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Autumn 2015



Inside this issue...

Fantastic year for Barrow Open Gardens

**BARROW
FOCUS**
see page
15



Marans to Barrow
Page 9



The Gypsy Horse Fair
Page 19



Fishing for Gold
Page 28



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Ian L. Knowles BSc., Dip HE.

Editorial

This edition is more masculine than usual - although I hasten to add, those who quickly turn to page three will be very disappointed! Autumn BV has men at the centre of several interesting articles, from competition fishing in Portugal, a vintage tractor, Martin Wigmore's second book of Post Office tales, and finally to how a local business man came to produce the most beautiful, yet practical, wooden objects.

I'm also pleased to be able to publish another 'Letter to the Editor', and report back on the success of an earlier one. David Sanders told me the response to his 'reunion' letter (Summer BV) has been good; between 50 and 60 people have been in touch. If anyone else living in Barrow in the late 50's and 60's would like to go to the reunion, but has still to make contact, ring him on 01858 880769 or contact Steve Pilgrim on 01509 412757.

Gaynor Barton, Editor

Front Cover : Approaching Barrow in autumn. (September 2014) Gaynor Barton

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Hi, my name's Chris, and I've been running an exotic wildlife research group since 2001 called *BeastWatch UK*. The reason I'm writing today is that it's been brought to my attention that a Japanese Tanuki (Raccoon Dog) has been seen in the vicinity of Barrow! I'm hoping to gain some further information about this from you, the readers, as I don't yet know who the owner is. I would also be very keen to learn of any further sightings, or indeed, of any other exotic fauna in Barrow and its surrounding areas.



I'd also like to try and put the record straight regarding the story about this Tanuki. The original author, calling it a raccoon, may have given the impression of some aggressive beast out there roaming the streets of Barrow. This animal is certainly an unusual dog in Britain- not a true raccoon, although it does look like one. In my experience, all wild animals are just as afraid of you, as you are of them. Any seemingly offensive behaviour is usually defensive behaviour.

Usually if an exotic animal does escape, it's the owners who bear the brunt of the blame, but with all the ones I've met, they are in pieces because their much loved pet has gotten out. Some creatures are prolific escape-artists. I heard stories of a wallaby that had been put in an enclosure with a pig; the wallaby jumped onto the pig's back and from there made its escape.

If anyone's interested in knowing more about our country's exotics, or wants to find out where they could see and even have a cuddle with an affectionate skunk, or an encounter with real live raccoons or meerkats, I can put them in touch with some reputable people. You can even book these for children's parties, which just goes to show how amusing and friendly these creatures can be- as well as the animals!

Chris Mullins

Founder of BeastWatch UK

Mob: 079191 600 56

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Dear Editor,

On Monday the 27th of July, Barrow upon Soar Library became the first community managed library in Leicestershire. It is now managed by BUSCA (Barrow upon Soar Community Association) who have formed a library management committee, and is run by volunteers.

BUSCA have appointed a coordinator of volunteers, a salaried post that will be taken up at the end of August. In the meantime members of the management committee are organising the volunteers ROTA. Most volunteers have now attended at least one session and the library remains open at the same times as before the changes.

The Parish Council has resolved to support BUSCA and the library and has awarded a grant to fund the coordinator.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank BUSCA, the Barrow Library management committee and all the volunteers for all their hard work in keeping the library open, and wish them all the very best for the future. I would also like to say a particular thank you to the volunteers, without whom the library would not be able to stay open.

And to those of you who have used the library whilst the volunteers have learned the ropes, we are grateful for your patience.

If you are interested in volunteering, you will be very welcome. Please contact a member of BUSCA, a member of the management committee or the Parish Council.

Wendy Woodhouse,
Chairman to the Parish Council

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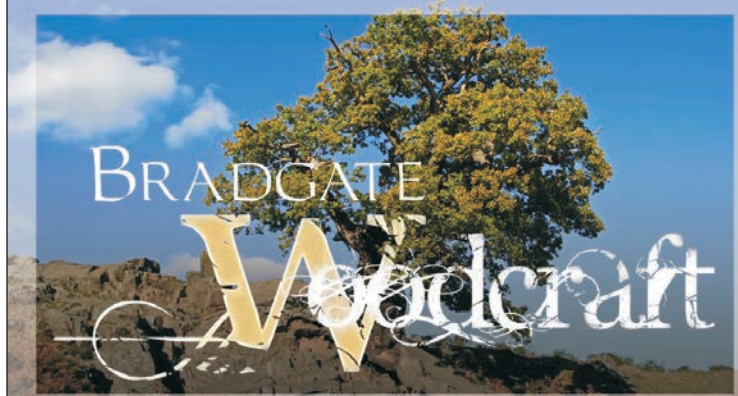
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Andy Elphick, Barrow born and bred, has a story that might be described as a triumph over adversity. An engineer by trade, his early life was spent working for a family run company - R S Brookman in Rothley, who built specialist woodworking machinery. For many years the company thrived before business dwindled and the company closed. Andy was left to pick up the pieces of his expertise and for a few years went solo as a service engineer to the woodworking trade. Alongside this, and due to his love of all things 'wood', Andy started to make and sell ornamental window shutters, garden chairs and log sheds - to name but a few!

A turning point came when he attended the Beacon Hill Wood Fair where he took along some of his work, which included a few chopping boards he had made from hardwood off cuts. He took 10 along to the fair and to his surprise, he sold the lot. Thus encouraged, he went on to several local similar fairs taking a range of his handcrafted products – chopping boards, serving platters, knife blocks, wine racks, bird feeders. Again, he did really well and started to attend shows on a regular basis.

Now 5 years on Andy attends food and craft festivals all over the country. Some are world famous like the 4 day Taste of London in Regent's Park, Country Living (magazine) food shows and most of the big BBC Good Food Shows. Others are one day street markets like Barrow's. Andy explained that The BBC Good Food Shows can attract over 100,000 visitors, and in order to be successful you need to show variety with a range of prices. Thus, Andy sells his £2 wooden mice alongside his £150 speciality knife blocks!

Andy uses only English hardwoods, sourced from within a 6 mile radius of his beautiful workshop and barns at Horseshoe Cottage, at the reservoir end of Bradgate Park - hence 'Bradgate Woodcraft'. In between shows Andy works hard in his workshop to replace his stock and design new items. He has achieved considerable success supplying a number of delis with his products and several London restaurants (Truc Vert in Mayfair, and the Michelin starred Ametsa) use his serving boards. Emily Watkins, head chef at the Kingham Plough in Oxfordshire (who won the starter section of the BBC Great British Menu competition recently), commissioned Andy two years on the trot to specially design the serving boards she used for the programme.

Andy's boards are handmade, beautifully grained and unique pieces. You can see all of his products by visiting his website (www.bradgatewoodcraft.co.uk) or look out for him at the Melton Mowbray Food Festival on 3rd & 4th October.

Barrow Voice wishes him well in his new(ish) career.

Judith Rodgers



Martin Page

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Every Letter Tells a Story: Redelivered

There are lots of reasons why I wrote this second book. One important one was because of the reactions and lovely compliments people gave me in response to my first book, and also because they kept asking if there would be a second one - as they had enjoyed the first one so much.

I said, 'Yes' as I knew there were plenty of Post Office stories still to tell, and this second book brings everything up to date. But the main reason was for Jan Hind, a lovely person, who did many things for the village for no personal gain, just to make the village she loved better. She was the editor of Barrow Voice for many years, a project started to let village people hear of new developments, voice their concerns, advertise their businesses and generally provide amusement and enlightenment.

Barrow Voice has gone from strength to strength but needed committed people to give their time freely without reward to get it all started. Jan also did a lot for the church and charities along with her husband Mike. On a personal note, you hear and see on the news the bad goings on in the world, but rarely hear about the good people who make a difference, as they never shout or look for reward. In my second book, when I write about 'The most important people' it is about people like Mike and Jan, who have done a great deal to make our village community stronger. When I first heard that Jan had had to go into a home (the Hunter's Lodge residential Home in Old Dalby) after a long time struggling with Alzheimers, I wanted to give something back to say thank you on behalf of the village. I asked Paul Tester to do some pencil drawings, Gaynor to do the editing and her son Ben to do the publishing. As they were all willing to help the second book for charity was begun. The first book's takings were in aid of 'Heart Link', a Glenfield Hospital Charity, but over £360 of the proceeds of the second have already been handed over to further develop the garden at Hunter's Lodge.



Mike and Jan Hind with Monica Gardner

As described in their Newsletter this garden is a new one and very special. It encourages residents to not just walk about in it but be involved in looking after it: planting, weeding, dead-heading as well as enjoying eating the produce from the fruit and vegetable areas. There are fish in the ponds, insect houses, signs with half a proverb written on them to test your memory and large comfortable adult sized swings. It is a really nice place for residents, visitors and their children to enjoy.

Many thanks Gaynor, for helping to get my ramblings into some sort of order, and Ben for helping to get it published and on Kindle, even though he was busy as he had started a new job. Very important too are the lovely people at the Paper Shop, the Post Office and Anne and Graeme at the Fur and Feather Pet Shop who agreed to sell it, and all the people who agreed to let me share their embarrassing or funny stories. Once again, it became a village project to say we appreciated Jan. Many copies have already been sold but you can still buy them from the places mentioned above, and all being well 'Every letter Tells a Story: Redelivered' will be on sale at the Barrow Christmas Market in December.

Martin Wigmore



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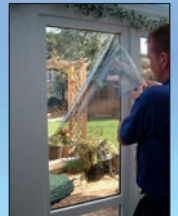
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Marans To Barrow

The bi-annual visit by our friends from Marans took place between 26th - 30th of June, with twenty-six people travelling to Barrow. We had a very full programme planned, starting with a guided tour of Bradgate Park on the Friday afternoon. Following our visit to the park, we attended the official welcome reception, hosted by the Parish Council at Humphrey Perkins School.

We were fortunate to be entertained by some of the pupils playing a varied selection of music. In the evening the hosts cooked a meal, and this year for the first time, we invited another host and their guests to share our meal and then on Sunday the invite was reversed. This worked very well as we were able to spend more individual time with other 'Twinners' from Marans. On Saturday morning we spent time browsing the shops at the Arts and Crafts Ferrers Centre in Ashby de la Zouch before having a picnic lunch in brilliant sunshine beside the lake at Staunton Harold. It was a lovely setting.

Calke Abbey was our next destination. This is a National Trust House with a difference because for decades, due to a shortage of money, two world wars and a lack of staff, only a very few rooms were lived in and the rest were shut up and neglected or used as store rooms for discarded furniture, toys and other household goods. These cluttered rooms have been left as they were found so the place is totally different to other stately homes that are usually pristine. In the evening fifty-nine people sat down to a superb meal at the Quorn Exchange.



The lake at Staunton Harold

Another full day followed on Sunday. Firstly we visited four gardens in the village that the owners had generously opened up again for our visitors to admire. After a quick lunch we headed into Leicester to the Abbey Pumping station where their vintage festival was in full swing. We were able to see the huge Victorian pumps in steam - an impressive sight. Back to Barrow where thanks to Sylvia and Richard Steane we enjoyed a strawberry cream tea in their garden. The evening saw the Friday night cooks relaxing whilst enjoying a meal that had been cooked for them by their Friday night guests.

Monday saw us all travelling by car to Lincoln where we walked the walls of the castle, visited the Victorian prison and the newly created room where a Magna Carta is kept. In Lincoln many of the French took delight in having their photographs taken in a red telephone box.

Our last get together was spent at the home of Tilly and Peter Yates. It was a lovely evening so we were able to sit in the garden. We all enjoyed the 'take and share' supper and we ended the night with our now traditional sing-a-long; Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes went down very well. On Tuesday morning we said our fond farewells, promising to see our friends in Marans next year when we will be celebrating twenty years of signing the Twinning Charter, an event that we are all looking forward to.



Daniel Masse - phoning home?

New members are always welcome. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact our secretary Kathryn Timmons on 01509 416168. Petanque on Saturday September 12th, a Quiz Night on Friday October 30th and a Pie Night on Friday November 30th. Come and join us.

Val Gillings

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It's a Small World

I enjoy writing for Barrow Voice. In fact I enjoy writing. I always have. At primary school I was always happy when we were asked to write stories.

When I went away to college I wrote long letters to my family and friends and throughout my working life I have often volunteered to write policies and other documents. For seven out of the last eight years I have spent one week of my holidays on a writing course. Six of those writing courses have been part of the OUSSA (Oxford University Summer School Association). It's not just about the writing. I get to meet people from all over the world who come to study a variety of subjects - music, philosophy, psychology, mathematics, science, archaeology and history are just some of the courses on offer. We stay in study bedrooms with en-suite facilities and all meals are provided. The mornings are when we attend classes and the rest of the day is for private study. That means I go for a long walk most afternoons so that I can think about what I might write. Sometimes the long walk involves visiting the shops and cafés in Oxford.

We are expected to submit two pieces of work. The first is to be done and sent before the course begins and the second has to be handed in on the final Friday. The course this year was called, 'A Sense of Place' so for my final assignment I chose to write about Pontypridd, the town in South Wales where my mother grew up and the only place that remained a constant throughout my childhood. As part of the description of my grandmother's home I mentioned a musical jug. If wound up it played the tune to 'On Ilkley Moor Bah Tat' and the words were painted around the jug. For years my brother and I assumed that this strange language was Welsh. I think I was in my teens before I discovered it was actually from Yorkshire.

When I returned to Barrow my neighbour Gwyn Jones called in to see me. She asked about my week away and, knowing that she is married to a Welshman, I gave her a copy of my piece to read. The following day, as I walked past her house, she called me in, saying she had something to show me. There on her table was the jug I had described.

I wonder, does anyone else in Barrow have one? Somehow I doubt it.

Julie Gardner



Christmas Tree Festival

Thursday December 3rd - Sunday December 6th
Holy Trinity Church

This will coincide with the switching on of the village lights

The Preview Evening event will be held on Thursday
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WI Delegates at The Royal Albert Hall

Barrow WI Centenary Year

Wednesday 16th September 2015 sees the Centenary of the formation of the Women's Institute (WI) in Britain and here in Barrow we have been working all year so that we can celebrate in style!

And what a year we have had getting ready for the Centenary, with exhibitions, socials, superb talks, competitions, walks, trips, a Royal Garden Party, a Right Royal Annual Meeting and lots and lots of cakes!

In October 2014 Barrow made Bunting to welcome the NFWI Centenary Baton to Leicestershire & Rutland.

In December 2014 we ordered 3 Centenary Roses, called Inspiration, and began planning a new public garden for the village.

In January 2015 our exciting 2015 programme began featuring a different decade each month.

In May 2015 Barrow celebrated its 66th Birthday Vintage 1940's style!

In June 2015 we had a very busy month!

One of our members attended the WI Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the presence of HRH Duchess of Cornwall (a WI member).

Members led a Centenary Walk round Barrow followed by a Lunch.

Our President was a delegate at the NFWI Annual Meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, London, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, HRH The

Princess Royal, HRH Sophie the Countess of Wessex (all WI members).

Barrow WI members raised £802.65 for Rainbows at the Barrow Open Gardens Event when they held a Centenary Exhibition and Sale in The Roundhouse, a Craft, Cake, Plant and Refreshment Sale in the Open Garden at 10 Beveridge Street and unveiled the WI Centenary Rose Garden on Nottingham Road.

And members took up a Denman College Bursary to fund an interesting day learning a new craft.

In July 2015 members went on a Tea and Tents crafting weekend and the WI held a stall at the Barrow Street Market.

And that's not all, because the best is yet to come.

In September: Members will be going to Harrogate to the inaugural WI Centennial Fair, the WI's answer to the Chelsea Flower Show, celebrating 100 years of the achievements of the WI with scores of opportunities to learn something new at a choice of more than 150 seminars, demonstrations and hands-on workshops.

On Wednesday 9th September our monthly meeting will have a bit of a

twist when we hold the Official Opening of the WI Centenary Rose Garden on Nottingham Road. Sandie Forrest will do the honours and there will be cake and bubbly on offer.

Then, finally, the cherry on the centenary cake - a very special event for a very special day and the kind of celebration this wonderful organisation deserves!

On 16th September Barrow WI takes to the tracks to celebrate the WI Centenary with a stylish party on board a steam train on the Great Central Railway. There will be bubbly and cake, music and entertainment, food and a balloon debate to find the Barrow WI Woman of the Century. It will be an event to remember and one to take us into the next 100 years!

The WI is open to women of all ages and welcomes new members so why not come along and see what we do - you would be very welcome!

Barrow WI meets At 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Cons Club Skittle Alley (North Street).

Contact: Sue Ellingworth (Secretary) 01509 414308

Eluned Webb



Dog Fouling

Barrow Upon Soar Parish Council grounds maintenance contractors have taken unprecedented steps, having refused to mow/strim specific areas due to the disgusting habits of some dog owners/walkers who refuse to pick up after their animals. This is not just on Parish Council land either; you only have to walk the network of jitties/footpaths to find the most popular places irresponsible dog owners/walkers use.

This habit is disgusting, ignorant, offensive, and inconsiderate to other users. It must stop.

The Parish Council is now faced with the tough decision to create a bye law which would ban dogs from land in its ownership.

This includes:

- King George V
- Mill Lane Recreation area
- The Millennium Park and adjacent picnic area

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS!

And thank-you to those of you considerate enough to do so already.



Charnwood Orchestra concert at Holy Trinity Church

Charnwood Orchestra will return to Holy Trinity Church with its annual concert on Saturday September 26th starting at 7.30.

If you enjoy Classic FM then you will love this year's programme. The evening starts with Wagner's 'Siegfried Idyll', that unbelievably romantic work composed by Wagner as a birthday present to his wife, Cosima, after the birth of their son Siegfried in 1869. It was first performed on Christmas morning, 1870, by a small orchestra on the stairs of their villa in Switzerland. Cosima awoke to its opening melody.

Following the Idyll we hear Mozart's 'Violin concerto no 5' with the wonderful Simon Smith playing the solo part.

After the interval you can sit back and let shivers run up your spine with 'Fratres' by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. It is a mesmerising set of variations on a six-bar theme combining frantic activity and sublime stillness and spirituality. Again Simon Smith plays the violin solo accompanied by Charnwood Orchestra's string players and percussion.

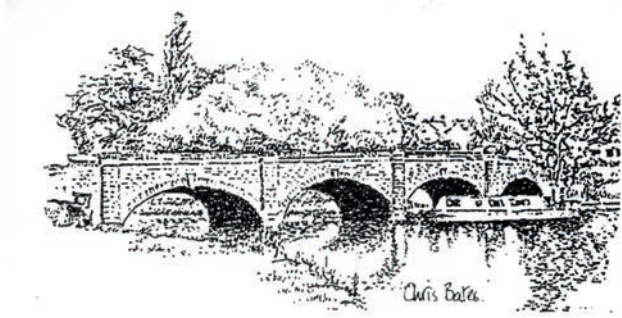
The final work of the evening is Haydn's Symphony No 100, 'the Military'.

Tickets can be bought from The Paper Shop at £10, £9 (concessions) and £3 for accompanied children under 16. Or contact Judith on judithrogers155@gmail.com or 07718 153117.

Judith Rogers

Barrow Health Centre Opening Times

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	08:00 to 12:30	13:30 to 18:00
Tuesday (extended hours)	08:00 to 12:30 07.00 to 08.00 (pre bookable appts only)	13:30 to 18:00
Wednesday (extended hours)	08:00 to 12:30 07.00 to 08.00 (pre bookable appts only)	13:30 to 18:00
Thursday	08:00 to 12:30	No afternoon surgery
Friday	08:00 to 12:30	13:30 to 18:00
Weekend	Closed	Closed



Barrow Focus

www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/barrowuponsoar

Further to the process of Co-option, we are pleased to welcome four new members to our fold:

Claire Forrest (pictured right) - Claire is the daughter of Councillor Sandie and ex Councillor Roger, not her only claims to fame I'm sure.

Richard 'Dick' Fairbairn - Boater extraordinaire.

Will Hamley - Or Mrs. Hamley's other half, if your children attended Hall Orchard School.

Robert Wright - Councillor Woodhouse is just pleased to have someone who comes after her in the order of things!



Will Hamley

Having lived in the village for over 40 years, I thought it was time I made a contribution to the village's wellbeing.

My wife taught at Hall Orchard School for over 20 years and both of our children were raised in the village and attended local schools.

My career as a geography lecturer reflected my interest in the environment. One of my particular research areas was urban morphology which covered such topics as house types, styles, building materials, groupings and land use in addition my interest in Economic Geography and particularly in regard to the effect of planning decisions on local economics may be useful in regard to the continuing expansion of the village and in my role as councillor. On my many walks around Barrow's streets I observe the built up areas as well as enjoying the open countryside surrounding.

I offer my services, with no preconceived political agenda nor any strongly held single issue beliefs, though of course I have some general concerns: littering, animal droppings and the continued expansion of the village and its impact on service provision and transport.

I look forward to contributing to these and other issues as and when they arise.



Robert Wright

In 1981 I gained a degree (B.A.) from Exeter University as a mature student. My studies were centred on the growth and development of British towns and cities during the 19th Century. This was from an economic, political, sociological and geographic perspective. It was during this period that I met my future wife Tina.

After moving around the country (Croydon – Morley – Crawley – Nottingham) we came to Barrow where our daughter Amy was born. She was educated at the Clock Club, Hall Orchard, Humphrey Perkins and Rawlins. Soon Amy will be starting her third year as a medical student at Glasgow University.

These last 22 years are the longest we have lived in one location. When the Parish Council needed to co-opt members, I saw this as an opportunity to try to put something back into the village which we all think is a wonderful place to live. My other interests include supporting Leicester Tigers, Formula 1 and studying the history of World War Two.



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Barrie Atkinson and his Vintage David Brown tractor

One morning I went over to Barrie Atkinson's house in The Moorings in Barrow to learn about his tractor. It was standing proudly outside his home: large, red, robust and gleaming in the sunshine. Knowing it was 'vintage', I was surprised at how new it looked. So my first question was: "How long have you had it?" And the answer was, "Since February 2013", which I followed with "Why on earth do you keep a vintage tractor in your garage in Barrow? You are not farming."

And he laughed as he answered, "Because I really wanted one! I use it on a nearby field for harrowing grass in the spring and doing other jobs as they occur. I will be driving it in the 'Mountsorrel Revival' parade this year, towing a farm trailer. I have taken it to the Harby Country Show in the Vale of Belvoir and am a member of their tractor club. It has two seats and on a nice day I can drive out for a picnic with my wife. It's a very unusual tractor as it's the only vintage one that has two seats."

We then got into the nitty-gritty of the history of the tractor and I learnt it was a 1949 David Brown 'Cropmaster'. They began making this model in 1947 and stopped in 1953. Many people know it as the 'Gentleman's Tractor' as it was often used by the farmer himself for smaller jobs around the farm rather than by a full time ploughmen ploughing from dawn till dusk. The farmer's dog could sit on the second seat.

Barrie told me that David Brown originally built gearboxes, expanded into tractors and then later in life went on to design the Aston Martin - James Bond's favourite car. Interestingly the 'Cropmaster' tractor and one of the early Aston Martin models have exactly the same steering wheel. This is because David Brown had them in stock for his tractors and so used them for his cars. Cropmasters are always red, only it's not officially called, 'red' but 'Hunting Pink'. David Brown obviously liked linking old countryside traditions with his brand new sturdy tractor.

Other makes of tractor are associated with other colours it seems. Any farmer reading this will know that Fords are always blue, John Deere green, Caterpillar are yellow and the famous little post-war workhorse of a tractor, a Fergie, (Ferguson) is grey. These colours still hold good today.

When Barrie bought the tractor the engine itself wasn't in good condition



and it has taken him since 2013 to get it ticking over sweetly. It's been a long struggle but he's enjoyed working on it and managing the renovation of the mechanical parts. It runs on TVO (Tractor Vaporising Oil) which has a distinctive smell older farmers love. Instant nostalgia! TVO, for the uninitiated, is a mixture of heating oil (paraffin) and petrol usually in the ratio of 3 parts heating oil to 1 part petrol. You can't buy it any more so have to mix it yourself. TVO developed as a result of petrol rationing during the war as farmers needed to run their tractors but hadn't enough coupons to buy all the petrol they needed. Nowadays you still have to fill in a road tax form but the tax rate itself is zero.

Finally, I asked about the reactions Barrie gets from people when he drives along the High Street. He told me his

Cropmaster was, at 15mph, fast for an old tractor and noisy. "Oh they are varied" he said, "Some pedestrians stop, stare and wave and others never notice, although it is an extremely unusual vehicle to see on the roads these days. Car drivers differ too - some give a thumbs up whilst others moan as they're being held up. But I don't hold them up for long as I pull into a lay-by when I can see a few cars in a tailback and let them pass."

Then the surprise of the morning! We climbed onto the seats, Barrie turned the key and off we went bumping up the front drive to the gate, stopped, turned round, came back and slid off down a mudguard! I think I'll stick to my Corsa, but thanks a lot to Barrie for the ride and the interesting interview. Happy tractor driving in the years ahead.

Gaynor Barton



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Barrow Pre-School Playgroup



Barrow Pre-School Playgroup is an OFSTED registered charity playgroup. In their recent inspection they were awarded a GOOD.

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

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

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

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The Gypsy Horse Fair

As Gaynor and I drove into the large field off Betty Henser's Lane, very near to the A6 Mountsorrel roundabout, a spectacular row of brightly coloured and beautifully painted gypsy caravans could be seen ahead of us. Their doors were open so we could view inside.

Older children were riding around on their feathered cobs and younger ones were driving around in little carts pulled by Shetland ponies. It was a really relaxed atmosphere and the children were clearly having a lovely time with their much loved steeds. Adults were sitting around in groups or getting their stalls ready, but, happily for us, were willing to chat.

It seems there are several of these fairs throughout the country during the summer and they start at Kegworth. The Walker family, Jim and his wife Mary Ann, had hired the field and got police permission for this Horse Fair. It is only the second time there has been a traveller fair here but last year's was organised by different people. This year's is expected to be bigger than last's and they hope it will go from strength to strength. Someday it may rival Appleby!

Everyone is made very welcome - travellers and general public alike. These Horse Fairs are opportunities for the traveller communities to get together for socialising and buying and selling as well as enjoying the sun for a few days. Some of them have come a long way and bring out their beautiful carts to put on show. It's a

holiday time as all the women we spoke to said they normally lived in houses, loved their electricity and microwaves, and that these weekends were little breaks: they called it 'Playing Gypsy'.

One thing that was really noticeable was the sound of beautiful birds singing. These were canaries sitting in cages hanging on the outside of the carts, a real tradition that apparently (so we were told by some men) were bought because the men's 'birds' didn't sing very well! The women gave us a very different meaning! I'll leave that to your imagination!

There were gypsy horses, at least 35 scattered around the field, most loosely tethered, busy munching away on grass while their foals ran around playing or sleeping by their mothers. We went on the Friday, the fair was from July 2nd to July 6th, but the big days were Saturday and Sunday so stalls were being prepared for the expected crowd the following day. There were stalls of birds, rabbits (as pets not pot!) harnesses, whips, saddles, second hand carts, traps and other traveller accessories. Food and drink were available too - a beer tent and hot dog and hamburger stalls. There aren't

stalls that you might automatically think go with the word 'fair' like shooting ranges or fairground rides. It's basically horses. There's no programme of events either - one day is the same as another; meeting friends, riding and talking horses, watching the children play.

The fields were rented from the local land owner for this special occasion and so cars are charged (£5 per car) to help with the cost. But if you live in Barrow you don't need to drive, as it's only a 10 minute walk from The Navi. Walk over the canal bridge and pass the row of cottages on your right. Then less than a hundred yards up the lane you'll see a yellow Public Footpath signpost on the left. Take this path and it'll lead you to a rusty old bridge across the Soar. Continue along the path, which is now a strip of tarmac, until it ends at a yellow signpost and a wooden gate. Enter this field and walk towards a grey modern metal gate you can see on the right. Ignore the yellow posts in the distance as they take you under the A6 which you don't want. Once through the gate The Horse Fair is in the field immediately opposite.

Vicki Wallin

N Townsend Ltd

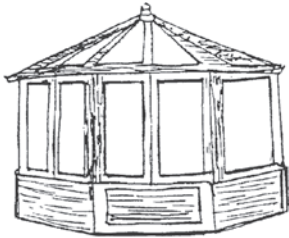
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But the final total was £3,949.74

Another great year for Barrow Open Gardens

Another fantastic year for Barrow Open Gardens, which took place on a dull, rainy Saturday 20th and a bright, sunny Sunday 21st June. The unpredictable weather did not put us off and over 25 village gardens and exhibits were on show with lots of interesting things for all the family to enjoy.

With the welcome support from visitors, the local community, Barrow shopkeepers and the Gardening Club we have once again beaten previous records. Once again Roger & Jo Chapell did a brilliant job of hosting our after-show party where we were delighted to hand over a cheque for £3,807.50 to Ivan Brookes of Rainbows. With the later addition of the collection tin money we raised a grand total of £3,949.74. Particular thanks must go to Lin Webb whose sale of her talented craftwork generated a substantial donation to the charity. Also worthy of special mention are the Hunting Lodge, Lime Tree Nursery & the Baptist Church who kindly provided much needed extra parking over the weekend. Feather n' Fur our friendly local pet shop on Babbington Rd provided a marvellous array of doggy treats for the BOG DOG show which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of 4-legged contestants on the day (so much for 'popular demand'!!).

However, a special 'high-five' must go to all the Barrow gardeners 2015 who worked so tirelessly in rain (lots of it!) & shine to ensure that Barrow had such a wonderful choice of gardens for everyone to enjoy. Since 2008 Barrow Open Gardens has raised almost £23,000 for Rainbows Children's Hospice. So, if you've never opened your garden before – do think about joining in the 2016 event – it's great fun and something for all the family to get involved in, whatever their age.

Jennie Gladwin



Ivan Brookes of Rainbows receives the cheque from Roger Chapell

Ahhh, another dastardly Murder Mystery in Barrow this autumn!

A new experience for the Murder cast - we were commissioned to perform at a Golden Wedding celebration! And boy oh boy, did the audience get into the spirit of the occasion! Many of them turned up wearing appropriate fancy dress (unless they always dress like gangsters...)

Well, that has whet our appetite for more and we're all really glad to say we have another Murder Mystery to perform for you this year.

The Return to Talbot Manor has many of the characters you met in The Mystery of Talbot Manor a couple of years ago. You'll love seeing how they have changed - and sometimes it's for the better!

We've held the old ticket price of £10.00 and this will include a two course ploughman's supper. It's at: 7.30 pm Saturday October 31st 2015 at Humphrey Perkins.

As with other years the proceeds will be split between BUSCA and another charity. This year we have chosen the Charnwood branch of Support for Carers. With luck, the money raised will go towards a pampering day for carers, which will comprise massage and other alternative therapies, including something called Laughter Yoga which sounds like something we could all do with!

Now, to get back to the dressing up from the Golden Wedding; if you would like to dress up you have a choice. Since its set in the 1930s, you could root out the outfits your granny left you and that you hadn't the heart to throw away. Or, since it's Halloween, you could dress appropriately for that. Or neither! Whatever you wear, we hope you can join us.

Helen Sadler



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Jerusalem Island

The garden roundabout at the top of Bridge Street in Barrow

I am sure that whichever direction you approach Jerusalem Island from you'll admire the way it looks. Have you ever thought who keeps it looking so good? I can tell you that it is seven lovely ladies by the names of Jeannette, Val, Rose, Catherine, Veronica, Jaqui and Gail. Each one of them has their own patch to work on and they work independently of each other, having their own style, and do not conform to a set design.

The ladies like to meet up on the first Saturday of each month so that they can swap ideas and plants, and also go for a drink where there is a lot of chat and much laughter. I am assured that it is coffee they drink, but there was a hint that without much arm twisting the drink could be wine. The Parish Council gives a grant for the upkeep of the island and this year it was spent on heavy maintenance work that the ladies could not undertake themselves.

This dedicated team of seven take cuttings and grow plants from seed. They also have to take their own tools with them and dodge the traffic to get onto the island. When there is a lot of dead-heading and pruning to be done this can result in lot of waste to be got rid of - sometimes as many as five bags. The ladies have to dispose of these themselves. At one time there were two rowan trees on the island, but one became diseased and the other was vandalised, resulting in it having to be cut down. The diseased one was cut right back but happily started shooting again, and is now about four foot tall. Apparently the soil in places is very shallow, due to old foundations, so the super seven have to be careful which plants they put in. At one time the volunteers used to cut the grass, a task that Val took on for four years, but now they are pleased to say that Dale, the Parish Council's handyman, does it for them.

When talking to the ladies it is obvious that they take great pride in the work they do on the island. They enjoy each other's company and friendship and have a lot of fun but also get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that they are doing something to improve the village. It would be even better if they had some male company helping out.

Jerusalem Island is so called because at one time the island was much bigger and a house of that name stood on it. There is a romantic story attached to the house. In 1832 the Reverend Gwatkin became vicar of Holy Trinity Church. He was middle aged and had private means. He gave most of his stipend to good works in the village. The Reverend fell in love with a young girl, a Sunday School teacher, who lived in the house named Jerusalem. Her father was a limeworker. The couple became engaged and the vicar sent his fiancée away for two or three years to complete her education. Then in 1836 they were married. In certain circles there was deep resentment that the vicar had married a girl so much younger than himself but love must have triumphed in the end because the Reverend Richard Gwatkin was vicar for a further eighteen years.

Jerusalem Island is special because it is not the responsibility of the Highways Dept. as it was gifted to the village reportedly in 1952. However, the plaque on the monument displaying the famous plesiosaurus reads 'This plot was given to the village to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2nd 1953'. There is also a small plaque on the side commemorating the life of Princess Diana. The small plaques across the top of the monument depict the crest of the first Lord of the Manor, the county crest and a Quorn Hunt button. There is also a shield with the wording Humphrey Perkins 1717.

Why don't you pay a visit to the island? There are steps up to it on the High Street side and see for yourselves the work our super seven do. But don't forget, if you are a man with some time to spare, your help would be much appreciated by the ladies.

Val Gillings



Homefield College is an independent specialist college in Leicestershire. We have been providing services for individuals with learning disabilities for over 20 years, especially for those on the autism spectrum. We are accredited by the National Autistic Society and are graded Good by Ofsted, in all areas. We are also a charity and provide a variety of services, for ages 16 to 50+ years, including education, supported living, residential care, residential experiences (Respite) and day services. Our users access a variety of vocational settings, including **Sip & Surf** and **Barrow of Treats** (shown below) which are open to the public. Our provision is mainly based in the community, with empowerment, independence and inclusion very much at the heart of what we do.

A: Homefield College, 42 St Mary's Road, Sileby, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 7TL
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Homefield Day Services



Homefield Day Services (HDS) are a part of Homefield College. We are based in Sileby & Thurmaston (Leicestershire) and we offer exciting and tailored activities.

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Available activities include:

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If you would like to know more about us and the services we provide please contact : Mike Anderson, HDS Manager Tel: **01509 814 827**

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A Day in the Life of a Library Volunteer

There were three volunteers on duty for my first shift as a Volunteer Library Assistant, and we had our trainers from the County Library Service on hand to give advice during this first week. Our shift was from 2 - 5pm and right on 2pm our first customers started to arrive. There was no time to feel nervous and we were quickly into action dealing, mainly at first, with straightforward recording of the issue and return of books.

Everyone was patient as we gradually got the hang of the scan and the date stamp; the basic tools of the trade. The computer terminal also plays a major role but minimal computing knowledge is needed as once the barcode number is scanned in those clever little wizards, hiding in the machine, take over and point us in the right direction. There was a buzz of excitement and lots of smiles as we gradually dealt with our line of customers.

At one point, returning books to their shelves right at the back of the library, I found a young



We need more volunteers!
Pick up a form from the library.



mother reading to a small boy. The child was leaning forward, elbows on his knees and hands under his chin, listening intently. I thought what a wonderful advertisement that scene would make in defence of public libraries, showing the power of the written word and its significance in bonding between generations.

By 2.45 we were well into our stride and felt we had earned a cuppa but before the kettle had boiled we had an influx of customers and all three of us were kept busy dealing with a variety of tasks including an outstanding bill, renewals, help with finding the work of a specific author and organising a replacement for a lost ticket.

It was 3.30 before we managed to get that cup of tea. The next hour flew by as the different aspects of the job proved to be much more interesting and varied than I had imagined. We registered new users, dealt with children at differing stages of the Summer Reading Challenge, took reservations for new books and managed requests for the photocopier and the computers.

Our customers ranged from Senior Citizens to toddlers. Whatever their age there was a feeling of satisfaction as we watched them, with books tucked under their arms or clutched in their hands, heading home for a good read. It was a good day.

Shirley Ratcliffe

A New Group in Barrow - The TLC

What is the TLC? Well it stands for the Trinity Lunch Club but could also refer to the Tender Loving Care provided to the carers and those they care for who attend the group. We meet for lunch on the last Thursday of each month and after a two course meal served by our volunteers, we chat and share experiences, and have an occasional speaker or activity.

We started with a group that was already meeting locally and which relocated to the Trinity Rooms earlier in the year. Having met in May, June and July, with a break for August, our next meeting is on Thursday 24 September at 12.30. There is a charge of £6.50 per person and those attending so far have found it excellent value! We intend to limit those attending to 30 as at the moment it would be difficult for us to cater for more than that number despite most of those helping having achieved the Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate!

If you are interested in learning more about the group, please contact me on 01509 412929, after 8 September.

Pam Brown

Fishing for gold!

An interview with Roger Marlow

It was good to meet Roger again, after a gap of two years, to talk to him about his role in the success of the England Angling Trust Veterans' team in Portugal this summer. But one of the first things I learnt was that when he finally stops taking part in Veterans competitions he wants to help coach the England Disabled Team.

He told me he gets on well with them and they're keen for him to do so. As he said himself, 'I've got a lot from the sport and it'll be putting something back.' But it probably won't be just yet as he's been an important member of this summer's team, helping them to get team gold.

The competition was held in June on the Rio (river) Raia which runs through hilly countryside forested with cork trees and where storks' nests can be seen at the top of electricity poles. Although the baked countryside differs markedly from Leicestershire the Raia does share similarities with the Soar, especially at Sutton Bonington where the depths are very similar.

There were eight countries competing and before anyone put a bloodworm on a hook Italy and France were thought to be the likely winners. But it was not to be! England won, Italy came third and France nowhere at all. (Hungary came second). So many congratulations Roger. How did the England team do it? 'With a lot of hard work and a good team plan' was Roger's answer. In

competitive fishing it's the total weight of fish caught that is all important not the individual size of any one fish. I was surprised at this having seen numerous photos of huge fish in the arms of smiling anglers on front covers in the Paper Shop. But it was the little bleak, together with a few carp and barbel, that got gold as it was the England team leader's decision to focus on catching them in large numbers that won the day.

Astoundingly Roger caught 98 in his first hour and even in the fourth and last competitive fishing hour of the day his count was 90. His hour-on-hour high totals, and the consequent weight of fish, were important in helping the England team to victory. I couldn't believe that you could catch more than one fish a minute but it seems you can if you have everything off to a fine art. Bleak are small, silver fish that swim in shoals, so very numerous, only catching them, taking them off the hook and putting them into a net, re-baiting the hook and getting the line out again, as



Roger Marlow with Ricardo and Massimo

well as throwing out more ground bait has to be done with great dexterity. It takes years of practice and the speed at which it's done both delights and amazes spectators. However, one person, always present, and watching carefully, is not just an ordinary spectator: no he's an 'observer'. Each competitor has one and he ensures the rules are obeyed. If you squeeze your ground bait twice, for example, you're in trouble - penalty points will follow.



Although there is intense rivalry between the teams, there's friendship too. Roger said he got on particularly well with members of the Italian team, especially Ricardo Calagini, and really enjoyed listening to their stirring national anthem. National anthems and flags were found at the start and end of the competition as the teams paraded through the town of Coruche before the competition began and had a lively medals presentation followed by an enthusiastic Portuguese lady organiser's embraces and kisses at the end! Cheek to cheek I hasten to add! Portuguese children carried each country's name and flag and the teams followed behind. On the continent team fishing is very highly esteemed, much more so than in Britain, where the focus lies more on the individual.

But from the international to the local and the prospect of autumn fishing lies ahead; how can Barrow's anglers make the best of the coming months? Apart from fishing the Soar itself, from Mountsorrel to Kegworth, Roger suggested two fisheries: The Lake View Fishery at Melton Mowbray, for F1 carp, tench, bream and barbel and the

Glebe Fishery at Peckleton, Desford, for mirror carp, common carp and bream. A very good place for youngsters is The Eye Kettleby Lakes at Melton Mowbray. From November onwards the Loughborough Canal is also good as the fish migrate into it from the rivers which are now colder and clearer and so it's easier for predators such as cormorants and bigger fish to see them and eat them.

Finally, I asked if anything significant had changed since 2013 when we last talked about fishing. His answer surprised me as it related neither to fish, nor tackle, nor bait, but to the speed with which the Soar rises after rain. Years ago there were open areas such as the water meadows at Beaumont Leys and the Mountsorrel 'sponge' - a marshy area between Barrow and Mountsorrel - but these have been drained and built on. In the 1980's, even after weeks of heavy rain, the Soar didn't rise at all, but now after an equivalent downfall it can rise as much as 2ft in an hour. Sobering. And with that worrying thought hanging in the air we called it a day. Once again congratulations

on your team's success Roger and thank you for taking the time to talk to Barrow Voice. It's much appreciated.

Gaynor Barton



Portuguese children and England's Veterans Team

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Red Admirals

It's been a mixed summer here in Barrow, a few really warm days and others wet and chilly. I've been looking out for one of my favourite butterflies: the Red Admiral. Last year I saw the Peacock butterflies (they're the ones with the spectacular eye like markings on their rusty orange wings), but no Red Admirals...

I was very surprised to find that they migrate!

Some do overwinter in hibernation, south of here, but many don't survive, especially in cold, damp winters. In the autumn they can be seen in our gardens feasting on honeydew in flowers before flying back south to warm Mediterranean areas for the winter.

So the numbers of Red Admirals seen in Britain depends on the numbers that come north to us in the summer. They arrive in the south first to swell the numbers of those that survived the winter; they then begin to spread across Britain - in good years getting as far as the Scottish Islands.

Red Admirals are a strikingly beautiful butterfly with velvety black wings, with vermilion and white markings as can be seen in the image.

They are very territorial butterflies. The male suitor will see off any contenders for the female, who lays tiny greenish eggs on plants such as Nettles. After about a week, if the weather's nice, the eggs hatch into caterpillars that at the beginning are greenish brown, darkening to black as they grow. They make tent like structures, by joining the sides of a leaf together, to protect themselves from bad weather and predators. They leave them only to feed. After two or three weeks they start to form a chrysalis, inside of which is the pupa. Over the next few weeks, this pupa changes completely and slowly emerges as a rather damp and crumpled butterfly.

It will take a couple of hours for the warm sunshine to dry its wings so that it can fly...

We see them most in September, particularly on and around Buddleia bushes, which are also known as butterfly-bushes, as their flowers are full of nectar and will attract a wide range of butterflies and other insects.

So, it seems as though the weather and lack of food is the reason that we haven't seen many lately. The weather we can do nothing about, but the food is a different matter.

We can grow buddleia and lavender in the garden. The butterflies seem to favour purple flowers. They like ripe, rotting, (not mouldy) fruit such as apples, plums and pears. If you grow them, consider leaving a few for the butterflies to feast on, or even those in the fruit bowl that have gone over could be put out for them.

And hopefully, with our help, they'll return next year.

Maggie J



Fly Grazing

This is a term I had not come across before until the last couple of months. I rent a field from a local parish council to gather hay from, and so do not visit it very often. This year, the field required a new gate. There seemed to be little point in fitting a lock, as the landlord would need to remove it to replace the gate anyway.

A few weeks ago I got a phone call asking if I had put horses in the field; not that there was no problem in me doing this, but it was thought I intended to take hay off it. I replied that I had not and immediately visited the field. Sure enough, there were two ponies in the field happily grazing away and a lock fitted to the gate so that they could not easily be removed.

Although they were quite attractive little things, I really did not want them in there. I rang the police and was told that a note needed to be attached to the gate, saying that if the ponies were still there 5 days from the day of the notice they would be removed and auctioned off. The parish council put up the notice and within 3 days, the ponies had gone.

Apparently this is happening quite a lot at the moment, and unless you actually lock the access it would appear that there is little you can do except give the fly grazers the 5 days notice.

Dave Bird



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: 1156170.

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Advertising Deadline

19th October

Copy Deadline

26th October

Copy to: The Editor
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Village Diary

Tues 15th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee; Cons Club; 19:30. All welcome
Wed 16th	Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19:30; "Marvellous Mints and Perfect Poppies" Barrow WI Centenary celebrations
Sat 19th	Barrow Show; Methodist Church; flowers, fruit and vegetables show, craft
Mon 21st	Bishop Beveridge Club film: Suite Francaise; 14:15 in Bishop Beveridge hall; Members £4.00; non members £4.50
Wed 23rd	Bishop Beveridge Club Bingo 14:30pm
Sat 26th	Charnwood Orchestra Annual Concert at Holy Trinity Church; 19:30. Tickets available from The Paper Shop

Fri 2nd	Bishop Beveridge Club evening Film show 'The Water Diviner'; 19:00; details 01509 414519
Sat 3rd	Shades of Autumn Dance
Mon 5th	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14:00; all welcome
Tues 6th	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19:15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19:30
Wed 7th	Mothers Union: Teaching in China by Claire Forrest; 14:30
Fri 9th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12:30
Mon 12th	Bishop Beveridge coach trip to Stoneleigh Abbey, details 01509 413212
Tues 13th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee; Cons Club; 19:30. All welcome
Wed 14th	Crafts; Methodist Church; 14:00 - 16:00 Bishop Beveridge Club Bingo 14:30pm Barrow WI: Hats from the Hall; Trinity Rooms; 19:30
Mon 19th	Bishop Beveridge Club film show 14.15pm 'Far from the Madding Crowd'
Wed 21st	Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19:30; A Gardeners Journey - Ann Bird
Fri 30th	Twinning Association Quiz night; Bishop Beveridge Club; 19:30;
Sat 31st	Panto Group's Murder Mystery: "Return to Talbot Manor"; 19:30; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets: £10 including supper from Paper Shop

Mon 2nd	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14:00; all welcome
Tues 3rd	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19:15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19:30
Wed 4th	Mother's Union: Mental Health Issues by Mr J Eve; 14:30 Bishop Beveridge Club proposed date for Fun Quiz 14.30, please check posters
Tues 10th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee; Cons Club; 19:30. All welcome
Wed 11th	Crafts; Methodist Church; 14:00 - 16:00 Bishop Beveridge Club Bingo 14:30 Barrow WI: Annual Meeting/Cheese and Wine; Trinity Rooms; 19:30
Fri 13th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12:30
Sat 14th	November Mists Dance
Mon 16th	Bishop Beveridge Club film show 'A Little Chaos' 14.15
Wed 18th	Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19:30; St Mawgan Japanese Garden/Camel Trail
Fri 20th	Barrow Youth Theatre - Disney's the Little Mermaid Jr (Also Performed on November 21st)
Wed 25th	Mother's Union: Christmas Meeting

Tues 1st	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19:15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19:30
Thurs 3rd	Christmas Tree Festival (Runs until Sunday 6th)
Fri 4th	Bishop Beveridge Club evening film show TBA 19:00, details 01509 414519
Sat 5th	Switching on of Christmas Lights and Street Market 14.30 - 17.30
Mon 7th	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14:00; all welcome
Tues 8th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee; Cons Club; 19:30. All welcome
Wed 9th	Crafts; Methodist Church; 14:00 - 16:00 Barrow WI: Decorating the Christmas table; Trinity Rooms; 19:30 Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; Annual General Meeting 7.30pm members only and Party Night (8pm All welcome)
Mon 14th	Bishop Beveridge proposed coach trip to Castle Howard at Christmas. details 01509 413212
Sat 19th	Christmas Dance with C.&J, Sound



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December 5th
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December 19th
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