTRAS!

Don't forget to log on to www.barrowvoice.co.uk for more pictures and...

- An extended article about Derek Lott's prestigious award
- Part two of Dave Bird's 'Keeping Hens'. Find out which chickens are the star layers. Is the Marans (also the name of our French twin town) in the running?



News

A Golden Opportunity

Barrow voice is offering YOU a golden opportunity to enhance your CV!

Barrow Voice has a very flourishing advertising section... it has to: that's how we pay for the magazine. Now we have introduced the colour dimension our annual advertising turnover is over £10,000 (which is more or less how much it costs to produce four copies of BV).

During the summer our Advertising Accounts manager, Chris Payne moved

away from Barrow (how dare he! But thanks, Chris, anyway) leaving a big gap in the organisation.

We now need to find a replacement.

It is the sort of job that could be done by someone stuck at home but wanting to move back to work as soon as circumstances allow. It is also the sort of job that would look very good on a CV. It would be totally unpaid, as are all the Barrow Voice team. It involves working closely with the rest of the advertising

team, invoicing advertisers and tracking their payments. It's not rocket science although the ability to use a spreadsheet would really help as would good communication via email.

If you want to grasp this Golden Opportunity, contact Judith Rodgers and have a chat on 07718153117 or email rodgers_david@hotmail.com

Check out your broadband!

Almost every family now has or wants access to a broadband connection. As with all technology, what was a great step forward when you first began, quickly becomes outdated. So it is with speeds of broadband connection.

Some households are happy with upload speeds of 1 to 2 megabytes per second (Mbps) and some are very frustrated at 4 or 5 Mbps.

Businesses with large files of software or with large pictures to send or download are having a very difficult time in the village. In fact, at least one business has moved out of the village for this reason - a sad loss of employment and economic activity.

The range of speeds in the village varies from 0.5 Mbps to 4.5Mbps. The Government objective is to get us all to 20 Mbps or higher. Then TV, films and computer games plus all business activities would be satisfactory.

What is your speed? Please go to www.mybroadbandspeed.co.uk and press the begin button. It will tell you the speed at which data leaves your computer (upload) and also the speed at which data comes to your computer (download).

The Barrow Business Forum is surveying the village to establish the range of speeds which differ from house to house. We are in discussion with BT and OpenReach with a view to increasing speeds.

Already we are promised a small upgrade which will increase speeds across the village by about 0.5 - 1 Mbps in May 2011, but we need significantly higher speeds.

To add your weight to the case, please let me have details of your current upload and download speeds from the test detailed above. The more we scream, the more we will improve our position in the upgrade merry go round.

Email me at barrie.joyatkinson@btopenworld.com



More concerns about speeding

Dear Editor

After reading your article in the autumn Barrow voice 2010 (about speeding on Fishpool Way) I thought I would like to tell you that the same is happening just up the road on Grove Lane.

Motorists are exceeding the speed limit of 30mph here also.

I myself have fallen victim to this by losing two of my lovely cats this year already, one in May and the other in September due to speeding traffic killing them on Grove Lane.

Just thought you may be interested to know as next time it could be a child or an elderly person crossing the road.

Vicki Lane 34 Grove Lane



Drastic measures for village pool

In July the Governors of Humphrey Perkins School decided very reluctantly that drastic measures were needed for the school pool. At the end of December the pool will be closed down and won't re-open until September 1st 2011. It will then be available to school and community again until it closes at the end of the following December. Unless a miracle solution surfaces, this pattern will be repeated.

So what's the problem? Well, there are (at least) three: the first is that school recently learnt of the £40,000 cost to keep the pool open per year! Much of that cost is in heating the air above the water. The second problem is that the pool building is not insulated so the heat blown out by the ancient heaters is lost straight away to the outside air. The third problem is that the structure and fabric of the pool are old and in no way comply with modern requirements.

In order to solve the insulation problems short term, the windows would need to be replaced with double-glazed units and the roof insulated. Building consent would never be given to insulate the roof without bringing up the structure to modern requirements. Long term, the pool really needs rebuilding or closing down permanently. The current compromise reflects the hope that a solution may turn up magically.

We thought it would be interesting to unearth some memories of the pool in earlier days.

How the pool began

It was presumably built by the LEA just for HPHS. (Does anyone know when?) While Mr Dunn was Head Master, the pool was only available to pupils and staff. Even Hall Orchard Primary School was refused permission to use it. I remember knocking



on Mr Dunn's front door after school with my teacher friend Criss to ask if we might swim. If he agreed, we would walk through his garden to swim un-guarded in the un-heated and un-roofed pool.

Then, in 1971, Wynne Morris was appointed Head with the specific task of introducing the community dimension to HPHS. That represents the starting point of the Community Association, the Community Centre and the building of the Community Lounge and kitchen. It also saw a series of annual whole school sponsored walks to fund raise for the building of a roof over the pool. It was a profitable and healthy approach, raising about £9,000 per walk. In the first stage, pillars were built and the roof erected over the pool but with no walls, a bit like a gazebo. The trouble was the bird droppings and nest material that constantly splattered onto the swimmers below! After walls were built, a Swimming Pool Committee was set up to manage the community use of the pool and they organised a grand opening to introduce the public to the pool. Peter Yates, Wynne Morris and Barry Doxey did a sponsored

swim and raised enough money to install lights inside the pool. Putting the lights up was the very first time the community had worked as volunteers to improve facilities at HPHS. Shortly afterwards, a team of residents built the spectators entrance (so they didn't have to wade through the foot bath to get in). Kate Morley ran the first community swimming lessons in 1974, for mums and babies which led quickly to the Barrow Swimming Club. This has operated on a Friday evening ever since and has taught generations of Barrow children to swim safely. Hall Orchard School started Saturday morning swimming lessons and public sessions opened up. Suddenly, the people of Barrow had a pool they could use.

There is still an active Swimming Pool Committee whose role is to manage community use and we will shortly be meeting to see if any progress has been made on the pool future.

Of course, if you're reading this and feel moved to do the magic wand-waving, £1,000,000 would come in handy!

Judith Rodgers

Congratulations Marjorie - 100 years old!

Marjorie Kitchen celebrated her 100th birthday with a cake, important guests and a photographer from the Loughborough Echo. You may have seen her picture. It was by all accounts a happy time with Marjorie particularly enjoying the sudden influx of chocolates. Marjorie now lives at the Highland House Care Home in Sibleby but for more than 80 years she lived and worked at 159 Sibleby Road in Barrow where her family kept a shop. This shop was integral to the row of terraced houses built in 1898 and it's thought her parents were its first shop-keepers. Although 159 hasn't been a shop for many years you can still see its large shop window.

When you talk to Marjorie about her life in Barrow she is quick to smile and her memory recalls many things but then she seems to tire and quietly returns to her own thoughts. She was the youngest of five children: the eldest was Beatrice (Beat) followed by Gladys, Winifred and George. Marjorie never married. It's believed that she did have a serious boyfriend way back in the past but her parents disapproved of him and in those days you did what your parents told you. Marjorie's parents ran the shop and when they died she and her brother George took over the business. When her brother died Marjorie carried on and only stopped working there in her eighties.

Barrow people who can remember the shop say it was quite small inside, it felt full when three or four people were waiting to be served, but was always clean and well run with Marjorie the cheerful lady behind the long wooden counter. The shop opened on time in the mornings and closed about 9pm at night - long hours. Everyone worked hard but it was a busy shop and a good little business. It was the nearest shop for many families in the area as the village is quite a walk away and in the early days there were no cars.



All the grocery basics were stocked such as butter, sugar, cheese, eggs, cooked meats and bread. The cooked meats were sliced to a customer's needs and sold by the ounce as was the butter and cheese. It was the grocer's task to break down the larger quantities as little came pre-packed in those pre-war days. During the war coupons were counted out and rations passed over in exchange. And of course there were sweets. Sweets such as humbugs, treacle toffee and liquorice allsorts were tipped out of large glass jars and later there was a bubble-gum machine placed outside the shop. Sweets were often displayed in the window to tempt Barrow's children into spending their pocket money at Kitchen's!

The off-licence trade was important too. In the early days beer was sold not only in bottles but by the jug and even in the 70's you could save money by taking your own jug to the shop and having it filled up from

the barrel. In the distant past Mr. Kitchen used to take beer in barrels round Barrow's streets on a cart selling directly to people's homes. From all accounts Johnny Kitchen, Marjorie's father, was strict and didn't tolerate much messing about. Young people always behaved themselves in his shop!

Even now when you talk to Marjorie about the shop her memories begin with the sound of the beer barrels being trundled down the long side passage. As a young girl she told me she would run home from school to help in the shop, serving behind the counter or doing jobs such as breaking down sacks of sugar into small quantities. She clearly remembers the piles of paper bags it was her job to fill with sugar and that as a child she was never trusted to draw the beer.

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Introducing Brian Geeson, our new Police Community Support Officer

For the past four years, we have been very used to seeing Nigel Ritchie trawling the streets of Barrow. Nigel has now moved away. Thank you Nigel for all you did - and we now welcome the new friendly face of PCSO 6507 Brian Geeson.

Brian is no stranger to the demands of Community Support Officers having worked as one first in Sileby and then in Mountsorrel. Brian explained "After 25 years of working in the retail trade industry, including banking, I wanted to serve the community more directly.

Doing something within the Police Service seemed the right way to go. I began as a Police Traffic Warden but when parking regulation became the responsibility of local councils, I made the move to becoming a PCSO. So my role now is making very available the friendly face of the police, a particularly satisfying aim."

Brian's working day is spent as far as possible on the beat, patrolling the streets of Barrow and the Wolds villages. He provides reassurance, contact opportunities, high visibility and a deterrent to crimes by his very presence. He also gathers information which can be funnelled back to the regular officers. He will be running regular Beat Surgeries for people to drop in to discuss their policing issues and concerns. In Barrow these will take place in the Parish Council Office between 10.30 and 12.00. Look out for posters and Echo notices to tell you when they will be.

Brian is a real family man and has seven children. Somehow, he also has time and energy to follow his passions of gardening, bird watching and serious running, so don't try and run away from him! He tells me that some animals just haven't got that message: while on duty he's been chased by cattle, bitten by a dog that clearly didn't like his yellow jacket, rounded up horses on Slash Lane and shoo-ed an angry swan off a main road.



Brian would like to thank the residents of Barrow for the warm welcome they have already given him. His message is simple: "Please, please, look after your property and yourself. Lock your doors and windows at night and when you go out. It is truly amazing how many people don't.

Be considerate of others and the lovely area in which you live. Don't drop litter, don't let your dog mess the pavements and verges. Don't park your car thoughtlessly. Then we can all have a truly Happy Christmas."

Judith Rodgers

Derek's award

The National Biodiversity Network Trust gives an annual Honorary Membership Award to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the world of biological recording. This year, the Trustees were delighted to honour Barrow resident, Dr Derek Lott.



Jim Munford, Paul Harding, Trevor James and Ian McLean visited Derek at his home on 20 September to give him this special award in person. Many of you will probably know Derek and his passion for entomology, but the reason for his receiving this award is best summarised by the citation written by the Trust's chairman, Trevor James. You will find the entire text on the BV website, but here is a flavour:

Derek has been a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society since the 1980s and is a very active member of the Amateur Entomologists Society and the British Entomological & Natural History Society. At the local level, he has taken on active roles in the Leicestershire Literary & Philosophical Society and the Loughborough Naturalists Club, to name just two. For many years he was a Keeper of Natural History in the Leicester Museums, Arts & Records Service, until his work, taking forward the local records centre functions there, led to his being employed as its director when it was

established as a separate organisation under the auspices of the Leicestershire County Council's planning department. In 2004, when an earlier round of cuts saw the records centre being reorganised, he opted to go it alone as a consultant entomologist, specialising in the insects of wetland habitats as well as his special area of expertise - the rove beetles.

Despite current health problems, Derek has by no means stopped his prodigious output. He has been working on a series of new and desperately needed workable keys to British Staphylinid beetles, which are in process of production by the Field Studies Council and the Royal Entomological Society.

His recent supply of a lifetime's recording and collation of data across the UK has typically been carried out without restrictions on their use by others. In this kind of approach to life, Derek has been a source of inspiration and encouragement both to beginners and to his professional colleagues. He richly deserves honorary membership of the Trust.

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100 years on

If you see the shop front today it looks small, but there was quite a lot of space behind the house where Mr. Kitchen had an orchard and reared a few pigs and chickens. Marjorie still remembers her father's love of chickens as well as feeding them herself and taking their eggs into the shop to be sold. She was a great animal lover all her life and loved her dogs. Some readers may remember her last two, Sandy and Nellie, but when they died she kept a cat and became an ardent cat lover.

Although Marjorie's life was centred on Sileby Road, she took holidays in Italy and her independent spirit made sure she did things for herself for as long as possible.



She used to take a weekly taxi into Sainsbury's well into her 90's. I wonder if she ever wandered between Sainsbury's crammed aisles, everything pre-packed and labelled, thinking of her youth and running back from school to put sugar into little paper bags.

We'd like to thank Elaine Birch, Sue Wilford, Alan Berton, Paul Colston and Jane Tindle for their help in writing this article.

Val Gillings and Gaynor Barton

Delivering the winter mail

Martin, who has been delivering our post for many years, shares a few stories of the hazards of snowy Barrow

I'm Martin and have worked for the Royal Mail in Barrow for 26 years but for snow and ice last winter was the worst I can remember. It was particularly hard when, because of Health and Safety regulations, our bikes were banned and it meant we started work in the dark and finished in the dark. Nowadays very few people clear their paths but a big thank you to the ones who do as you are always poised for a fall delivering mail to front doors which are at the bottom of slippery paths. We all slipped many a time so the sales of Radox bath salts to post people with aches and pains must have gone through the roof!

During the worst of the winter Stu, the most senior of our merry band, sent us off with a Winston Churchill style "Just get on with it" message ringing in our ears. Nick always uses a trolley on his round which, when fully laden with letters and packets, is quite a weight and could easily be heard crunching through the snow. You always knew when Nick was coming. On Nick's walk the steep hills of Ribble Drive and Mill Lane were ideal spots to turn the trolley into a sledge and Nick was often spotted in hot pursuit. If the GB bobsleigh team need a brake-man I know just the man!

John, the van driver, has the same problem with icy paths as the rest of us but also has to deal with extra problems. Avoiding badly parked cars, or cars stuck in the snow, is such an added difficulty as is deciding whether or not to drive down a snowy lane or farm track in the first place. If he goes down will he ever get back? Other problems for John are children, no respecters of the Highway Code, sledging down icy roads when the schools are closed. While I was delivering on Sibley Road one day I saw an elderly lady fall on the ice at a bus stop so I went over to help her up and make sure she was OK but as I walked away from her I fell over so she then came over to help me up! What passing motorists thought I'll never know.

Linda loves the snow only she couldn't deliver as usual last winter as unfortunately



Debbie braving the snow on Fishpool Way

she had been diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy and radio therapy at the time. However, she went into Barrow Post Office to help sort the letters and packets and do what she could on good days. Now she is back to full health and wonders how on earth the new estate grew so big while she was away. Geordie Mick thought it was just a mild winter; they make them tough in the North East. He took a lot of convincing to stop wearing his shorts but gave in when others worried that things might turn blue and drop off!

Sharon may be small, but boy is she tough and reliable! I don't know if she likes winding me up but she says she can smell when it's going to snow. Debbie too is very reliable even though she travels in from near Ellistown. It was no mean feat for her to arrive on time all through the winter, always smiling and chatty, but she did.

Delivering the mail last winter was a challenge to us all and even our manager from Loughborough came a cropper because he came over for an office visit but on his way back to his car in the Somerfield car-park fell on the ice and badly damaged his arm and shoulder. So it wasn't just the front line staff who suffered. Yet every day there was a full delivery taken out, even to houses addressed strangely such as, "the house with the blue door near the phone box" or "the

white council house" or "my Mum" or the classic "they occupy the cemetery".

A personal thanks from me to the people who keep me up to date with cricket scores, tell me jokes and greet me with a smile. You don't get that with e-mails. But before signing off I think I owe an apology to one person and that's Margaret Steadman. A few years ago she helped out on the post when we were short staffed and volunteered to help me with the farms on Cotes Road. I had to pull over onto the verge whenever I stopped the car to let the school buses and other traffic get by. On one occasion I stopped, Mags jumped out of the passenger door and disappeared! I'd parked too close to the ditch and poor Mags had stepped straight into it emerging like David Bellamy still clutching the letters and muttering things I don't think a verger should! Sorry Mags. I'll make a donation to church funds!

Well, that just leaves us post people and counter staff to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Martin

Readers may have noticed that Martin hasn't used his own or his colleagues' surnames. This is because when a person joins the Royal Mail they have to sign a document saying that they will keep their surnames out of the public domain.

60 seconds with...

I hope you enjoyed the first '60 seconds' with item in the last edition of Barrow Voice. I believe there's been some favourable feedback.

For this issue my guest is Judith Rodgers, for a whole minute. Actually, it was a bit longer but interesting as well as amusing. I'm sure you'll enjoy this and I wonder, can you guess who will be on the spot in the next edition in the Spring?

Judith Rodgers

How long have you been involved with Barrow Voice and what do you like best about the magazine?

When I became Chair of the Community Association in 2001 (?), my husband David, a member of the BV team, told me he thought I ought to attend meetings to show support. I got sucked in from that!

What I really like is the way so many individuals and groups provide content for BV even without being asked.

What has been your most memorable issue of Barrow Voice since you've been involved?

Every time a new edition comes out, I think that one is even better than the ones before. Especially this September's!

If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?

Energetic.

Do you have any pets and if so what do you have and what are their names?

I don't like the concept of pets at all and as my family will tell you, pets aren't safe with me around.

If you were marooned on a desert island what 5 things would you take with you and why?

- walking boots so I could explore safely
- a swiss army penknife (obviously)
- a wind-up radio so I could listen to Radio 3 and 4. I couldn't live in a world without (classical) music and Radio 4 would be instead of books and people
- matches because I'm never happier than



when crouched over a small wood fire cooking something or other

- An endless supply of pencils and paper so I could try my hand at writing a novel, composing music and sketching

How long have you lived in Barrow and why did you decide to come and live here?

David and I moved into The White House, Mount Pleasant (ie 155, Notts Rd) in 1966. As newly-marrieds, we were determined to find a house in the wilds with lots of land and plenty of DIY potential. Amazingly, we achieved all three. When we called to have a look round this last house on our list, the lady didn't dare admit at first that it has 6 acres of land. We fell in love with it instantly, leaking roof, rotten woodwork, broken gutters and all. And especially the lime delph in the middle of the ancient orchard.

What would be your ideal holiday?

Trekking and camping with David along a beautiful but not too hot coast line; popping down every now and again for a swim; enjoying the scenery, the wild flowers and

the animal and bird life; cooking an evening meal over that camp fire with a glass of wine.

Do you have a day job? If so what do you do?

I am a retired biology teacher. I was Head of Sixth Form in Nottingham until 2002. I loved my job but, do you know? I don't miss it a bit!

What is your motto for life?

Don't waste a moment

What are your hopes for the future of Barrow Voice?

To attract younger people into the team who can take over, with new ideas and as much enthusiasm as those involved now and in the past.

Ginnie Willcocks



Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council News

01509 416016

clerk@barrowpc.org.uk

Barrow Focus

<http://barrowuponsoar.leicestershireparishcouncils.org>

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Cllr. P Ranson

Cllr B Poulton

Cllr. W Woodhouse

– Vice Chairman

MEETINGS CALENDAR DECEMBER TO MARCH 2011

Full council Meetings in Village Diary

December

6th Planning **12 noon**

7th Full Council **7.15pm**

9th Policy and Finance **2.00pm**

January

10th Planning **12 noon**

11th Full Council **7.15pm**

31st Planning **12 noon**

February

1st Full Council **7.15pm**

8th Millennium Park **11.00am**

16th Playing Fields **9.30am**

28th Planning **12 noon**

March

1st Full Council **7.15pm**

16th Cemetery **11.00am**

22nd Policy and Finance **2.00pm**

PUBLIC TOILETS

Following notification from Charnwood Borough Council that the toilets at North Street are to be closed in March 2011, the Parish Council is exploring the matter of adoption.

A Toilet Team has been set up and site meetings with representative of the Borough Council have identified works that would be required to bring the toilets up to an acceptable standard, for which funding is already allocated by CBC. The Parish Council has also agreed to organise its own independent survey and in addition is investigating a new lease (originally between CBC and the landowner which is presently expired), running costs and estimated future maintenance costs.

At the recent public consultation, Barrow residents indicated overwhelming support for the Parish Council to take over the running of the toilets.

REVISED PLANNING APPLICATION

P/10/1518/2 Revised application by GVA Grimley on behalf of Jelson Homes Land at Melton Road P/10/2376/ refers

As with the previous planning application, a detailed response has been submitted opposing this application. In its submission the Parish Council makes clear that the applicant has not satisfied the nine reasons for refusal relating to the previous application and in particular those relating to traffic issues.

RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL VILLAGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2010

At this year's Awards Evening, Barrow was awarded Silver for the Community Category which praised the excellent work of the Barrow Youth Theatre group and in particular the Barrow's Got Talent competition held in June 2009, all proceeds from which were presented to Rainbows Children's Hospice.

Barrow also gained Bronze for the Cleaner Greener Category which included description of the many ways Barrow is aiming to achieve a better environment for all, e.g. environmental improvements at Sibley Road, Working Party to look at improving village entrances and traffic Islands, Annual Bike Rides Event, Programme of Summer Walks, to name but a few.

BARROW UPON SOAR CEMETERY

Exclusive Right of Burial is the purchase of the right to be buried in a specific numbered grave or garden of remembrance space. The area of land where the grave is situated remains in the ownership of the Parish Council who also maintains the land. If you have recently purchased **The Exclusive Right of Burial**, you will have agreed to the 'Rules of the Cemetery' but in the past this has not always been successful. We now need to be clearer about what is required. All information relating to the cemetery is available through the Clerk at the Parish Council Office.

LAWNED GRAVES

If graves have been cultivated on either side of a purchased but as yet unused grave this leaves nowhere for the soil to go except on top of the cultivation when the grave comes to be dug.

The Parish Council hopes to avoid this. We have therefore agreed that an area of 18" deep excluding the memorial base can be cultivated in order that families are able to place a live tribute. Installation of kerbs is not permitted. Following interment and after the ground has settled, all new graves will be laid to turf thus enabling the grounds to be properly maintained.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Here, cultivation is not permitted at all.

Memorials all require approval of the Parish Council. Those at the Garden of Remembrance are limited to four designs.



ROUNDHOUSE AVAILABILITY

The Roundhouse is now available for hire by interested groups and the Parish Council can supply large display boards. Booking forms are available from the Parish Council Office.



What's new in the High Street?

Barrow Voice welcomes two new faces behind the counter of that hub of community life, The Paper Shop.



Darren and Lorraine Hickman took over the business from Antonia and Nick in September. They are completely new to shop keeping. Darren has worked in the textile business all his life and Lorraine was a teacher in children's Day Care for 20 years. It took them several days to get used to being on their feet all day but now, they seem well stuck in. They drive over from their home in Shepshed each day, leaving daughters Emma (11) and Autumn (7) at school.

I asked them why this big change. The answer was simple. They were getting homesick for Leicestershire having spent the last eight years in America. Darren had had the chance to work for a Coalville textile firm in the States, first in Carolina

and then in Pennsylvania while Lorraine worked as a Nursery Nurse.

They had been very struck by the difference in life styles between the States and England. "America, particularly in the South, is a convenience society with no-one walking anywhere. There are drive thru schools, drive thru banks, drive thru shops. Because people don't walk, there are towns and villages with no High Streets and no pavements. And that has an effect on the sense of community" commented Darren. "So it was time to come home".

In contrast, they have both been very heartened by the warm welcome they have received from the people of Barrow. They already feel part of the community, sharing jokes and getting a feel for what's going on.

It is their ambition to create a community shop where people will pop into the shop for a wide range of reasonably-priced goods. Darren wants customers to tell him what goods they would like to see on the shelves so that the Paper Shop can respond to their needs.

Barrow Voice and BUSCA wish Darren and Lorraine every success and are delighted that they intend to carry on the tradition of selling tickets and promoting village events.

Barrow Post Office is thoroughly ready for Christmas!

We also welcome Atul Karia as Barrow's new Postmaster. I say new because Atul, or Tony as he is more commonly known has actually been in post since October 2009!

He arrived completely new to the Post Office business. He used to run his own nursing home but bought the PO business franchise last year. He then received intensive training to give him the very strict qualifications that are required in the PO business. Tony's wife, May is his assistant and they live in Leicester.

You will see some dramatic refurbishments to the Post Office after Christmas. Tony is really excited about the improvements which will include a cash machine. Not all the refurbishments will be visible. I was taken on a tour of the sorting room behind the main shop. That will get a face lift too.

Tony explained that the sorting of the mail is a really important part of the business,



financially. (I had no idea that the sorting is done in Barrow). My eye fell on a huge pile of red elastic bands and, yes, Tony would be delighted to have them back! So there's something new to recycle.

Tony has a message for Barrow: "Please support your local Post Office by using it. Use it to renew your Road Fund Licence, order currency and buy your stamps. If you don't, Barrow Post Office will disappear. Use

it or lose it. Also, I am keen to get more involved in supporting the community and local charities. Why don't you have a chat with me?"

And finally, I want to reassure everyone that this year we are ready for Christmas! We will have extra staff on duty during the Christmas rush to ensure that queues don't build up and people aren't delayed. Happy Christmas!"

Strawberry Lettings and Sales

Strawberry has been in Barrow High Street now for two years. It has built up such a successful lettings business that proprietor Nicola Hickinbotham has been able to expand into the new area of sales and she is very excited about this new venture.

She explained to me that the High Street office makes her and her assistant, Claire Bateman particularly accessible to give advice and personal service more or less whenever local people want it. They both have excellent local knowledge with Nicola living in Sileby and Claire in Barrow. But Nicola is also a fully qualified Estate Agent with the paramount focus on quality service. So clients get the best of both worlds: Strawberry is local and efficient!

Nicola's ambition is for the people of Barrow and Sileby to make Strawberry their Estate Agent of choice.



We wish them well in this enterprise to promote local business.

A Christmas Quiz

What follows is just a bit of a brain teaser for those idle moments that are so delicious at Christmas time. It isn't a competition and there are no prizes. The answers can be found on the Barrow Voice website www.barrowvoice.co.uk in the December edition.

All the letters are the initials of the first lines of well known carols and Christmas songs.

1. OCAYF

2. OIRDC

3. GRYMG

4. LDLDOTDR

5. TFNTADS

6. DTHWBOH

7. OLTOB

8. WTKOOA

9. ISTSCSI

10. DDMOH

11. AIAMNCFAB

12. RATCT

13. JBJBJATW

14. IDOAWC

15. HTHAS

16. OTFDOCMTLGTM

17. ISMKSC

18. RTRNRHAVSN

19. WWYAMC

20. FTSWAHL

21. SATWS

22. JBJBJBR

23. SHLOABOS

24. THATIWTABFG

25. ITBM-W

Christmas cards: how did it all begin?

I'm sure you will all be familiar with the seemingly endless array of different Christmas cards available to us each year. That evening set aside to sit and write them out to everyone on the list, and make sure you post them on time, has become just another part of the Christmas ritual and routine for most.

Where did it all start though? You may be surprised to learn that the sending of commercially printed Christmas cards is a relatively recent phenomenon, which originated in London in 1843 with wealthy British businessman, Sir Henry Cole.

Cole was a prominent innovator in the 1800s. He modernised the British postal system, managed the construction of the Albert Hall and played a key role in both the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the inauguration of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Above all though, Cole sought to bring beauty to life, and in his spare time he ran an art shop, specialising in

decorative objects for the home. In the summer of 1843, he commissioned John Calcott Horsley to design an impressive card for that year's Christmas. Cole wanted a card he could proudly send to friends and professional acquaintances to wish them a "Merry Christmas".



John Calcott Horsley, a respected illustrator of the day, took up the challenge and designed a triptych, dividing the card into three panels. Each of the two side panels depicted a good deed - clothing the naked and feeding the hungry, with the centrepiece featuring a party of adults and children with plentiful

food and drink enjoying themselves. The card's message read, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you". Merry was then a spiritual word meaning "blessed".

One thousand copies of the card were published by Joseph Cundall, the mid 19th century children's and illustrations publisher, and sold at Felix Summerly's Home Treasury Office in Old Bond Street, England for one shilling each in 1843. Neither Cole nor Horsley had any idea of the impact it would have on Britain and later in America. Even the early Christmas card manufacturers believed Christmas cards to be a fad that would soon pass. However, by 1880 their manufacture was big business, creating previously unknown opportunities for artists, writers, printers and engravers.

Of the original 1000 cards produced for Henry Cole, 12 exist today in private collections. In December 2005, one of these designs was auctioned for nearly £9,000



BYAG Trip to London

The Monday of the October half term holiday saw 53 residents of Barrow set off on a coach trip to London, organised by Barrow Youth Action Group as a family event.

The trip included an organised tour around the Houses of Parliament, with the afternoon free to enjoy the sights and sounds of the capital. The M1 on a Monday morning is never the best place to be and we arrived with minutes to spare for our tour. Having cleared the tight security at the Visitors Entrance to the Houses of Parliament, we made our way to Westminster Hall where we were split into two groups and went off with our respective tour guides.

Westminster Hall was completed in 1099 and designed to host great state occasions, including most recently the visit of the Pope. It is customary for monarchs to lie in state here after their death and we saw plaques remembering those who lay in state, including Winston Churchill and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The tour then passed through the main lobby

areas and we were able to visit both the House of Lords and House of Commons as these weren't sitting until the afternoon. The Houses of Parliament are magnificent buildings, rich in history, and are well worth a visit if you get the opportunity.

Fame spotters were disappointed as a quick straw poll indicated that the only MP spotted was David Laws, the recently disgraced Liberal Democrat MP!

Vanessa Lane

Graffiti Workshop

The Youth Action Group also organised a Graffiti Workshop over half term.

Judith Spence said "I was at the graffiti workshop for the entire time and all the youngsters who attended had a whale of a time. At one stage there were 15 young people all having a go! Dan and Rich did an excellent job and already have some ideas should we want them back again."





Save our Scouts!

We are really lucky in this village to have a thriving Scout Group. We have boys from the age of 6 to 14 who attend Beavers, Cubs and Scouts one night a week, enjoying all types of fun and life-developing activities which the Scout Association has to offer. All of our Leaders give up their free time every week to set up and run a diverse program of activities and are all trained to the highest level that is expected and they do this on a voluntary basis.

Scouting is and has been a key community activity within the village for over 50 years and is evident at our most formal community events such as the memorial parade and the Christmas carol service. Also, to help with the fund raising, the group has been running a Christmas card postal service for many years.

However, we do have a serious problem which if ignored could result in the closure of our Scout Group. As with any organisation, Barrow Scouts are required to have a Group Executive Committee (GEC), which is responsible for the maintenance of property and equipment; the raising of funds and the administration of finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; representing the group at public occasions and assisting with the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support. An important point to note is that

the Group Executive is not only concerned with administration but also with how the group is regarded in public.

Despite numerous letters to parents, the GEC has barely the legal number of members to fulfil the above duties. Our present Chairman Trevor Ranson, will be posting out a letter to all parents informing them of the situation and asking them for support. Ideally there should be a parent from each section in the Group on the GEC. If we fail to get this support, then there is the potential that after 50 years our Scout Group could end.

I am sure that the majority of our readers would be saddened to see the end of scouting in our village not least our 100 or so young people who enjoy what Barrow Scout Group has to offer on a weekly basis. We are looking for as much help as possible to ensure that Scouting in Barrow

continues for at least another 50 years. We are looking for parents to help with the running of the Group and support from our community with fund raising initiatives which will go towards the day to day running. We are also looking to recruit a Group Scout Leader, so if you have been involved with Scouts in the past or are interested in becoming involved, please contact our Chairman for more information on this or any other involvement in the Group.

We will be offering our Xmas Postal Service again this year. Please look out for the posters and post boxes at Fur and Feathers, The Paper Shop and the library, where you can purchase stamps and drop off your cards.

*Like to know more about how you can help? Contact **Trevor Ranson** on trevran@globalnet.co.uk*

Green life styles at Humphrey Perkins Food, Farming and Fun and the Big Switch Off

In November 2009 Humphrey Perkins became a Flagship School in the Food for Life Partnership (FFLP). The Food for Life Partnership is a network of schools and communities across England committed to transforming food culture. Together we are revolutionising school meals, reconnecting children and young people with where their food comes from, and inspiring families to grow and cook food. Less than a year on, a number of new initiatives have begun in school to help meet these aims.

Down on the Farm

During October and November, Y7 students had the opportunity to visit Manor Organic Farm in Long Whatton. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Here are two of their comments. "It was awesome. We did two activities, bread making and seeing all the animals. Bread making was amazing because we got to weigh out some flour and make bread from scratch. We had to mix with our hands until the mixture was light and fluffy. Our hands were very sticky. Then Sam, the head baker let us cook it in the oven."

"I was in the group to see animals. The first one was a goose and it wouldn't stop making its goosy sound! Then we saw horses and last but not least, chicks! SO MANY OF THEM! About 50!"

Food in School

Food Technology is entering a transforming stage. The Food Curriculum runs alongside work in the school restaurant. In particular, ingredients for cooking lessons are sourced through the restaurant and some are sourced from the newly established school vegetable patch.

We now plant fresh herbs in the food rooms so that pupils can see their food growing and use it in their recipes. The Year 8 curriculum has a mainly practical feel and allows students to be 'flexible' when cooking, often using recipes as just a framework.

Rebecca Premdjy intends to run a 'Food in Schools' training session in March for feeder primary teachers so they can gain knowledge and tips on how to run cooking based sessions in primary schools. We aim to spread the benefits of our involvement in the Partnership to others in the community.

Humanities Curriculum

The Year 7 Humanities curriculum focuses on 'Food and Healthy Living'. Students have been learning about a wide variety of issues including food miles, the impact of growing food abroad, famine and farming in Medieval times.

"It's been fun because we get to do our own project. We are making a board game to teach Year 6 pupils about the air miles that are involved in making a pizza."



Big Switch Off Week

During the week of 11-15th October staff and students did their bit to save energy at Humphreys. Members of the Green Team designed posters which were displayed around school.



Students took meter readings and monitored where lights and electrical equipment were left on and some staff even dressed up as penguins to highlight the impact that wasting energy can have on our climate and animal habitats!

On Wednesday of the Big Switch Off, a large toy polar bear was placed on a block of ice in the restaurant. Pupils and staff had to guess how long it would take for the ice to melt and the polar bear to sink into the water. Estimates ranged from two hours to four weeks; in reality it took 33 hours and 37 minutes.

To round off the week's activities the school restaurant laid on a Subway style lunch, serving a selection of cold baguettes. This proved highly popular with students and meant that many of the large ovens were unused, thus saving energy.

Our Cabaña

After months of fund-raising, applying for grants from various organisations, scrimping and saving, the day had finally arrived!

We set off at 2.00am from Birmingham Airport to Mexico City with seven other members from Girl Guiding Leicestershire, along with two leaders, for a 10 day stay at Our Cabaña.

We arrived in Mexico City and were greeted by two vibrant Mexicans jumping around, waving madly to get our attention, to take us to the youth hostel where we spent the next two days touring on an open top bus and lots of walking, as Mexico City is the world's third largest city. We reached our destination, Our Cabaña in Cuernavaca, one of the four World-Wide Guide Centres, on the Monday morning. It was so exciting meeting all the new girls we were going to be with! They were from all around the world: Mexico, Surinam, Canada, and Lancashire to name a few.

Over the next 10 days we visited many places including Cuernavaca itself with its small and large Aztec pyramids. We shopped in Taxco, a town famous for its silver and visited several markets. On one day we stayed in Our Cabaña to complete a service project. Each of the countries had to organise an activity with children from poorer areas of Cuernavaca. We welcomed the children in the morning and carried out our planned activities throughout the day. It was a really rewarding experience to work with the children and to see them all so happy.

It finally came to saying goodbye to everyone at Our Cabaña so on the last night we ended with a Fiesta! We ate lots of Mexican party food, played piata and danced to another Mariachi band. We swapped emails, phone numbers and addresses.



I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to family and friends who have helped with fundraising, sorting out grants and enabling me to go, Girl Guiding for giving me a chance to go on this amazing trip and also local businesses for donating prizes along the way.

Lily Harrison



Loughborough Dance Festival – The Roundup!



Well, what a treat we had over half term this October to be able to visit the Loughborough Autumn Dance Festival, which brings together competing dancers from all over the UK.

It was an action packed seven days showcasing some of the best dancers in the Midlands demonstrating their skills and competing in everything from Classical Ballet to Daring Aerobics. The programme perhaps reached its peak on the final Saturday with East Midlands Tap Modern and Ballet Championship sections comprising a rich selection of very talented young people, followed by the Intermediate Cabaret Groups.

Huge congratulations are due to our local contingent, Charnwood School of Dance, who won a fantastic number of medals and trophies: 42 gold, 72 silver, 61 bronze and 37 fourth place medals, along with 30 trophies.

A special mention goes to Keiran Allen who, together with nine other exceptional dancers, was handpicked based on earlier performances during the seven days, and asked to perform in the Bursary. The Bursary, with its prize of an 18" high silver cup and £250, is well worth dancing for! However, Keiran did not just dance a brilliant routine, he managed to dance the best routine and is now the proud owner of the Bursary prize. Well done!

If you would like to get involved with the Charnwood School of Dance, they do currently have some room for more students in their regular Royal Academy of Dance Classical Dance Studies and the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance for the stage work – that is Tap Modern and Jazz Dance classes.

If you don't want to get involved with competitive festivals then that is not a problem; the competitions are just a bonus for those that want to participate. As they say, "We all dance at the same

school and in the same classes so we can all share in the good stylish dancing and the knowledge that we are here with some of the best dancers in the East Midlands. We're all friends and it's a nice feeling."

Contact the Charnwood School of Dance by phone on 01509 412663 or by email at charnwood_dance@yahoo.co.uk



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Barrow in Vienna one year on

Charnwood Orchestra returns to Barrow on Saturday 15th January due to overwhelming demand!

So successful was their 'Magic of Vienna' concert last year that they have been persuaded to return to give us a second taste of the glorious (and often very funny) music of the Strauss family and other familiar composers of the waltz, the polka and the march.

You will again be transported to the lavish surroundings of 19th century Vienna with such gems as Champagne Polka (complete with waiter serving

champagne), Wine, Women and Song waltzes, Tritsch-Tritsch Polka and, of course, the Radetzky March.

The concert starts at 7.00 in Humphrey Perkins Community Centre and there will be an interval bar.

Tickets, including a glass of bubbly or juice will cost £10.00 (£8.00 concessions) and £3.00 for accompanied children under 16.

They are available from the Paper Shop or by phoning 07718 153117.

Last year's concert was a sell out so don't assume you can buy tickets on the door.



Holy Trinity Church Extension

We are now confident that building work on our new extension will start in February 2011.

During November a potential contractor was appointed as "preferred contractor"; at the time of writing we are not quite in a position to sign a contract as we still have to work on some final cost savings in order to get the price closer to budget and the Church Council has to pass a resolution approving the go ahead. However, everything does now seem to be falling into place.

Fundraising over the last three years has gone very well and we are in the process of having a conditional contract for the sale of the Church Rooms drawn

up by our solicitors. Grant applications continue and we are hopeful that by the end of the year we will have secured sufficient funding to allow us to sign a contract with our preferred contractor so that the building work can get under way in February.

Part of the funding includes a loan from the diocese at preferential rates and, as this will, of course, have to be paid off eventually so our fundraising and grant applications will have to continue for a little while yet.

So, after years of planning, a few setbacks and much activity over the last couple of months, it looks as though we are about to enter the really exciting stage of the project when our efforts will begin

to turn into reality and we will actually see some action. Please do continue to support continuing fundraising efforts and to consider making a donation to the project even if you have already done so at an earlier stage.

Many people have contributed to the project so far and I would like to express my thanks to all of them but at this point in time I would like to identify one person for special mention and that is our priest-in-charge, John Whittaker. He was instrumental in helping to get the whole project underway and he has been a tremendous support to the Development Group and an inspiration to me personally as the chairman of the project.

We are extremely sad that he is leaving and will not see it through to completion but we will be eternally grateful for all he has done which will have a lasting impact on Holy Trinity Church and the village community for many years to come.

THANK YOU JOHN!

Mike Neale, Chairman Holy Trinity Church Development Group

View of how the extension will look from the North. It will not be visible from the front of the church.





Barrow Twinning Association's French exchange

In May the Twinning Association travelled to Marans for our bi-annual visit. As usual our French hosts pulled out all of the stops to make our stay an interesting and happy one.

On the itinerary was a visit to a local dairy farm that produced its own cheese. The sampling of the cheeses went down very well. There was also a luxurious tasting session at an apiary on our route. Honey nougat, honey cake, hard boiled sweets and mead were all included and were quite delicious.

We also went to an ostrich farm. After meeting the ostriches at close range, we had a meal of ostrich!! The starter was pate, sausage and black pudding, all produced from the big bird followed by the main course which was an extremely tasty and very French ostrich casserole. This was followed by a farm-made sweet that didn't have any ostrich in it!

Despite all this activity, we still had plenty of time to spend in the homes of our hosts but I am sure we all came home

heavier than when we went. We are looking forward to the visit of our French friends to Barrow next June.

The Twinners are now trying to set up a new scheme whereby visits to France and return visits to England could be made without waiting for an official visit. Your name would go on a list of people who would welcome a family, a couple or indeed a single person into their home at any time of the year.

Obviously arrangements would be made between the interested individuals to be mutually convenient. What the visit involved would be entirely up to the individuals to arrange. This could be just bed and breakfast or all meals. You might agree to take the visitors on a series of visits or they may prefer to be free to make their own arrangements.

This would also work in reverse with visits to Marans. If you prefer to arrange your own accommodation, or like camping or caravanning and want to visit the area, then we could always arrange a 'buddy' to show you sights, or it could be a straight forward house swap. If you are interested in joining this scheme please contact our secretary *Kathryn Timmons* on 01509 416168.

The Twinning Group has a varied programme of social events in Barrow, the latest one being a successful petanque tournament. Four teams took part with a break in between for an excellent Sunday lunch. The competition to win the trophy was a sight to behold!

Val Gillings

New Year's Eve Revels

BUSCA is going mad this New Year's Eve. We are running not one major event but two, side by side at the Community Centre at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre.

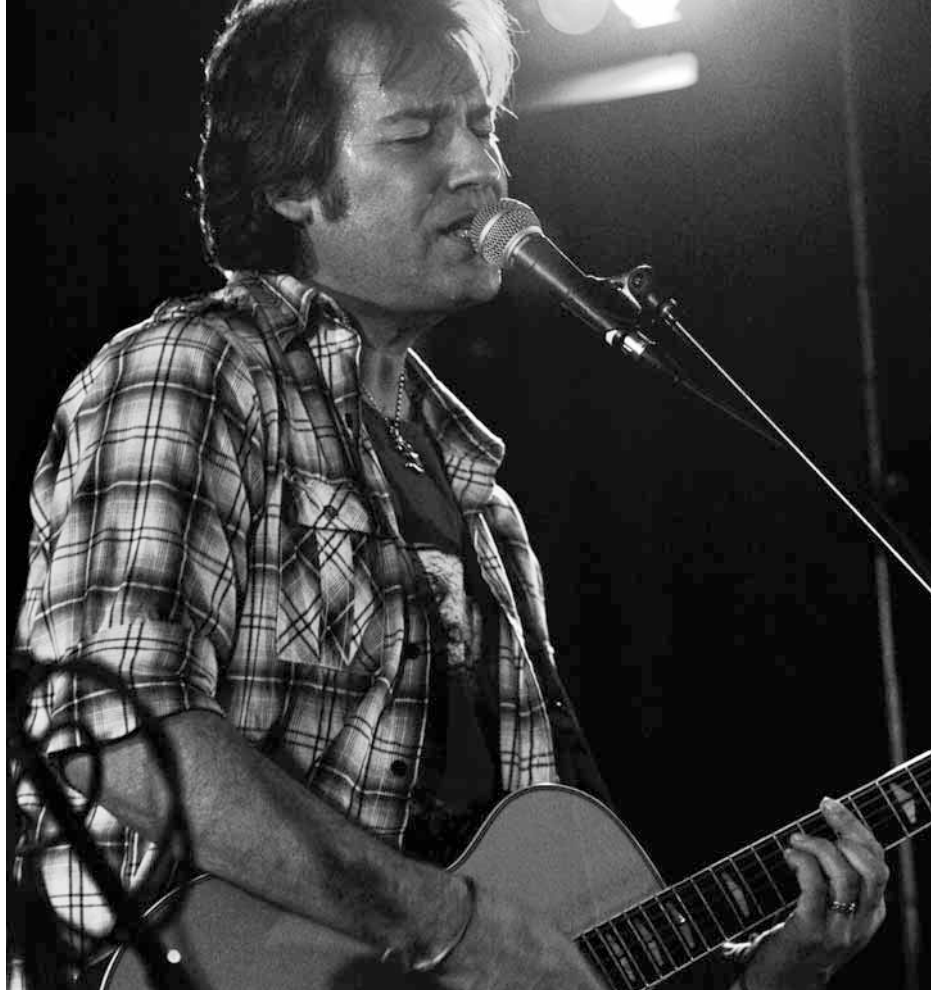
In the main Hall, we will have the Party, hosted by Nigel Revill. In the Dining Hall it's the Ball with DJ Colin of C&J Sound. Both events will start at 8.00, share the bar, enjoy a buffet meal, merge at midnight for the usual celebrations and finish at 1.00am. Tickets for both cost £19 and can be obtained from the Paper Shop or by phoning 07718 153117 or 413649.

The Party will follow in the tradition established so very successfully last year by Ben and his Big Taste Disco. Nigel is a singer and song writer who will host a DISCO WITH A DIFFERENCE! In addition to DJ'ing the disco, he will also perform totally live without any backing tracks. He has a huge range of songs from the last five decades and will be happy to be guided by your requests. He has a wealth of experience as a solo guitarist and singer and has performed at venues all over the country both as a soloist and as the host of parties big and small. Expect wonderful music, competitions, spot prizes and all the usual party dances from conga to YMCA and the handbag dance. And above all, a party atmosphere and LOTS of FUN!

The Ball is a seasonal celebration for serious dancers. Colin is an extremely experienced and popular DJ who specialises in all forms of ballroom and sequence dancing. He will make sure that there is something for everyone including all the usual favourites plus line dances, rock n roll, latin and, of course, your requests. And he'll make sure there is all the excitement and atmosphere that goes with New Year's Eve.

Profits from the party will go to BUSCA from which we hope to make a generous donation to the Church extension project. All the profits from the Ball will go towards to Village Hall project.

If you haven't bought your tickets yet, hurry now. It was a sell out last year and we expect the same again.



Loros house to house collection 2010

Once again this collection has been well supported by the village, and the wonderful sum of £2,601.90 has been collected;

As £912.54 of this figure has been gift aided, the grand total will be £2,857.41, when £255.51 has been reclaimed from the Inland Revenue.

We have been very surprised by the continuing generosity of the residents of Barrow upon Soar, especially this year, when one remembers the present economic situation.

It is unlikely that Loros will continue with the house to house collection, as there are now, more profitable fundraising activities available.

The collection has taken place in Barrow for approx. 20 years and many of our collectors have been involved since the beginning.

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone, who has contributed in any way this year and over the years.

Rosemary and Michael Sholl

Under 17s become Barrow's first County Champions

Barrow Town Cricket Club junior section had another excellent year crowned by an outstanding performance by the U17 side who were crowned County Champions.

Having won the North West Group A, they then beat Barkby Town to become the North West champions. In the County semi final they beat Thorpe Arnold in a close fought game to set up a showdown in the County final with Narborough and Littlethorpe at Barrow's Nottingham Road ground.

Winning the toss, skipper Viv Lodhia chose to bat and led by example by top scoring with 73 in Barrow's total of 165 from 38 overs. In reply, they struggled against a strong bowling line up led by Tim Taylor, Tom Shipman and Mark Smith. In the end Narborough could only post 119 all out with Smith taking 4 wickets for 18 runs. Barrow won comfortably by 46 runs and in doing so became the first junior team in the club's history to become County champions.

At the younger age groups the club again ran sides at all age groups from Under 7 to Under 17. Around 70 youngsters regularly played cricket at the club during the summer of 2010 and the club was particularly pleased to be able to have a squad of girls, a number of whom also played in the club's junior sides. A number of the club players represented county and district age group sides during 2010. The club has an excellent relationship with both village schools, Hall Orchard and Humphrey Perkins as well as Ratcliffe College and Loughborough Grammar School. The club strives to develop young cricketers by providing cricket in a safe, fun and inclusive environment and has a pathway from junior to senior cricket. Several junior players have progressed into the senior sides and really made a mark



with their enthusiastic and talented contributions. The club is blessed with an excellent ground and facilities which have been built up over the years. This reflects the hard work put in by the committee and club.

The Winter junior training programme will start in week commencing 10 January at Mountsorrel Leisure Centre. Under 11 and Under 13 will run on Monday evenings 6-7pm, Under 15 and Under 17 on Wednesday evenings, 7-8pm and Under 10's Friday evenings, 6-7pm. The club has attained ECB Clubmark which is the best practice standard in club and junior cricket development and management. All the coaches have attained the ECB Level 1 Coaching Award as a minimum. The club is also blessed with a number of very keen parent helpers who make a real difference to the running of the club. The club offers taster sessions with access to club equipment. These taster sessions are free of

charge for the first four weeks. New players and helpers are always welcome and if you are interested then please do get in touch with either Club Secretary *Gavin Noon* (01509) 412818 or Head Junior Coach *John Wilson* (01509) 621120.

On the senior cricket front, the club also had another great season although the 1st team just failed to become Premier League champions. However they lost to Loughborough in the last game of the season and finished third in the league. The 2nd team also finished third in Division 5 just missing out on promotion but had the consolation of winning the Sunday Junior cup for teams in Division 3 and below. Senior winter nets will also start in January at Loughborough University cricket academy. *For further details please contact Secretary Gavin Noon (01509) 412818.*

Gavin Noon



www.barrowvoice.co.uk

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Village Diary

Fri 3rd	Hall Orchard PTFA Christmas Fair; school at 3.15 Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; church open all day Holy Trinity Concert "Singing for Fun" choir; 7.30; tickets from 07775 508289
Sat 4th	Methodist Church Christmas Minimart and coffee morning; 10.00am Switching on of Christmas lights Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; church open all day
Sun 5th	Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival; church open from 11.00am to 5.00pm
Mon 6th	Hall Orchard's School Christmas Performance for OAPs Holy Trinity Men's Group: Annual Dinner
Tues 7th	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome
Wed 8th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 water colour; 2.30 - 4.00pm
Fri 10th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 11th	Clock Club Jumble Sale; Church Rooms; 10.00 - 11.30am Methodist Church: Nativity Festival; 10.00am and on; refreshments including lunches
Sun 12th	Methodist Church: Nativity Festival; 2.00pm to 4.00pm; refreshments
Mon 13th	WI; "Christmas Garlands" by Tina Box; at Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Tues 14th	Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30pm; public welcome
Fri 31st	BUSCA New Year's Eve Party (HPHS Hall) and Ball (HPHS Restaurant); tickets from Paper Shop
Wed 5th	Holy Trinity Mother's Union
Mon 10th	WI: New Year Skittles party; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm Holy Trinity Men's Group AGM and Call My Bluff; Church Rooms; 8.00pm
Tues 11th	Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30; public welcome Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome
Wed 12th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 water colour; 2.30 - 4.00pm
Fri 14th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 15th	Charnwood Orchestra 'More Magic of Vienna' Concert; Humphrey Perkins; 7.00; tickets from Paper Shop
Wed 19th	Gardening Club: "Calke Abbey and other Gardens of the National Trust" by Alan Tyler from the National Trust; Community Lounge, HPHS; 7.30pm
Sat 22nd	Barrow Twinning Association Theatre visit; matinee at Little Theatre followed by Bistro meal in early evening; details from 416533
Tues 1st	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome
Wed 2nd	Holy Trinity Mother's Union
Sat 5th	Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00am
Mon 7th	Holy Trinity Men's Group: 'The work of a Leicester City Street Pastor' by Margaret Sharman.
Tues 8th	Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30pm; public welcome
Wed 9th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 water colour; 2.30 - 4.00pm
Fri 11th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 12th	BUSCA Valentine's Dinner Dance; Humphrey Perkins; 7.30 - 11.30; tickets from Paper Shop
Mon 14th	WI; "Traditional Chinese Medicine" by Mrs Esworthy; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Wed 16th	Gardening Club: "Love your Bugs!" by Sally Cunningham; Community lounge, HPHS; 7.30pm
Sat 26th	Holiday at Home reunion: "A night of colour" with Daniel Cozens;
Sun 27th	Holiday at Home reunion
Tues 1st	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome
Wed 2nd	Holy Trinity Mother's Union
Sat 5th	Methodist Church Minimart and coffee morning; 10.00am
Mon 7th	Holy Trinity Men's Group: "Ospreys" by Tim Mackrill from Rutland Water; Church Rooms; 8.00pm
Tues 8th	Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30; public welcome
Wed 9th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 water colour; 2.30 - 4.00pm
Fri 11th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Sat 12th	Methodist Church Men's weekend; 5.30 meal; 7.30 concert: "Trials and tribulations of being a diva" by Sarah-Ann Cromwell
Mon 14th	WI: "From Dewdrops to Torrents" by Mrs Joyce Lucas; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
Wed 16th	Gardening Club: "Bee Keeping" by Andrew HardySmith (Leicester and Rutland Beekeeping Society); Community lounge, HPHS; 7.30pm
Sat 26th	BUSCA Spring Dance; Humphrey Perkins; 7.30 - 11.30; tickets from Paper Shop

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH



**NEW YEAR'S
EVE PARTY**

with Nigel Revill
**31st
December**

**NEW YEAR'S
EVE BALL**

with C&J Sound
**31st
December**

**VALENTINE'S
DINNER
DANCE**

with Just Us
**12th
February**

**SPRING
DANCE**

with Just Us
**26th
March**

BUSCA EVENTS

All these events take place at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre and tickets can be bought from The Paper Shop, High Street, Barrow