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# Editorial

At 32 pages, we're a little slimmer than usual but as full of interesting articles as ever. You can learn about Jade's life on the beat in Barrow, delight at Amanda's gorgeous shoes, discover handmade gifts in the village and test your brains with our Christmas Quiz. Or look back to the autumn: the village show's huge pumpkin or that devilishly difficult Murder Mystery. Read the review.

Sadly we must say goodbye to two of our old team: Elliot Wilkes who has gone to university and Julie Gardner who has gone to Nottingham! Thank you for all your efforts and good luck in the future. And still with the future it's been suggested we produce a series of pictures capturing Barrow over the year. This should begin in Jan 2017. If you'd like to help by taking photographs just contact Judith Rodgers on 07718 153117.

*Gaynor Barton, Editor*

**Front Cover: Frosty tree by the canal. Picture: Judith Rodgers**

## Letters to the Editor

*Dear Editor,*

*I write as a dog owner who regularly uses the footpath across the Breachfield, from the bottom of Breachfield Road to the top of the hill and beyond. Since the beginning of the construction work nearby this footpath has been difficult to access. As I'm an enterprising sort of person I decided to tackle this job myself. I managed to flatten the uneven ground with a shovel then asked the site supervisor if it would be possible to have a couple of wheelbarrows of quarry waste. He obviously wanted to know what this was for. I explained about the need to make the footpath safe to use as the ground was so uneven. The supervisor remarked "Leave it with me!" a fairly common comment you might expect from a construction worker. The next morning I took my dog to the field as usual and sure enough the work had been completed.*

*On behalf of the Breachfield dog walkers I would like to publicly thank the site worker for his prompt action and making the footpath safe and good to use.*

*Regards*

**Jim Harrison, The Banks**

*Dear Editor,*

*My thanks to Ginnie and the Editor for bringing my attention to Granite's and the new Nunckley Hill Visitor Centre outside Rothley and Mountsorrel.*

*The café serves some really delicious food, the nature trail is perfect for a 30 minute stroll and the Heritage Museum most interesting. I thoroughly endorse Ginnie's recommendation.*

*Yours*

**David Rodgers, Nottingham Road**

*Dear Editor,*

*Following on from the article last month about hedgehogs*

*I wanted to share my story with you all. I found a hedgehog one evening when we were looking at the bats flying about in my garden.*

*Since then we have been watching and feeding him every night. Hedgehogs like to eat dried mealworms, cat and dog food. We bought a little dog bowl and a bigger dog bowl, we put mealworms in the little bowl and water in the big one. They happily eat out of them and we always need to top them up because they eat them all up! Once they have finished eating we sometimes see them crawl under the fence and go into the neighbour's garden. We have lots of gaps under our fences so they have a lot of escape routes to go from garden to garden.*

*My dad even bought a night camera so that we can take videos and photos of them using infra-red technology. The most times they have been back in one night is 5 or 6 times! One night the camera took a picture of two of them both together. We have named them Spike and Holly. I chose these names because when I felt them they felt spiky and rough.*

*I love seeing the hedgehogs and cannot wait to see them every evening. In the mornings I am excited to see what they were doing in the night! Now the nights are getting darker they come earlier and eat a LOT more! I think it is because they're getting ready to hibernate. I will miss them when they go to sleep for the winter and I hope they come back next year when they wake up again.*

*Regards*

**Eve Baker (age 10),  
Roman Close**



# Tercentenary Celebrations



Pupils and staff are eagerly preparing for Humphrey Perkins School Tercentenary Celebrations to mark 300 years of learning in 2017. Founders' Day events in school will take place on 7th February followed by a Community Open Evening on 8th February.

## Founders' Day Events in School 7th February 2017

On Tuesday 7th February 2017 all pupils will take part in activities to acknowledge the proud traditions of the school. Our school prefects have been working with staff to arrange an engaging day that harnesses the team spirit and high expectations which are very much part of the ethos at the school. Popular ideas have included a 300 balloon release and an aerial photo with pupils forming the number 300. Less well-liked ideas have been an extra 300 hours homework or a 300 hour sponsored silence!

To start the day pupils will take part in a unique 300 HPS Founders' Day assembly to acknowledge the legacy of the Reverend Humphrey Perkins. Classes will be creating time capsules during the Lent term to capture memories of life at Humphrey Perkins in 2017 for future generations.

History will come to life during the day as pupils are taught using traditional styles from the last 300 years. The whole school will join a non-stop sponsored 300 mile walk to raise funds for school projects followed by the restaurant serving up a well-deserved tercentenary lunch.



## Founders' Day Community & Alumni Open Evening and Celebration 8th February 2017

Old papers discovered in the school cellar note that the bicentenary was not marked in 1917 due to World War One. Therefore we need your help to mark the tercentenary celebrations with the honour they deserve. Tickets are now available for our Community and Alumni Open Evening and Celebration on Wednesday 8th February. If you have links with the school please contact us to book tickets by emailing [1717@humphreyperkins.leics.sch.uk](mailto:1717@humphreyperkins.leics.sch.uk) or phone the school directly on 01509 412385. Are you in touch with old school

friends? Why not use this as an opportunity to get together to share memories and browse old school memorabilia? Tickets are free and refreshments will be available during the evening.

### 300 HPS Pupil Quest

Are you the oldest Humphrey Perkins pupil? Maybe you have a grandparent or great-grandparent that attended Humphrey Perkins School a century ago. We would be delighted to honour them as a VIP guest at our Founders' Day Evening on February 8th. Just get in touch using the details above.

*Miss V Massiah, Office Manager  
Humphrey Perkins School*

## An Open Letter to the Village

At the last Annual General Meeting of Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Watch (BOS NHW) on Tuesday 8th November 2016, and after some careful consideration, all current committee members have jointly tendered their resignation.

Under these circumstances, and in order to decide the future of this organisation, it has been decided to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on January 10th 2017 at 19:30 in the Barrow upon Soar Conservative

Club, North Street, Barrow upon Soar. Any village residents, particularly those with a genuine interest in the future of BOS NHW, are welcome to attend this open meeting. The EGM agenda will be prepared and made available by email

to [Reillys@wycliffe7.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Reillys@wycliffe7.fsnet.co.uk) from Monday 19th December 2016.

Thank you for your attention,

*Alan Reilly*

*Chairman Barrow upon Soar  
Neighbourhood Watch*



# Bridge Collapse: Network Rail in the Scout Hut

**O**n September 22nd Network Rail held a Public Information Event in the Scout Hut.

As a visitor pointed out it hadn't been widely publicised, only streets neighbouring the station had learnt of it and what's more it was being held in a 'tucked-away' venue at a time, 3.30pm when a lot of people couldn't go! However, if you had gone along you'd have found knowledgeable Network Rail engineers to answer your questions. 'Why did it collapse?' was the commonest but the answer given distinctly guarded: an official enquiry hadn't yet pronounced. However, we were told that two old service pipes ran along Grove Lane; one was gas and the other water. Old pipes? Possible leaks? The official enquiry will tell all... eventually.

Display-boards with their sheets of diagrams were crucial to understanding what was going on, or going to go on. Visitors studied them and learnt about debris-removal (200 tons), buttress-ties, parapet heights, foundations, concrete steps and having to do a lot of the work at night when the line was quieter.

There was a time line too. Phase 1, Bridge Stabilisation, had finished. Week 1 of Phase 2 was to start on Sept 26th and by the end of Week 12, in Jan 2017, the bridge should have been completely repaired and the road reopened. This newly strengthened bridge will be strong enough to last at least another 60 years, and although it will look very similar to the one that collapsed, certainly won't.

*Gaynor Barton*



## Barrow Upon Soar Craft and Produce Show 2016

**B**arrow upon Soar Craft and Produce Show was this year held on Saturday 17th October at the Methodist Church with just under 100 people entering 300 exhibits in the 82 different classes for both adults and children.

Classes ranged from the usual horticultural ones including the longest runner bean (one bean having a blue sticking plaster applied to it) to Cookery, Home Produce, Painting, Photography, Knitting, Crochet and Patchwork. The children's classes were very popular especially "Something I grew myself" and it was lovely to see the excitement as the children came

back in the afternoon to see if they had won and the lucky ones collected their certificates - but there was a prize for everyone. The "Disasters" class was also popular with some very funny looking vegetables on display! Any produce left behind after was donated to The Carpenter's Arms, Loughborough.

The judges' choice for Best in Show was awarded to Betty Stevens for her beautiful patchwork quilt and the people's choice was a gigantic pumpkin grown by Simon Grant on the Nottingham Road Allotments - we think it is safe to say that this stole the show and was so heavy it needed two men to move it! The seeds have been saved for next year when we intend to have a Bean, Pumpkin and Potato Day on Saturday 6th May 2017 at 10.00 am



at the Methodist Church but if all the pumpkins are returned we shall have to hire a forklift truck!

It was lovely to see some new faces this year as well as friends who have supported us from the beginning. Look out for details of next year's show in Spring Barrow Voice - we aim to make it even better.

*Tilly Yates*

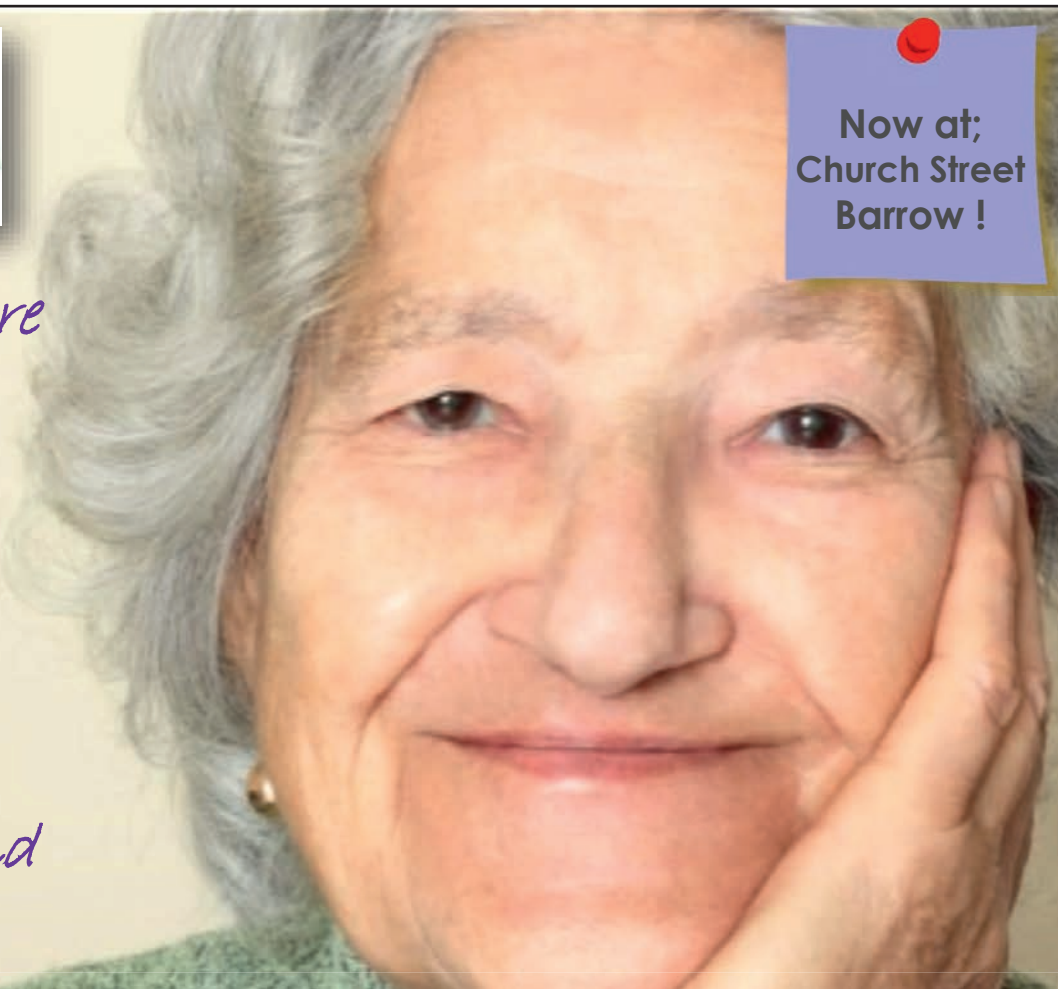






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## Saving or Spending: you can help our library

**B**arrow Community library was established in July 2015 with financial support from Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and Barrow Parish Council. Eventually, the direct funding from LCC will end although they will continue to provide the library building and stock of books. With this in mind our library management committee is planning for financial independence from LCC.

Below are three ways you can help to fund the library:

### **The Co-op Local Community Fund.**

Take out a £1.00 membership of the local Co-op. When you purchase Co-op branded goods you will receive a 5% dividend, additionally 1% is donated to charity. In this village, for 2016/17, there are three charities which have been chosen to receive equal benefit; Bishop Beveridge Club, Hall Orchard PTFA and Barrow Community Library.

[www.co-operativefood.co.uk/membership](http://www.co-operativefood.co.uk/membership)

### **Loughborough Building Society Affinity Account**

Open a Barrow Community Library Savings Account with the Loughborough Building Society. Currently, the interest rate is 0.75%.

An account can be opened with a minimum of just £10. Application forms are available in the Library or online. When 25 or more accounts are open, 1% of all balances within the Affinity Account is paid annually as a bonus to the library. We currently need more accounts to reach this threshold of 25, so even if you can only invest £10, please help us by opening an account. The Loughborough Building Society has an office on High Street, Loughborough. Photo identification and proof of address is required to open an account. [www.theloughborough.co.uk/savings/easy-access/affinity-account](http://www.theloughborough.co.uk/savings/easy-access/affinity-account)

### **“Give as you live” Online Shopping**

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Barrow Community Library is part of Barrow Upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA), Charity number: 1156170. If you have queries on any of these schemes contact the library: email: [library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk](mailto:library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk) or call into the library. We thank you for your continued support of Barrow Community Library.

**Barrow Community Library Committee**

## Enjoy a night at the races with BUSCA



**B**USCA will run a Race Night on Friday 20th January in Walton Village Hall. Race nights are unique fundraising events where you can enjoy taking your winnings whilst at the same time raising funds - here towards BUSCA.

The evening will kick off at 7.30 and there will be 8 races to enjoy. You will be able to own a horse, place your bets and enjoy the thrill of horse racing footage from various UK courses on a large screen video once you've placed your bets. And, of course, you can dress up in your Ascot gear and really get into the mood. Look out for posters in the New Year giving ticket and other details. It will be a really fun evening.



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# Bröd: Barrow's Friday pop-up bakery

I was a bit bemused one afternoon in July in the High Street when I found myself being offered a large loaf of bread for free.

Then I heard that the Round House had been opened up with bubbly, free samples of bread and sour dough loaves sold in aid of Rainbows. I got the point: in September Barrow would be enjoying its first regular pop-up bakery. The July freebies were an experiment. The Round House was to open once a week on Fridays between 2 and 4 with Bröd (actually pronounced like brurd) selling artisan bread made in a kitchen on Beveridge Street.

Bröd is the brainchild of Georgina Clarke and husband Declan. They have lived in Barrow for 10 years while bringing

up their three young children. Georgina is a chef by profession and has worked in some very prestigious kitchens. She has always wanted to spend more time on bread baking and gradually the idea came to her that she could bake from home. Two years ago she started making sourdough. She was aiming for a really flavoursome but healthy bread so she searched for exceptional flour and a favourite version of "The Bitch", the name given to the sourdough flour, water and wild yeasts starter. She found an ideal organic white wheat flour and once happy with The Bitch and how to feed it, started trading.

On a Thursday evening she gets the kids to bed and then begins baking. With Declan's help, she prepares the loaves to prove (i.e. to rise) slowly in the fridge overnight. To begin with Declan had to be guided every step of the way but is now an expert. From 2.00pm he serves in the Round House while Georgina bakes and runs to and fro, topping

up with the next tray of loaves. You might imagine that she cooks in a large purpose-built bakery but hers is a small cottage kitchen with an ordinary old double oven. Consequently, what you buy is still warm or even hot and bursting with flavour.

Georgina's ambition is to build a business based on community enterprise. She hopes to carry on using the Round House to catch the end-of-school passers-by. Her dream is to involve helpers from the immediate community working in an environment that is both busy but relaxing. For the moment, both Declan and Georgina have as much as they can manage just with opening on a Friday. But who knows how the business will develop. Why not go along and see for yourself?

*Judith Rodgers*



## Strawberry Lettings and Sales

**B**arrow High Street business Strawberry Lettings and Sales really is thriving: properties are moving fast, the market is buoyant and bricks and mortar are still proving to be a great investment. However, the involvement of 'cheap rate' and on-line agents can, from time to time, prove problematic.

Owner Nicola Hickinbotham says, "Often when we provide a valuation the home owner will have been approached by another agent who has either convinced them that the house is worth much more or that a 'Do-It-Yourself' service could save them thousands in fees. The truth is that agents who value 'high' to gain instruction often then quickly recommend that the price be dropped to generate viewings. (Not surprisingly the new price is similar to ours!) Few sales run entirely smoothly and success depends on the skill and experience of the agent to find the right buyer, achieve the asking price and see the sale swiftly through to completion. An on-line agent won't be there when support is needed a telephone queue does nothing to reduce stress levels. Our success, and our clients' success, starts with a fair, realistic valuation and personal attention from professional staff who know their stuff and everything about the area."

Many businesses claim to be part of the local community but Strawberry really is. Kim and Claire live in Barrow and have children who go to the village school. Kim is a member of the school PTFA. Strawberry supports the Kindu Trust that is the major project of David Dipple and Hall Orchard children. Hannah, daughter of Nicola, visited Ethiopia with the school last year and returned very concerned about the plight of twin girls who needed sponsorship to complete their schooling. Strawberry was proud to take on this commitment. They also run fund-raising events, such as cake stalls, for Rainbows.



Claire Bateman, Hannah Hickinbotham, Kim Knight, Natalie Mackenzie and Amanda Moore



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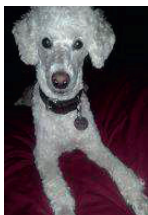
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# Worldwide Award was a Shoe-in for Amanda

A shoe designer in Barrow has been walking on air since winning an international award in the Wedding Industry Experts Awards for the second consecutive year. Amanda Weise creates beautiful custom-made shoes for weddings and special occasions and was awarded the title Most Popular Shoe Designer Worldwide in the competition. Her company, Lace and Love, swept the boards with awards in the town, county, country and worldwide categories.

A delighted Amanda said she became a shoe designer quite by chance. When planning her wedding in 2012, she searched for lace shoes, but could find none and eventually had lace designs painted onto her shoes. When her sister was looking for footwear for her wedding two years ago, she, too, found the choice limited.

“When we saw some pretty lace designs online, I thought ‘I could do that!’ and I started experimenting,” said Amanda.

Amanda posted her creations on Facebook to see what friends thought, and quickly gained followers. She made shoes for family and friends, posted them on the page, and received a few orders.

Today Lace and Love is booming with orders coming in from far afield - Amanda has dispatched shoes to the USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.

Her shoes were worn at the wedding of Ruth Payne, sister of One Direction band member Liam Payne. A delighted Ruth tweeted pictures of her pretty footwear giving Amanda exposure to her legions of followers.

Amanda works from her home in the village and each shoe is decorated by hand. She is also a part-time nanny, so production is relatively small.

“Shoes are sourced from my suppliers according to what the client wants in the way of heel height or style. We chat about what they want and I make up a design.”

Her range caters for every taste, from rockabilly to steampunk (designs inspired by steam-powered machinery). Amanda says while some clients want lace, buttons, feathers and bows, others personalise shoes with names, dates or a picture of a loved one who has passed away. She sometimes adds a brooch or item that has sentimental value.

Other orders have been more quirky... One client wanted feathers up the back of the shoe, another wanted a teacup on the heel, one had a dominoes theme and a 30th birthday client had a small broomstick on each shoe.

She has decorated army boots, Doc Martens and pink trainers for the BBC show *Don't Tell the Bride*. The crew arrived in Barrow to film and Amanda was sworn to secrecy.

Custom-made shoes range from £149 to £239 and she has a small ready-to-wear collection ranging from £129 to £149. Shoes can take several days to complete if the designs are intricate.

Summer is her busy season and her husband, Kevin, and dog, Harry, are quite used to sharing their living space with colourful footwear - and it's hands and paws off her works of art.

*Lindsay Ord*





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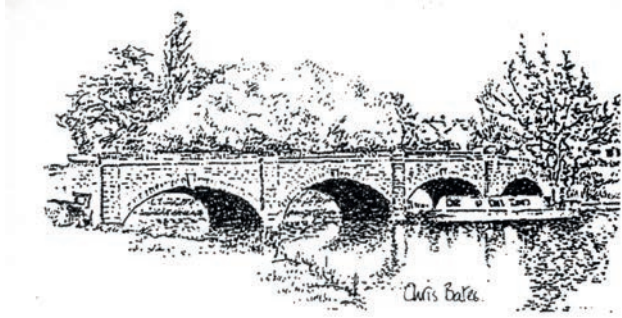


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## Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council News

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# Barrow Focus

[www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/barrowuponsoar](http://www.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/barrowuponsoar)

## Christmas Lights - 3rd December 2016 2.30pm to 5.30pm

This year's event will be centred on Church Street with a Street Market and entertainment; Santa in the Roundhouse; Hall Orchard



Christmas Fayre and Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival. It promises to be a spectacular and special event.

The Grove Lane Bridge collapse has forced this rethink and so Church Street will be closed to traffic from 1pm to shortly after 6pm. On-street parking will be prohibited for the duration. Residents have been notified and their support is much appreciated.

## Dementia Friends - Speaker to the Village 2016

Barrow upon Soar Parish Council hosted the annual speaker to the village event at the Bishop Beveridge Club in September. It was an interesting presentation and raised awareness of dementia in our community.

Reminding ourselves of the following five points is key to dealing with dementia and that with support people can and do take an active role in life.

- Dementia is not a natural part of ageing.
- Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain.
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory; it can affect thinking, communicating, and everyday tasks.
- It's possible to live well with dementia.
- There's more to a person than the dementia.

For further information visit [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk) or call 0300 2225855.

## Refurbishment & Restoration projects (completed and in progression)

### Village Sign

Our village sign, carved by craftsman Robert Keeling and donated to the village by the late Tom Rennocks, has recently been beautifully and sensitively restored. Our thanks for this work to Andy Elphick.

### Cemetery Gates and Railings

Some of you may have noticed that the cemetery gates have undergone a huge transformation and are once again a fine example of workmanship. The railings are new, replacement, and look grand with their finials taken from the original.



### King George V

Progression of the King George's Field refurbishment project is, well, progressing!

The Parish Council has recently submitted a planning application to Charnwood Borough Council and, following completion of the 'teen area' in October 2015, the children's play area will be prioritised as a part of the whole project. We hope this will be completed in 2017.

**A very warm welcome to Councillor Rachel Palma who has been co-opted to the Council and who will attend her first meeting in December.**



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# The Holly Tree

**T**he holly bears a berry, I'm sure we've sung this carol at Christmas many times... another line is "And the first tree in the greenwood it was the Holly". Well it seems that's true!

Fossil records show that holly trees were flourishing during the Cretaceous period... the land of the dinosaurs... 100 million years ago!

No, probably T-Rex wouldn't be feeding on them, he's a carnivore but the spiny herbivorous Stegosaurus and other vegetarian dinosaurs would have fed on those prickly leaves all those years ago.

All through the intervening years the holly has had its place with mankind. The Romans linked it with the earth god Saturn and his celebratory Saturnalia which took place in December around the time of the winter solstice. The holly tree, green and glossy, was the Lord of Misrule!

The legacy of this winter festival became entwined into the Christian tradition which brings us to 12th Night when the decorations must come down. The druids, for whom holly is especially sacred, warned that any leaf left inside after the 31st of January foretold misfortune yet growing a holly tree near the house is said to protect the inhabitants from evil.

The Church, knowing the power of the pagan celebrations around the winter solstice, aligned this with the birth of Christ: the leaves being His crown of thorns and the bright red berries His blood.

One of the strongest legends is of the Holly King: a giant of a man covered in

holly branches and leaves, carrying a holly bush as a club and was the god of darkness. His opposite number was the Oak King, the god of light, who reigned from midwinter to midsummer. He reigned as the days grow increasingly lighter whilst the Holly King reigned as the days darkened... seems they have a big battle at each solstice as neither want to give up their reign! Guess that's why spring's late some years!

The holly, *Ilex aquifolium* is a British native shrub and like all hollies needs separate male and female plants for the female to produce berries. So if there is no male about, your female shrub won't have berries. Take care if you decide to buy the shrub; it's not easy to tell male and female apart. Even going by the name doesn't always help as Golden King is in fact a female holly... and Silver Queen male! Why? Who knows, their naming is lost in the mist of time. There are some lovely hollies available besides the three I've mentioned; they grow in different variegations and sizes so a good nursery is needed before you decide which to choose for your garden.

One that's fun is *Ilex aquifolium ferox argentea*. Its variegated green and cream leaves not only

have prickles on the edge of its leaves but on the surface too giving it its common name of the Hedgehog holly.

Holly also has great value to wildlife: the flowers produce nectar for bees and pollinating insects; the leaves feed the caterpillars of the Holly Blue butterfly and some moths; the berries feed birds and small mammals in the winter and even the fallen leaves under the shrubs can provide homes for hibernating animals. The holly is a long lived tree: the *Ilex aquifolium* variety can grow up to 15 metres and live for about 300 years in ideal growing conditions.

So now you know why we hang a holly-wreath on our doors and bring boughs into the house at Christmas. And why we're sure to remove them before 12th Night!

Merry Christmas

*Maggie J*



Hedgehog Holly



# Make it a handmade Christmas

Handmade gifts are always special and there are some beautiful items in Barrow shops, as well as available on order. Some are made by local crafters, others come from further afield. I took a walk down the High Street and visited the Autumn Craft Fair to see what was on offer.



Looking for a fresh wreath or garland? **Taylor's Florist** has some beauties that would be a festive addition to any front door - prices from £9.99. They also do bespoke arrangements, sourced locally, and support local growers.



**Victoria Jane** is a treasure trove of gifts, with handmade bunting, chocolates from Choconchoc, painted ceramic plaques from Jamali Annay and handmade Emma Bridgewater pieces. Prices are from £3.99.



**Angie's Handmade Knit Bits** include head bands, baby boots, snoods, hand warmers, and more from £3 upwards. See her Facebook page, email [llitherland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:llitherland@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07970502924.



**Folding Bookworms** is an intriguing concept that uses recycled books to create pictures. Made by Gemma Brown, they range from £15 to £25. See her Facebook page, email [gemba@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gemba@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07760448116.

**Yankee Candles** are lovely scented candle sets priced from £2.50 for a single candle to £12 for a set. Contact [rebeccaholders90@googlemail.com](mailto:rebeccaholders90@googlemail.com) or text 07715237911.

**Busy Bees**, Lovely handmade items are made by Busy Bees, Joyce Barber and Susan Barker. They include knitted, crocheted or sewn items, babywear, blankets, quilts, toys and clothes, rag and cross stitch and embroidery items. Prices vary, according to items and materials used. To order, email [sjbarker55@icloud.com](mailto:sjbarker55@icloud.com)



**Handmade with Memories** has scrabble board pictures, elf doors, personalised letter frames and baubles, family trees, pictures made with beach pebbles and more. Prices are from £5 (baubles) to £25 (pictures). See [www.facebook.com/handmadewithmemories](http://www.facebook.com/handmadewithmemories) or call 01162694043.



**Crystal Sock Monkeys** are delightful characters made from socks, from £8 to £12. You can order on the Facebook page or from [crystalsockmonkeys@outlook.com](mailto:crystalsockmonkeys@outlook.com)

**Barrow of Treats** has pretty items that would make small gifts or stocking fillers. Trisha Stones makes lined notebooks and pencil or crayon sets, decorated with pressed flowers, from £1.50.

**Peppercorns'** deli items will delight cooks and connoisseurs of fine food alike. They also have assorted hampers, Christmas-themed cakes, biscuits and deli items - and they will gift wrap.

*Lindsay Ord*



# Christmas Memories

Most of us have happy festive memories, steeped in tradition. But Christmas can be a different experience in other countries. Here, four Barrow residents reminisce about Christmas in the UK and abroad.

Val Gillings remembers when, as a child, her mum made the Christmas pud. The whole family took it in turn to stir the mixture while making a secret wish. Of course, there was the letter written to Santa that Mum or Dad would set aflame from the fire in the grate and the children would watch it float up the chimney to Santa. Happy Days!

Christmas in a hot climate is a different experience. Parish Councillor Judith Spence and journalist Lindsay Ord grew up in Durban, South Africa, where temperatures can rise into the 30s on Christmas Day.

Judith's mother was from Nottingham and the family aimed for a traditional English Christmas, but due to the weather and the landscape, they seldom succeeded!

"The run-up to Christmas involved traipsing around the city and being enticed into stores by hot and sweaty young men in Santa-suits, with cushioned bellies, faux beards and black rubber boots, she says.

Our Christmas trees had homemade fake snow, glass baubles and tinsel. Christmas cards and wrapping paper depicted frosty scenes, snowmen, red breasted robins and English village scenes.

On Christmas Eve, the family would go to Midnight Mass. Christmas Day started with a cold breakfast, then we opened our presents. As we sat down for lunch, Dad would ceremoniously sharpen his carving knife and after gammon, roast beef, Yorkshire puddings and all the trimmings we would, despite the heat, have flaming Christmas pudding with custard.

The afternoons and evenings were time to visit relatives, have a swim and finish off

with the day with a braai (barbecue). In hindsight perhaps we tried too hard to replicate the traditional Christmases of my mother's youth but we enjoyed every minute!"

Lindsay remembers Christmas in Durban as hot, humid and fun.

"We would start the day by opening presents with the children, then go to church, which, happily, was air-conditioned. Then we would return to cook a turkey and ham with all the trimmings, as extended family arrived, bearing food and gifts.

Every time the oven door opened, and as vegetables steamed and puddings simmered, the temperature in the kitchen would edge even higher, despite windows and doors being open. Windows were opened wide in the sitting room too and the Christmas tree blew over more than once.

In the afternoon, some would cool off in the swimming pool while others would relax under a tree.

We usually ate indoors and a few times joined other families for outdoor meals. One hostess greeted us in a swimming costume and sarong, with the festive table set at the poolside. We had lamb on the spit and salads that year."

Gaynor Barton had some different experiences in Delhi.

"In the 80s Christmas Day at the British High Commission was awash with ritual. Sadly, these traditions have ended, budget cuts, but they used to create a lot of fun. Delhi is in the northern hemisphere so the days, although sunny, are cold.



I remember one year, at about 11am, when King Neptune, (the Naval Attache) atop an elephant, wearing flowing robes and holding a trident, made his way to the swimming pool led by a raucous Indian band. Behind him were his mermaids - scantily dressed young ladies in bits of green and blue net. At the pool he dismounted, tested the temperature of the water and declared it too hot. Buckets of ice cubes were thrown in. This was repeated many times until he declared it cold enough. (The water had been cold to begin with so was now most unwelcoming with ice-cubes bobbing about on the surface.)

There was a fanfare from the band, King Neptune disrobed and with a wave of his trident dived in, as did his mermaids and anyone else up to a very fast swim, through very cold water. At the far end of the pool you were met with mulled wine and a certificate signed by King Neptune. I treasure mine."

*Lindsay Ord*

## Barrow's Christmas Street Market and Big Switch-On

**Saturday 3rd December, 2.30pm - 5.30pm** with Christmas lights switch on at 5.00pm with lighting spectacular on the Round House.

What's there: Lots of stalls including Christmas presents, cakes, jams, crafts, light wands, food stalls; Games including

Lucky Dip, bottle stalls, tombola, Roundabout, Hook a Duck; Entertainment stage with Hall Orchard Choir and recorders, Hathern Band, Humphrey Perkins band; Santa's Grotto; Balloon modelling; Town Crier; free drop-in for mince pies and hot drinks and lots more.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be happening in the church while the street market is going on.

If you want to run your own stall, text 07718 153117.

**Note: new location: Church Street**



# Christmas 2016 Quiz

The following are cryptic clues to objects found around the home at Christmas.

1. Appointments?
2. Dad's a barber?
3. Crazy?
4. Make a pig of yourself when you find them?
5. The orange song?
6. A pleasure in Ankara?
7. Vision for Cockney?
8. Type that goes on your head?
9. Second visitor in a Christmas Carol?
10. Opposite a French stick?

Puzzled? Go to page 20 for the answers.

## Christmas Tree Festival

Thursday December 1st - Sunday December 4th

- Thursday 7:30pm - Launch of Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Trinity Church
- Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm - Open for public viewing
- Friday 7:30pm - Variety Concert
- Saturday 10:00am to 7:00pm - Open for public viewing
- Sunday 11:45am to 5:00pm - Open for public viewing

Many organisations, businesses and individuals decorate a tree for this popular event. If you haven't put one in the festival before but would be interested in doing so, please contact Jean Cooke: [jeancook45@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jeancook45@tiscali.co.uk) or 07775 508289

## Churches at Christmas



Churches Together in Barrow upon Soar wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

### Holy Trinity

|          |          |                         |
|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Sun 4th  | 10:30 am | Christingle Service     |
| Sun 18th | 6:00 pm  | Carol Service           |
| Sat 24th | 5:30 pm  | Crib Service            |
|          | 11:30 pm | Midnight Holy Communion |
| Sun 25th | 10:30 am | All Age Holy Communion  |

### Catholic Church

|          |          |                     |
|----------|----------|---------------------|
| Sat 24th | 6:00 pm  | Night Mass - Sileby |
| Sun 25th | 9:00 am  | Dawn Mass - Sileby  |
|          | 10:30 am | Day Mass - Syston   |

### Baptist Church

|          |          |                              |
|----------|----------|------------------------------|
| Sun 11th | 4:00 pm  | Christingle Service          |
| Sun 18th | 10:00 am | Christmas Nativity           |
|          | 6:00 pm  | Carols by Candlelight        |
| Sun 25th | 10:00 am | Family Christmas Day Service |

### Methodist Church

|          |          |                                |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sun 11th | 10:15 am | Nativity Festival              |
|          | 6:00pm   | Nativity Festival              |
| Sun 18th | 6:00 pm  | Carol Service                  |
| Sat 24th | 6:00 pm  | Stories & games round the crib |
| Sun 25th | 10:00 am | Christmas Morning Praise       |



# Murder Mystery Review: 'A Blow to the Head'

**M**urder Mysteries for this critic are a challenge having attended a few and nearly been made part of one for my caustic comments! The hall at Humphrey Perkins on Saturday 8th Oct was packed with many of the audience dressed in the style of the 1980s or as school-girls from Saint Trinians. Perhaps that's why so many older men were there!

The hall being so large your reviewer was wary of the ability of the group to carry it off - sound wise. But at 7.30pm the curtains drew back to the melodic tune of Alice Cooper's chicken-head biting 'Schools Out' which caused a few old dears to tear out their hearing aids! First bonus to the tech team: good loud sound.

The scene opens with the first of the cast, a head-boy and head-girl having a conversation. It's easy to hear them thanks to head-mikes. Sound worries disappearing - this is going to be fun. The rest of the suspects appear on stage; an ambidextrous secretary, a headmaster who The Sun paper would have had a field day with and P.E. teacher in shorts looking remarkably like Bob Carolgees from Tiswas minus Spit the Dog! The plot is built around the headmaster's retirement party; sign the card, dish the dirt and give everyone in the audience a hint as to why each might want to kill him off. Then in bursts the Ruby Gates of Barrow, aka Inspector Ginnie Foot, to announce the headmaster has been stabbed and is no more.

Shock, horror and murmurs from the audience! We've had free crisps from the Tuck Shop during the first half and now comes dinner.



This was a school-dinner bread-roll, ham, cheese, lettuce, a sausage? and aghhh beetroot, some pickle and coleslaw. Like school-dinners of old it was soon all gone and no seconds. However, let's not forget the excellent school pudding. How many dinner-lady cooks and pupils wished Aldi had been open in the 80s: their lemon cheesecake is damn good.

Cue Part 2 and it's time for the audience to question the cast. Is the head-boy gay? Does the secretary fancy the entire cast? Is the head-girl, who recently became a mother, another case for The Sun? Some of the questions were on a par with the acting - very funny. The tables received forensic and CSI information plus a picture of the head master on the floor with what looks like an old 80s mobile phone but is really a board-rubber. The audience is really getting into it and even start head banging when 'Schools Out' plays for the 40th time. All we need now are a bunch of plods and a George Cole spiv look-alike but we get Ginnie who asks the audience to discover who did it. The answer? The chemistry teacher. Motive? Too bizarre to even think about yet some tables actually got it right!

As always happens in Part 2 of a Murder Mystery the formerly sometimes rather wooden cast become electric as the plot progresses and your reviewer found himself really enjoying the evening. Congratulations to the cast, (see pic) the director Helen Sadler, the production team (nice one tech team) catering team, bar staff, table-servers, bouncers and raffle-ticket sellers. It was a really good show chaps. Will I go next year? Yep. This whole play was a blow to the head - even if it was a stabbing.

*Eric Ellingworth*

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# Photos from Barrow Panto Group's Production of Honk!



## Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Dates
2. Parsnips
3. Nuts
4. Truffles
5. Tangerine
6. Turkish delight
7. Mince Pies
8. Pork Pie
9. Christmas present
10. Shortbread



# Centre Stage in Barrow

## Professional touring theatre on your doorstep this Spring

**W**e asked the audience of our last Centre Stage event whether they thought we should keep booking these events and if so, why. We collected over 50 replies and what they said was a loud YES, keep booking them because... parking is very easy and free, you can walk to the shows, they are truly professional entertainers, tickets are incredibly cheap compared with theatres in town, they have a real village feel to them, they bring people together, the shows are often unusual, the venue is really convenient for anyone in a wheelchair, you always get a good view, you can talk to the actors afterwards...and so on and so on.

Barrow is still able to benefit from this scheme because Charnwood Borough Council decided to go on supporting it; the County Council didn't. As a consequence of Arts Council funding and funding from those local councils who carried on, the professional fees of the touring players are heavily subsidised. Even so, BUSCA is still likely to make a loss because the scheme assumes that the events take place in village halls with little or no hire cost; not the case in Barrow!



The moral is clear for Barrow: Use it or lose it. If you come to support live professional theatre in your own local venue, you can be sure of a warm welcome, first rate entertainment and a really good night out.

We have two shows in Barrow this spring: A Brief History of Music on Friday 3rd February and Mambo Jambo on Friday 17th March.

A Brief History of Music is a hugely entertaining show which races through a wide selection of music from 600 years using an array of 30 instruments. Chris and Sophie are highly experienced and skillful entertainers and will give you an evening that is fun, funny and even informative. You'll find yourself joining in with long forgotten old favourites, hear the raucous side by side with the courtly, the witty beside the flowery, the ancient against the modern. Not to mention seeing and hearing the virginal, the rauschpfeife and the vihuela, to name only three rarely seen musical instruments.



Mambo Jambo is another show that mixes music of all types and styles. Frankie and Pete give you "musical sunshine" and in March, that's just what the doctor ordered. This time, the mix is a geographical one. There's infectious music from Cuba, New Orleans, Brazil, Eastern Europe as well as blue grass, boogie and their own compositions. They mix saxophone, vocals, clarinet, flute, guitar, banjo, percussion, ukulele, accordion and suitcase! It's a feel-good show and the audience are guaranteed to come out smiling at the end of the night.

Both shows are in Humphrey Perkins Community Centre starting at 7.30 and tickets can be bought from the Paper Shop or by Paypal from [www.busca.org.uk](http://www.busca.org.uk). Bought in advance of the show they cost £10, £9 (concessions) and £5 (children under 16). Any enquiries to Judith on 07718153117 or [judithroddgers155@gmail.com](mailto:judithroddgers155@gmail.com)

## Charnwood Orchestra Concert: Vienna And Beyond (14th January)

**I**t is definitely part of the spirit of Christmas when Charnwood Orchestra brings Vienna to Barrow in January. Over the years many people have told me how much they look forward to the feast of Viennese waltzes, polkas and marches. This year will be even better because we are introducing other popular pieces from the rest of Europe to start the concert - just as happens in Vienna on New Year's Eve.

The first half of the concert will include Rossini's The Thieving Magpie overture, Tchaikovsky's Waltz of the Flowers (from Nutcracker), Nic Fallowfield himself playing Beethoven's Romance no.2 for violin and orchestra, Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg and Smetana's Dance of the Comedians. In the second half, Humphrey Perkins hall fills with the

music of the Strauss family, some new to Barrow, some very familiar indeed. Obviously we will include the Blue Danube, the Radetsky Waltz and Thunder and Lightning Polka.

The tickets cost £14, £12 (concessions) and £3 (accompanied children under 16) and can be bought from The Paper Shop and by Paypal from



[www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk](http://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk). The concert starts at 7.00 and don't be late because we will be giving you a free glass of bubbly or juice to get you into the mood. Enquiries to Judith on 07718 153117.





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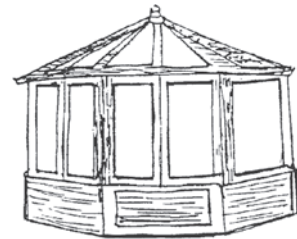
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SENIOR MEMBER 2307





## On the beat in Barrow: an interview with PCSO Jade Martin

Jade's a delight to meet and really rewarding to talk to. If you see her on the beat don't worry about holding her up - talking to residents is part of her job so flag her down even if she's on her bike! Jade is a Police Community Support Officer who really loves working in Barrow. She's well qualified for the job as she has a degree in Criminology and Social Policy under her stab-vest. Yes, as long as she's on duty she has to wear a stab-vest even sitting in Peppercorns answering questions for Barrow Voice!

We met one Saturday afternoon as I went along to a Beat Surgery held in Peppercorns. Surgeries do move around; sometimes in the library, the Roundhouse or Barrow of Treats and times vary so please check the Beat Surgery diary entry on the back page of Barrow Voice first if you wish to go along. There are two held every month. It's well worth going as Jade, or her colleague PC Mansfield, highlight recent problems. She told me there had been a spike in opportunistic thefts from cars so is keen to remind people to lock them even if they're away for only a few minutes. She's amazed at how many people leave their cars unlocked. Burglaries are different, she said, as they are far more likely to be targeted crimes. So, go along, air any worries you might have, learn what's happening in the village and get advice on how to protect your goods: there's a new sophisticated DNA kit the police are selling, at cost price, to mark your possessions. As Halloween was approaching when we met, Jade had brought useful posters to either attract or repel treat-craving youngsters. (See pic)

But being on the beat in Barrow? What's involved? Well, before leaving the beat-office for a day's work Jade checks the systems to see if there have been any problems reported such as car-thefts, burglaries or antisocial behaviour and will make a point of including that area in her beat. Her role is primarily to find out the concerns of people living here, such as noisy neighbours, overgrown trees, inconsiderate parking or signs of criminal activity. Later she'll report back everything to her team. Jade is one of four people, two Police Constables and another PCSO, who cover Barrow, Sibley, Seagrave, Burton the Wolds, Cotes, Walton on the Wolds, Hoton and Prestwold. This area itself is divided up and two of the team focus on Barrow and the Wolds villages. All police team members are in touch with each other through radio. Jade has a radio and a video camera attached to the front of her jacket. However, as a PCSO Jade doesn't carry handcuffs, a truncheon or Taser as, although she sometimes has to face conflict, dealing with it isn't a PCSO's primary role. Police Constables are the

ones trained for coping with conflict and carry all the gear.

To a PCSO deterrence is important. Jade wears a clearly marked Hi-Viz jacket so even from a distance everyone knows she's a member of the police force. And this visibility works. For example parking on the yellow lines near Hall Orchard School is an offence but once a Hi-Viz PC or PCSO is spotted walking up the hill cars magically disappear! Jade is often in the village. In general she works a pattern of six days on and three days off. There's no set beat pattern but on average she is in the village most days, or evenings, depending on her shifts, and works a 37 hour week. She mostly walks or cycles and, over time, all Barrow's streets are covered. They are! If you've never seen her, or one of the team, you've been out!

*Gaynor Barton*

### STOP PRESS

The next beat surgery will be at  
The Barrow of Treats at 13.00  
on Dec 16th with PC Mansfield.



# Martin Page

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# Mrs Lahodynska

I have spoken to a number of people about Mrs Ia Lahodynska, who everyone knew as Mrs "L". The most frequent comments are that she was a very caring person, someone who possessed a vast range of knowledge, had brilliant sewing skills and loved her family.

On a personal level I remember her as someone who went along to village jumble-sales where she would bargain for bric-a-brac items and sometimes buy clothing. I have learnt that she had the most amazing collection of bric-a-brac. I've also discovered that the clothing she bought was always something that could be altered into something that she could wear. How wonderfully practical and from someone who doesn't sew, so (forgive the pun) clever!

There is so much to tell about Mrs L's interesting life. Below are the recollections of just one person who knew her well and there's more to follow, not least about her time at Hall Orchard Primary School.

*Ginnie Willcocks*

## Reflections on Mrs "L", Mrs Ia Lahodynska

Many people will remember Mrs "L" from their time at Hall Orchard School where she worked as a teaching assistant for many years. Others will recall her "holding court" at Peppercorns Cafe in the High Street with her many friends, putting the world to rights.

My own recollections go back 50 odd years as I was a friend of her third son, Alex. He was in my class at Hall Orchard School, where we learnt the basics of life: reading, writing and arithmetic and where we first really noticed that girls were different to boys!

When the 11 Plus exam came along, only 3 of us out of our class passed - Alex, a boy called David Pick and myself. David Pick went off to Loughborough Grammar School, Alex and I went to Humphrey Perkins. With all the current debate about grammar schools did it really make a difference? Yes! A place in the Top Sets. The A stream might have given you kudos but overall probably not. Alex left Humphreys at age 16 and joined the army. Later he emigrated to Canada and joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police although he was always a 'city cop' living and working in Toronto. Now he's retired and enjoys 'Snow-birding', living mostly in Toronto but spending the winters in Arizona. I met up with him at his mum's funeral along with his brothers, Walter and Lou. Mrs L's daughter, Ola, predeceased her some years ago.

Amongst the many things the boys told me about their mother I particularly remember that she held offices within the Ukrainian Scouting movement and was buried in her scout's uniform. The funeral was Ukrainian Orthodox with much singing, incense burning and bell tinkling and lasted approximately one hour. All donations in Mrs L's memory were in aid of the Ukrainian Scouting Association.



I have listed below some of the things I knew of Mrs L's life and how she ended up amongst us:

- She was born in the Ukraine
- Left the Ukraine as a teenager to avoid repression by the Russians
- Emigrated to Germany
- Met and married her husband
- Sought asylum in Great Britain post war, came to live in Barrow, her husband obtained work at John Ellis and Son, Concrete Manufacturers
- Had 4 children, 3 sons and a daughter
- Was predeceased by her husband and daughter
- She was an all-round "good egg" and a village character who will be missed.

*Andrew Webster*





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# Wildlife through my window

**I** am now permanently in a wheelchair and my pace of life has become a lot slower because of this. One advantage however is that I have plenty of time to notice things around me which maybe other people don't.

I am very fortunate to have a beautiful garden containing some very old apple, pear and crab-apple trees as well as many established shrubs and perennials plants. I spend many hours in the winter looking through my lounge windows and French doors longing for the summer months when I can be outside in the fresh air (getting my vitamin D) and enjoying the many sights, sounds and scents of my garden. Most of the plants I have collected over the last 20 years attract insects, birds and animals and this year in particular I seem to be reaping the benefits.

We have always put out food for the garden birds and now seem to have a vast array of various feeders to suit nearly all different types. You may not be aware that some birds only feed from the ground, others like bird tables and yet others like hanging bird feeders. Over the winter months, I purchased two perspex birdfeeders that attach to the window with three strong suction cups.

This is a wonderful way to feed and watch wild birds up close. The tough, non-yellowing polycarbonate bird feeder attaches to your window with three strong suction cups and the tray detaches easily from the roof/back section (without removing the suckers) for cleaning and refilling. Suitable for year-round feeding - and a fabulous gift for anyone. Great for feeding mealworms, sprinkles, nibbles and bird seed. I purchased mine from the RSPB at a cost of £10.45.

Earlier this year, I treated myself to a bird feeding station. These are available from Amazon, garden centres and many discount stores. They can either be freestanding, if you have a patio or can be pushed into the ground. There are plenty of different styles of containers which can be attached to the upright pole, enabling you to put out many different types of food, mine also has a water container. I bought some fat balls from a pet food stall on the market and discovered that not only blue tits and great tits love these but so do the starlings. I also have quite a selection of bird boxes, bug boxes, a hedgehog box and a butterfly box, so hopefully there is a home available for everyone visiting my garden.

It may take some time for the birds to accept and build up their bravery to try any feeder which is new in their territory but I have been delighted and surprised by the wildlife visiting my garden this year. Maybe you could add one of these feeders to your birthday or Christmas present list!

Here is a list of all the wildlife visitors to my garden this year: longtailed tit; greenfinch; goldfinch; wrens; blackbirds; woodpecker; magpies; blue tits; great tits; robins; sparrows; chaffinch; sparrow-hawk; doves; wood pigeon; jackdaws; crows; butterflies; dragonflies; squirrels; hedgehogs; frogs; pipistrelle bats and flying overhead lots of swifts and for the first time this year buzzards. I thought it might be interesting to find out what wildlife visits your garden in Barrow upon Soar. Please contact me by e-mail at [Jane@tindle01.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Jane@tindle01.fsnet.co.uk), with details of your sightings.

*Jane Tindle*





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# The life-changing magic of tidying up or the book review that never happened

Last week I was talking to a friend of mine. She lives in a one-bedroomed flat and she loves to shop. She told me that whenever she buys anything new, something has to go. She also mentioned that she has just four mugs, claiming that's all she needs.

I'm not sure how many mugs I have but there are definitely a lot more than four.

I moved house recently - and packing up all my possessions certainly made me think about what should be kept and what should perhaps be recycled, donated or binned - particularly as I have down-sized, so space is much more of an issue.

Around about the time I first started thinking about moving, I was reading a book with an intriguing title, 'The Life-changing Magic of Tidying' by Marie Kondo. I read the first few chapters and, following the advice in the book, (typically I was too impatient to read all the instructions before getting started) I sorted out all my clothes. I started with socks. I collected every single pair of socks I owned (inevitably some of them turned out to be solitary socks so they were abandoned quite quickly) then I considered each pair in turn, handling them and asking myself the key question, 'Do these socks bring me joy? Okay - I know what you're thinking - and it's true I felt as nutty as a fruit cake. But, it wasn't long before I had a neat pile of socks that I really like wearing and all those socks that didn't stay up, and the ones that were too big so I never wore, and the ones that were a horrible colour, were all ready to go to charity or to the bin.

I did this with all my clothes. It was useful. I discovered a few quite wearable things that had been lurking in the back of my wardrobe for years. I realised that there really was no point in keeping that old shirt that I used when painting ceilings because I have decided that I don't ever want to paint ceilings again. Once everything was sorted my wardrobes and drawers looked great - well organised, uncluttered.

It was around about that point that I offered to review the book for Barrow Voice. But it was also around about that point that I decided to put my house on the market and of course, that called for a less considered tidy up. By the time the estate agent came to take pictures, it all looked fine on the surface, but the clutter of books and papers, CDs and DVDs, notebooks, pens and pencils had been hidden and somehow 'The life-changing magic of tidying up' had been tidied away. I couldn't find it anywhere.

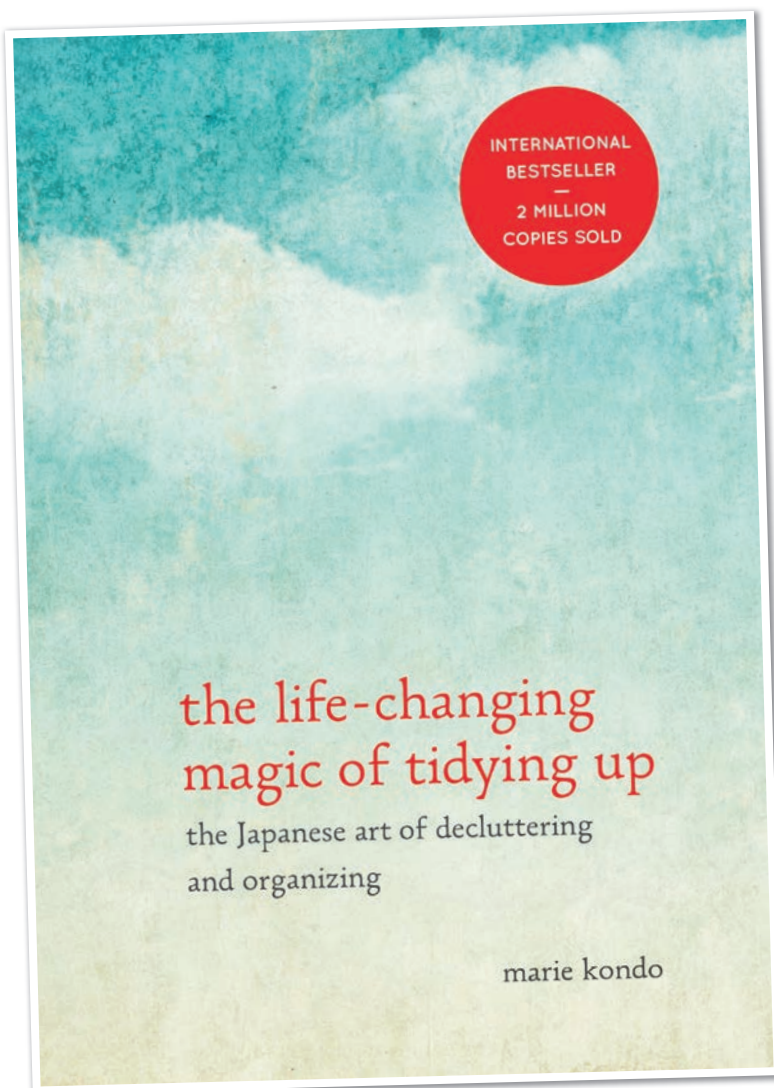
I wasn't too worried. I was expecting to move early July which would, I thought, give me plenty of time to find the book and write the review in time for the Autumn issue of Barrow Voice. But ten days before I was expecting to move, the bottom of the chain broke down and all was uncertainty again. I half-heartedly unpacked a few of the boxes I'd packed but the book remained in hiding. A couple of weeks later the chain was complete again and looking for a lost book was not my priority.

After much uncertainty, I moved on Friday, 14th October. A few days after moving I finally found the book but, unsurprisingly, I've been too busy to actually finish reading it.

But I can certainly recommend it. After all, I only read a few chapters and not only did I sort out all my clothes, but I ended up moving from a house in Barrow to a flat in Nottingham. That was life changing magic!

I lived in Barrow for thirteen years (between 1985 and 1998) and then for another twelve years (between 2004 and 2016). My children grew up in Barrow. It will remain very dear to me and I know I will keep coming back because I have so many friends in the village as well as an excellent dentist and optician. I have loved writing for Barrow Voice and I hope I might continue to do so from time to time. Who knows, I might even finish the book and review it!

*Julie Gardner*





# The Binges: a ghostly tale...

Continuing with the theme of The Binges, as mentioned in two earlier articles, I have this story to tell.

Many years ago, early one June morning, I set off from Elms Lodge with my father's gun under my arm and walked down our fields to Fishpool Brook. I followed the brook along what was then my Uncle Jim's land up to where it bordered The Binges. By the time I reached the woodland it was about 4.30am, quite light by now with odd pockets of morning mist in the air. I climbed through a gap in the hedge and started to pick my way between the bushes. Eventually I came to a clearing.

About twenty yards away on the opposite side of the clearing stood a man with his back to me; a gun under his arm, looking up to the sky. His clothing was odd; he wore a three-cornered hat, a fairly long waisted coat and black riding boots. Because he, as yet, had not seen me I decided to retreat quietly. Unfortunately, as I stepped back I stood on a fallen branch which made a sharp crack.

The man slowly turned round and gazed in my direction although not directly at

me. He seemed to be looking past me and into the distance. He slowly walked towards me and continued to stare into the distance as he passed only a few feet away without ever looking at me or acknowledging my presence. As he passed I noticed his face was very pale and he had a pronounced scar on his neck partially hidden by a red neckerchief. My gaze followed him as he disappeared into the mists and bushes.

This experience shook me somewhat and I didn't mention it to anyone for some time.

Much later I came across a story which reminded me of this experience. A man called Ned Black lived in the village in the late 1700s. He was a pedlar who would push a hand cart around the village selling rabbits, pigeons and other game. Apparently, as the story goes, Ned got most of his wares from poaching and one evening he was caught by the local game-keeper. A struggle ensued; a gun went off and the game-keeper was mortally



wounded. When the body was found a red neckerchief was found clasped in one hand. Taking into consideration the fact that Ned always wore a red neckerchief, and the way he made his living, it did not take long for the villagers to work out who was responsible. Ned was soon apprehended hiding in The Binges, which was a much bigger woodland in those days. Ned was tried at Leicester Assizes, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged, which duly he was.

Make of this story what you will but I know what I saw.

*Dave Bird*

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All enquiries should be made through:  
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# Barrow Town Eagles Fly High!

**B**arrow Town Youth U12 team (Barrow Town Eagles) play in the Leicestershire Foxes League. The team has kept its core players for over four seasons now and has welcomed new additions at the end of last season and during this summer.

The 2015/16 season was a test whilst new players were bedding in. The 2016/17 season is well underway and the team has got off to a great start, being top of the league and scoring goals freely.

The team's centre forward, Ellie Smith, has been selected to join the F.A. Female Talent Pathway, which is a gateway to professional football. Hopefully her success will be a height for others in the team to aim for.

The team have continued their sponsorship with Penny Crayon during this season. Penny Crayon is a local printing company, with an in-house design studio based in Barrow upon Soar. Penny Crayon has years of experience in the industry.

Pictured with the team is coach Rob Preston and Dan Creasey, Penny Crayon's Managing Director.

*Rob Preston*



left to right - Rob Preston (Coach), Will Lin, Greg Preston, Ellie Smith, Curtis Doe, Arthur Dungey, Rhys Moore, Jak Smith, Sam Raynor, Thomas Chamberlain, Josh Creasey, Dan (Penny Crayon Owner)

## The Boat House in Barrow and Dragon Boat Racing



**T**he 'Soaring Dragons' dragon boat racing team train twice a week from their base at the Boat House in Barrow. You may have seen them practising on the river.

This year all their hard work paid off as they won the 500m Open Plate Final. The competition took place on September 25th at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham. It was a superb achievement as it was their racing debut and they beat experienced teams.

Would you like to join them? They are keen to attract new members especially from Barrow. If you are interested email the crew on [info@soaringdragons.co.uk](mailto:info@soaringdragons.co.uk) or visit their website at [www.soaringdragons.co.uk](http://www.soaringdragons.co.uk). Training sessions are currently held every Sunday at the Boat House but please contact the team before coming along as this may change in the winter months.

## If it snows: good sledging slopes not far from Barrow

**B**arrow's King George V's Playing Field has little slopes young children find fun in the snow but if you want more excitement you'll have to leave the village.

The three best known areas are: Beacon Hill, for new-comers to the area this is the hill above Woodhouse Eaves; the slopes surrounding Old John in Bradgate Park, (see pic) and the slopes of Mammoth Hill in Watermead Park - north-east Leicester between the villages of Wanlip and Syston. The Mammoth Hill slopes sweep down to the edge of a lake and tragedies have happened as sledgers have lost control and drowned. But this is rare. The hill itself isn't called 'mammoth' because of its own height but because it has a sculpture of a mammoth on the top.

*Gaynor Barton*





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## Village Diary

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Thurs 1st</b> | Christmas Tree Festival (Runs until Sunday 4th)  |
| <b>Fri 2nd</b>   | Twinning Association Pie Night; Bishop Beveridge Club; bookings from Hobbs on 414077 or Sue Rodgers on 416533  |
| <b>Sat 3rd</b>   | Police Beat Surgery; Barrow Library; 11.30 - 12.30<br>Switching on of Christmas Lights and Street Market 14.30 - 17.30 in Church Street  |
| <b>Mon 5th</b>   | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome<br>Art Self Help Group; 19.00 - 21.00 Bishop Beveridge Club  |
| <b>Tues 6th</b>  | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30   |
| <b>Wed 7th</b>   | Mothers Union: Christmas Celebration<br>Gardening Club: AGM (19.30 members only) and Party Night (20.00 All welcome); The GAP-behind Baptist Church  |
| <b>Fri 9th</b>   | Library Rhyme Time: 10.30, Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30  |
| <b>Sat 10th</b>  | Methodist Nativity Festival; 11.00 - 17.00 opened by Andy Reed - Hall Orchard Choir and Recorder Group and Holy Trinity Junior Choir performing - Free Admission - Craft Activities for children in Joseph's Workshop and Bethlehem Boutique. Light lunches and refreshments on sale |
| <b>Sun 11th</b>  | Methodist Nativity Festival: Open after morning worship - 13.00 until 16.00  |
| <b>Mon 12th</b>  | Bishop Beveridge coach trip to Chester Christmas Street Market and Christmas Tree Festival. (Details 01509 413212)<br>Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30 Bishop Beveridge Club   |
| <b>Wed 14th</b>  | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00<br>Wl: Aromatherapy for a stress-free Christmas - Andrea Bray; Cons Club Assembly Rooms; 19.30   |
| <b>Sat 17th</b>  | Clock Club Rummage sale in Aid of Rainbows; 10.00 - 11.30; Bishop Beveridge Club<br>BUSCA Christmas Dance with C&J Sound; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30 - 23.00; tickets from The Paper Shop  |
| <b>Wed 21st</b>  | Bishop Beveridge Club Bingo; 14.30; all welcome  |
| <b>Mon 26th</b>  | Barrow Runners Handicap 6 mile race; contact Mick Ballard on 413586<br>Beveridge Club: Boxing Day Open Coffee morning: Coffee and toasted tea cakes; 11.00 - 12.00   |
| <b>Wed 4th</b>   | Bishop Beveridge Club Bingo; 14.30; all welcome  |
| <b>Sat 7th</b>   | Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00 - 11.00; all welcome  |
| <b>Mon 9th</b>   | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome<br>Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30 Bishop Beveridge Club  |
| <b>Tues 10th</b> | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30   |
| <b>Wed 11th</b>  | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00<br>Barrow Wl: "Wl Denman College" by Genys Wignall; Cons Club Assembly Rooms; 19.30<br>Gardening Club: Rails & Trails. The story of the Mountsorrel branch line by Patrick Neal; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30                        |
| <b>Fri 13th</b>  | Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30   |
| <b>Sat 14th</b>  | Charnwood Orchestra "A Vienna and Beyond" concert; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.00; tickets from the Paper Shop   |
| <b>Mon 16th</b>  | Beveridge Club Film: "Absolutely Fabulous"; 14.00  |
| <b>Fri 20th</b>  | Race Night with BUSCA; Walton Village Hall; 19.30; tickets from Paper Shop and www.busca.org.uk  |
| <b>Mon 23rd</b>  | Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30; Bishop Beveridge Club  |
| <b>Fri 3rd</b>   | BUSCA presents a Centre Stage professional touring show: "A Brief History of Music", a whistle-stop tour of foot-tapping music from 500 years; 19.30; tickets from the Paper Shop  |
| <b>Sat 4th</b>   | Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00 - 11.00; all welcome<br>Beveridge Club "Give a book a home"; 15.00 - 17.00; tea and cake and an opportunity to meet new friends and learn about the club.   |
| <b>Mon 6th</b>   | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome<br>Art Self Help Group; 19.00 - 21.00 Bishop Beveridge Club  |
| <b>Tues 7th</b>  | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30   |
| <b>Wed 8th</b>   | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00<br>Barrow Wl: Skittles in Cons Club Assembly Rooms; 19.30  |
| <b>Fri 10th</b>  | Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30   |
| <b>Sat 11th</b>  | BUSCA Valentine Dance with Just Us; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30 - 23.00; tickets from Paper Shop  |
| <b>Mon 13th</b>  | Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30 Bishop Beveridge Club   |
| <b>Wed 15th</b>  | Beveridge Club talk "The Life Story of Edith Piaf" by Julie Ede; 14.30<br>Gardening Club; Laurence Johnson and the making of Hidcote Manor Gardens - Kate Ward; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30   |
| <b>Mon 20th</b>  | Beveridge Club Film: "Me before You"; 19.00  |
| <b>Mon 27th</b>  | Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30 Bishop Beveridge Club   |
| <b>Sat 4th</b>   | Methodist Church Minimarket; 10.00 - 11.00; all welcome  |
| <b>Mon 6th</b>   | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome<br>Art Self Help Group; 19.00 - 21.00; Bishop Beveridge Club   |
| <b>Tues 7th</b>  | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30   |
| <b>Wed 8th</b>   | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00<br>Barrow Wl: Teacup Crafts by Helen and Allison; Cons Club Assembly Rooms; 19.30  |
| <b>Fri 10th</b>  | Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30<br>Barrow Panto Group: "Cinderella"; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.00; tickets from the Paper Shop  |
| <b>Sat 11th</b>  | Barrow Panto Group: "Cinderella"; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.00; tickets from the Paper Shop  |
| <b>Mon 13th</b>  | Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30; Bishop Beveridge Club  |
| <b>Wed 15th</b>  | Gardening Club; History of Stoneywell House and Gardens - Roy Mitchell; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30   |
| <b>Fri 17th</b>  | BUSCA presents a Centre Stage professional touring show: Mambo Jambo: Sunshine music from all over the world; 19.30; tickets from the Paper Shop   |
| <b>Mon 20th</b>  | Beveridge Club Film: "Bridget Jones' Baby"; 14.00; enquiries from 414519   |
| <b>Mon 27th</b>  | Art Self Help Group; 12.30 - 14.30 Bishop Beveridge Club   |



**BARROW UPON SOAR  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity No. 1156170

#### December 17th

Christmas Dance with  
C&J Sound

#### January 20th

Race Night at Walton  
Village Hall

#### February 3rd

Centre Stage presents  
"A Short History of Music"

#### February 11th

Valentine Dance with  
Just Us