

Barrow VOICE



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Spring 2013



Inside this issue

WILDLIFE, APPRENTICES... and a Giant Caterpillar!

**BARROW
FOCUS**
see pages
18-19



Nice New Path? - Page 7



Murder! Murder! - Page 11



Huskies - Page 27



Crazy People - Page 31



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Down To Work At Last

There was no 'Just got to go to India' excuse to get me off the editorial hook this time! And I'm glad there wasn't as it's been an enjoyable experience although I've only just realised how long it takes to put the magazine together. Frances, you were a star doing it for so many years and so well. We all want to thank you for the past amazing fifty six editions. You'll be a hard act to follow but here goes.

In this edition some articles are quite topical such as Genevieve's on taking out an apprenticeship and John's on the thorny question of what to call 'The Slabs' now the stones as distinct rocky islands have disappeared. I favour 'The Strip', as it has a lovely louche Las Vegas ring to it, but what do you think? And in this edition too we are lucky to have some great photos not only of the latest panto production but also 'Pics from the Past' to revive memories of successful events last year. And don't forget you can see photos we didn't have room to squeeze into this edition by going to the website www.barrowvoice.co.uk.

Do you read a lot? Then why not join the book club Julie Gardner is planning to start, see page 9, and last but not least please contact me (editor@barrowvoice.co.uk) if you have any funny pet stories. In a future issue we intend to feature Barrow's animals; we already have one story but would like more. Got a wappy cat?

Reading 'Barrow Voice' is undoubtedly one of the best ways of keeping in touch with what's going on yet there are others if you have a computer. Foremost of these is 'Barrow Signpost' which is bursting with up to the minute info on clubs, pubs, sports, shops and docs. The website www.leicestershirevillages.com is another way you can find out more, not only about Barrow but far flung Peatling Parva or Blackfordby. As well as a fund of information there are good archives of old photos attached to village sites. Barrow's is excellent, so it's an easy way to peek into the past. And finally there's Facebook. No self respecting village could be without its Facebook page now could it? Next time you're checking out your friends why not go to Barrow Upon Soar's page and click on 'LIKE'. Living here the odds are you do very much!

Gaynor Barton
Editor

New Blue Plaque in Barrow

You may have noticed the new blue plaque on the former Lime Kiln pub.

It marks the long connection which the pub had with the lime workers in the village; we did not want this to be forgotten so arranged with the new owners of the building to commemorate its original use. We are very grateful to the Lime Tree Nursery for their help and also to Angus Seddon of Lafarge Mountsorrel, who arranged payment for the plaque, and to the Brett Group who paid for it to be fixed to the building.

The Heritage group is currently working on a project to commemorate some of the characters who have lived in the village. We are planning to have this ready for an exhibition during the weekend of Open Gardens which is June 22nd/23rd.

Kathryn Timmons



Martin Page

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300 New Homes in the Village Coming Soon?

BRAG reports on the planning inquiry; sewerage, traffic flow and social cohesion.

The final proceedings of the planning inquiry into Jelson Homes' proposal to build 300 units on land off Melton Road did not take place last December as scheduled but, due to illness, was held over until 15th and 16th January 2013. The Inspector, Keith Manning, made his accompanied formal sites visit as intended on 6th December 2012.

The first day (15/01/2013) was given to highways issues focussing on the Grove Lane junction, Barrow (river) bridge and site access issues. On the latter the developer proposes a single site of access whereas for sites of this size, two points of access are regarded as best practice for safety purposes, although the developer dismissed this.

The final (half) day heard from local residents and then the final summing up submissions by those representing the developer, Charnwood Borough Council and Barrow Parish Council (BPC). The latter focussed on the lack of evidence provided by the developer that built units could be delivered within five years. For example, the BPC barrister pointed to the inadequate assessment of the sewerage system and the possibility that a higher capacity system may require installation if the development is permitted.

Local resident Graham Hobbs asked for a trial period of the proposals to improve traffic flow over Barrow Bridge and that a planning decision should not be made until the outcome was clear. The developer dismissed this by saying this was not needed because their computer traffic modelling and research showed the improvements required and they were confident of achieving them. Sue Rodgers for BUSCA told the Inspector that the homes would place an unacceptable pressure on already over stretched social facilities, having an adverse impact on the social cohesion of the village. She expressed concern that the developer would not meet the section 106 financial commitments in view of them reneging



on a previous similar commitment. Borough councillors Hilary Fryer and Pauline Ranson said 'the sheer scale of the proposal was just too much for the village to take.' In summing up, Counsel for the developer dismissed all objections raised by Charnwood Borough Council, Barrow Parish Council, Barrow Health Centre, BRAG and local residents and called for the appeal to be upheld and permission to build be issued as soon as possible.

The Inspector intends to finalise his

report by late February or early March and send this to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles MP for a final decision by himself or the housing minister, Nic Boles MP, on or by 13th May 2013.

**Alan Willcocks,
Vice- Chair, BRAG**



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Slabs No More! What to Call the Tarmac?

As you may know by now the slabs footpath has had its long awaited upgrade. The path has been widened to approximately 2.5m to accommodate a cycle track (not yet marked out) and constructed using tarmac. Somehow it doesn't sound quite right though: 'Let's go for a walk across the tarmac'. In saying this it is a more comfortable walk and much safer. The entrance at Barrow Bridge has been widened and makes for easier access with a bike or buggy but the gate appears to be hung the wrong way. The old steps have been retained and we now have a wider, much gentler slope down to the main path. Special traffic lights and control button have also been installed at the exit onto Soar Bridge to allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross the road to enter the village safely.

The meadow which The Slabs footpath crosses was called 'Scotche Greene' or the 'Auncient Meere'. Meere is the old word for boundary. The parish boundary would have originally run from the Priest Bridge (by Quorn Hall lodge) across the Slabs meadow to the river. There are still traces of a ditch. Originally, the path followed the river bank all the way to Quorn even going between the Hall and the river. The path was diverted to the other side of the hall in 1788, when Quorn Hall was occupied by Hugo Meynell.

The Slabs were first laid across the ancient path by Sir Richard Sutton, Master of the Foxhounds (1847 - 1855). He maintained a private railroad siding at Barrow where hounds and horses were loaded for transport to distant meets. He built himself a quarter mile long flagstone walk through the middle of the meadow to keep his boots dry while he walked to



the train. The path at that time was paved with rough slate slabs. A small number of slabs (but not the slate originals) have been laid at the Barrow end leading from the old steps to join the new path and an even fewer number laid alongside

the new path at the Quorn end. This was deliberately planned to retain a bit of the heritage element. So we can loosely say it is still The Slabs.

John Nurse

Coronation

Do you remember the Coronation events in Barrow - June 2nd 1953?

The Barrow upon Soar Heritage Group have been given a number of photographs of parties, parades, decorated shop windows and more that took place in the village to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

They will be holding an exhibition of these pictures at the Parish Council office on June 1st from 10am to 3pm. Please call in to have a look and help the group to identify events and people in the photos. It's great to have a record of these occasions but even better to know what was happening and the names of those in the pictures.

If you would like to know more please contact Ginnie Willcocks on 413996.





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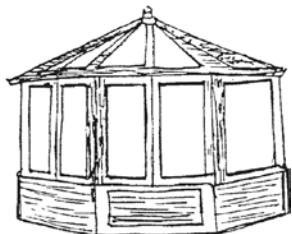
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The Lighthouse by Alison Moore

SALT publishing

Alison Moore is a local author, living near Loughborough. Her first novel, 'The Lighthouse' was shortlisted for the 2012 Man Booker prize.

It would be a great novel for a book group, not only because it's quite short, (183 pages) but also because it is a book that will divide opinions and lead to lively discussion.

There is nothing lightweight about this novel. It demands concentration and attention to detail but it repays that effort. I found I was irresistibly drawn to it until I had reached the end - sneaking back to it in between chores on a day when I should have been preparing for guests arriving.

The name of the central character is Futh - a strange and elusive name. I read the first chapter late at night and the next morning I found I could not remember the name although I knew it was unusual and that it ended with 'th'. As I continued to read the book over the next couple of days I found myself saying the name to myself, having to make a real effort to remember it. So it was with a sense of complete understanding that I read, towards the end of the novel, about a different character's efforts to remember the name of the man he had travelled with a few days earlier.

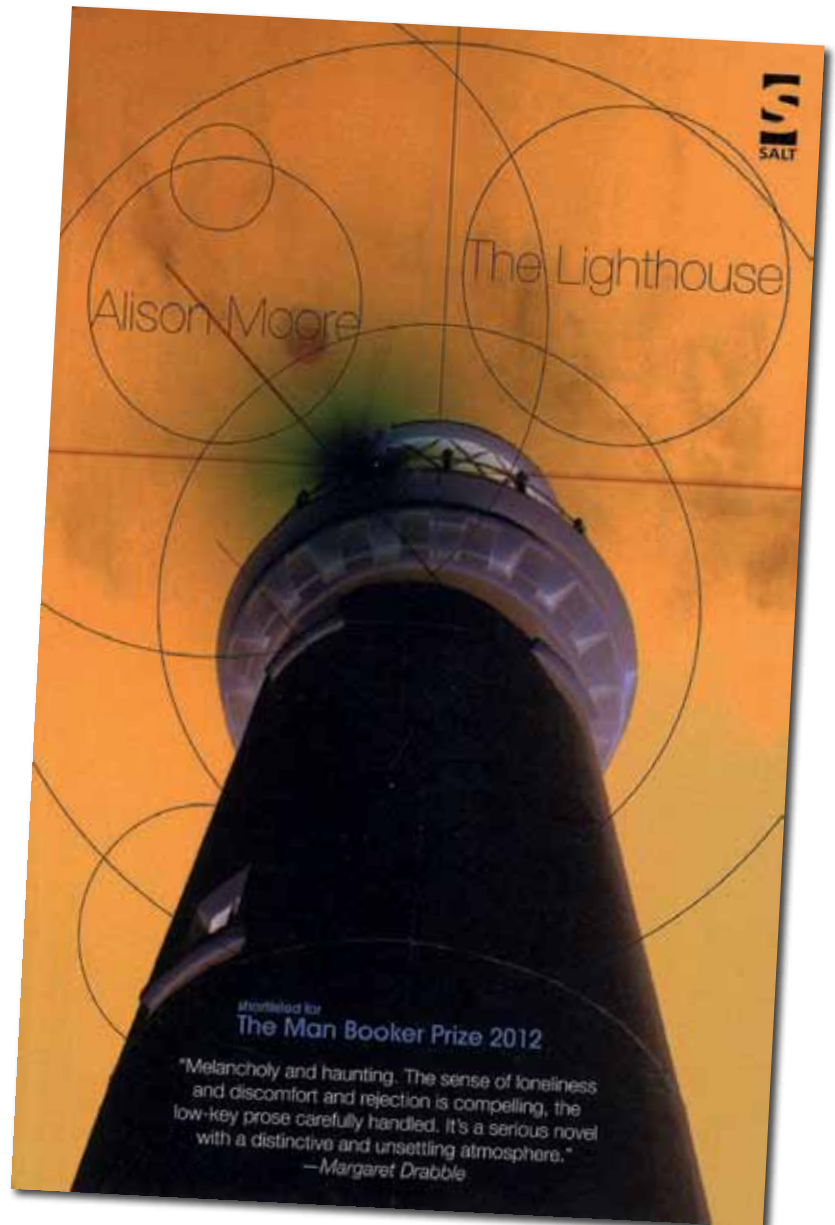
'He cannot even remember the man's name. It was a name which makes him think of froth, and the powdery wings of a moth. It was a name which seemed to vanish even as he heard it. He searches his memory, but the name has gone.'

In his pocket, Futh keeps a small, silver lighthouse. It's something he has treasured since childhood. In a recent interview, Alison Moore explained the significance of the title of her novel. [A lighthouse] 'emits this light which can keep you safe but the flip side to that is that there is danger there'.

The reader of this novel follows Futh as he travels to Germany and embarks upon a solitary walking holiday. His marriage has just ended. He is tired and dispirited and memories of an earlier trip abroad with his father add to his insecurity. Futh assumes that by the time he returns from his trip he will be refreshed and invigorated. However, his trip never seems to go to plan. To begin with, the disappointments and difficulties appear relatively insignificant but as the novel draws to its dark conclusion we realise that Futh has unwittingly drifted into extreme danger.

Julie Gardner

If you would be interested in joining a Barrow Book Group contact editor@barrowvoice.co.uk or Judith Rodgers 07718153117.



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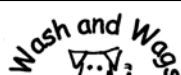
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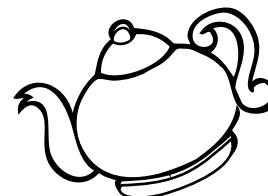
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The Great Barrow Murder Mystery...

... Reviewed.

Anyone who was at the Murder Mystery evening “Soapsuds” on 12 October 2012 knows what a great evening it was. A fascinating drama followed by an interactive section where the audience was invited to question the suspects and decide who had committed the foul deed. And in honesty, the victim was horrible enough for all the other characters to have a reason to kill her off, so the audience had their work cut out to solve it.

The short play was followed by a first course, a round of questioning, followed by a second course and a final round of questioning. The food for the evening was provided by Judith Rodgers and her team and she did us proud. After that it was make up your mind time – when each table decided who had done it, how it was done and why.

The cast was made up of Panto and Youth Theatre stalwarts: Abi Crossley, Carole Kenneth, Jackie Johnstone, Vicki Wallin, Craig Johnstone, Gordon Kenneth, Simon Long and Richard Bailey. They were, each of them, magnificent throughout the whole process of rehearsal, set design, costume choosing and fitting and performance. This was especially helpful as they were dealing with a rank amateur in me, an enthusiastic, if somewhat ignorant producer.



After the success of the production in October we were invited to do it all again at the Conservative Club. This show presented new challenges to the cast – we did not have a stage and were practically in the audience - and we were performing beside the route to the toilets so some members of the club had a bird’s eye view of the action! It was not a sell out success, but the cast really rose to the challenge and a good evening was had by all.

I cannot thank everyone involved enough for their support – from Ceri and John Fairbrother who supported us with their time and suggestions, to Judith and David Rodgers with admin and dealing with the Community Centre, to Jackie and Craig for hosting the rehearsals.

But most of all to the cast, who were funny and serious and intelligent throughout. And actually want to do it all over again... Keep a look out for posters in the autumn.

Helen Sadler

We will be running our next Murder Mystery on Friday October 11th.



Alice In Wonderland

Barrow Youth Theatre's first production under their new director, Abi Crossley, was an overwhelming success. If you saw it I'm sure you'll agree; if you missed it, what a shame!

In my opinion, I felt the music was quite difficult for young voices but the Barrow young people appeared to make light work of it all and sang confidently about Alice, the White Rabbit being late, the Caucus Race, Painting the Roses Red, the Un-Birthday Party and more.

It was an astoundingly colourful production with some marvellous costumes. The one I particularly liked was the caterpillar, in shimmering green with many legs and his rendition of Zippedy Doo Dah was lively and fun for everyone on stage and provided an appropriate end to the first half and an apt beginning to the second.

The three Alices, large size, normal size and small were very well played and the transformation scenes between them were so well executed; what a challenge! The Caucus Race was hectic and the un-birthday party, with the Mad Hatter and his friends, provided much amusement. The Red Queen really was as scary as she should be, the Cheshire Cats in their purple stripe suits were suitably smug and the white rabbit, well, he was just great.

Well done to Abi and her team. I'm already looking forward to the next production from this talented group. To let you into a secret, that will be 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in November. If you have a lightweight, large, backless, antique, magic wardrobe that we could borrow, please let Ceri know with a phone call to 07789464355.

Ginnie Willcocks

Thomas Bowes in a Bach Pilgrimage Concert at Holy Trinity Church

We are delighted that Thomas Bowes has chosen Holy Trinity Church for one of the concerts in his Bach Pilgrimage series which is taking him to many parts of the UK and Europe in 2013. He will be playing a selection of music for unaccompanied violin by JS Bach.

The concert is on Saturday 18 May, commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets, priced £8, are available from Pam Brown (412929) or from the Paper Shop or it will be possible to pay on the door.

This will be a wonderful and unique opportunity to experience such a performance by this internationally-renowned violinist. Thomas has been a guest soloist with Charnwood Orchestra on many occasions so will be known to some of you already.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards reducing the loan taken out to complete the Trinity Rooms.

Barrow Panto's latest show 'Babes in the Wood and Robin Hood'

Upon seeing the play on Friday, I have to say that it was an outstanding success! The three hour production was performed in proper pantomime spirit, engaging the audience with all aspects of the panto format. With all performers projecting their voices loudly and proudly, I half forgot that the sound crew was there - except for the several jokes sent in their direction!

The tone of the panto was set with a great opening rendition of 'The Bare Necessities' with beautifully synchronised singing and dancing. It must be said that the dancing in this panto was superb, incorporating all genres of dance - from ballet to Gangnam style! The way in which the panto was written was also excellent, leaving room for the characters to do a bit of improvisation if necessary. Moreover, the script firmly had its pulse on pop and political culture, drawing witty references on the coalition government, the horsemeat scandal, Wayne Rooney and even Sibley!

It also has to be said that the scenery was most convincing with such rich and detailed artwork that the audience truly felt as if they were in Nottingham forest! The second act opened with a fantastically well performed canon, sung by several of the main characters, which elicited laughter all round. This was swiftly followed by birthday announcements which was a sweet and endearing touch.

The second act was a tad shorter than the first, helping to draw everything to a close with the happily engaged bliss of Lady Marian FitzWalter (Jackie Johnstone) and Robin Hood (Kate Metcalfe). As for the stand-out performer of the show? In my opinion it was Richard Bailey, as Nurse Gladys, who thoroughly involved the audience and who never dropped out of character. His knee high boots and PVC nurse's outfit are things which I think I will never be able to erase from my mind. I wish the Barrow Panto Group lots of success in the future, but until then as Nurse Gladys would say, 'Will somebody turn the scenery?'

Seun Matiluko





Calling Barrow's Talent



Barrow Panto Group will be your hosts. To make a night of really cracking entertainment the hosts need plenty of variety in the acts. They are looking for comedians, magicians, sketches, gymnasts, musicians, acrobats etc. as well as singers and dancers. And they want polished performances SO TRY YOUR BEST - but this isn't the Olympics.

**Saturday 22nd June 2013 at 7pm
at HPHS Community Centre**

**To enter your act please contact Judith on
judithrodgers155@gmail.com
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**All proceeds will go to
the local Air Ambulance
and BUSCA**



Tony Childs

1937 ~ 2012

Tony Childs; family man, religious man, man of the community, kind and caring. Tony always had a smile on his face and it wasn't surprising to hear at his funeral that a favourite nickname for him was Mr Twinkly Eyes because that's exactly what they did.

Tony was born in Scunthorpe and he grew up in Lincolnshire with his parents and his two brothers. A favourite haunt was Sutton on Sea, a place he was able to visit again just a couple of weeks before he died.

After national service Tony began his teacher training at Loughborough. He moved to Barrow in 1957 where he lived at Bishop Blaize in South Street. This is where he first set his eyes and his sights on Ann (Wilford) who became his wife in 1962 after she had completed her nurses' training in Leicester. I remember Tony telling me that when he started courting Ann, and even after they were married, many people in the village called him Tony "Wilford", something he found most amusing. They were married for 50 years and a number of readers will recall their Golden Wedding celebrations last year with memories of Tony swinging to the "Gay Gordons".

During his life Tony had a love of sport and would take his children, on the bus, to watch the cricket at Trent Bridge. He also followed the Tigers and Leicester City; even on his last day he asked how City had done. Tony loved to compete and obviously enjoyed winning. It wasn't unknown that he would sometimes cheat, in a light hearted way, in family games of Monopoly at Christmas. I suspect his twinkly eyes would have given him away!

When Tony was teaching at Loughborough College School, later to become Burleigh College, he always looked forward to "Comic Relief" day so he could dress up, entertain and let his hair down. He was also able to do this during the annual Holiday at Home event that he helped to organise at the Baptist Church in the village. A couple of years ago the theme for this occasion was "Colours" and he made a special effort to dress up in the relevant colour for each day of the week.

With his faith and his belief in God Tony wanted to serve, which he did for as long as I can remember, with his work for the Baptist Church, through the David Lewis and Good News Centre, his youth work and youth camps. In the village he served as a Parish Councillor and was Chair of the council up to the time of his death. He took his council duties very seriously, wanting to keep the village safe from harm. Despite his strong ideals council colleagues recall, "He always presented ideas with a light touch and good humour."

It was such a shock to his family and the whole village community when Tony became ill, then very ill so quickly and even more so when he died. At his funeral his brother mentioned the tributes that the family had received and I feel it appropriate to finish with a summing up of these comments from those who loved him: "A great man of God", "A thoughtful and caring man with a dynamic personality", "Good night Twinkly Eyes."

Barrow Voice gives grateful thanks to Tony's brother James (Jim) for his contribution to the family memories recorded above.

Ginnie Willcocks



A letter from Ann Childs

Can I through the pages of BV express my and my family's heartfelt thanks for all the kindness and support at the time of, and since the death of Tony at the end of September. So many sent cards, attended his service of thanksgiving and acknowledged with gratitude Tony's commitment and service to the community.

We would also like to thank everyone who gave gifts in his memory. We have not been able to thank everyone personally as many gave anonymously. £700 has been sent to Baptist Home Mission and The Friends of the Banks Surgery. God bless you all in your generosity towards us.

Ann Childs.



Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council News

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clerk@barrowpc.org.uk

Barrow Focus

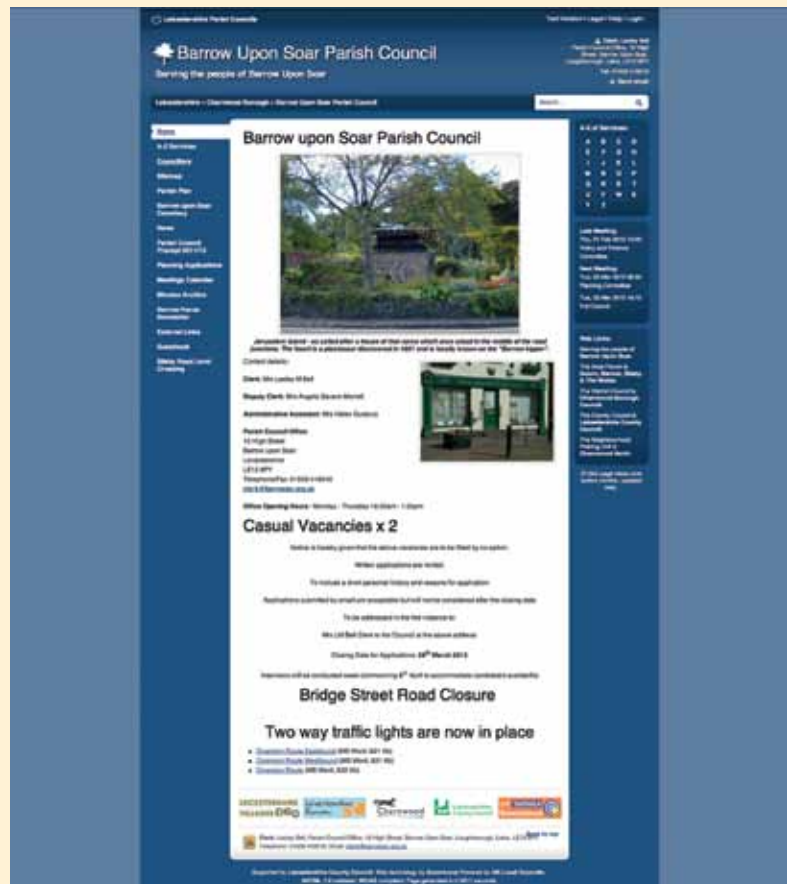
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Cllr J Spence	Cllr S Rodgers
Cllr R Forrest	

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE www.barrowpc.org.uk

The Parish Council website is the place to find out what the Parish Council is doing for you and your village. You will find the latest news articles on there as well as lots of other information.



MEETINGS CALENDAR APRIL

(additional meeting dates will be published following the AGM)

April

8th Planning Committee **12.00pm**

15th Full Council **7.15pm**
commencing with
Public Participation

16th Annual Parish Meeting **7.30pm**

8th Policy and Finance
Committee **2.00pm**

CASUAL VACANCIES

We have two vacancies for Parish Councillors, so we give notice that these two vacancies are to be filled by co-option.

If you would like to help shape where you live and want to help within your community, then you are invited to send a written application, giving brief details about yourself to: Mrs LM Bell Clerk to the Council at the above address.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Clerk.

P/10/1518/2

JELSON HOMES PROPOSALS TO BUILD 300 HOMES ON LAND AT MELTON ROAD

The Inquiry concluded on 16th January 2013 with closing statements by Counsel to Jelson (the Appellant), Charnwood Borough Council and Parish Council. We have received notification that states as follows:

“Following the closure of the inquiry, the Inspector is now preparing his report and recommendation(s) for submission to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, I am writing to let you know that the Secretary of State will issue his decision(s) on or before 13 May 2013.”

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 16th April 2013

Acting Chairman Wendy Woodhouse extends a very warm welcome to all residents to Barrow's Annual Parish Meeting which will be held at the Methodist Church Rooms, North Street starting at 7.30pm. This is your meeting and everyone is encouraged to attend.

It would be helpful if any questions you have for the Council are provided to the Clerk in advance of the meeting in order that an informed response is offered.

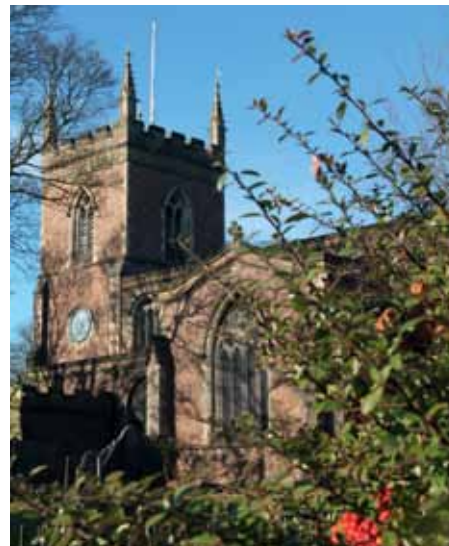
ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE

Sunday 14th April 2013

The Annual Civic Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 14th April starting at 10:00am. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 at the Parish Council Office and precedes the meeting of Full Council.



PROGRAMME OF SUMMER WALKS FOR 2013

The first Parish Walk of the 2013 season will be on Wednesday May 8th, to Quorn. Out via The Slabs, returning to Barrow across the fields from the A6 via the One Man Bridge, finishing at the Navigation Inn for refreshments.

Meet at the Old Station Car Park at 7pm.
Leader: Ginnie Willcocks

A full programme of walks will be available shortly.

Please check the Parish Council office window and Parish Council notice board.



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Date to be confirmed

The second Bi-annual Youth Achievement Awards Event is in progress. Nominations are welcomed for under 18's and for any achievement be it sports, arts, young carer/volunteer, leadership, services to the community, etc. The list is endless. We hope to have secured a celebrity to present prizes/certificates which along with the actual event will be promoted throughout the village/schools etc. Keep your eyes peeled and please please nominate that special young person.



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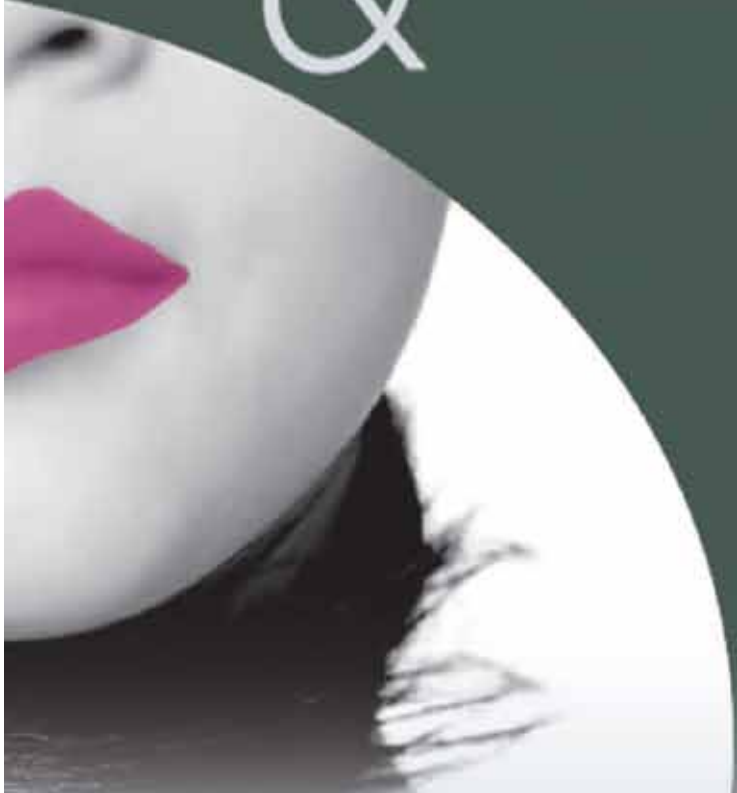
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Wash and Wags Celebrates 25 Years

Vicki Wallin, owner of this popular Barrow dog-grooming business suggested that her ideal way of celebrating her 25th year was to share it with Barrow Voice! So here are some of her reminiscences.

Vicki was 18 and wondering what do with her life. She was at college but also working as a part time nursing auxiliary in Quorn. She decided to try her hand at some dog grooming in her spare time, buying her first set of clippers with her meagre savings. She was living at home in Melton Road and would take her doggy customer to the family bathroom for a bath. Then she trundled the soaking dog down to the garage where she dried it with her sister's hair drier before having a go at trimming. So successful was she that

she very quickly realized the need to get some training and then to expand what she was doing into a full blown business. And 'Wash and Wags' really has been a success story. Her customers come from as far afield as Skegness and Manchester. Seven years ago she took her husband Andy into the business. He bathes and dries the dogs before Vicki does the clipping. However, he wasn't able to help with her most unusual job. She was asked to trim some of the fur from a fur coat. It was a lovely full length garment but so thick that it was too warm to wear with comfort. The clippers worked a treat and her customer was delighted with the results.

Vicki assures me that in all these 25 years she has only ever been bitten once and never had dogs fighting. Long may it continue!



Awards for Soar Valley Dental Practice

The Dentistry Awards, held last autumn in Leicester, recognise outstanding young individuals, teams and practices across all regions of the UK.

Amongst those celebrating were Soar Valley Dental Practice who won Best Team Midlands and Best DCP Midlands for practice manager Fay Perry.

Practice principal Ash Champaneri said: 'We won Best Team Midlands because we strongly believe the sum of all parts is greater than each individual. We all get on with each other and there is a lot of enthusiasm within the team. Awards like this get the team together and it wakes them up to just how good they are, but it was a surprise to us!'



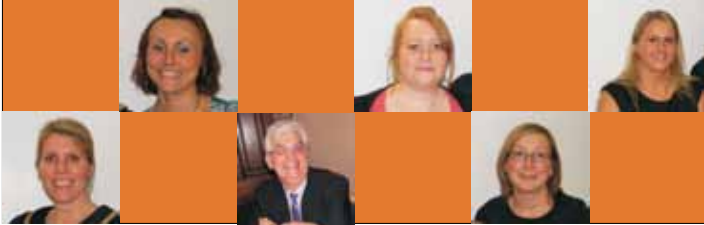


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It's Musical Shops in Barrow High Street

It's all change in High St at the moment. During last autumn, Creative Beauty moved into 3, High St from Indigo's Hairdresser further up High St. Now we have another pair of moves: Strawberry Lettings and Sales has moved to No 4 High Street from No 26 (the Footings building) while 'Activity 4 All' physiotherapy clinic fills the Footings vacancy.

Here's a bit more about them.

Strawberry Lettings and Sales have found themselves their ideal property



Strawberry, our very own Barrow residential lettings and sales agent, finally moved into No 4 Strawberry Cottage, High Street at the beginning of January.

After making a full refurb, inside and out, director Nicola Hickinbotham sighed with relief, "It's wonderful to have our own building. We really are in the heart of the community now. And that is so important to us; we have two faces: we are the *local* agents so people can walk in off the street to get a personal service. But we also run a thoroughly up-to-date website with all the facilities you could possibly want including full access from any of your devices. You might say that our message is *We're the local agent but with the world at our fingertips*." And that is surely true. Strawberry has just sold a house in Sileby to someone in Australia and has relocated a family from New Zealand to Mountsorrel. Nicola's assistant, Claire commented, "At last we can chat to clients in more spacious and comfortable surroundings. And we are very visible and easy to find".

Physiotherapy and Sports Injuries Clinic Joins the High St Scene

Claire Lidstone qualified from Manchester School of Physiotherapy in 1999. Working in Manchester NHS and private hospitals while managing private out-patient and sports injuries clinics in Manchester and for The University of Manchester Sports Directorate, she gained plenty of experience before taking a specialist role at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in Musculoskeletal Outpatients, Orthopaedics and Rheumatology.



A lifestyle and role change came with the arrival of her son Aaron and a family move to Barrow upon Soar as her husband, Liam, took on a role at The Energies Technology Institute in Loughborough. Claire threw herself into village life running BuggyBootcamp sessions for fellow mums and a small out patient clinic at The Footings in the evenings keeping a few Barrow Runners racing, while she was busy as a fundraiser for Barrow Playgroup. The arrival of Caitlin slowed things right down and back fresh from maternity leave Claire is moving in to 26 High Street, alongside Julie Astill at The Footings to provide Barrow Upon Soar with a Physiotherapy and Sports Injuries Clinic. Opening Monday 4th February.

A runner herself, Claire has a good understanding of the sportsman mentality and having experienced whiplash, back and knee pain herself she works hard to ensure the cause of the problem is identified and corrected as swiftly as possible. Claire is passionate about keeping people pain free and active and looks forward to making a difference to anyone who has any pain or injuries lingering on, or picked up in the New Year fitness push. Feel free to call for advice or book an appointment 01509 414 581 / 07968 432 644."

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Fired?... No!... You're Hired !!

In the case of three of Barrow's young apprentices: "You're hired!" were the words they heard. With the rise in university tuition fees coupled with dubious job opportunities and a £60,000 debt, more and more young people are looking towards the more practical choice of apprenticeships instead of feeling forced to choose between a financially excruciating degree and jumping head first into the harsh world of work.

"An apprenticeship seemed like the best of both worlds" says Amy Waterfield, marketing apprentice at Mulberry Square, a Mountsorrel based marketing business. "You can gain qualifications without incurring a huge amount of debt as well as learning in the workplace and earning whilst doing so". Amy explains that working as a Marketing Analyst Apprentice at Mulberry Square is not without its difficulties. She uses various online tools and prepares weekly reports for important customers regarding the impact of Mulberry Square's services on traffic to their website. "What I love about working for Mulberry Square is that I'm constantly learning new things" Amy informs me, "I enjoy coming to work knowing that I am bettering myself and making myself more employable without the burden of university fees".

As far as plans for the future go, Amy believes her interests will lead her into the world of Public Relations, an addition to Marketing she believes is increasingly crucial and something that she would really enjoy.

While Amy's decision to apply for an apprenticeship was born from a horror of debt and uncertainty after leaving university,

Tom Jordan had focused on the path to an apprenticeship since the age of 15. "I've got more of a practical mind," Tom explains to me as I learn that doing work experience with an electrical company three years ago had inspired him to seek an apprenticeship with William Davis, an electrical company based in Loughborough. In the world of apprenticeships the work is hard and the competition is tough. "Two hundred people applied for two places at William Davis" says Tom, "It feels good to know I was picked out of so many". I learn that the common misconception about apprenticeships being entirely practical with little or no theoretical work is a complete myth as Tom explains the complexities of his work. "Out of the four year apprenticeship" he clarifies, "two years are spent half at college, half at work - it's a nice balance between learning in a classroom and being at work. The whole qualification is equivalent to three A levels".

A separate scenario entirely, Andy Kenneth looked into both studying Business and

Management at university and working in banking in London before deciding to apply for an apprenticeship at Boots. "I wanted to keep my options open," he laughs. "It seems a degree's not all it's made up to be, you need experience to swing it". After a long process of interviews and online exams Andy became one of the twenty talented individuals to be offered a place a thousand people had competed for. "It was a hard competition!" he says, "very selective". Having recently finished his three month placement as trainee manager in Loughborough's store Andy confirms that they're a great company to work for, "There's so much variety" he explains. "You learn something new every day, both from the experience and from the other employees - I don't think I'll get a better offer than Boots".

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in finding out more about apprenticeships, a good place to start is by looking on the website www.apprenticeships.org



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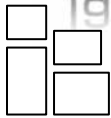
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The Bishop Beveridge Club

~ lots going on so don't miss a thing!

Newcomers to our village, along with some of our existing residents, may not be aware that we have a thriving 60+ age group club that has been established since 1952 at our South Street centre named after Barrow's own Bishop Beveridge. The centre has recently been re-furbished and updated to include a rear disabled access and completely redecorated and modernised. The front access is already on the level and we have a disabled toilet in addition to two others.

We could even be Barrow's answer to be the University of the Third Age (U3A)!

Although we have a membership of around 150, non-members (of all ages) can join the many events that we organise throughout the year which include film shows, entertainment afternoons and coach trips each month.

Our Movie Mondays are normally the third Monday of each month at 2.15pm. 'Phoenix Big Screen' presents a selection of both newly released and golden oldies. In 2012 we showed films which included 'War Horse', 'The Artist', 'We Bought a Zoo', 'The King's Speech', 'It's

Complicated', 'Summer Holiday' and in December the original version of 'Scrooge'.

Already in 2013 we have seen 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' and the latest James Bond film 'Skyfall'. Films already booked are 'Anna Karenina' for Monday 22 April and 'Quartet' on Wednesday May 22 (note change from Monday).

Look out for the list posted outside the Club premises, in the Library and in the Loughborough Echo. Non-members pay £ 4.00, members £ 3.75 and the price includes tea/coffee and a cake.

In addition, on each 4th Wednesday afternoon in the month, all at 2.30pm, we have a varied programme of entertainment. We have been entertained by folk singer Pete Clark, listened to the Story of Long Clawson Cheese (with tastings!) and laughed at a comedy duo along with holding two fun quizzes. Bookings for 2013 include 'A Canadian Journey' and the Bucharth Gardens and on March 27th we offer 'Wild, Wicked, Wonderful Wallis' a presentation on the life of Wallis Simpson by Julie Ede. Our very popular Fun Quiz will return for 24th April (and 23rd October). On 26th June, Mike Webster, a local prize

continued over page 26

continued from page 25

winning wildlife photographer will show us 'Charnwood Through the Seasons'. July and August are yet to be booked but look out for notices as above. Costs vary but always include tea/coffee and a cake.

New ideas for entertainment are very welcome. Please contact either Joyce Noon on 01509 414519, or Sylvia Steane on 01509 413565.

The following are our proposed monthly trips for 2013, which are generally the 2nd Monday in each month. Non-members can usually be accommodated by paying a little extra charge.

11th March: Lunch at Marsh Farm at Abbots Bromley, followed by a visit to the Berkley Garden Centre.

8th April: Broadway village in the Cotswolds followed by lunch at the Cotswold Farm Park (Adam Henson of 'Countryfile' fame is the owner).

13th May: Lunch at Grantham, followed by a visit to Harlaxton Manor where we will have a guided tour, refreshments and the opportunity to view the gardens.

10th June: Steam-train ride from Kidderminster to Bridgenorth on the Severn Valley Railway with a lunch break en-route and return to Kidderminster.

18 July: Althorp, Northants. The family home of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. We will see the inside of the house and the Princess Diana Exhibition.

12 August: The annual trip to Skegness.

8th September: Grimesthorpe Castle near Bourne, Lincs. See the Parkland by coach and then take a tour of the house and gardens. Lunch will be included.

14 October: Barnsdale Gardens in Rutland and lunch. Afterwards we will visit an Owl and Birds of Prey Sanctuary to see the birds and watch a flying demonstration.

To see notices for later trips and further information, contact Chairman Sylvia on 01509 413565.

All these are in addition to our regular meeting days for members. Each Tuesday starting at 2.30pm we play Scrabble (non-

competitive, non -scoring, just fun), cards and other games. Bingo is held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Every other Wednesday is either games or entertainment. We are trying to fill up this day with alternative events and suggestions would be very welcome. Both days include tea/coffee and a cake.

Coffee morning is each Thursday 9.45 – 10.45am. Come and meet old friends and make new ones.

New members are made very welcome. The annual membership is only £4 and, since over sixties clubs no longer exist in Sileby, Quorn, Seagrave and Walton on the Wolds, we can accept members from those villages – all within a three mile radius of the Club.

The photo is of our Fun Quiz April 2012

Joyce Noon (Vice-Chair)

Open Gardens Festival 2013

This year's Open Gardens will take place on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June. We expect that it will be bigger and better than ever and will make a lively village weekend packed with all sorts of associated events. We hope that they will include an Art exhibition, craft workshops, a Heritage exhibition on Famous People from Barrow, Barrow's Got Talent and, of course, refreshments.

All proceeds from Open Gardens will go to Rainbows.

Do consider opening your garden whether it is small or large, for this worthwhile charity.

We can promise it will be great fun!

Contact:
Lin Winter on 412986 or lin.winter15@talktalk.net
Lee Sheldon on 07843 077200 or barrowgardens@btinternet.com



Huskies, Helicopters and Whisky Marmalade

Support from Barrow for the Derbyshire Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance comes in several guises but surely the most adventurous must be Claire Oldham's participation in an 'International Challenge' fundraiser. Former Barrow resident Claire may no longer live here but visits quite often as her mum, Christine Oldham, still lives in Nottingham Road. What's more Claire thinks of herself as 'Barrow-born-and-bred' having spent 25 years of her life here and been a pupil at Hall Orchard and Humphrey Perkins.

But not even Humphries could have prepared her for this! She's planning to cross 200kms of Swedish Lapland by dogsled in February when temperatures range between -8 (tops) and -40. The dogs love charging along and once into their stride don't even stop for a poo; they just keep going! So your fitness has to be excellent and you must be tough as you camp at

night. Camping in -40 with only straw outside-toilets at the camps -Claire must be mad! But she's not alone. A total of 12 people will take part in this event and Claire has already raised £3,396 for the cause. She is delighted to have passed her £3,000 target but she is keen to raise as much as possible so please go to <http://www.justgiving.com/Claire-Pipe0> and add a few pounds, if you can, to boost her fund.

It's such a brilliant cause as the Air Ambulance saves so many lives by getting victims to hospital quickly and is totally dependent on donations. It's hard to believe that such a complex charity, needing £1.7 million a year to keep going, isn't funded by the government but it isn't and it doesn't get lottery funding either. Each area's air ambulance service is completely independent and that's why fund raising is so crucial. On average our local helicopter is called out four times a day, mostly to traffic accidents but also to rugby pitches and to odd corners of the countryside where a rider has come off. It really does, as its motto proclaims, provide 'Protection from the skies'.



Another Air Ambulance supporter is Mrs Iris Lovett (3 The Banks) whose sale of delicious home-made chutneys, jams and marmalades raised £245 last year. On a sign in her garden is her own wonderful motto. Giving to Charity I Lovett. (I love it!)

The Air Ambulance isn't Iris's only charity- she divides the proceeds with other causes close to her heart.

Finally people from the village who went to the Prestwold Hall Boxing Day Meet and threw coins into the Air Ambulance collecting buckets might be interested to learn that an impressive £1,550 was raised in those few late morning hours. Many thanks for being so generous.

Gaynor Barton

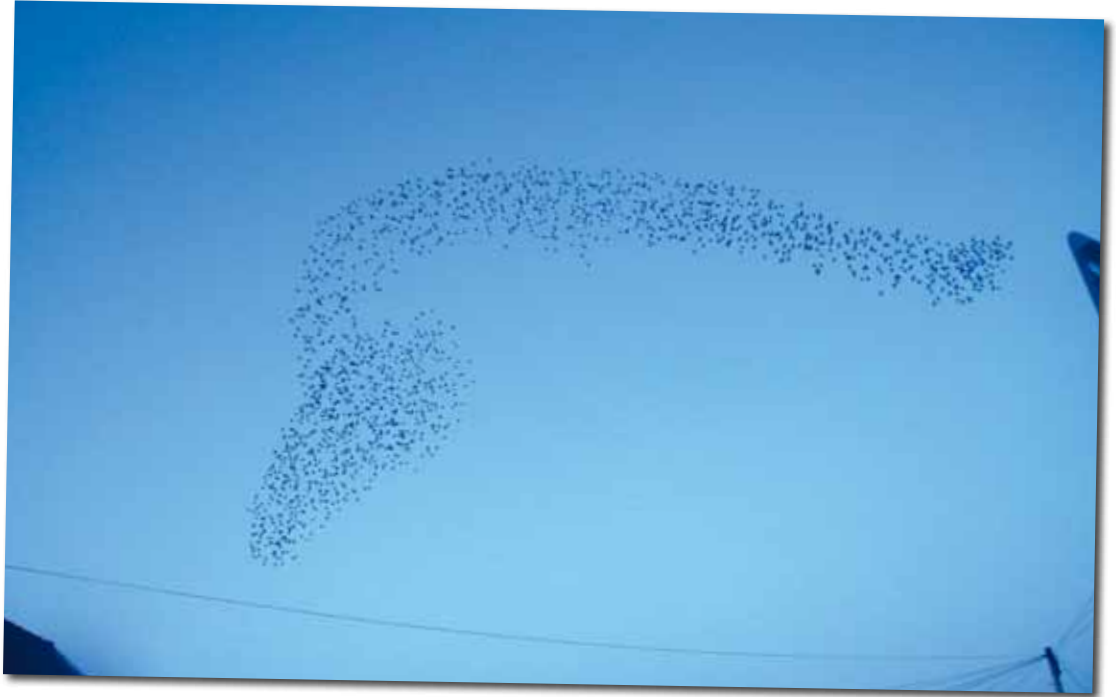


Stop Press: Claire in Sweden 2013

Spectacular Starlings

Spectacular is perhaps a word that you would not necessarily associate with starlings but did you see the murmurations in the evenings, just before dusk, mainly over New Street and Melton Road during the months of January and certainly the beginning of February? They may have stayed for longer but Barrow Voice has a deadline to be met so perhaps there'll be an update in the next issue. They really were an amazing sight.

The birds gather, from various directions, in flocks of either a few or a dozen or more then they all come together and their spectacular aerial display begins. Sometimes there must be over a thousand of them swooping and swirling, sweeping across the sky, like an enormous paintbrush painting a pattern. Suddenly the group will split then there are two paint brushes on the go!



Sometimes a few birds fall away from the main group as though they've forgotten the choreography and when they realise they quickly

change direction and do their best to

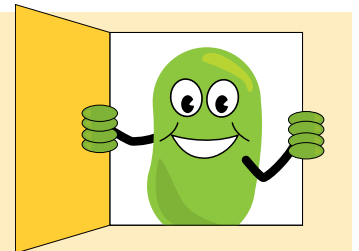
catch up and join the main group again. I'm amazed that the birds never collide, especially when they suddenly change direction.

This fabulous performance can last for up to an hour. When the light begins to fade the flocks fly lower and gradually small numbers of birds peel away from the main group and settle in trees in Melton Road and New Street. If you walk by one of these trees, just after they have settled to roost, the noise is incredible.

Many of the householders in the area of New Street, Melton Road, even in The Banks have had messy windows and cars speckled with bird droppings. One gentleman told me that he had to clean his car every day but he wasn't complaining; he considered that the spectacle of seeing the birds outweighed the labour of wiping down his car and windows. Did you know, our marvellous murmuration was even featured on the BBC News?

The Big Bean Day

Saturday 27th April



Come to The Methodist Church Hall from 10.00am to 12 noon and get started with your bean and seed planting ready to join in the Flower and Veg Garden Show next September. We hope you're going to be able to enter the competitions in September for the Longest Runner bean or the Best French bean, the Prettiest Vase of Flowers or the Finest Bunch of Herbs.

We will provide a mixture of seeds to plant in modules as starter kits. We can provide everything you will need. Although we mainly have the children in mind, adults can join in the fun as well and it will also make an ideal morning's activity for all the family.

For more information, phone Tilly Yates on 413085.



Dave Bird's Country Report

Because last summer was so wet I did not mow all the land I had set aside for hay but this has had a surprising benefit for the local foxes.

For days on end in January a small paddock I left unmowed was visited by foxes. The long grass covered by snow harboured a lot of small mammals, mainly field mice and voles. The foxes returned each day to hunt them; they walked stealthily through the snow, stopping periodically to listen, their ears twitching, then suddenly leaped into the air then buried their heads in the snow searching for the mice. I regularly saw one pair of foxes, a large dog fox and another smaller fox. The pair sometimes had play-fights and chased each other. They seemed very relaxed at being out during the day and were not that bothered by my presence. One morning I watched as the pair tried to sneak up on some rabbits. They used the field hollows and clumps of dead stinging nettles to get close. They got to about 10 yards of the rabbits before running out of cover. This was not near enough and the rabbits managed to escape.

At the moment I'm seeing flocks of fieldfares and red wings [both are winter visitors] feeding on the paddocks where the horses are. A flock of about eight magpies also regularly visits. On the basis of one for sadness two for joy this should be a really good omen.

It's only in the last three or four years that I have ever seen buzzards here. They are an impressive bird, very like a small eagle, and they have an eagle like cry a bit like mewing. Partridges regularly nest in my mowing grass; I've seen both red leg and grey here and am a little concerned for the safety of the chicks with so many foxes, magpies and buzzards around. All these groups readily eat carrion. However, there is certainly plenty of road kill around so hopefully that will keep them busy.

Dave Bird

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- Celebrity Reports
- Sports News
- Diary of forthcoming Events

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

All enquiries should be made through:

Judith Rodgers - 07718 153117 or advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk

Barrow Runners

A brief history

Boxing Day 2012 saw the Barrow Runners celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of their Boxing Day Run. It was in 1982 that a group of enthusiastic runners decided that it would be a good idea to meet on Boxing Day for a run. About twenty turned up and a four mile relay was run around the Walton block. These runners included Keith Rimmer, Mick Ballard, Mike Morley, Pete Tetsall and Dr. John Earl. Of these only Mick Ballard and Pete Tetsall are still running with the club.

In those early days the runners used to start from the lay-by at Humphrey Perkins, and Mick's wife along with others used to take along primus stoves and serve tea and mince pies to the runners. Success breeds success and the run, which is now six miles in length, has proved so popular with other running clubs that the start has moved to the Three Crowns Car Park, which makes it more central to the village as a whole. In 2012 the run attracted 280 runners, many of them in fancy dress; suffice it to say that the free tea and mince pies have stopped!

In 1985 Barrow Running Club (Barrow Runners) affiliated with the Leicestershire Road Running League, of which they were, in fact, founder members. The League runs a winter competition from January to April and a summer competition from May to September and these are the mainstay of the club activities. There has been mixed success over the years, with victories in the men's and women's senior and veterans sections, and also several runners-up, and third place spots. The Runners are also members of the Derby Runner Cross Country League which holds events throughout the winter. These are off-road races so obviously our runners must be a hardy lot.



Although the club enjoys the competitiveness of the league runs, they stress that it is the taking part that counts and although there is friendly rivalry in the club, the last person home is just as important as the first one. Barrow Runners now attract members not only from the village, but from the surrounding area, with ladies making a large proportion of the 160 membership, and is probably the largest cross country and road running club in the county. If you are interested in joining Barrow Runners, you can go to the Tuesday and /or Thursday training sessions for a few weeks to see how you get on before making the final commitment. The web site is www.barrow-runners.co.uk or you can contact Mick Ballard on 01509 413586 for an informative and friendly chat.

Val Gillings

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Village Diary

- Sat 16th Barrow and District Labour Party Spring Fair; 10.00 - 12.00; Church Rooms, Quorn
Mothers Union Coffee morning; 10.00 - 11.00
BUSCA Spring Dance; HPS; 19.30 - 23.00; doors open at 19.00. Tickets from Paper Shop
- Mon 18th Bishop Beveridge Club Big Screen Film: "Keeping Mum"; Bishop Beveridge Club Hall; 14.15
- Wed 20th Gardening Club: Dreaming Spires - Stuart Dixon; The Gap, behind Baptist Church; 19.30
- Tues 26th Barrow Scout Group Curry and Quiz night for all the family; £13.50 adults, £8.00 children; contact mandy@barrowscouts for more details
- Wed 27th Bishop Beveridge Club presentation talk: "Wily Wicked Wallis" (Wallis Simpson); Bishop Beveridge Club Hall; 14.30
-
- Tues 2nd Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30
- Wed 3rd Mothers Union talk: Olympic Volunteer; 14.00
- Sat 6th Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00
- Mon 8th WI: Bishop Beveridge Club; 19.30
- Tues 9th Neighbourhood Watch; 19.30; Cons Club
- Wed 10th Craft Afternoon; Methodist Hall; 14.00 Water colour painting and other crafts
- Fri 12th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
- Mon 15th Bishop Beveridge Club Big Screen Film: "Anna Karenina"; Bishop Beveridge Club Hall; 14.15
- Tues 16th Annual Parish Meeting; Methodist Church Hall; 7.30; all welcome.
- Wed 17th Gardening Club: The Cotswolds and its gardens; The Gap, behind Baptist Church; 19.30
- Sat 20th BUSCA Summer Dance; HPS; 19.30 - 23.00; doors open at 19.00. Tickets from Paper Shop
- Wed 24th Bishop Beveridge Club Fun Quiz; Bishop Beveridge Club Hall; 14.15
- Sat 27th Big Bean Day; Methodist Church Hall; 10.00 - 12.00; all welcome
-
- Wed 1st Mothers Union talk: "Tanzania" by R Worsfield; 14.00
- Sat 4th Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00
- Tues 7th Parish Council AGM followed by Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30
- Wed 8th Craft Afternoon; Methodist Hall; 14.00 Water colour painting and other crafts
- Fri 10th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
- Mon 13th WI: Bishop Beveridge Club; 19.30
- Tues 14th Neighbourhood Watch; 19.30; Cons Club
- Wed 15th Gardening Club: Astantias; The Gap, behind Baptist Church; 19.30
- Sat 18th Hall Orchard Summer Fayre (PTFA); 12.30 - 15.30; HO School field
- Wed 22nd Bishop Beveridge Club Big Screen Film: "Quartet"; Bishop Beveridge Club Hall; 14.15
-
- Sat 1st Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00
'Coronation' Exhibition of memorabilia and photographs. Parish Council offices 10.00 - 15.00
- Tues 4th Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30
- Mon 10th WI: Bishop Beveridge Club; 19.30
- Tues 11th Neighbourhood Watch; 19.30; Cons Club
- Wed 12th Craft Afternoon; Methodist Hall; 14.00 Water colour painting and other crafts
- Fri 14th Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
- Mon 17th Bishop Beveridge Club Big Screen Film: tba; Bishop Beveridge Club Hall; 14.15
- Wed 19th Gardening Club: Summer outing - tba
- Sat 22nd Open Gardens
Barrow Panto Group offers you "Barrow's Got Talent" at Humphrey Perkins School; 19.30.
For information phone Judith on 07718153117
- Sun 23rd Open Gardens



Saturday 20th April

SUMMER DANCE

with

Martyn Whitlam

Saturday 22nd June

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