

Barrow Voice



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Spring 2011



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Barrow Voice is always pleased to publicise new businesses and support existing ones. During a time of economic downturn, spending cuts and job losses, it has been good to see Barrow's High Street looking so lively and prosperous.

Not so good was the boarded up Co-op over Christmas after a ram raid and the armed robbery at the Post Office at the beginning of February. People have been understandably shocked at these violent events in our village. We are pleased, therefore, to welcome new beat bobby, PC Richard Melody. He will be working with Community Support Officer, Brian Geeson (featured in the last edition) and details of how you can get in touch with Richard are on page 9.

Do you want to stand up for Barrow and make a difference? Information about the forthcoming parish elections are inside and Debbie Jones talks to current chair, Tony Childs about what's involved.

The days are lengthening and things are starting to stir in the garden and hedgerows. Have you booked your summer holiday yet? In our autumn edition we will be casting a look back at time spent away from Barrow, whether on a long break or a day trip. If you have a tale to tell about a great location, a friendly pub, a weird and wonderful custom, a funny encounter, then please drop me a line or email to editor@barrowvoice.co.uk. Keep your recollections fairly short and then we will have room for more.

To get you started, here's one of mine from a good number of years ago. I was on holiday with my family on the far north-west coast of Scotland, at least 500 miles from Barrow. We were staying in a croft 16 miles down a winding single track road and were spending the day at a remote beach. The scenery of mountains and lochs was stunning, the light was magical and the beach was beautiful and deserted. Or so I thought until, a few yards away, I saw the head teacher of Humphrey Perkins High School happily building sandcastles.

Frances Thompson

News

Up-date on the Extension to Holy Trinity Church

We at Holy Trinity are excited that the building of the extension, which seems to have been in the planning stage for so long, will shortly commence and will provide much improved community facilities at the church, allowing the church building itself to be opened up for wider use by the community.

We have now appointed SP and AJ Building and Development Ltd of Mountsorrel as our main contractor and once the work starts, completion is due within 30 weeks.

We are planning to have a meeting in church on 1st March at which our contractor will answer any questions that local residents might have.

We look forward to having our new building available in the autumn.

At the time of writing this article we are still making a few amendments to internal fittings and finishes in order to reduce the price to within our budget although we look likely to have a further £60,000 to raise. Our aim is to complete the fundraising for the build by the end of 2011. The sale of the church rooms is progressing and we plan to keep all our current users informed on its progress.

We are presently making further grant applications and planning more fundraising events. Our next event is the Fun Dog Show which we held for the first time last year on the May Day Bank Holiday and following its success, we

look forward to repeating this event on Monday afternoon, 2 May so all of you who have dogs, please come along and support us!

Pam Brown
Chair of the Fundraising Committee



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Barrow fighter pilot's medals fetch £241,500

Johnny Johnson, one of the best RAF fighter pilots in the Second World War, died aged 85 last year leaving instructions that his medals should be sold at auction.

This took place last December at Spink's, a specialist coin and medals dealer in London. They obtained such a high price because, as a Spink's spokesman said, "This is a unique collection reflecting sustained gallantry over a lengthy period of time". During the war Johnny Johnson took part in nearly 700 combat missions. The collection at auction was made up of 19 medals, five original flying log books and five photograph albums. They were all to remain in the UK.

As many Barrow Voice readers will already know Johnny Johnson was born at 21 Warner Street in 1915, the son of the village police sergeant and his Shepshed-born wife Beatrice.

When Johnny was seven, his family moved to Melton Mowbray as his father had been promoted to the rank of inspector. As an RAF Spitfire fighter pilot Johnny shot down a record 38 enemy planes, but he learnt to shoot as a teenager killing rabbits and pigeons, then selling

them on Melton market. As a young fighter pilot in 1941 he flew with the famous wartime hero Douglas Bader and they became close friends.

The connection between Air Vice Marshall Johnny Johnson and Barrow upon Soar is celebrated in two ways; there is a small plaque to his memory at the War Memorial and Johnson Close is named in his honour.



Image courtesy of Spink and Son, London

Passionate about Barrow

Are you passionate about Barrow? Want to make a difference? Got a little time available? Well, why don't you stand for election to the Parish Council on May 5th?

Do you know what the Barrow Parish Council does for our village? Do you know who our Parish Councillors are? Have you ever thought to yourself "I would like to be a Councillor for Barrow"? If you are honest, would your answers have been: not sure, no idea, and not on your life... in that order?

At my very first Barrow Voice planning meeting I found myself volunteering for my first project... "A day in the life of a Barrow Parish Councillor". I would like to think of myself as a young passionate resident of our village, but I soon realised that I had no idea what these councillors do.

Naturally I turned to the internet; I learned when the next meeting was, who our clerk is and when the offices on the High Street are open. Next port of call was my family and friends; I was met with blank faces! I decided I needed to meet with Tony Childs, our Parish Council chairman.

Tony worked for many years as a senior teacher in Loughborough and supported his wife Ann with her involvement in many community activities. When he retired, Tony was encouraged to apply to be co-opted into the parish council after the May 2007 elections and in 2010 he was elected as the Parish Council chairman. His particular interests have long been the care of the elderly, the environment and health facilities in Barrow. As a Parish Councillor, Tony has been instrumental in the set up of the annual Parish Council Health Debate and in the preparation of

the "Who Cares, We Care" booklet, both of which are successful and welcome additions to the welfare of our parish community. As our chairman, he seeks to ensure that all councillors have a fair hearing at the meetings of full council, which are held once a month on a Tuesday evening. He works closely with the parish clerk, Lesley Bell, who ensures that the Parish Council functions within the law and serves the village to the best of its ability.

village functioning while being a vibrant and enjoyable place to live in. Effectively they are your voice and work together to achieve change and make a real difference to Barrow. The four year term as a Parish Councillor involves attending to the Parish Council meetings once a month and being a member of at least one sub committee. Councillors are also encouraged to form working parties to deal with projects that have a narrow focus for the community such as the Switching on of the Christmas lights or the Village Bike ride. Full training is given to newly elected

Councillors along with support and advice from seasoned Councillors!

As village residents we pay towards the Parish Council's precept through our council tax. The precept funds the operations of the Parish Council. For example, it has enabled the Parish Council to adopt the public toilets next to The Three Crowns following the withdrawal of funding by Charnwood Borough Council. Did you also know that the Detached Youth Workers are likely to be decommissioned and the Parish Council is seeking ways to continue their work in the community?

Recently the Council has held public consultations related to the Jelson Melton Road application in order to gauge the views of the village as a whole. These are examples of the diverse nature of care that the Council has to consider on behalf of Barrow.



The only pre-requisite to becoming a Parish Councillor is that you have been living or working within a three-mile radius of Barrow for the past 12 months. You also need to be energetic, innovative and committed to Barrow and its residents and happy to dedicate three to four hours a week to this vital role.

Our Parish Councillors are passionate about the fabric and nature of the community. They bring with them the enthusiasm and know-how to keep our

Continued on page 7

The two playing fields, the cemetery on Cotes Road, the Roundhouse, the War Memorial and Millennium Park are all owned by the Parish Council. The 15 members of the Parish Council are responsible for the maintenance of these familiar parts of Barrow.

In addition to a Councillor inspecting the sites regularly, sub committees meet bi-monthly to ensure that these assets are cared for so that people can enjoy and use them safely.

The Parish Council also works towards improving services that are carried out by other councils. For example, Leicestershire County Council is supposed to maintain footpaths and bridleways but if a resident reports a problem such as a broken stile, the Parish Council will do its best to get the LCC to deal with it; similarly with street lighting, street cleaning and full or damaged litter bins. When Barrow's pavements were caked with uncleared snow in December, the Parish Council had to be really persuasive to get the County Council to do some High St clearing (and even then, they only did one side - the sunny side which would have melted first anyway!)

All in all, after meeting with Tony and reading the readily available booklet *Want to be a local Councillor* I am not only very proud of our councillors but feel more informed about how the development and infrastructure of our beautiful village is managed and maintained.

I do hope the first three questions in the article will now be answered: Yes, Yes and When is the next election? (5th May 2011). And if you can't go that far, at least you will use your vote.

If you would like more information, please do visit the offices on the High Street or visit the Parish Council's own website where you will be able to read about our fabulous councillors and the work that they carry out individually for you and Barrow. You can also observe the Parish Council meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.15pm at the Parish Office .

Debbie Jones

JELSON'S PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 300 HOMES

At the time of writing this update, early March, 2011, the planning application made by Jelson for a development of around 300 homes off Melton Road has not been reconsidered by Charnwood Borough Council planning committee. It is now a year since the original application was rejected on nine points of refusal, mostly and significantly on the effect the plan would have on the local highways. Jelson resubmitted their plan last Summer (2010) and we continue to wait for a decision.

In the meantime both BRAG and Barrow Parish Council have remained completely opposed to this development and believe that the vast majority, if not all, of residents of the village are of the same view. If any resident of the village has the view that this development should receive planning permission then they should write to Barrow Voice or Barrow Parish Council or BRAG who would be interested to hear reasons in favour.

During February 2011, members of BRAG, and Barrow Parish Council were involved in a traffic survey, under the auspices of the Parish Council. This was overseen by a traffic consultant employed by Barrow Parish Council. This has now given the Parish Council access to traffic information to compare to that submitted by the developer. The consultant has also undertaken other relevant work for the Parish Council. We understand that the safety of the junction of Grove Lane with Sibley Road and South Street is a particular concern to the Highways Authority because this junction would see an increased use if the development goes ahead. Making a right turn on to South Street is particularly unsafe now.

During the winter perhaps the most significant contribution from BRAG was exposing the use of incorrect information on planning targets. Charnwood Borough Council (and other councils) are required to demonstrate a five year supply of land for housing and the developers plan quoted a supply of less than three years and used this to reinforce their case on the basis that they were helping the council achieve their target. In fact, there are two targets in Charnwood Borough, one for urban areas, which is the outskirts of Leicester and one for villages, known as non primary urban areas (non-PUA). Whilst the urban areas were significantly short of their target, the non-urban areas, the villages, including Barrow were almost at target with a five year supply in place of 4.96 years last November. The values were averaged to give an impression of need when in fact there was none in the villages. We exposed this in letters to the Loughborough Echo and a senior Borough councillor has acknowledged we are correct on this. We will continue to monitor these land supply targets and complain if they are misused.

Many village residents have written to the Borough council to oppose this development after Barrow Parish Council's selective leaflet distribution to resident's homes on a route , identified by the developer, as a safe walking route to the village centre. This included Babington Road, The Banks, Highfields and Church Street. The idea, promoted by the developer, is that residents of the new development will leave their cars behind and walk to the shops and schools and will use buses and trains in sufficient numbers that the impact on the local highways network will be reduced. This is not impressive, simply because the developer, however well intentioned , has absolutely no control on residents' travel habits. People are using their cars now and will continue to use them and no amount of 'initiatives' is likely to change that.

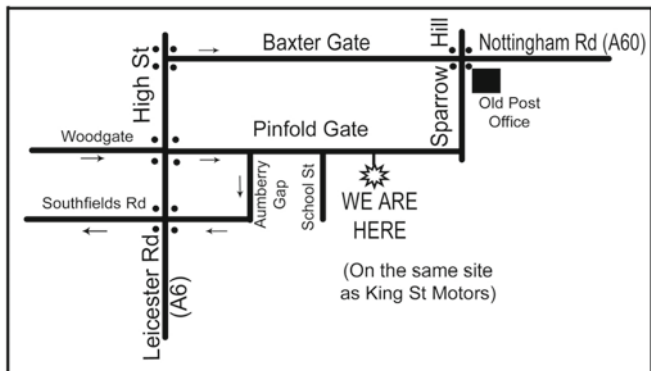
Alan Willcocks, Vice Chair, Barrow Residents Action Group (BRAG)

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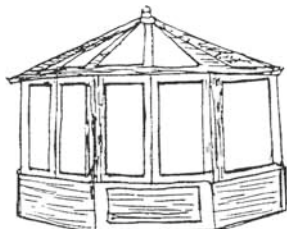
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Welcome Richard Melody, Our new Village Bobby PC 2864

We were sorry when we heard that PC Lynne Gilbert was going to leave Barrow and we wish her well for the future. We particularly appreciated her skills in communicating with residents. We now welcome her replacement, PC 2864 Richard Melody.



Accepting the position in Barrow, Richard commented to me "Residents live in this beautiful and picturesque area with a low level of crime. However, there are people in the community who don't see life as a bed of roses. Many are hidden and hard to reach. I feel I have a particular responsibility to engage with such people and those who are vulnerable and who may have hidden disabilities or difficulties. This means that quite a lot of my time is taken up by visiting offenders, young mothers, the elderly and people with learning disabilities. I also aim to do a lot of long term pro-active work behind the scenes with young people in schools. I want to assist in linking up the work of other agencies, including charities so that we are all working together.

Richard is the Principal Beat Officer for Barrow and the Wolds Villages, working in a team with CSO Brian Geeson (featured in the December issue of Barrow Voice). His task is to manage the expectations and concerns of residents in relation to law and order. With a recent (December and January) spate of car thefts and shop break-ins, he is currently aiming to reduce this rate of crime by catching those responsible and raising the awareness of residents to improve their own security.

Richard grew up in the local area and attended local schools. He is a real family

man and has three children. The whole family is very involved in the community and he is delighted to be able to work in the area where he has his roots. In addition to involvement with sport, he is very involved with his local church and also used to work with a children's Crusader group.

He worked for five years in the Criminal Justice system in Nottinghamshire. Increasingly, he felt he could make a real difference within the police service and retrained, first as a Community Support Officer in the Melton area and then as a police constable.

Please do feel you can get in contact with me through the Police force website www.leics.police.uk (click on 'Neighbourhood policy', enter your postcode and you will find details of how to contact me) or phone 01162 485675 and leave a voicemail message. My collar number is 2864. However, if your concerns are urgent, please ring 999 or 0116 222222."

Barrow Voice would like to wish Richard well in his new beat and we hope to see his reassuring presence often in the village.

Judith Rodgers

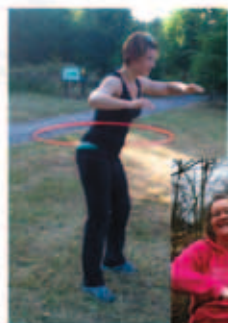
Margaret retires from the pharmacy

Hi there, remember me? I am Margaret and until recently I worked in your local pharmacy, first for Lilian Middleton, then with Moss, Alliance and lastly Boots.

I have finally retired after 17 years and would like to thank the people of Barrow and surrounding villages for their support and friendship throughout those great years. I will miss you all.

Margaret E Toyne

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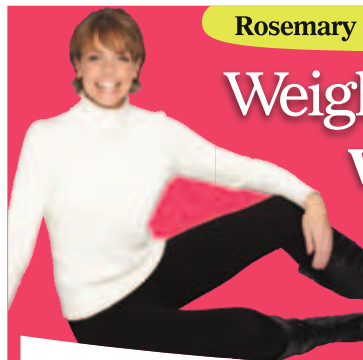
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John Whittaker reflects on life and faith in Barrow

I write these recollections of my time in my new study in a new home in a new parish (Hinckley) and as part of a new community; when a vicar changes jobs it has a big impact on them and their family. And so one big impact has been leaving Barrow after seven wonderful years which I can safely say have been the most enriching and valued years of my working life.

Your Barrow Voice editor suggested that I framed these recollections as five things that I feel I have achieved and five special memories I'll take with me. The latter is easy, the former more difficult because ministry is not about us achieving but rather being part of a community and rejoicing when despite our limitations and flaws the grace of God works to bring life and renewal.

So if I can slightly rephrase the first requirement: here are five things in which I have been privileged to be involved with and in which the grace and gifts of God have worked through the working and giving of a whole community:

- 1 At Holy Trinity Church we have seen a strengthening of the involvement of young families, children and young people in our life of faith, worship and service. A Junior Choir regularly meets and contributes to services. A Pram Service on Thursday morning is a great new place for parents of pre school children to meet, enjoy time together and have the opportunity to pray, sing and learn in a format which engages young children and adults alike. A youth group now operates, the attendance at the monthly all age service is high and a weekly Junior Church helps children to grow in their Christian Faith.
- 2 There is a richness and closeness in relationships among the different churches of the villages. We are at a place where we are very pleased that there are different churches offering different styles of worship whilst taking delight in and supporting one another.
- 3 There have been and will be significant developments to the Holy Trinity



*Elizabeth Micheal
Photography*

Church Building which express a desire to serve the community and make our buildings a gift for use by the village. A raised platform and altar in the middle part of the church enhances the use of the church for services, concerts, school events and much more. During services of communion, by having an altar in the middle of the church rather than at the top, our community has experienced a stronger connection with one another and participation in the service. And the big change to come is the extension on the North side of the church which will support far greater use of the building as well as offering a modern, attractive, accessible community facility for the whole village. Watch this space...

- 4 I have served on the governing body at Hall Orchard School and believe we

made an outstanding appointment in the current head, Jane McKay who has helped the school improve the progress of all the children with the strong ethos that every child matters and every child should be able to progress to his or her potential.

- 5 Being a church in our own strength is a shadow of what church can be through the gifts and grace of God. I believe I have witnessed many members of Holy Trinity Church become more orientated towards God and the callings and vision and encouragements and challenges which God offers to us.

And for five special and slightly random memories please visit www.barrowvoice.co.uk

God Bless, John

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You and Property in Barrow Upon Soar

Have you come back? Are you treading water? Or are you trying to escape?

Everyone reading this article knows that Barrow Upon Soar is a beautiful, busy village in the heart of the Charnwood district. But today as you walk around the village you can't help but see a 'For Sale' sign, or a 'Let By' sign or, on roads leading into the village, yellow signs on lamp-posts pointing to new property in Trinity Park (Miller Homes), Meadow Grange (David Wilson) or Beacon View (Davidson's). All these signs are something that village estate agents Strawberry Lettings and Sales are delighted about; in fact most of the time the 'To Let' signs hardly get dusted off before a property is snapped up by an eager tenant wanting to get their hands on their new temporary home. Even on a rainy January day Nicola Hickinbotham at Strawberry said that on occasion properties in the village are let even before they are fully on the market and have three people bidding for the same house.

But why are people struggling to move around, or get back in, when in January there were over 90 properties for sale and more than 15 to rent? On speaking to residents of Barrow upon Soar it seems that the need to up-size is forcing some out of the village into the surrounding areas such as Sileby and Mountsorrel because the leap from a two up two down terraced house to a three bed semi is too much of a strain on their budget. It is also much harder for the first time buyers to get on the property ladder these days with banks demanding a far greater deposit than just 2 years ago. Although mortgages vary depending on factors such as the type of property and the length of the mortgage, first time buyers need at least 10% nowadays rising to as much as 40% or even 50%! The days of 100% mortgages are long gone.

However, even if you have the money not

all is plain sailing. Sellers from outside Barrow who are fortunate enough to have found a buyer and are eager to purchase their new home in the village, or those wanting to up-size within the village itself are being out bid by investors who are snapping up properties here to rent out. And why wouldn't they when the average 3 bed semi is going for £650 per month? This is unusual; villages are not supposed to have such a roaring rental trade!

Of course Barrow upon Soar is a great place to set down your roots. It has a lively High Street with good shops and all of the main services any family or young couple could need; good rail, bus and road links to local cities and towns in the area and of course some of the best pubs around, all offering great food in superb surroundings. So if you are trying to escape Barrow take a look around you before you decide to leave because getting back in could be a lot harder than you realise. The housing market changes dramatically and getting back to Barrow was certainly difficult in 1978 as Ginny Willcocks well remembers. She writes:

In 1978 I was living in Sileby with my husband and we decided that we would like to move back to Barrow. My husband was born in Barrow and I moved to the village at the age of 13 but had family connections in the village. We sold our house, in Sileby, within a matter of days, no haggling over the price, it was so easy and we thought getting a house in Barrow would be just as simple. We had friends and family making enquiries about houses coming on the market and we'd registered with all the local estate agents.

In the end it took us much longer than anticipated as every house we went for, in our price range, we just missed and then there weren't any houses for sale at all. No new build either, believe it or not. Finally, about two weeks before we were due to move out of our Sileby home someone told us about a property on Thirlmere Road which was on the market as a private sale. We joined the queue of prospective buyers. We were quite desperate to get a property at this stage so made a modest bid which we had to increase at least twice but eventually succeeded in getting the house as we were prepared to wait for the occupiers to move.

We were able to move in with my mother who lived at Loughborough at the time. We thought we'd be with her for 6 weeks. We were actually there for 6 months! BUT we managed to come back to Barrow, a move that neither of us has ever regretted.

Debbie Jones and Gaynor Barton.

We would like to thank Nicola Hickinbotham and Ginny Willcocks for help in the writing of this article.



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A chilly dip in the pool

The recent article about the uncertain future of the Humphrey Perkins swimming pool has provoked a number of memories of its early days...

Doriter Orton and husband Robert consult the Humphrey Perkins Chronicle.

As we both attended Humphrey Perkins School from the late 1950s to 1966 we tried to remember exactly when the pool was built. We were fairly convinced that there was a lot of fund raising!

I consulted old copies of "The Humphrey Perkins Chronicle" and December 1961 tells us that the campaign to collect waste paper and foil bottle tops is worthy of support as there is a real possibility of the Swimming Pool being built.

Sadly, 1962 is missing but by December 1963 the Chronicle states that the fund has been well supported and the pool has seen a full season's use; however, another fete is envisaged in order to settle the account and provide changing facilities. This suggests that it was built in 1962. It was an open air pool and only the more determined used it!

Norman Meeke recalls days as a pupil and teacher

I obviously read your article on the HPHS pool with interest. Here are some answers to your thoughts – I think. Wyn Morris actually started the same day as I at HPHS, which was September 1973 and I believe by that date the roof of the pool was already on as I remember Mr Dunn walking me round on my interview and visiting the pool with roof in situ.

As a pupil starting in 1958, I remember that in the second or third year we started collecting a 'foot' - (12 inches (33cm)) of threepenny pieces as a start to raising money for the new pool. After much fund raising and obvious help from outside agencies I do remember swimming in the open pool before I left in 1965.



The changing rooms were two sheds at the far end.

I also remember going through Mr Dunn's garden to swim in the holidays, but as, at the time, I was going out with his daughter, I may have been luckier than most.

I will be sorry to see the pool close for so much of the year but I do know how much it costs to run. One wonders if closing in the colder parts of the year would make more sense and cost less- but who knows?

Robert Mee brings a whole new meaning to breaking the ice.

My school year were some of the first to carry out sponsored walks to help raise money for 'The Swimming Pool'. This would have been in the early 1960's. The pool was just a hole in the ground with a

paving slab surround, a raised slab terrace to one side, a hut for the pump house at the road side and two garden sheds for changing rooms at the far end all surrounded by a timber fence.

It must have been finished late 1965ish because I remember very well having to break the ice before we were allowed in during the spring term and we were allowed to use the pool for relaxation during our O level exams which was in the summer term of 1966. The two photographs which are the only ones I have show a little of what it was like, summer term 1966.

As an aside, my brother who is some seven years younger than me also went to Humphrey's and he and his years went on sponsored walks to raise funds for the roof to be built. He would have left in 1973 so this sort of ties up to your article.

BISHOP BEVERIDGE CLUB

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presentation of a cheque from BUSCA to pay for the new blackout blinds needed to show films at Bishop Beveridge Club

Barrow's over 60s club

Sylvia Steane and the Bishop Beveridge team are looking to enhance this thriving organisation.

The Bishop Beveridge Club was formed in 1952 as a social club for the over 60s. Members met in the old Adult School, on South Street. In 1965 they were able to purchase the building and it then became known as the Bishop Beveridge Club hall. Since then a great number of improvements have been made, including a very well equipped kitchen. It is possible to hire the hall and all its facilities for a very reasonable fee. You phone Joyce Noon on 414519 to arrange a booking.

After many years of stalwart service, Tina Long retired as Chair and in October 2009 Sylvia Steane took over having just retired from running her florist shop on the High Street. It was at this time that there was a complete change of executive committee and Sylvia was thrown in at the deep end but she says she found the members to be welcoming and supportive, and after her first full year, the feedback was very positive.

The club has very good links with other organisations in the village and also with all of the churches. Speaking to Sylvia it is obvious that she is very passionate about the success of the club, and has introduced new things on the programme of activities for members. Some of the traditional pastimes such as Scrabble, cards and bingo are still popular, but new activities have

been introduced, such as films, live entertainment, quizzes and special events. One such event last year was a strawberry tea, held in Sylvia's garden. The weather was perfect, and with lots of strawberry goodies to eat and drink and enjoyable music to listen to, it was hailed a great success, and is now going to be an annual event.

Sylvia and the committee have drawn up an impressive list of trips for the members to enjoy. There is one arranged for every month of the year including a visit to Springfield Centre in Spalding, a Severn Valley railway trip, a cruise on the River Trent with lunch, Christmas at Chatsworth and many more. Visits to the theatre are also arranged, the most recent being *The King & I* at The Curve in Leicester and *Copacabana* at Loughborough Town Hall. The royal marriage is to be celebrated by having a party on the afternoon of the wedding, a lovely excuse to get dressed up in your posh frock and enjoy a festive atmosphere.

The members usually meet on a Tuesday & Wednesday afternoon for Scrabble and other games, Thursday has a Coffee morning and afternoon whist drive and Mondays may offer trips and other special activities. A luncheon Club operates on the third Friday of each month. So you can see that there is lots going on.

The constitution of the club states that to be a member you have to be at least sixty and live within a three mile radius of the club, but if there is no similar facility in the surrounding villages, then people from these villages are also eligible. It is therefore very fortunate that there is a bus stop immediately outside Bishop Beveridge Club Hall. The annual membership fee is £4 and what a bargain that is for all those activities and friendship!



The Club is thriving at the moment with approximately eighty members on the books, but if this wonderful organisation is to continue, it needs an injection of new blood, so if you are a young sixty plus and would enjoy getting involved in the running of the Club as well as extending your social life, Sylvia and her team will welcome you with open arms, and it's not going to break the bank. Just pop in or give Sylvia a ring on 413565.

Val Gillings.



Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council News

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Barrow Focus

<http://barrowuponsoar.leicestershireparishcouncils.org>

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Cllr. T Rodgers

Cllr. A Childs – Chairman

Cllr. J Rodgers

Cllr. R Forrest

Cllr. S Rodgers

Cllr. H Fryer

Cllr. M Slater

Cllr. A Goater

Cllr. L Smith

Cllr. K Pepper

Cllr. J Spence

Cllr. P Ranson

Cllr B Poulton

Cllr. W Woodhouse

– Vice Chairman

MEETINGS CALENDAR APRIL TO JUNE 2011

Full council Meetings in Village Diary

March

22nd Policy and Finance **2pm**

April

4th Planning **12 noon**

5th Full Council **7.15pm**

12th Annual Parish Meeting
7.30pm at Methodist
Church rooms

14th Policy and Finance **2.00pm**

May

3rd Planning **12 noon**

3rd Full Council **7.15pm**

17th Annual Council Meeting
7.15pm

June

6th Planning **12 noon**

7th Full Council **7.15pm**

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2011

The elections on May 5th are your opportunity to have your say in who will run your local council.

Your council has statutory powers which include the provision of recreation facilities, supporting local crime initiatives, looking after cemeteries and commenting on planning applications in the community.

You might want to become a councillor yourself, providing you with an opportunity to become involved in shaping the Barrow of tomorrow.



Being a councillor means, in practice:

- Being in touch with your community to find out what the current issues are
- Attending meetings of the Council to discuss and decide on what action to take
- Possibly acting as an advocate for the community at other meetings
- Acting as a community leader by providing inspiration and leadership for new initiatives

At Barrow, meetings of Full Council are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month and last for approximately two hours. You would be encouraged to join at least one of five committees, Planning, Playing Fields, Millennium Park, Policy & Finance and Cemetery and Other Grounds.

Providing you are a registered local government elector for the area & will be at least 18 years old on Election Day, no other special qualifications are needed. You just need to care about your Community & be keen to make a difference.

Application forms are available from Charnwood Borough Council, who organise the elections. Completed nomination forms must be returned by no later than 12 noon on 4th April 2011.

Further help and advice is available from the Parish Council Office and Charnwood Borough Council.

ANNUAL HEALTH FORUM: PARKINSONS, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND MOTOR NEURONE

TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2011

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
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This year's event will include presentations from Parkinson's UK and The Multiple Sclerosis Society and a representative from the Motor Neurone Disease Association will be present to offer advice and answer questions. The meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Gap (rear of Baptist Church). Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is very welcome and admission is free.

ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE

SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2011

A very together Community

The Annual Civic Service will be held at 10am on Sunday 3rd April, at the Methodist Church to coincide with Mothering Sunday and 100 years celebration of the Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 12TH APRIL 2011

Chairman Tony Childs extends a warm welcome to all residents to your Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12th April 2011 starting at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Rooms, North Street. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and see what your council has been doing. It would be most helpful if you could provide your questions to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.



PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2011/12

A net precept of £152,900 was agreed at the December meeting of Full Council which includes provision for retention of the public toilets. Details will be published on notice board and website.

JELSON PLANNING APPLICATION AT MELTON ROAD

The Parish Council, having taken advice, resolved to strengthen the case for its rejection by i) re-visiting its objections ii) employing consultants with relevant expertise and iii) considering options of fighting at appeal, but only following public consultation.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Following investigation and negotiation, the Parish Council agreed at its meeting in January to manage the public toilets at North Street.

The toilets will be closed on 31 March 2011 and will re-open upon completion of legal agreements and necessary refurbishment.





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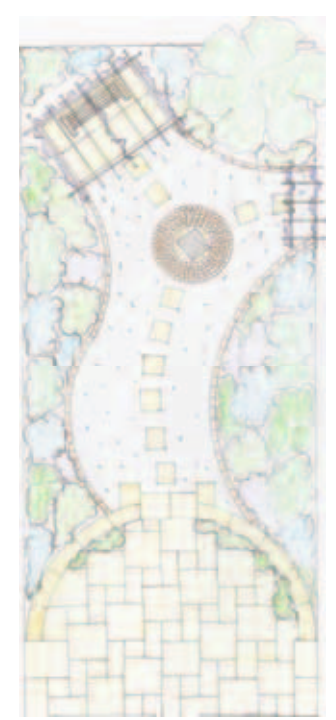
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60 seconds with...

At the last Barrow Voice editorial meeting I asked for someone to volunteer for the next 60 seconds with, slot and I was nominated. It has felt totally self indulgent! There's little more I can say really because everything else is written below.

60 Seconds with myself:

Ginnie Willcocks

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

Since 1985 when Barrow Voice made an appeal for volunteers to become involved with keeping the publication going as there was a possibility that it wouldn't continue without offers of help. I like the fact that Barrow Voice covers local issues for and by local people.

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

I don't remember any particular issue but do recall a planning meeting when the problem of dog fouling was mentioned. I suggested that our cover headline should be "Poop Scoop"!

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

Caring.

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

I have a cat called Herbie. He's a rescue cat from the RSPCA and is the most affectionate creature you could ever meet. I also provide a foster home for a high maintenance rabbit called Freddie.

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

- I would definitely take some writing paper.
- Something to write with as I would occupy myself by keeping a diary.
- A digital camera, I always carry mine with me. I'd be able to take regular photos to go with my diary notes.
- A sleeping bag to hopefully keep the creepy crawlies away from me at night.



- Some matches to help me to light a fire for warmth and to alert any passing ship so that they could come and rescue me.

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

I returned to Barrow, to live, in 1978. I left when I got married having previously lived here from 1964 but had always had a connection to the village through my father's family.

What would be your ideal holiday?

Somewhere warm, a villa with a patio and a pool not far from a quiet, beautiful beach next to the warm, clear blue sea where I could snorkel and swim.

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

I retired from my day job last December and my current job is now part time, 2 days a week, looking after my 1 year old grandson, Harry who is absolutely delightful.

What is your motto for life?

Seize the day!

What are your hopes for the future of Barrow Voice?

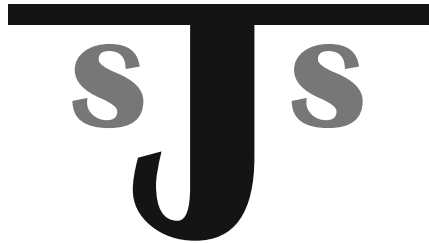
For Barrow Voice to continue to be a quality, free publication that is significantly different to other local village magazines.

Ginnie Willcocks

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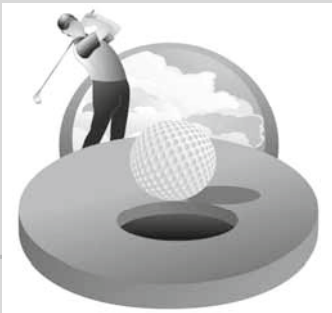
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Morgan's Pine still trading on the internet

Shock horror, when I saw the EVERYTHING MUST GO posters screaming at me from the Morgan's Pine shop window.

Yes, sadly, Morgan's Pine will no longer be a familiar frontage after a 10 year presence in Barrow.

Di Statham first set up the business with her partner, John Morgan, in Sileby in 1997. They mainly made and sold pine furniture. As the business took off, they moved into Barrow High Street in 2000.

With plenty of space they were able to expand the gifts side and they also developed a successful web-based retail outlet for both gifts and made to measure pine furniture. Sadly, John passed away in 2008 but with support from some very good friends, Di was able to continue.

Now the lease has run out and the shop will close. However, Di will continue trading via the website www.morganspine.co.uk concentrating on the custom built furniture.

Customers will be able to make personal contact at the workshop in Quorn or by phoning **07928 525924**.

Di would like to thank all her customers for their loyal support over the last 10 years. She would also particularly like to thank Alison, Mick and Gary who have enabled her to keep going since 2008. Now she is looking forward to business almost as usual and with slightly more time to do it.

Judith Rodgers

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We provide learning through play for children aged 2 1/2 - 5yrs. Sessions are run at the Methodist Church Rooms, Barrow upon Soar from 9.15 to 12.15 weekdays during term time.

For more information please contact Cathy Walker on **07975 957242** or email barrowplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

Playgroup operates a waiting list, so please be sure to get in touch with your child's details as soon as possible.

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Martin Page
Barrow Upon Soars



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Jack and his Magical Beanstalk (at last!)



You've all been waiting for it but it will be worth it.

Yes, Barrow Panto Group's annual family panto is on Friday April 1st (no, that's no joke) and Saturday 2nd April. As usual, there are evening performances on both days starting at 7.00 and finishing before 9.30pm and a matinee on Saturday starting at 2.00 and finishing before 4.30pm. Why the wait? Because Humphrey Perkins school hall wasn't available any earlier. Anyway, does it matter? Let's have a bit of Christmas fun in April. So it's at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow, LE12 8JU.



With new Director, Sue Onslow, you can be sure that Barrow is in for a real treat. Sue is enormously experienced, really rather out of our league in fact. But she has a professionalism that guarantees a terrific entertainment. She says we aim to give you a visual extravaganza with surprise special effects, terrible jokes and lots of great music. We've stayed faithful to the well-loved story and added new twists of our own. I did hear a whisper about the beanstalk really growing and something about flying. No, surely not. But I do KNOW that there's a 12 foot live giant who is so ferocious that all the grandads will hide behind their seats and cling onto their grandchildren until the danger has passed. And a cow that cries real tears.

Tickets will cost £6 and £4 (children and concessions) and are available from The Paper Shop, the cast and Judith on 07718153117. To arrange a group booking, phone Judith or email rogers_david@hotmail.com in plenty of time.



*Jack and the Princess
(Stephen Bennett and Aimée Crossley)*

Barrow Panto Group Presents...

Jack & The Magical Beanstalk

Friday 1st April 2011 at 7pm
Saturday 2nd April at 2pm & 7pm

at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre,
Cotes Rd, Barrow-Upon-Soar

Tickets: £6 & £4 (concessions)

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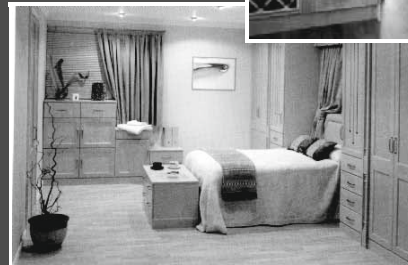
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All we need now are variety acts to compete. We would like YOU to get in touch and would ask singers, dancers, musicians, jugglers, comedians, magicians, acrobats or any specialist act, of all ages to contact us.

Please phone Gordon or Carol Kenneth on 01509 620572 to book your place on the stage.

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Barrow Youth Theatre's 'Oliver!'

A Review by Craig Johnstone

My family and I attended Barrow Youth Theatre's recent performance of 'Oliver!' and were amazed by the sheer quality of the production from top to bottom.

Producers and Directors, Carol and Gordon Kenneth have worked wonders with the children who have passed through their group which is part of the Barrow Panto Group for many years now and our expectations were set pretty high and we were not disappointed. 'Food Glorious Food' was belted out with gusto by the workhouse children from the very start through to the finale.

The stars of the show were, as you would expect, Fagin played by Andy Kenneth, Nancy played by Caitlin Evans, Mr Bumble played by Alex Norris and Widow Corney played by Hannah Jarvis along with Daniel Wison playing Oliver and Marcus Goodger playing the Artful Dodger.

The set, props, costume, music, choreography, dance and song were all of a high standard and here's a 'well done' to the stage manager, front of house, lighting and sound technicians as the show would not have happened without them.

For this year the company will be staging 'Beauty and the Beast', so keep an eye out for more information here in Barrow Voice.





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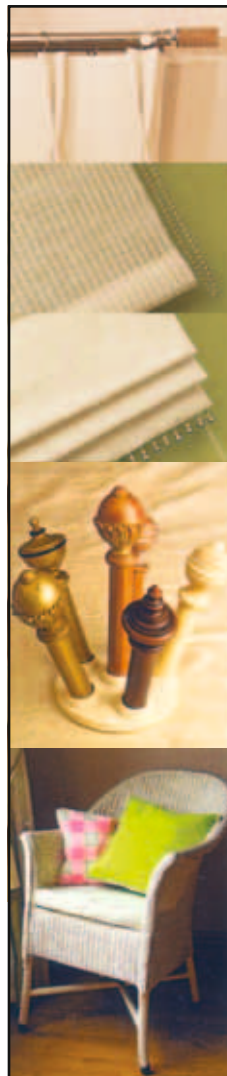
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HERITAGE GROUP TALK: The Lime Industry in Barrow



Danny McAree, the archaeologist who was responsible for the excavations on the Cotes Road site (now the David Wilson and Miller Homes estates), will talk about the work and his findings on Monday March 21 at 7.30 pm at the Bishop Beveridge Club, South St.

He found evidence of extensive lime working from the 15th to 19th century.

There will be no charge for this talk but there will be a collection for a charity of Danny McAree's choice.

For further information, or to join the Heritage Group, contact Kathryn Timmons on 01509 416168.

BYAG planning more events

First of all the Youth Action Group would like to congratulate the winners of our quiz at the Christmas Tree Festival: Rebecca, Fiona, Karen, Jess & Hannah - well done!



As the family coach trips to London were so popular last year we are planning another similar event for 2011. We have not decided on a venue yet so if you have any suggestions you can phone us or send a text message to BYAG on 07535 342464.

Many young people have faced fresh obstacles with new skills on our canoeing days which are run in conjunction with Colin Broadway from the Boathouse at Barrow so we intend to run more of these exceptional days - look out for posters and make sure you go to buy your tickets before they sell out!

Once more we are appealing for committee members and helpers for events; please contact us using the number above. BYAG meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Conservative Club, North St - you are most welcome to pop in and meet us.

Go Canoeing Days at: The Boat House at Barrow

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Open gardens June 2011

June 2010 saw another very successful Open Gardens event with £2420 being raised for Rainbows Children's Hospice. The event again attracted many people from the local area as well as from Northampton, Coventry, Nottingham, Market Harborough, Doncaster and Donegal. This year we expect our fan base to be even wider as we are now on the national website for Open Gardens, www.opengardens.co.uk

We have a reputation for a great variety of gardens and a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. The variety of gardens is ever changing with only one garden that has been open on all occasions since we started in 2000. In 2010 we welcomed seven new gardens and four returning after a break of a year or two years.

We know that for 2011 some "openers" are taking a break so we would ask any of you who have been thinking of opening your garden, to contact us as soon as possible. You will definitely enjoy the experience. No garden is too small or too large, the greater the range, the better the event will be.

We would like to have even more gardens open in 2011 and make the event even more enjoyable and successful.

If you are prepared to join us and want more information then please do not hesitate to contact: Mike Morley on 01509 412982



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A sense of place



Frances Thompson suggests some spring reading which transports you to another place...

For gardeners, the depths of winter are a time for looking from inside out, for browsing through catalogues and planning changes. Alongside this, we hope that TV will provide a programme which will whet our appetite for the seasons to come. Carol Klein's *Life in a Cottage Garden*, recently screened on BBC 2, did not disappoint and the book of the same name is a perfect complement to the series.

Carol, a popular presenter of *Gardeners' World*, has made her garden in Devon over 30 years and from the original wilderness she has created quite different areas of sun and shade, woodland and more formal beds, which offer opportunities to use a massive diversity of plants. Whether you have rolling acres or a pocket handkerchief, you will find practical know-how here and ideas-a-plenty.

Just out last month, *Home Ground* by Dan Pearson is a delight. If you follow Dan's column in the *Observer*, you will know that he has recently moved to a farm in the West Country to garden on a grand scale. This book, however, charts 10 years in his London garden and the subtitle *A Sanctuary in the City* gives a clue to its content. Written and photographed 'in real time', this, as the previous book, moves through the seasons and is a personal recollection, a thoughtful commentary on using plants from around the world to

create an inspirational oasis in an uncompromisingly urban environment. Worth every penny of the £20 it currently costs on Amazon.

Leaving gardening aside, a firmly-rooted sense of place can enrich a novel so that story and setting combine. There are two series of novels I recommend that do this admirably. They both fit loosely into the crime genre but are by no means one-dimensional. Ann Cleeves, a very prolific and accomplished writer, has struck gold with her Shetland quartet featuring detective Jimmy Perez: *Raven Black*, *White Nights*, *Red Bones* and *Blue Lightning*. All set in and around the Shetland Islands, the writer creates a perfect background to the action: isolation, a spare and beautiful landscape, the tension between locals and incomers, plus the rich diversity of tradition and language. If, like me, you find you are hooked on these books, be warned, *Blue Lightning* is definitely the last in the series.

Closer to home, I discovered Elly Griffiths' East Anglia series when I was staying in North Norfolk: *The Crossing Places*, *The Janus Stone* and, *The House at Sea's End*. I challenge you not to be charmed by Dr Ruth Galloway, a forensic archaeologist whose specialism is bones. Ruth is immensely likeable and the writing is witty and pacy with a brilliant evocation of the Norfolk coastline.

Both these series are best read chronologically to get the most out of them.

Other recommendations:

- Donna Leon's Venice-based novels featuring Commissario Brunetti
- Peter Temple's *Jack Irish* thrillers and *The Broken Shore*
- Swedish writer, Camilla Lockberg's Patrik Hedstroms novels
- Martin Edward's Lake District series: *The Coffin Trail*, *The Cipher Garden*, *The Serpent Pool*.



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Our charity is hosting its annual Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday 29th May 2011 at The Boat House, Bridge St, Barrow upon Soar. This festival itself will take place on the River Soar, with fun and competitive racing starting once again at The Boat House. The day is filled with activities, fun and enjoyment for both crews and spectators. There are trophies for the 1st place 'winning' team and 1st place 'all female' team.

Come along to our Dragon Boat Launch Evening on Thursday 24th March at 6pm to:

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To book your place at the launch evening, to form a boat crew, or for further information please contact Michele: 01509 550317 or email michele@lwa.org.uk

The festival is being held to raise money for local charity, Loughborough Womens Aid. This charity has been providing services for people and their children throughout Charnwood and North West Leicestershire who are experiencing Domestic Abuse. www.lwa.org.uk





Calling all Open Gardeners

Two keen gardeners (who used to run Quorn Open Gardens) have hit upon a novel solution for publicising charity Open Gardens events - a website dedicated to town and village Open Gardens.

Run by volunteers, free from complex advertising, simple to use and with a clever search facility, the site allows people to find out about Open Gardens events in your local area or indeed at the other end of the country. The website supports the smaller event organisers, those volunteers who bring together gardeners and gardens, plant enthusiasts and hobbyists, Hosta lovers and Pelargonium fanciers - the melting pot of Middle England that is Open Gardens.

For the humble town or village Open Gardens organiser, the site offers a real opportunity to get much needed publicity. Contributing information is also very simple - fill in you event details, press a button and your event is there for all to see. For people who enjoy visiting gardens open for charity, the site gives full details of events happening in your area.

Go to www.opengardens.co.uk for more information.

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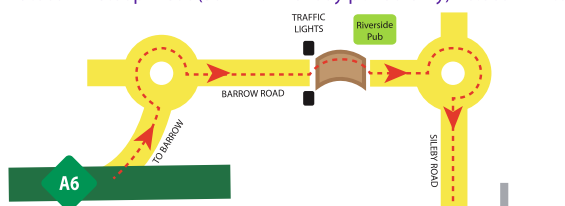


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Village Diary

Mon 21st	Heritage Group Talk; "The Barrow Lime Industry" by Danny McAree; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30
Sat 26th	Clock Club Jumble sale; Church Rooms; 10.00 - 11.30am. BUSCA Spring Dance; Humphrey Perkins; 7.30 - 11.30; tickets from Paper Shop.
Tues 29th	Annual PC Health Forum: speakers on Multiple Sclerosis, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease; at the GAP; 7.30pm; everyone welcome.
Sat 2nd	Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00am District Labour Party Spring Fair; Church Rooms; 10.00am - 12.00; free entry.
Mon 4th	Holy Trinity Men's Group; Speaker: Tom Ingall, BBC Midlands reporter; 8.00pm. This is an Open meeting.
Tues 5th	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome.
Wed 6th	Holy Trinity Mother's union: "How to Survive the Mothers Union"; 2.30pm
Fri 8th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm.
Sat 9th	Methodist Church Centenary "1911 Party"; 4pm
Mon 11th	WI: "The Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation"; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm.
Tues 12th	Annual Parish Meeting: an opportunity for residents to meet the Parish Council; Methodist Hall; 7.30. Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30; public welcome.
Wed 13th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 - 4.00 water colour; other crafts from 2.00 to suit you.
Tues 19th	Mothers' Union & Men's Group: Holy Week Service; 8pm
Fri 29th	Bishop Beveridge Club Royal Wedding Party; Bishop Beveridge Hall; 3.00pm to 6.30pm; members only
Mon 2nd	Holy Trinity Church Fun Dog Show
Tues 3rd	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome.
Wed 4th	Holy Trinity Mother's union: Rainbows; 2.30pm
Thurs 5th	Parish Council (local government) elections.
Sat 7th	Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00.
Mon 9th	WI: Resolutions; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm. Holy Trinity Men's Group: "Looking through the Looking Glass" by Chris Aspinall; 8.00pm.
Tues 10th	Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30; public welcome.
Wed 11th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 - 4.00 water colour; other crafts from 2.00 to suit you.
Fri 13th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm.
Sat 14th	BUSCA Spring Dance; HPHS; 7.30 - 11.30pm; tickets from the Paper Shop.
Tues 17th	New Parish Council Annual General Meeting; Methodist Hall; 7.30. All welcome.
Wed 1st	Holy Trinity Mother's union: Countdown; 2.30.
Sat 4th	Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00.
Mon 6th	Holy Trinity Men's Group: "Christianity, Politics and Integrity: an Uneasy Mix!" Speaker Professor David Wilson.
Tues 7th	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 7.15pm; public participation at approx 7.30pm; everyone welcome. Methodist Church Social Event: Visit to Toleshorpe Hall Open Air Theatre to see "Pride & Prejudice"
Wed 8th	Craft Afternoon; Methodist Church; 2.00 - 4.00 water colour; other crafts from 2.00 to suit you.
Fri 10th	Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm.
Sat 11th	OPEN GARDENS.
Sun 12th	OPEN GARDENS.
Mon 13th	WI: Flower arranging; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm.
Tues 14th	Neighbourhood Watch: monthly meeting in Barrow Conservative Club; 7.30; public welcome.



SPRING DANCE

with Just Us

26th
March

BARROW PANTO GROUP PRESENTS

JACK & HIS MAGICAL BEANSTALK

1st/2nd
April

SUMMER DANCE

with Martin Whitlam

14th
May