

# Barrow VOICE



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

Autumn 2012



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Lucky for three good reasons...

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All good things come to an end. Being editor of Barrow Voice has given me a huge amount of pleasure. Over the years I have worked with some old established team members and many new faces. People have come and gone according to family or work commitments and I hope that they have all enjoyed the experience. The meetings have never been dull; no-one has ever been asked to do anything that they did not find rewarding; we have held some memorable skittle contests and barbeque evenings and had an awful lot of fun. But now it is time for a change.

As the Olympics is taking place as I write, it seems appropriate to use a sporting expression, so I am passing the baton (with, I hope, more efficiency than some British runners) to Gaynor Barton, a worthy successor who will, I'm sure, bring her own intelligent and creative approach to Barrow Voice. It is especially reassuring to be bowing out when the membership of the team is not only healthy but growing.

So, in true Oscars fashion, I end with a list of thanks: to the BUSCA trustees for their unwavering support, to each and every one of the editorial team, (without doubt, the best-humoured committee I have ever chaired), to Craig at Mulberry Square who has turned my ideas into reality, and finally to Judith and David Rodgers, not only for their hospitality, but because they have both, in different ways and at different times of my tenure, quite simply been an essential part of Barrow Voice's success.

*Good luck Gaynor!*

**Frances Thompson**

*And a final word... everyone on the BV team is a volunteer. We do our very best to ensure that the content is accurate but accept that sometimes we get things wrong. In the last edition we included a photo of Barrow members from Pete Statham's Leicester and Loughborough Shotokan Club in an article about a new, and totally unconnected, karate group in Barrow. We apologise unreservedly to Pete and to the people in the photograph and are pleased to include information about Pete's club on page 31.*



# What's going on at the Hammer and Pincers?

**I've heard a lot of rumour, some of it crazy (knock it down and build 50 houses!), some of it a bit nearer the truth. Either way, a lot of people are really interested in what the future holds for this very familiar part of Barrow's village centre landscape. Being nosy, I interviewed Mark Hammond, the new owner, to find the truth.**

Mark recently purchased the Hammer and Pincers with Jill Townend and is currently doing a full and sympathetic restoration. It will retain its familiar character inside and out but the interior, particularly, will present a modern and lively appearance that enhances its ancient features.

Mark is hoping to open towards the end of this year or early 2013 as a bistro-style restaurant. He will offer high quality, seasonal, freshly and locally produced ingredients cooked to the highest standards but offering good value for money.

Barrow Voice wishes him well and we hope to provide you with a follow up report in December.

**Judith Rodgers**



# Housing Matters

## BRAG: 'Welcome turn' in Melton Road fight

**The appeal by Jelson Homes against the decision of Charnwood Borough Council to refuse permission to build around 300 units on land at Melton Road, The Breaches, took an unexpected but welcome turn in June.**

The request by the applicant, Jelson Homes, for the appeal to be held on the basis of written submissions was refused by the National Planning Inspectorate who made a decision to hold the inquiry as a full Public (Planning ) Inquiry.

*The Inspectorate said their decision is based on the extent of local opinion, together with the issues that are likely to arise. This did not find favour with Jelson who immediately made a plea to the Inspectorate to change its decision in their favour.*

They said the representations from individuals and households reflect those sent during the determination of the application. As such, they have been robustly considered by the Council's officers and members in the past. We do

not agree and neither, it seems, does the Inspectorate!

The date for the Public Inquiry is given as 9th, 10th and 11th October, 2012 at Loughborough Town Hall. BRAG will be professionally represented by Landmark Planning consultants, Barrow Parish Council will be represented through a barrister and Charnwood Borough Council has a legal team to counter the legal representation on behalf of Jelson. The appeal inspector will write a report and a final decision will be made by Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. We have no date for decision. BRAG would like to see as many of the residents of this village as possible attend the public inquiry.

For full article please go to [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)



## Strancliffe Hall, Cotes Road development

**At its meeting on 21st June 2012, Charnwood Borough Council planning committee voted for permission to be given to Barwood homes to build 72 houses around Strancliffe Hall on Cotes Road.**

This development was opposed by BRAG, by Barrow Parish Council and by a number of local residents.

*The Borough Council's senior ecology officer was also strongly opposed to the development because of the impact on wildlife, mainly badgers and bats. There are possible drainage and flooding issues with the site too.*

For BRAG, Mike Tansey presented a strong case for refusal on ecological and highway safety grounds and for the latter cited the number of traffic accidents

involving children from Humphrey Perkins School and the grid locking at Cotes Road after school closes in the afternoons. Barwood has an obligation to build affordable homes but doesn't wish to at Strancliffe. The developer proposes building them elsewhere in the borough.

*In BRAG's view a better option would have been to refuse permission, based on insufficient information provided on the drainage system rather than grant permission and hope to resolve this later.*

That was, in fact, a proposal made by the Environment Agency. Failure to achieve a resolution will mean the whole application returning to CBC planning committee before any work can begin.

**To contact BRAG: visit BRAG section of Barrow village website [www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk) or [www.braguk.com](http://www.braguk.com) To donate to BRAG: post cash or cheques (made payable to BRAG) to Barrow Parish Council office, High Street, in a sealed envelope or via PayPal at [www.braguk.com](http://www.braguk.com) Alan Willcocks, Vice Chair, BRAG ( for the full article please go to [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk) )**

*Continued on next page...*

*Proposed new housing on land at the rear of the Three Crowns Public House.*



## Proposed new housing near the Three Crowns.

### Housing to replace parking and toilets at the Three Crowns?

Anyone walking up Church Street on a weekday at the start and end of the school day can testify to its being a very busy place, and this is true of both cars and pedestrians. With many residents of this and neighbouring streets having no off-road parking, the opportunities to stop safely here are limited. This is why a steady stream of parents and children make their way daily across the road to the car parking behind the Three Crowns.

The car park is also well-used by churchgoers, shoppers, and is used by residents of the houses which back on to this area. However, this may not be an

option for much longer for any of these groups of people. Charnwood District Council has received an application for outline planning permission to demolish the toilets and build four two-storey houses on the land occupied by them and the current car park. While this is of particular concern to local residents on North Street, Cotes Road and Woodside (where access to the houses is proposed), the loss of this parking (and the amenity of the public toilets) has a wider impact on the village generally. Residents in the centre of the village could find their streets choked with cars and vans. Use of the car parks behind the Cooperative and at the

old station will increase significantly. Will shoppers go elsewhere if they cannot park nearby?

Residents have made many objections (including a 100 signature petition) and Barrow Parish Council has also objected on a number of grounds, including the access via Woodside. The proposals and objections can be seen in full at <http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/frequentlyaskedquestions2> by following the link Planning Explorer and quoting Application No. P/12/1485/2.

**BV will be following this story closely.**

**Martin Page**  
*Barrow Upon Soars*



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# Barrow Signpost; new, improved and on a web-site near you

Over the last nine months, BUSCA has been engaged in a project to update the village directory Barrow Signpost. Previously, we had a paper directory (also serving as a Welcome pack to new comers to the village) as well as a web directory. Pretty well all the new residents of the Willow Road and other developments have been given a Welcome pack stuffed with village leaflets as well as information about the web directory. Once we had used up all packs it was time to have a rethink.

We decided to abandon the paper directory because it was out of date before it was even printed. The old website had become out-dated too (not optimised for search; costly to have up-dated as it wasn't constructed on a content management platform). We have gained full funding to hugely improve the Signpost website so that you can find it easily even if you can't remember its name and so that we can all update it ourselves free of cost.

The project is now complete. The website is up and running and we invite you to visit it: [www.barrowsignpost.info](http://www.barrowsignpost.info) You will find it is a mine of easily retrievable facts about the village. It is a genuine directory with contact details, venues, opening times etc etc of our village organisations,

services, facilities, businesses, clubs etc.

There is a lot that is NOT on Signpost and that is where the leicestershirevillages website comes into its own. The village website [www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk) has very much more detail, pictures, articles, records, reports etc. We are anxious to minimise the overlap of information between the two sites. It is not our intention for the Signpost to replace or compete against the village website; the two will complement each other by using various links. So think of Signpost as a simple directory and you won't go far wrong.

In the autumn we will be holding a launch evening for the new Signpost website. It will be on Oct 3rd starting at 7.30pm

in Orchard Block at Humphery Perkins School. We aim to demonstrate what is on and what could be added and, most importantly, to encourage you to learn how to edit particular pages so that YOU can keep them up to date. We aim to have several computer terminals which you can use to play with the site and convince yourself that it is really easy to edit. This will be an especially useful session for community group members and for businesses.

**Watch out for posters early in September. If you would like more information, please phone me on 07718153117 or email [judithrogers155@gmail.com](mailto:judithrogers155@gmail.com)**

# Back in Barrow after 32 years



I spent most weekends of my teenage years in Barrow because my best friend Elaine's parents owned the Hunting Lodge and as she was an only child it got very lonely for her. So you could say I grew up here.

After marrying a nice young man Eric who I met in Barrow, we went to live in Luxembourg, where we stayed for 32 years, and now that we have taken early retirement and wanted to retire to the UK, there was no hesitation that Barrow would be our first choice.

*I was asked what I noticed that had changed and were there any drawbacks of moving back here to live.*

Yes, there were a few. Our first project was to register at the doctor, but we needed our National Health Numbers, which turned out harder to trace than we expected. We had left England before the

Computer Age and all our records had been chucked out so new ones had to be issued.

*Driving on the left was also difficult. We are so used to driving left hand drive cars that having to drive right handed ones caused a bit of a problem. Luckily our car is an automatic otherwise I would have been trying to open the door every time I changed gear!*

Barrow High Street has changed. It's nice to see the new shops: having late

night shops and take-aways is a big improvement but it's also nice to see some of the old ones too. We were sad to see that the sit in and eat fish and chip shop has gone. Some of the old buildings are still there but they have new functions: we used to go to discos in the Bishop Beveridge hall but now I go to WI meetings there instead.

But the very best thing about coming back to Barrow is the people. We have reconnected with old friends and made new ones and they are as warm and friendly as they were 32 years ago.

**Sue Ellingworth**

## Melissa scoops award!

Melissa White from Soar Valley Dental Practice in Barrow-upon-Soar was crowned Treatment Co-ordinator of the Year at a national awards ceremony in Harrogate in May and her practice manager Fay Prentice was named as a finalist. Melissa received a cheque for £500 and a beautiful, engraved glass trophy, which is now in pride of place at the High Street dental practice. Melissa has been working in the dental profession for almost four years and this is her first award.

Melissa said "Winning this award is immense and has given me a real confidence boost. It's amazing and I hope it will be really good for the practice too. My practice manager, Faye, also made it to the finalist's shortlist in her category, so we are both delighted".

President of the Association of Dental Administrators and Managers (ADAM), Jill Taylor, said: We would like to sincerely congratulate the three winners of the first ever ADAM Awards. Nicki, Melissa and Christine have shown real commitment to their ever-changing roles within the

dental team and should be very proud of their achievements.

Dr Ashvin Champaneri, Principal at Soar Valley Dental Practice said:

*"We are immensely proud of Mel and her achievement; she is a brilliant team member and deserves this recognition for all her hard work".*

**For full article please go to [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)**





# Malcolm Dark - local author



**M**alcolm and his wife Marjorie moved to Barrow in 1996. Being a narrow boat owner he wanted information on the local waterways. Finding very little he decided to write his own. The end result was nine books covering the area from Sibley to Normanton-on-Soar.

The writing didn't stop there. Malcolm has written a further eight books on a variety of interesting subjects ranging from The Barrow Riots, The Civil War at Cotes Mill, The Dakota Crash and others relating to the history of Barrow and its inhabitants. Not one to rest on his laurels, Malcolm is now working on three new projects. One of them is the effect that World War II had on Barrow. For instance, what was the impact on the village when nine thousand evacuees from the Sheffield area alone were moved into the Loughborough area? How many came to Barrow? How were they fed and housed?

Malcolm is grateful for the recollections of some of the members of the Bishop Beveridge Club and other older residents of the village.

His second work in progress is about Ben Jones who lived in Malcolm and Majorie's house for 7 years in the 1980s. Ben was an equestrian gold medallist in the 1968 Olympics who moved in very high circles as he was a guest at Princess Anne's 21st birthday party and also had an invitation to the wedding of the Princess to Captain Mark Phillips. This book is primarily for the family of Ben Jones, but extracts

of it will be going into the forthcoming third work. This is a book about famous people who have lived in Barrow. Talking to Malcolm it is evident that this will not be the end of his prolific writing. He already has another book in mind which will be about Alfred Wykes, who lived in Cliffe House. Wykes was the man who developed and manufactured the Auster Aircraft, another very interesting subject. All of Malcolm's books can be obtained from the Paper Shop. They are printed in large clear type and priced at £3.50 each which is very good value.

**Val Gillings**



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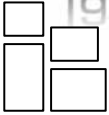
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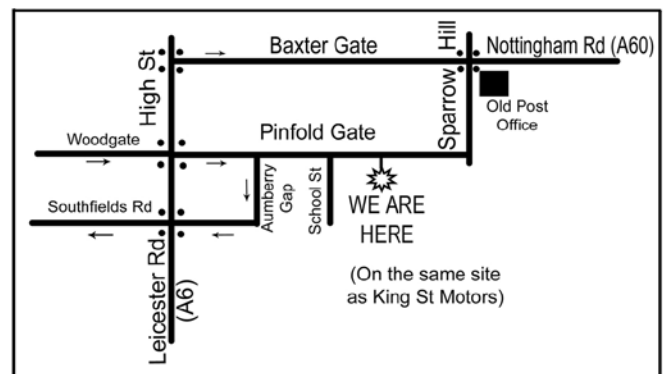
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# Literary Showcase

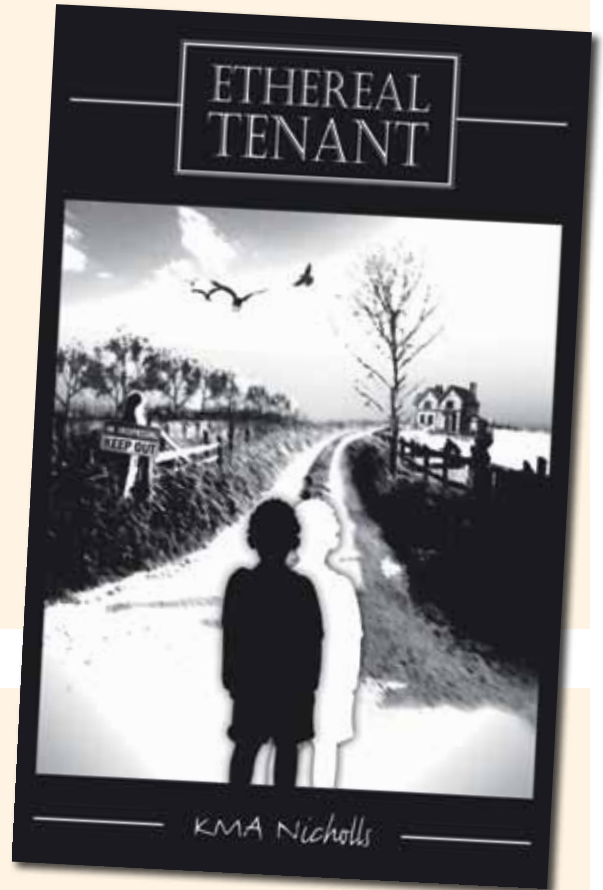
One of the best things about BV is showcasing local talent. We share news of two more books published by writers with local connections.

## Fictional drama

Kay Nicholls was born in Barrow and has used the village and nearby locations in her E-book entitled *Ethereal Tenant*. Some of you may remember Kay under her maiden name of Holland. She has written a fictional drama about the life of a boy aged 3-19.

Her book has recently gone online at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and is available to download to PC, iPad and Kindle for just £1.97.

*Described as riveting, convincing, a thoroughly good read, one reviewer is already hoping for a sequel. Ethereal Tenant certainly has some 5\* reviews so get reading!*



## Real life story

Matt Padmore is 40 but when he was 28 he set off on an adventure to Japan working as an English teacher. He went on to marry a Japanese woman and live happily there until he had a major, life changing stroke at the age of 35. He had to move back to England, without his wife, and live with his family in Barrow while he tried to put his life together.

In spite of this devastating experience, and as his health improved, Matt enrolled at Loughborough University, on an MA course in Creative Writing. In turn this has led to him write a book, *Halfway Gone: Life and Love after Stroke* about life in Japan and the very different life he has made for himself back in England.

Matt says:

*It's open and honest as I wanted to break down some barriers and show that I'm not afraid to talk about my disability. I hope this will encourage other young stroke survivors and show that there can be life after brain injury.*

*Halfway Gone* is also available from Amazon. In it Matt pays tribute to Headway, a charity for young head injured people and you see him featured in the spring edition of Headway News at <http://www.headway.org.uk/my-story/matt-padmore.aspx>.

Again rated 5\* and described as courageous, thought-provoking, inspiring and funny, I urge you - give this a go.



Frances Thompson



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# July 8th 2012 Barrow's Lucky Lympix!

**B**arrowlympix was lucky for three good reasons. First of all the rain held off until mid-afternoon, huge sighs of relief all round, secondly the organisers were lucky enough to get lovely marathon runner Rachel Thompson with her Olympic Relay Torch to the event and thirdly Julie Mayer, of Radio Leicester's 'Clueless' (a radio Treasure Hunt programme ) drove into the school and found the Treasure with just three minutes of air time left!

But it was sport that was the main focus of the day. Barrow Runners started things off at 10.30am with 40 entrants competing in the 1 Mile Fun Run. This was a simple run round the playing fields. Congratulations to nos. 36 Jasmin, 39 Tom and 15 Felicity for coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd. There was a much bigger group for the 5K event with 62 runners running a two lap race round the village before returning to the school. This was won by Simon Allen of OWLS AC in 17.39 minutes. However, the most arresting runner was pregnant Anne Newbery of Huncote Harriers who was running only three and a half weeks before her due date. She told me that her partner, doctor and mid-wife were all most supportive because they knew she was fit having run half marathons up to 7 months and formerly played ladies football. It was her second child. She unsurprisingly came

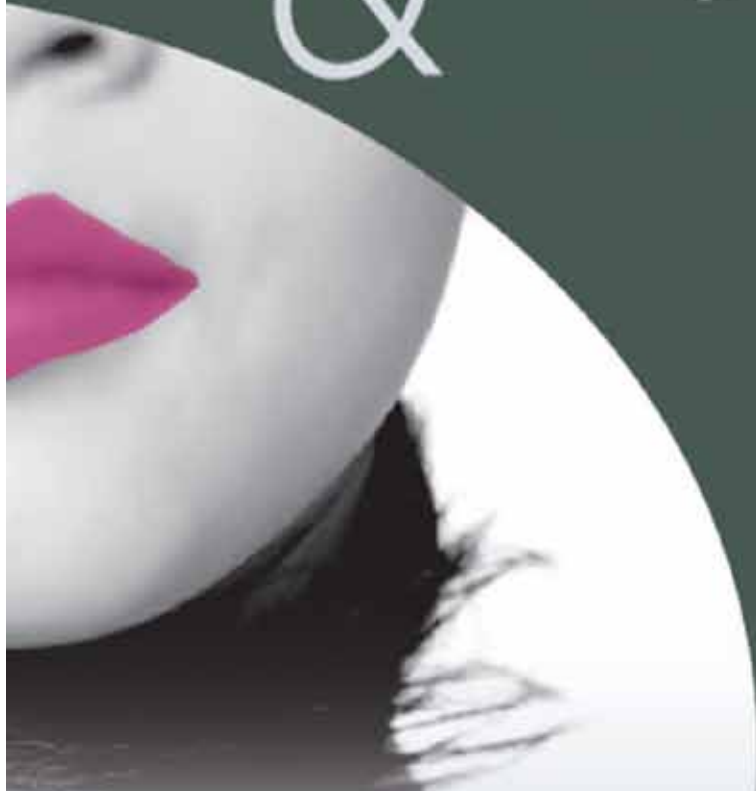
in last in a time of 40.11 minutes. All the finishers received a Barrowlympix 2012 medal . Surely Anne deserved two!

Cycling was next. The bike rides began at 2pm with a 1 Mile Fun Ride round the playing fields which attracted 16 entrants. Congratulations to Sophie Luxton for coming first closely followed by Ben Worrall and Ed Shepherd. Longer rides, this time round the village, began later: there were 15 riders for the 4 mile, 15 for the 7 mile and 14 for the 10 mile rides.

*Continued on page 15...*



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**The weather worsened as the afternoon wore on and many returned smiling but bedraggled. In spite of the deteriorating weather it was good to see so many families setting off together. These fun rides weren't timed but each finisher received a Goody Bag with crisps and a choc bar to replace lost calories plus a pen.**

If running or cycling didn't excite you then why not try tennis? This was thanks to Julie Westgate of Inside Out Tennis Loughborough. She'd brought all the gear; mini-tennis nets, rackets and balls and kept things going by running from court to court offering tips. Some youngsters really got into their games as even when the heavens opened they didn't stop playing.

For the non-sporty there were attractions everywhere; two kiddies fairground rides, crazy golf, crazy fling, a bouncy castle, bouncy slide, face-painting, a stilt-walker, a Scalextric track, flying model aircraft in the sports hall and local village organisations selling cakes, bric-a-brac, shoes and holding raffles. Not to be missed were dancers from the Gracedieu Academy Coalville in their wonderful leotards. They were undoubtedly a 'must-see' whenever they performed on their flattened cardboard boxes.

In all about eight hundred of us 'Barrowlympixed' in spite of heavy

competition from the Murray / Federer final, Formula 1 and the Tour de France. Many thanks are owed to the organisers, especially Carol Westbury, Director of the Community Centre of Humphrey Perkins, for all the hard work. Just one question remains. Has this year's Olympics spurred people into more sport? I asked around. The most frequent answer was 'No' but for opposing reasons.

The fit were so involved in running and cycling they said they couldn't possibly squeeze any more in. Others said 'No' because they weren't remotely interested in sport or too fat, too unfit, too old or too busy. Yet a few bucked the trend and said 'Yes' they had done more this Olympic year! One had started fantasy skipping in

her garden (no rope), another gone to the gym for the first time and a third started going on Parish Walks. Seb Coe will be delighted.

**Gaynor Barton**

*Special thanks to Mike Domokos for the Barrow runners front cover action shot.*





## Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council News

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# Barrow Focus

<http://barrowuponsoar.leicestershireparishcouncils.org>

## YOUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE

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Cllr. W Woodhouse

Cllr. R Forrest

Cllr. EJ Rodgers

Cllr. L Smith

- Vice Chairman

## MEETINGS CALENDAR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2012

### October

**1st** Planning Committee **12.00pm**

**2nd** Full Council **7.00pm**

**23rd** Playing Fields Committee  
**10.00am**

**24th** Enhancement to entrances to  
village **2.00pm**

### November

**5th** Planning Committee **12.00pm**

**6th** Full Council **7.15pm**

**13th** Cemetery Committee **10.00am**

**14th** Millennium Park **10.00am**

**21st** Policy and Finance  
Committee **2.00pm**

### December

**3rd** Planning Committee **12.00pm**

**4th** Full Council **7.15pm**

## P/10/1518/2 JELSON HOMES PROPOSALS TO BUILD 300 HOMES ON LAND AT MELTON ROAD

The Inspectorate has confirmed that there will be a Public Inquiry on 9th, 10th, 11th and possibly 12th October in Loughborough Town Hall, starting at 10.00 am.

The Parish Council will have legal representation through a barrister in line with the other main parties to the appeal. Members of the public may attend the inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views. Barrow Parish Council and BRAG urge you to support our objections by attending the Public Inquiry. If you are unable to attend the whole inquiry, your presence on the first day would very much help to give evidence of the strong local objection to Jelson's application.

We are hoping to arrange free coach transport from Barrow: look out for posters giving details.



## ANNUAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS EVENT

Very sadly, the Parish Council has decided to cancel this award event so that it will now next take place in the autumn of 2013. We very much regret this decision, but feel that the impending major planning applications make it inevitable.



## THE MILLENNIUM PARK NEEDS YOU!

The Millennium Park was developed by a consortium comprising the County Council, Borough Council and Parish Council.

The project was spearheaded by the Millennium Group which was formed to organise village events to celebrate the Millennium. The Park boasts the giant sundial, one of only a limited number in the country, which was funded by public subscription raised as a result of these events.

The park is now wholly owned and managed by the Parish Council as an open space for the enjoyment of the community and as a haven for wildlife.

The Parish Council now seeks the greater involvement of the community in the care, management and development of this place of great natural beauty.



The areas where volunteers might become involved range from conservation work, tree planting and maintenance, woodland maintenance, encouragement of wildlife, planting of wild flowers, maintenance of paths, seats and fences, preparing inventories, liaising with schools or simply litter picking and reporting – the list is endless and depends upon individual interests and expertise. The Council is not seeking to involve people in endless meetings but to provide the opportunity for individuals or village groups to play an active “hands on” role in the continuing development and management of this wonderful place.

If you feel that you can spare a few hours and would like to be involved in this exciting initiative please contact either: Clerk to the Council (see above) or Sue Rodgers on 01509 416533 or email: [sue.rodgers@hotmail.com](mailto:sue.rodgers@hotmail.com) sue.rodgers@hotmail.com

## SERVICE NOT SELF (Motto of the Royal British Legion)



It is evident by the number of Barrow residents who support the Remembrance Day service and wreath laying ceremony that there is a tremendous amount of goodwill within the village towards the armed services.

It would be wonderful if this compassion could become a commitment of practical help by forming a group to assist the POPPY APPEAL initially, perhaps leading to becoming a local sub section or Branch of the Royal British Legion. Please contact the Parish Council if you are interested.

The Parish Council will be organising Barrow's Poppy Appeal and would welcome your involvement be it by distributing/collecting in collection boxes, volunteering as a house to house collector for a specific area, or by helping with the count. Please contact the Clerk if you are able to help.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND PARADE

Sunday 11th November 2012

Service at Holy Trinity Church at 10.00 followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

Everyone welcome to attend.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT:

**The Big Switch-On on Sat December 1st**

Children's Choir and Recorder Playing; Street Entertainment; Festive Stalls; Refreshments; Santa in the Roundhouse

Anyone requiring space for a stall please contact the Clerk.

A Road Closure will be in operation from 4.30pm to 7.00pm which includes High Street and Church Street. Diversion signs will be in place.

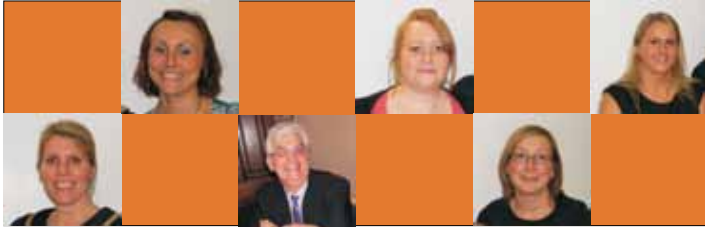


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# A week in China

**C**hina: a nation drowning in Communism? A metropolis smothered by pollution? A beautiful land with a richly fascinating culture? This last description stood out to me in contrast with all I had heard about China as I entered a wonderfully air conditioned Shanghai hotel, the voices of my fellow De Lisle students murmuring excitedly around me.

After experiencing so many Chinese wonders from the 468 metre high Pearl TV Tower in Shanghai to the silk factory in Suzhou and to Tiananmen Square in Beijing, my modest week in China appeared to stretch into a period of several months. However, what will always rest at the very top of my memories will be the amazing opportunity to meet up with an old friend in Shanghai. Just a year before, family friend Ainia Dai graduated from Leicester University and returned to her home country. I never dreamed that we would have the opportunity to meet her and her mother, Lin, again so soon and the only pain in our reunion was that it was over far, far too quickly.

Shanghai is a funny city, I thought to myself, pacing the glass floor of the Pearl Tower. You see a single skyscraper and cannot see past its ugliness, but add a further 200 and a strangely beautiful urban forest emerges from the gloom. However, while Shanghai's curious charm will forever linger in my mind it was the lesser known Suzhou that stole away my breath. While still a gigantic city for the British, it is something

of a village compared with Shanghai and filled with the exquisite Chinese architecture so admired by the west. A stroll in the iridescent Master of the Nets Garden soon tranquilises the mind as delicate reflections of sinewy boughs and resplendent archways dance across the surface of the shimmering water. Surrounded by nature in its purest form we began to learn the subtleties of Chinese calligraphy, an immensely complex, yet beautiful, form of art that has inspired me to accept the challenge of learning Mandarin.

Perhaps the most interesting experience was the opportunity to speak with a local resident of the Hutong district in Beijing who was happy to show tourists round her home and introduce them to her bilingual mynah bird. Having always lived in the same simple house, she will be able to call it hers for merely two more decades before the land is used for further skyscrapers.

And last but by no means least; the Great Wall of China. Although the entire wall stretches over 6,000

kilometres, today only small sections are open to the public. While the idea that it can be seen from outer space may be a myth, that is not to say it's unimpressive. The trek to the top begins with a pillar bearing the message 'The man who has not climbed the Great Wall is no true man' and so the pressure to reach the top starts to build. It wasn't easy; in places the steps are scarcely two centimetres apart, as hard as when they are sixty, not to mention the oxygen becoming thinner with each step. However, determination, perseverance and sheer refusal to give up meant that over an hour later I had reached the summit, tired but happy.

**Genevieve Silk**



# Solving the mystery of Barrow's plank

About a year ago the following saga began after a conversation between Bert and Iris Perkins and me, Sue Hobbs, at the Bishop Beveridge Club. It seems that one day Bert was sitting in his friend Alan Morgan's workshop watching him select a piece of timber. Bert noticed that the oak plank had some writing on it; an inscription followed by a list of Christian names. Iris suggested that it might be part of the 1st World War shrine from the corner of Church Street. At this point Alan was left in no doubt that his piece of oak was not to be cut up until its origins had been traced!

A visit to Trinity Church established that the names were not those from the Book of Remembrance and enquiries made amongst Barrow's Methodists, Baptists and Catholics were no more fruitful. Past members of the Working Men's Club and the Conservative Club couldn't recall the board either.

To spread the net wider in December 2011 Amy Watkins of the Loughborough Echo published an article asking for information about Barrow's mysterious plank, but none came. So Barrow Heritage Group contacted Liz Blood, War Memorial's Officer of Leicestershire County Council; one of her responsibilities is to keep a database of war memorials in the county. Unfortunately Barrow's mysterious board matched nothing in her records and an article in Branchline, a county journal, produced no links either. Undaunted Liz placed the board in an exhibition at the Bosworth Battle Field site. Although several people got in touch their information proved to have no connection with the board.

A possible clue was that one of the names on the board was Lamont. A search of the local and national 1901 and 1911 censuses revealed that there were seven Lamonts recorded between the ages of seventeen and fifty-seven but four were Scottish and none of them had obvious links with the Midlands. However, just as despair was setting in Liz Blood suggested asking the War Memorials Trust to help. Keith Chaplin photographed the board and with some clever photo-shop editing managed to reveal fragments of surnames. These pictures appeared on the War Memorials Trust website.



*Kathryn Timmons and Amanda with plank*

The story moves to Liverpool where Amanda Taylor was researching her husband's family history. In her father-in-law's photograph album was a picture of a war memorial on which was the name William Noll, her father-in-law's uncle. Amanda went on to gather information about the other 62 people listed on the war memorial in the photograph and then went in search of the original which she discovered had been in the church of St. James in Toxteth, Liverpool. The name Lamont was on this war memorial- at last a connection had been made! It seems the church, founded in 1775, closed in 1972. Sometime between 1972 and its reopening under the new name of St. James in the City the church was broken into and damage done. However thanks to Amanda Taylor's love of researching family history the mystery of where the plank had come from was finally solved.

Kathryn and George Timmons (George

is a Liverpoolian) kindly offered to return the plank to Liverpool and the hand over took place on July 29th in the grounds of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral which is very close to St. James' Church. Amanda was overjoyed to receive the plank from the war memorial and with the help of the vicar and the Diocesan network is planning to try and track down what happened to the remaining pieces and return the whole memorial to its rightful place

*If anyone is able to throw any light on the mystery of how a piece of oak travelled from Liverpool to Barrow upon Soar please get in touch.*

**Graham and Sue Hobbs**

# Visual Answers optician shortlisted for Award

The Association of Optometrists has nominated local optometrist Mohammed Bhojani of Visual Answers Opticians, based in Quorn and Barrow Upon Soar, for a prestigious national award. Mohammed is one of just 4 remaining short-listed nominees from the entire UK for the Best Educational Video award for an innovative video that he runs in the waiting area of his practices called: How do varifocal progressive lenses work?

He created the video at home with the help of one of his patients and a former student from Rawlins Community College. The video was also recently uploaded to You Tube and has generated significant interest in the process. "The response has been very positive", said Mohammed. "Since uploading the video online, it has had over 3000 hits with some great comments in just three months".

The optometrist who recently celebrated 21 years in optical practice, described his nomination as 'amazing and brilliant'.

*"The fact that nominations are made anonymously by other members of my own profession make me feel especially humble."*

**For full article please go to [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)**

**To see the video online go to:**

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# FABfitness celebrates a birthday

Stronger! Fitter! Healthier! Barrow's community based exercise business, FABfitness', will shortly be celebrating its second birthday but it won't just be the club which has reason to celebrate. To honour these two successful years, FABfitness has made the exciting commitment to sponsor the 2013 Loughborough Half Marathon.

Not only that but all members will receive a raffle ticket for every class they attend in September reveals Mairi Taylor, founder of FABfitness, with the opportunity to win, a range of FABprizes and new members will receive 20% off their first booking, just quote FAB2 in September. She reminds Barrow that everyone has been a beginner once and that there is a good feeling of team FAB support within the classes which are adapted to suit each individual.

Mairi first qualified as a fitness instructor in 2002. Having always been interested in fitness, she became exasperated by the number of classes in which people who were not part of the instructor's clique were frequently left out and consequently lacked the proper knowledge of how to execute a technique safely. "I had a desire to inspire others" she says, "I wanted a friendly, cliqueless' class where everybody felt welcome. The only way to do this was to establish one myself". Previously working in Human Resources, Mairi's whole career has been geared towards helping people and this quality shines through in all of her classes. FABfitness offers personal training in a class

environment where all needs are catered for and each of her clients is treated as an individual. Classes include all members of the family: from grandmas to teenagers to new mums and babies with plenty of husbands and sons to dispel the 'women in their 30s only' group fitness stereotype.

*To find out more please contact Mairi Taylor at: 07889 255702 or 01509 413022 or e-mail [mairitaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:mairitaylor@btinternet.com)*

**For full article please go to [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)**



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## Blooming Success for Barrow Upon Soar Open Gardens

**T**he annual Barrow Upon Soar Open Gardens took place on the weekend of 23rd and 24th June 2012 and we were blessed with fantastic weather and a fantastic atmosphere. We are pleased to announce that the event raised £2,034 for Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People and we know that the money will be used to make life better for children, young people and their families across the county. The money raised was presented to a Rainbows' representative on 28th June and we thank Rainbows for all of their help and support.

Eighteen gardens were open this year and the gardens showed off a wide range of different styles and layouts. We had traditional cottage style gardens mixed in with Japanese ornamental, Edwardian terraced and a modern 'party animal' style garden. Visitors came from far and wide and many commented on the variety of gardens on show. The organizing team would like to thank the people of Barrow for their commitment and support for this important village event.

Money was also raised through the hard work of openers and their friends and families, this included selling refreshments, selling plants, running tombolas and (*Apprentice* inspired) charging people to use a trampoline!

We should also like to thank the Barrow Gardening Club for the donation that they made from running a plant stall at the War Memorial and also for keeping the Jerusalem Island garden display in such a beautiful condition.

*Look out for next year's event where we will be taking a different direction with an Open Gardens and Art Festival.*

**Lee Sheldon on behalf of the organizing team.**



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# The ARTS in Barrow this Autumn

## Charnwood Orchestra

Sat 29th September Holy Trinity Church; 7.30pm

will give its annual concert at Holy Trinity Church. The programme consists of three musical gems: Debussy's Petite Suite; Haydn's cello concerto with cellist Jenny Curtis and Gounod's Symphony No 1



## Centre Stage - A Midsummer Night's Dream

Fri 5th October Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.30pm

Northumberland Theatre Company's production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is described as a magical, exhilarating and colourful performance. Barrow has enjoyed NTC shows before and by all accounts, this will be a delightful, accessible and funny introduction to Shakespeare for children and adults alike. Its target audience is 10+. One happy customer commented "Brilliant! Usually I haven't a clue what's going on with Shakespeare but tonight it all made wonderful sense. And it was so funny".



## Barrow Panto Group - Murder Mystery Soapsuds

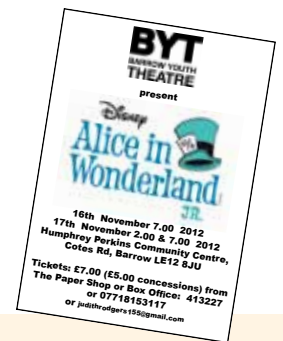
Fri 12th October Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.30pm

A new venture by Barrow Panto Group. Using the familiar structure of a murder mystery you will be entertained, fed and challenged to solve the murder of a beloved national treasure. Set in the TV studios of fictional popular soap drama called Diamond Road, you can expect plenty of action and plenty of attitude. Why not make a group and challenge family and friends to solve the crime.

## Barrow Youth Theatre - Alice in Wonderland

Fri 16th and Sat 17th November Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.00pm

You can't miss this Barrow Youth Theatre production. Based on 1951 Disney film and the novel by Lewis Carroll, the story is a dream filled with nonsensical verse and fantastic characters. As a Disney musical it has many memorable songs including 'I'm Late' and 'The Unbirthday Song' plus a patch of very rude flowers and the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and a bubble blowing Caterpillar.



## Centre Stage - Two Ghost Stories

Sun 25th November Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 7.00pm

M R James is acknowledged as the master of the English Ghost Story. He first performed his supernatural tales to friends at Christmas in King's College, Cambridge. Now Nunkie Theatre Company has brought two of these unforgettable spine-chillers back to life.

*Oh, Whistle, And I'll Come to You, My Lad* is a tale of nocturnal horror on the Suffolk coast is considered by many to be James' masterpiece. It is beautifully complemented here by *The Ash Tree*, a story of witchcraft and vengeance down the generations.

Reviewing this performance The Times said Lloyd Parry is a magical storyteller, well able to hold, amuse and frighten his audience. He catches the sense of dread that gives James his originality.

**Tickets for all these events will be on sale from The Paper Shop, High St, Barrow.**

# Barrow's Got Talent 2012

The BGT event 2012 was a real success for the organisers as well as the performers. With excellent guidance and advice from Carol and Gordon Kenneth, who have organised the last three talent evenings, the new team set about the tasks required to make 2012 another successful show.

Many of the entertainers incorporated a Jubilee theme into their performance and some connected it to their dress (many wore red, white and blue) while others had music or words that portrayed a sense of celebration. The hall at Humphrey Perkins was bedecked with appropriate bunting and balloons and it could have been mistaken for a venue for the last Night of the Proms! Well, not quite!

A new introduction this year was to award 2 prizes, one for the under 16's and one for the 16 plus age group. Altogether there were 21 acts but just 17 to vote for. The Panto Group opened the show with a chorus number from their most recent show, Puss in Boots. Queen Gertie, aka Richard Bailey, also made a special appearance in her Jubilee gown.

The audience enjoyed a game of novelty bingo, another new introduction while the votes were counted. There was just a slight problem here when the £50 prize money went AWOL. Thankfully it quickly came to light in an envelope in an organiser's handbag!

*After the count, special guests, Carol and Gordon Kenneth presented the awards to the worthy winners; The Bishop Beveridge Choir won in the 16+ age group and the Johnstone Family, for their dance rendition of Rule Britannia, triumphed in the under 16s.*

The organisers would like to thank all the acts for taking part, those who donated raffle prizes, the sound and lighting crew, members of Barrow Panto Group for volunteering to introduce the various acts and to the fabulous audience. And in addition to having a really good evening's entertainment, BGT also made nearly £1,000 for BUSCA.

*There will be a Barrow's Got Talent in June 2013 and we have heard rumours that it may be built into a bigger village event so look out for further intriguing information next March.*

**Ginnie Willcocks**



*The Bishop Beveridge Choir*

*The Johnstone Family*

# Millennium Park leaflet

In the 1990's developers bought land and wanted to build a new estate off Fishpool Way but they were only allowed to do so if they gave a portion of it to the public for community use. People in the village set up a Millennium Group to raise funds to create an interesting and environmentally friendly public open space. Over the millennium year of 2000 an amazing £12,000 was raised through numerous events including a garden party, a river festival and a Last Night of the Proms. In 2002 the Parish Council acquired and adopted the land as a celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. And that's when the space was given its name: the Millennium Park.

With an additional £20,000 from grants, the Millennium Group bought native wild flowers, trees and bushes, commissioned a giant sundial and information board and created the paths. They all enhance the park we know today. Village groups took part in the tree planting which got people really interested in the site. The park was formally opened in 2004.

The wild flowers sown or planted included primroses, cowslips and wild daffodils along the bank beside Fishpool Way and bluebells and snowdrops on the top side near to the bridleway. A summer wild flower meadow was created on damp ground near the Melton Road end of the park.

Various wild flower and other surveys had been carried out and in early 2009 the Parish Council and BUSCA decided to sponsor the Natural History Heritage Group to produce an illustrated leaflet to record the development of the park and its natural history. We are delighted that the leaflet has now been printed and is available for you to pick up free from the many dispensers around the village.

## Scope of the leaflet

The leaflet mentions only a small selection of plants, animals and other living organisms found in the park. You should be able to find most of these without too much searching. While we were reviewing the wildlife we found far more species identified and photographed than are included in the leaflet. For example, in 2002 a survey of the bank near the central steps identified over 40 species of wild flower.

**Bob Mudge and Judith Rodgers**

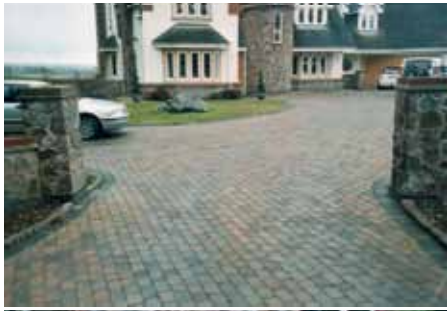
*Pick up a copy from the usual local outlets.*



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Carol Westbury

**01509 412385**

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early - Schedule of classes  
available from Tilly Yates  
01509 413085

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Disney  
**Alice in  
Wonderland**  
JR.

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**Tickets: £7.00 (£5.00 concessions) from**  
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**or 07718153117**

**OR [judithroddgers155@gmail.com](mailto:judithroddgers155@gmail.com)**

# Christmas is coming

## Christmas Tree Festival

The ninth annual festival at Holy Trinity Church will be opened by Reverend Tony Edmonds at a Cheese and Wine Evening including light entertainment commencing at 7.30 pm on Thursday 29th November. Christmas trees will be on display from Friday morning 30th November until Sunday afternoon 2nd December with refreshments available throughout.

On Friday evening, 30th November, we hope to have a visiting band and on Sunday afternoon we have the Choronostra Choir providing festive music. Do put the dates in your diary and come along to enjoy the displays and visit our new Trinity Rooms.

For more information about all events, contact:  
Terry Brown on 01509 412929.



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## The BIG Christmas Lights Switch On

**Sat Dec 1st 2012:**

- Recorders at 4.15 outside Holy Trinity Church
- Switch on of Christmas lights: 5.00pm
- Street market on Barrow's High St
- Entertainment from 4.00 - 6.30: Live band, singers, street entertainer



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Classes are run by Peter J Statham who, as the Chief Instructor for Leicester & Loughborough Shotokan, has 34 years of Karate experience and holds the rank of 5th Dan.

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9.00 - 9.55 a.m. Children Beginners  
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 11.00 - 11.55 p.m. Children Advanced  
 12.00 - 1.15 p.m. Adults

#### Sundays

There is a separate timetable available for Sunday classes which run approximately once a month. Classes are available on these Sundays for all students to catch up and for extra training. There is also a specialised Black Belts Only class available.

### TOP QUALITY TUITION:

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Children's classes £3.75 per lesson. Adult classes £4.25 per lesson

To contact Leicester & Loughborough Shotokan

Phone: 0116 2996484 Mobile: 07719 975099 Email: llskarate@gmail.com

# Barrow Voice

**IN EACH ISSUE** [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)

- The Latest Village News Items
- Reports On Issues Affecting People In The Street - Young & Old
- Articles With A Historical Perspective
- The Latest Community Events
- Celebrity Reports
- Sports News
- Diary of forthcoming Events

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**All enquiries should be made through:**  
**Judith Rodgers - 07718 153117 or [advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk](mailto:advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk)**

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Mon 15th Oct

## Copy Deadline

Mon 15th Oct

### Copy to:

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editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

## Village Diary

Fri 14th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30  
Sat 15th Holy Trinity Men's Group: Coffee morning in church  
Tues 18th PC Cemetery Committee 10.00  
Wed 19th Gardening Club: The wonderful world of ferns by Des Martin; The Gap, behind Baptist Church; 19.30  
Wed 26th Chat, Craft, games and tea; Methodist Hall; 14.30  
Sat 29th Horticultural Show at Methodist Church; open to all the village; vegetables and flowers; 13.00 - 6.30 followed by auction of produce. Charnwood Orchestra in Concert; Holy Trinity Church; 19.30. Tickets from Paper Shop

Mon 1st Holy Trinity Men's Group: "Christian in Politics"; speaker Andy Reed  
Tues 2nd Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30  
Wed 3rd Mother's Union: "A Cornish Tale" by Mrs Selvey-Willars  
Fri 5th Centre Stage: A Midsummer Night's Dream; 19.30; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre  
Sat 6th Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00.  
BUSCA Autumn Dance with Just Us; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30 - 23.00  
Mon 8th WI: "The Great Wall of China walk"; Bishop Beveridge Club; 19.30  
Tues 9th Neighbourhood Watch; 19.30; Cons Club  
Wed 10th Craft Afternoon; Methodist Hall; 14.30 - 16.00 including Knit Nativity and other Christmassy things.  
Ladies Pampering Evening; Trinity Rooms; 19.30; Tickets 413063  
Fri 12th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30.  
Barrow Panto Group presents a Murder Mystery: "Soapsuds"; 19.30; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre  
Wed 17th Gardening Club: "And now for something completely different" by Graham Wagstaff; The Gap, behind Baptist Church; 19.30  
Sat 20th Holiday at Home reunion; Baptist Church; Lunch followed by concert.  
Mon 23rd PC Playing Fields Committee; 12.00; Parish Office  
Wed 24th PC Enhancements to Entrances to the vilage; 14.00; Parish Office  
Chat, Craft, games and tea; Methodist Hall; 14.30

Sat 3rd Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00  
Mon 5th Holy Trinity Men's Group: "Ball technology" by Prof Roy Jones  
Tues 6th Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30  
Wed 7th Mother's Union: Members' meeting  
Thu 8th Craft Afternoon; Methodist Hall; 14.30 - 16.00 including Knit Nativity and other Christmassy things  
Fri 9th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30  
Mon 12th WI: Annual meeting; Bishop Beveridge Club; 19.30  
Tue 13th PC Cemetery Committee; 10.00; Parish Office. Neighbourhood Watch; 19.30; Cons Club  
Wed 14th PC Millennium Park Committee; 10.00; Parish Office  
Sat 16-17th Barrow Youth Theatre present Alice in Wonderland; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 14.00 and 19.00; Tickets from Paper Shop  
Wed 21st Gardening Club: "Plants from the most beautiful valley on earth (Tibet)" by Hazel Kaye; The Gap, behind Baptist Church; 19.30  
Sat 24th Methodist Church Christmas Fayre  
Sun 25th BUSCA Christmas Craft Fayre; 10.00 - 16.00; HPHS  
Centre Stage: Two Ghost Stories; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.00; Tickets Paper Shop  
Wed 28th Chat, Craft, games and tea; Methodist Hall; 14.30  
Thu 29th Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival: evening opening with cheese and wine  
Fri 30th Christmas Tree Festival open all day; evening concert

Sat 1st Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00.  
Christmas Tree Festival open all day. The Big Switch on; starts at 4.00 outside Holy Trinity Church; Lights on at 5.00; Street market and entertainment in High St  
Sun 2nd Christmas Tree Festival open all day; afternoon concert  
Mon 3rd Holy Trinity Men's Group: Annual Dinner  
Tue 4th Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30  
Wed 4th Mother's Union: Celebrating Christmas  
Sat 8th Methodist Church Nativity Festival; 11.00 - 17.00 followed by evening concert  
Sun 9th Methodist Church Nativity Festival; 12 noon - 17.00



5th Oct

**MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**  
Centre Stage

12th Oct

**SOAPSUDS MURDER MYSTERY**  
Barrow Panto Group

16th / 17th Nov

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**  
Barrow Youth Theatre

1st Dec

**THE BIG SWITCH-ON**  
Christmas Lights and Street Market

6th Oct

**AUTUMN DANCE**  
Just Us

11th Nov

**WINTER WARMER DANCE**  
Martyn Whitlam

25th Nov

**TWO GHOST STORIES**  
Centre Stage

21st Dec

**CHRISTMAS DANCE**  
C & J. Sound