

Issue 149 • Autumn 2017

First Published 1975

Barrow VOICE

www.barrowvoice.co.uk

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Includes
Barrow Focus

AFTER



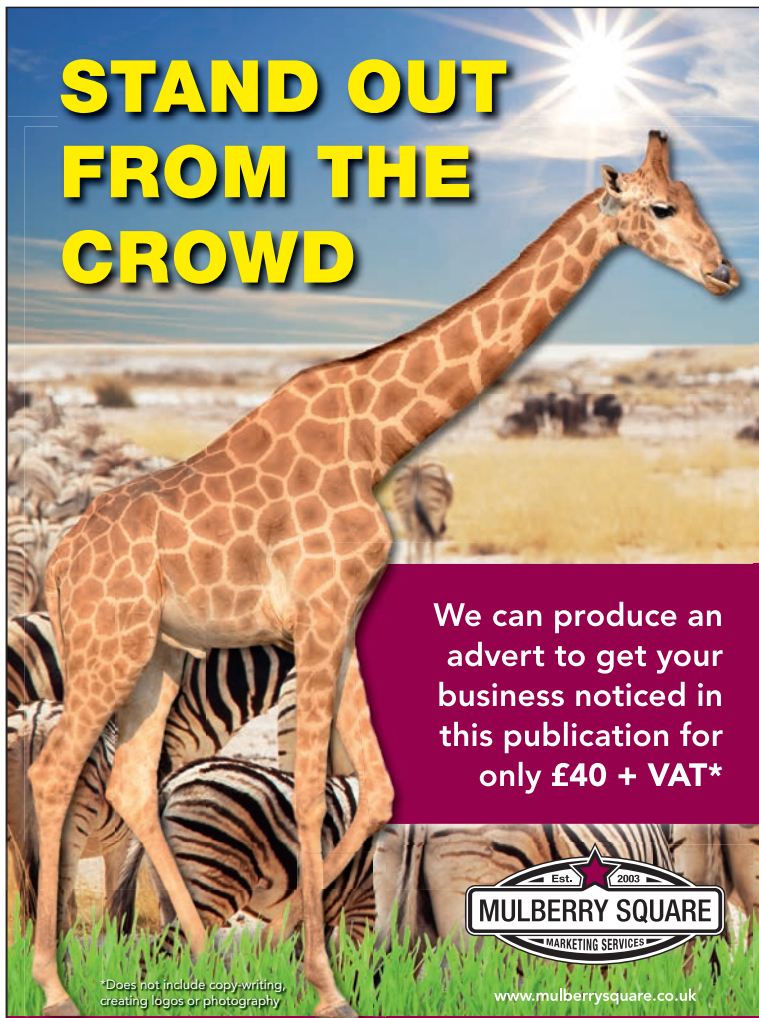
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Editorial

In many ways this autumn edition looks back to the summer, as we have articles on sunny walks through lovely countryside to interesting destinations, a visit to a Rothley winery to learn about the art of growing grapes for that most popular of summer drinks, cold white wine, and there's a two-page spread celebrating June's extremely successful Open Gardens. The sun shone on July's Street Market too and this year we have focused on the musicians taking part - capturing them in action - well - with one exception...

But we're looking to the future in an article about the major problem Jelsons and Wilsons will have to overcome before residents will be allowed to move in to their properties, and our front cover reflects continuing tensions between the developers and the village. However, the site of the new community building has been decided and an article will tell you where it is going to be. It's a 36-page issue this time so please enjoy the extra space, which allows us the luxury of larger pics!

Gaynor Barton, Editor

Apology: In the summer issue there was an article 'Margaret Meets the Queen' about Margaret Steadman's Maundy Money. I'm very sorry that a sentence giving the reason Margaret was chosen for this honour was accidentally omitted. (My fault; I lost it typing-up.) The reason was that Margaret has helped Holy Trinity Church in numerous ways as a verger over many, many years and especially as a Sunday School teacher.

Short Story Competition

Recently the BBC ran a short story competition with the winners' stories read over the air by famous authors. Barrow Voice can't do this, but we can print them in BV Spring!

If you'd like to enter our competition there are three age-groups: 11 and under; between 12 and 16; over 16.

Entrants must write a fictional short story under 700 words. The closing date is January 31st. Only one entry per person is permitted and the story must be wholly written by the entrant. Please add your name, your age-group, your address and telephone number to the bottom of your entry.

Entries must be an original. However, stories can feature well known public figures from present day or from history (e.g. Wayne Rooney or Charles Darwin) take place in historical eras (e.g. the English Civil War) or use real-life experiences as a creative springboard as long as the story is FICTIONAL.

Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material.

Entries will be judged by the BV editorial committee on the following criteria: originality; plot; characterisation; language; enjoyment. Please send your entry to barspiller@btinternet.com Have fun!

The Sound Of Mu...rder

If you've ever wondered about the relationships that exist within a drama troupe, this year's murder mystery is for you. Behind the glittering costumes and the bright smiles, what goes on? How do the actors' personal lives affect their performances? Well, it goes without saying that the Murder Mystery teams are, year on year, groups of loving individuals who pull together and support one another through thick and thin. This year's group is no different so why not come along to witness just how well we're pulling together and see if you can spot any flaws!

The Sound of Mu...rder by Andy Hawkes is about an amateur group rehearsing the Sound of Music which gives you the ideal opportunity to dress to impress in your dirndls and your lederhosen, your nuns' habits and your Nazi uniforms... or something else (a lonely goatherd?)

The show is on: Friday 6th October 2017 7.30pm at Humphrey Perkins School.

Tickets are £12 each - which includes a two course ploughman's supper and the chance to interrogate the suspects. Available from The Paper Shop, The Library and from Paypal at www.busca.org.uk Come along to have all of your questions answered...

Helen Sadler

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Produced by Helen Sadler

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22 South Street,
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The Good Shepherd Church Hall LE11 2HU
Park Road
Thu 5:15pm

Church Rooms LE12 8DP
Church Lane
Tue 5:30pm

St Gregorys Catholic Church LE12 7RE
24 The Banks, Sibleby
Fri 9:45am

Methodist Church Centre LE12 7JB
Church Hill Road
Wed 6:00pm

Baptist Church LE11 1TG
Baxtergate
Wed 9:45am, Wed 6:15pm
Fri 10:00am, Sat 10:00am

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Barrow Voice

Sewers Block Jelson and Wilson?

A further meeting to that previously reported in the Summer issue of BV took place on 5th June 2017. Nicky Morgan MP chaired the meeting with representatives from Charnwood Borough Council (CBC), Severn Trent Water (STW), Environment Agency (EA) and Barrow Parish Council (BPC).

Below is a summary of the meeting: the full report appears on the BRAG section of the village website. (Put 'BRAG campaign' into your internet browser). The meeting discussed the implications of adding the foul water discharge from a further 350 houses to the existing sewer system.

STW confirmed their position that Condition 9 (foul drainage) of the Jelson planning permission related to on-site and downstream drainage. CBC is taking legal advice to confirm that.

STW stated that there is a High Risk of Foul Flooding in the Sibley Road and Breachfield Road areas. This is the subject of study which will take some months to complete. In the meantime Condition 9 must not be discharged.

It was noted that Charnwood Borough Council had approved the foul drainage condition for the David Wilson site on Nottingham Road erroneously quoting permission received from the Environment Agency and never contacted STW to seek discharge of the foul drainage condition.

It was agreed that a phased occupation of the sites is not an option because there is a high risk of foul flooding now, without the addition of 350 more properties to the network.

In case it is not clear, the Wilson site and Jelson site use the same drainage network of pipes so their effect is additive and cumulative.

Charnwood Borough Council stated that given the high risk of foul flooding, the outcomes from ongoing studies not available and subject to legal advice, it would be entirely appropriate for them to STOP OCCUPATION of the new properties on both sites.

Barrow Parish Council reiterated their disappointment felt in the planning process. They stated "Parish councillors are not experts and rather rely on



experts, Charnwood Borough Council/STW etc. The issues raised would not have been addressed without the involvement of the Parish Council and it is the Parish Council's view that the authorities had not previously recognised the issues faced and had therefore failed in their support to the community."

Commentary

The statement made by Barrow Parish Council above is completely correct. The plain fact is that neither Jelson nor David Wilson should have been allowed to start their respective developments until it was certain that the foul-drainage system could cope and the drainage conditions were discharged by CBC on advice from STW.

Charnwood Borough Council takes the line that whilst the drainage system is not in use for new housing then no harm is done. Jelson were told that all works done without discharge of any conditions is 'at their own risk'.

The Head of Borough Planning wrote, "It would be unreasonable to take (enforcement) action against Jelson in such circumstances when there is every prospect of a satisfactory outcome being achieved." He can't possibly know that, having previously told BRAG he is not an expert on drainage.

Who will pay for any infrastructure works required to the system to reduce the risk or even stop the risk of foul flooding? All off-site works are commissioned and funded by STW and this is a requirement of the Water Industries Act (1991). In other words, if you pay water rates, you pay for the infrastructure to stop any foul flooding as well!

Is there a time scale to any of the works? Estimated time scale to completion by STW is 2018/2019. That assumes there is a solution.

Is it necessary to install a replacement sewer through the barrel tunnel beneath the railway embankment where the brook runs through? The answer isn't known at this time but the sewer pipe runs in there now. And would Network Rail agree to a larger pipe and the works needed to install it?

This report is written in July 2017. By the time BV arrives in mid-September then matters may have moved on. If so, updates will appear on the BRAG website.

Alan Willcocks

A REMINDER

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Welcome to Eddie's Barbershop

It wouldn't have felt right to have an edition of Barrow Voice without a welcome to a new hair stylist/beauty parlour but phew, we're OK because a young Barrovian, born and bred, has started up a business in the High Street as a barber. So well done Eddie for seeing the gap in the market and moving in smartly to fill the empty shop left by Jane Gilks.

Eddie Perry opened his Barbershop on May 27th and judging by the difficulty I had to catch him between customers, things are looking pretty good. Eddie cuts the hair of men and boys, trims beards and hopes to offer a shaving service in the future. He accepts "walk-ins" but is increasingly finding that customers would like to make appointments. At the moment he does both. I have heard glowing reports from satisfied customers and he explained that whereas the traditional short back and sides is easy and quick, many young men are seeking modern styles which may take twice as long. Eddie is keen to establish customer loyalty and gives discounts on 5th and 10th visits.

Eddie went to Hall Orchard, Humphrey Perkins, Rawlins and then on to Loughborough College to do his hairdressing course. Apprenticeships followed in Quorn

and Anstey but it wasn't until he went to Lanza in Sileby that he received hands-on training. College was mostly theory and the first two apprenticeships taught him to wash hair, make coffee and sweep up hair clippings. He is deeply grateful to Lanza for actually teaching him to cut hair. He managed to persuade friends to let him practise - he says you need to complete at least five full cuts before you even start to get the hang of it. Watching him carry out a trim while I asked questions, he certainly has the hang of it now.

Eddie also explained about the rent-a-chair system which he is hoping to establish. His new business has two barber's chairs even though there is only one barber. It is standard practice for a fellow barber to rent the spare chair to attend to his own customers and also help keep down the queue of "walk-ins".



Eddie is delighted with the way the business has blossomed. He says he's never worked so hard in all his life but he knows he's doing a good job and is very happy to be part of Barrow's business community.

Judith Rodgers

Eric Pinkett

Once resident of Barrow, celebrated with a Blue Plaque

On June 15th, BBC Music Day 2017 saw Radio 3, all 40 BBC Local Radio stations and the Asian Network in England team up with the British Plaque Trust to unveil 47 historic Blue Plaques celebrating iconic musicians and venues. One of those plaques celebrated Eric Pinkett, who lived until 1979 in "Falstaff", the house overlooking Jerusalem roundabout in Barrow.

Eric Pinkett, OBE, nursed a lifelong love of music. Born in Nottinghamshire, he went on to study violin at London's Royal Academy of Music and later taught music and games at Melton Mowbray Grammar School. Two years later, in 1948, he became Leicestershire's first music adviser. Mr Pinkett immediately set about forming an orchestra. In the early days he snapped

up instruments at bargain prices with his own money. He gradually built up a stock and they came into schools in considerable numbers for the first time ever. He was also very involved in achieving subsidised, or free, instrumental lessons in Leicestershire state schools, and soon there was a body of children who were ready to play together. So the County School of Music was born. His idea was that every child should eventually come to love music as a result of playing.

He worked unstintingly to earn international acclaim for the Leicestershire Schools' Symphony Orchestra. He was a man of tremendous stature who, almost entirely by his own effort, made Leicestershire the foremost education authority in the world of music. Mr Pinkett's passion and enthusiasm for music quickly brought the



orchestra to a quality that encouraged such seasoned conductors as Malcolm Arnold, Sir Arthur Bliss and Sir Michael Tippett to direct the youngsters.

The presentation of the blue plaque took place in Church Langton Primary School, Leicester, which is where the LSSO first rehearsed. As the founder of the Leicestershire County School of Music and the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra, Eric (Mr Music) inspired generations of young musicians.

Judith Rodgers



A Chip on his Shoulder?

At a time when take-away food outlets are popping up and closing down in High Streets across the country, it's good to hear of a shop and a supplier that have had a successful partnership for 40 years.

E T and H Crowson has supplied potatoes to Barrow Upon Soar Fish Bar for four decades and it's a combination that looks set to continue, ensuring piping hot chips with our fish for years to come.

Based in Leicester, Crowson potatoes was started by Thomas Crowson 60 years ago and is now run by grandsons Steve and David Crowson and nephew Paul.

I caught up with Steve on a Friday morning as he delivered bags of potatoes to the chippy. It's a job he has done personally for 40 years and makes multiple trips from the lorry to the store, carrying two bags at a time on his right shoulder.

Crowson Potatoes distributes 3,000 bags of potatoes every week to outlets within a 40-mile radius of Leicester - that's 75,000 kg of potatoes.

Agria potatoes from Lincolnshire are used for chips as they produce a superior product when cooked, said Steve. They have replaced the well-known Maris

Piper variety, which were supplied for many years.

Once in the shop, the potatoes are peeled and sliced by machine, ready for cooking when the shop opens. On the menu are fish, pies, chicken portions, burgers, kebabs and more, all with a generous portion of piping hot chips.

So how did the humble spud land up fried and doused with salt, vinegar and ketchup? According to Wikipedia, the first chips fried in the UK were sold by 'Granny' Duce in a West Riding town in 1854. A blue plaque in Oldham marks the origin of the fish and chip shop, and thus the start of the fast food industry in Britain. Chips, also known as French fries, are thought to have originated in Belgium but there is an ongoing dispute between French and Belgians, with both countries claiming ownership.

Fish and chips are less than 10% fat if properly cooked and an average sized portion is between 800 and 1000 calories.

The recommended daily calorie intake is 2500 for men and 2000 for women.

The dish used to be the nation's number one choice of a takeaway meal, but it has been knocked off the top spot by other options. A survey by Paymentsense card payment service found the top four were Chinese meals, Indian meals, pizzas and



Steve Crowson on a delivery

fish and chips. It also found that men order takeaways more often than women do... but women spend more on them than men do. Some 21% of Brits order a takeaway once a week and an average of £9.75 is spent on a takeaway.

With takeaways on so many families' menus, it's just as well Steve has broad shoulders!

Lindsay Ord



*Barrow Upon Soar Fish Bar owner
Kuldip Singh*

TOP TATTIE TIPS

If you'd rather cook your potatoes at home, you need to pick the right potato for your dish.

- For roast potatoes, try fluffy potatoes like King Edward or Maris Piper, which have a fluffy middle when cooked. They are good for jackets or chunky chips.
- Salad potatoes, like Charlotte or Maris Peer, taste great simply prepared in their skins. They are firm to the bite and are good for a quick, easy and healthy dish. Boil, steam or roast whole in their skins.
- Smooth potatoes hold their shape when boiled or cooked in a sauce such as dauphinoise or a hot pot. Try them boiled or as wedges. A typical smooth variety would be Desiree.
- When buying potatoes, choose those with tight skins, avoiding any that are soft, sprouting or have green patches.
- Sweet potatoes have a yellowish or pinkish skin and the flesh may be white or orange. They have a sweeter flavour, and are delicious when roasted.

For info about potatoes, and recipes, see www.lovepotatoes.co.uk



The Secrets of Beaumanor

I was so pleased when the Bishop Beveridge trips' itinerary for this year included one to Beaumanor Hall at Woodhouse. I remember, as a child, that Beaumanor meant mystery. I had a number of school friends who had parents that worked there, when all they could tell you was that their fathers worked at Beaumanor but could not say exactly what they did. Since then, there has been more openness about what happened at Beaumanor, especially during the Second World War. I was looking forward to actually seeing where the action took place and the work that continued there until the local education authority took ownership of it in 1970.

Twenty odd members of the Bishop Beveridge Club were welcomed by guides who apologised for the disruption caused by the building work being carried out in the main entrance. We were divided into two more manageable groups and went our separate ways to begin our journey of discovery.

The tour is split into the inside "stuff" and the outside "stuff". The first thing that you cannot fail to notice on entering the hall is the magnificent staircase; think, "Gone With the Wind", with an amazing stained-glass window backdrop on the first landing. The window itself is not a particularly great artwork but is a fascinating piece of history depicting all the coats-of-arms of the extended families of the Herricks, the last private owners of the hall.

The inside tour includes a visit to the labyrinthine cellars where you get a feeling of what life "below-stairs" must have been like. Work would have been

extremely tough, especially when you were expected to prepare and serve fabulous feasts with such primitive equipment.

After the cellars, we were shown the Victorian schoolroom. Some of us recalled using similar cast-iron framed desks in our own school days, a good fifty years after Victoria's reign! It also evoked memories of messy inkwells with "dip-in" pens that caused huge black blots on your writing paper. However, the Victorian schoolchildren did not have such luxury; they had to manage with a slate and a piece of chalk.

The finale of the inside exploration involved climbing the back stairs up to the attics, which originally provided sleeping-quarters for the servants. Latterly they were used as fairly basic "live-in" accommodation, for those who wanted it, who worked at the listening station, post war, at the rate of 2/6d per week; 12 and a half pence nowadays.

The outside tour consisted of the buildings around the estate that were erected for use by military personnel when Beaumanor was used by the War Office as a "Y" - a listening station. There's one hut that is still set up with the equipment that would have been used to listen to coded messages from the Germans during WW2. These messages would then have been despatched to the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park where they would have been decoded with the help of what we now know as the "Enigma" machine.

The visit, including a break for refreshments, takes approximately two and a half hours, although with all of our reminiscences, we took three. I haven't included everything that can be seen; you need to book your own trip to make your discovery of Beaumanor's secrets because there are many more!

Ginnie Willcocks

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Contact Secretary Michael Neal **01509 412204**

Volunteering from Barrow for Citizens Advice Charnwood

When I applied to become an advisor at Charnwood Citizens Advice Bureau in 1999, I never imagined that I would still be there almost eighteen years later. I remember thinking that I may be joining a 'jolly band of do-gooders' comprising retired solicitors, teachers and other revered professionals. Well, this is partly true; we do have many retired professionals, but our volunteers come from every walk of life and ethnic background. It's the 'do-gooders' part that is inaccurate.

Our volunteers are committed and professional individuals who collectively give over 13,000 hours per year - worth in excess of £213,000. We also provide endless empathy and patience in the continuous quest of problem-solving. 157 residents from the Barrow & Sileby West Ward used the service in 2016/17, raising 295 Advice issues.

I have often encountered misguided comments from people who think we only encounter clients with debts and benefit claims. True, our statistics reflect these are areas of great demand. However, if anyone reading this can think of a problem, we deal with it. Whether, it's a relationship breakdown, an un-roadworthy vehicle, discrimination in the workplace, issues at school or internet fraud. I could go on but the editor may not have room!

Our clients and volunteers are treated in a confidential manner, which is why I am unable to name the volunteers who currently reside in Barrow. However, some of you may remember the late Harold Mitchell who was our Lollipop Man at the corner of South St and Mill Lane. Harold spent a number of years manning our reception desk at our former bureau at John Storer House. We are now located at Woodgate Chambers, which is part of the former Magistrates



Court. We were also lucky enough to have a wonderful Money Advice supervisor who is a Barrow resident. She devoted many years to CAB before retiring a couple of years ago. I still employ the common sense and practical approach to debt advice that she instilled in me all those years ago.

We currently have several volunteers who live in Barrow who wouldn't hesitate to tell you how rewarding it is to be part of Charnwood Citizens' Advice. We are an amazing, dedicated team who support each other in addition

to providing our clients with accurate, impartial free advice. Please take a moment to consider these statistics: 42% of issues related to benefits; 31% to debt; 11% to employment. You may find them surprising.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, whether as an advisor, receptionist, fund-raiser or IT expert, you will receive a warm welcome - as does each client who walks through our door requiring help.

Jill Butler

Barrow and Walton raise £2,369.52 for Christian Aid

The annual Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection held in May produced a magnificent total of £2,369.52.

We would like to thank all who gave and all the volunteer collectors who came from Holy Trinity and the Baptist and Methodist Churches and the people of Walton who organised a Christian Aid Coffee Morning. We apologise if we didn't manage to collect from your particular street - we needed a few more collectors to be able to provide complete coverage. Christian Aid has been fighting poverty around the world for the past 45 years.

Frances Acton (Coordinator)



You can find out more or donate to them through www.christianaid.org.uk

Barrow Open Gardens 2017

Every garden has a story to tell and visitors to Barrow Upon Soar Open Gardens (BOG) in June meandered through village gardens, hearing and seeing how sometimes-mundane outdoor spaces had been transformed into havens of beauty.

Some 21 locations were open to the public, from canal-side properties, to cottage gardens, charming terrace plots and foliage-covered patios. The iconic Jerusalem Roundabout, The Roundhouse and the War Memorial were also on the visitors' list.

Approximately 500 people from Barrow and beyond visited the gardens, enjoying the diversity of plants, getting tips from gardeners, seeking inspiration and ideas and enjoying brunches and delicious teas.

Committee member, Kate Pickering, said the event had been a great success and £5,169 had been raised for Rainbows Children's Hospice. Since 2008, BOG has raised £31,500 for their chosen charities.

Founder member, Roger Chappell, said Open Gardens had started when he and others decided to put together an event for the Millennium. About six gardens opened the first year and it has grown into a major event on Barrow's calendar.

Roger's garden in Beveridge Street evolved from a yard of builders' rubble and conifers to a thing of beauty with ponds, woodland, borders and fruit trees. "I had very limited knowledge of gardening when we moved in 1982, but I have learned as the years have gone on," he says.

A garden filled with quirky pieces was that of Ian and Debbie Bruce. Ian is a builder with a keen eye for turning scrap items into pretty containers. A discarded milk churn is now a container for snapdragons; old roofing ridge tiles are filled with lobelia and herbs. An old bottle crate, hopper heads, a sink from a car boot sale, railway sleepers, bottles, teapots... all have plants cascading from them, creating a mesmerising show.

Another builders' yard that became a thing of beauty is the garden of Sue Perkins in South Street. Built in 1904, her home was originally a stable yard for The Hunting Lodge.

Sue also has an eye for turning trash into treasure and has used old feed bins and even old sewerage pipes as containers.

Her garden is organic and she uses no pesticides, resulting in birds, bees, butterflies and even a tortoise living in harmony.



80 Mill Lane

Kate and Russell Pickering's garden has a hen coop being a central point, surrounded by flowers, fruits and vegetables and a well-used "hedgehog highway".

Glenda Phillips' garden in The Banks sold bird and bee boxes and other pretty containers in aid of Rainbows. It must hold the record for the highest number of containers in a garden - an estimated 700, collected from far and wide, each with a story to tell.

Tricia and Graham Bradford's delightful cottage garden in Mill Lane was a treat. BOG visitors relaxed on the deck overlooking the canal, watching the boats go by and enjoying cream teas. One guest told me they were so good, she would be back the next day for another! This year saw an increase in the number of younger people opening their gardens and Kate says BOG is keen to encourage younger gardeners.



10 The Banks

“Retired people have the time to garden, but it is great to see people who work and youngsters getting into gardening,” said Kate. A duck competition kept children entertained on the open gardens trail, with two children winning marigolds as prizes.

Catherine and Will Davis were among this year’s first time openers.

Situated opposite the Jerusalem roundabout, their home has a large child and pet-friendly garden for a young family.

“We both work, so gardening is limited to weekends, but we love spending time in the garden with our daughters,” says Will.

The garden has pretty borders, colourful pots, a large lawn and a “secret garden” which is a delight for children and their friends.

Kate wants to encourage new gardeners to think about opening in the 2018 event.

“You don’t have to be a member of a garden club or an expert,” she says.

“New open gardens could be any village space as long as there is gardening going on, combined with a drive to raise money for Rainbows Children’s Hospice.

We hope to arrange a coffee morning for potential new gardens soon where people can come, meet openers and ask

questions. Hopefully we can reassure them that it is great fun and a social thing to do - and you do not need to be Monty Don to get in!”

Keep an eye on the BUSCA website, the BOG Facebook page or email barrowuponsoaropengardens@gmail.com to register your interest for next year and get on the email list.

Lindsay Ord



34 Nottingham Road



19 Welland Road



Deborah Bruce, Glenda Phillips, Catherine David, Catherine Maclean and Sheila Howard



School House Cotes Road

To see more Open Gardens pictures go to www.barrowvoice.co.uk

News Flash

‘Barrow Meets Chelsea’ fete on Sept 30th, The Gap, Baptist Church 12 - 4pm. Pop-up gardens will transform the car-park, plant stalls, activities for children (stories - mehndi) and good food - bacon rolls, artisan bread, jams, pickles. Come and have fun. Free entry.

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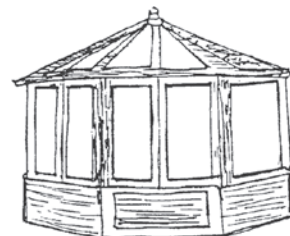
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Morris Dancing at the Soar Bridge Inn

Twenty Years of Friendship

Many people have been to France, staying in hotels, gîtes, caravans and tents, but how many have stayed in the homes of French families and enjoyed their hospitality? This is what the members of the Barrow & District Twinning group do on our bi-annual visit. Marans, the town we are twinned with, is on the west coast of France, a little inland, and stands on the River Sevre. It is approximately twenty miles north of La Rochelle, a picturesque and historic port; the whole region is the Charente Maritime, which is famous for its mouth-watering mussels and Pineau - a wine that is matured in brandy barrels.

Last year we travelled to Marans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the charter. Our hosts had arranged a busy programme of events and everyone had an enjoyable time. This year it was Barrow's turn to play hosts and welcome our French friends into our homes. Thinking caps on, we set about organising a variety of events to inform and entertain our friends.

We started with a demonstration of Morris Dancing at the Soar Bridge pub; it was great fun to see the French joining in with the dancing. We also had a tour around the Royal Crown Derby factory, and a trip to Stratford-on-Avon, including a cruise on the river. Nearer to home we visited the University Botanical Gardens in Leicester and, once again, the weather was kind to us, being warm and sunny, showing our visitors that we do sometimes have good weather in England.

During their four-day visit we had two excellent meals; one at the Birstall Golf Club with the Parish Council, where once again the charter was signed. Here we had the pleasure of the company of Pauline Ranson, the Mayor of Loughborough. The second was at the Radmore Restaurant on Loughborough College campus and we were delighted with the skills of the young people who not only cooked the meal, but provided an excellent silver service. The team included a young man from Barrow. Next year we will again be going to Marans, possibly in June or July. If you would like the experience of staying with a French family, why not become a member and join us? Some of the group speak excellent French and some of us speak no French at all, but that is not a barrier to us enjoying each other's company. If you are interested, please contact Helen Duxbury on **01509 552867**, Ted Rodgers on **01509 416533** or Val Gillings on **01509 413227**.

Val Gillings

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Parish Councillor Vacancies

There are currently vacancies for three Councillors to be filled by co-option: anyone who may be interested please do contact the office.

Planters at Entrances to the Village

You may have noticed the beautiful planters at the entrances to the village this year.

In order that these are kept watered we are seeking more volunteers; anyone willing to help please contact us. Our thanks go to all those involved who have watered and cleaned the entrance signs this year. Thank you!



Street Market

Another successful street market was held on 9th July. The beautiful weather this year brought everybody out to enjoy the great variety of stalls and entertainment on offer. We hope everyone had a brilliant day. We look forward to planning next year's event on 8th July 2018.

I20 Footpath Extinguishment

County Cllr Fryer advised that Network Rail has submitted an application to extinguish the section of the I20 Bridleway from Sibley Road to and across the Midland Mainline Railway and some sidings (towards Melton/Breachfield Road).

Having considered all the alternatives, Network Rail has stated that all are impractical and since the existing crossing is unsafe, and given the lack of practical alternatives to cross the railway tracks, the route should be extinguished. It is with regret that LCC has little choice but to approve the application



Barrow Remembers

To commemorate the end of the First World War in November 2018 the Parish Council has launched 'Barrow Remembers', a scheme which will provide an opportunity for the village to remember each soldier who died during the First World War as an individual, by laying a wreath on his grave.

We have already received a number of expressions of interest and offers to lay wreaths on graves in the UK and France. The 71 wreaths will be blessed during the 2017 Remembrance Day Service and from there will begin their journey to each grave. To find out more, or be involved, please do get in touch.

Two Different Parish Walks

In the June edition of Barrow Voice we described two rather different Parish Walks that were due to happen. They both did happen, were very well attended and were met with a lot of enthusiasm.

The British Gypsum Barrow Works

The first was a guided tour of the wildlife areas of the Barrow British Gypsum works. Apparently this has never been done before - nobody has ever asked. However, I'm sure it will become a regular visit. Wayne, our guide, is the SHEaR Manager at the BG works (standing for Safety, Health, Environment and Risk) and he was just as enthusiastic to be showing us "his" Environmental projects.

After a very rigorous health and safety session with him (well, what would you expect?) we set off to visit the lake. Did you know that Barrow BG has a big lake? No? Nor did the rest of us. It is teeming with water fowl, other birds, insects and fish. It started life as a humble balancing-pond designed to hold water pumped out of the mine. With good management it has become a rich habitat.

We walked to the new bog garden and quickly passed our first bee orchids! What a rarity, and only a mile out of Barrow. As a new bog garden there wasn't much to see, but given a couple of years it will be full of purple loosestrife, meadow sweet, reeds,



rushes, irises and a different wealth of insects. Near the bog garden is a time capsule created to commemorate 350 years of the French multinational company that owns British Gypsum, Saint Gobain. Finally we saw a bug hotel with lots of hollow sticks of different thicknesses to attract a wide variety of insects.

We wended our way through an expanse of rich meadow land. In mid June it was filled with more bee orchids, knapweed, bedstraw, mallow, cranesbill, yellow rattle, scabious and dozens of other common meadow flowers. Common they may be, but England doesn't have much meadowland left so they are now a rarity. It was this meadow habitat that first gave me the idea of the tour: if you drive down the private road into the BG works you are surrounded by wide banks of meadow flowers including a number of different orchids. Clearly someone was doing some effective habitat management.

We were shown the sand cliff that has been built to harbour sand martins.

No martins have yet been seen but we were assured that it wouldn't be long before the cliff became colonised by these early spring migrants. The rest of our tour was to the familiar orange and yellow works themselves. Briefly, a) the dome, which holds a dome of fist-size pieces of gypsum waiting to be pulverised into powder i.e. plaster; b) the middle squat building in which bags are filled with plaster automatically on conveyors (at an amazing speed) by blowers and finally c) the very tall building that reminds me of the Oompa-Loompas in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: the 25kg bags of plaster are conveyed and stacked by giant automated fork-lift machines at dizzying heights before being loaded into waiting lorries. Incidentally, we noted very little dust. Dust had been a major concern of Barrow residents when the plant was being considered.

We left the works at 10.30pm after an evening of sheer amazement! Thanks so much to Wayne for making this possible.





Stanford Hall and the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC)

25 people met at Stanford Hall the week after our British Gypsum tour to hear a talk by Mark Gree, Director of the project. Unlike the earlier tour, we couldn't go on site because it is a massive building site with a constant flow of heavy lorries, bulldozers, cement mixers and a workforce of 700 men and women.

What we have on our door step is the biggest philanthropic project ever. It will be a purpose-built facility to replace the old Headley Court in providing all possible rehabilitation services for armed service personnel and NHS patients. It started in August 2015 and is scheduled to receive the first patients in October 2018. It was triggered by the purchase of the Stanford Hall site by the Duke of Westminster who also put £60million of his money into the project. So far over £200million has been donated, both from big charities (e.g. Help for Heroes) and private individuals. It covers 43,000 square metres and will provide 200 beds for patients with complex trauma, 40 long-term (3 to 6 years) beds in a neurological ward for those who have been close to explosions, short-term beds for those with less severe injuries who need on average a 2-4 week stay, outpatient facilities and a "back-to life" capability, which will ensure that people leaving the centre are fully prepared for life outside.

Much of the development is new-build, but considerable effort is being spent on restoring the old. We all wanted to know about the fate of the theatre, a Grade 2 listed building that was full of dry and wet rot especially in the roof, asbestos, archaic wiring and damp-damaged decorations. It is being fully restored including the Edwardian

decorated panels and the Wurlitzer organ. It will become a full-sized theatre with modern fittings and facilities and new seating. It will be used for shows and films. We don't yet know whether it will be accessible to the public.

The Hall was also in a bad state and currently has no roof. The interior is protected by a giant tent and it is this that I can see from my kitchen window and is always brilliantly lit at night. Why?? Well, yes, to make sure that intruders are safe and can see what they are doing but mainly... wait for it...to deter bats from roosting and nesting! After all, that is what bats have been doing over the years so why should they stop now? When the roof is completed, the lighting will be very much less and will consist of LEDs that shine downwards. The Hall will be used as an administration building and teaching facility.

The lido has been scrapped (there will be a modern swimming pool) but the diving boards have been saved and recreated within the planted courtyard of a new building. The walled garden has mostly been retained and will be planted up as one of the therapy facilities. The sea-lion pool has also been retained as a planted area within the accommodation blocks. And finally, the two gardeners' cottages have been retained.

The point that comes across is that rehabilitation involves much more than re-establishing physical health. Providing a rich environment that can sooth the soul, as well as stimulate, is just as important if not more so.

Once the talk was over, we walked along two sides of the site down to Kings Brook,

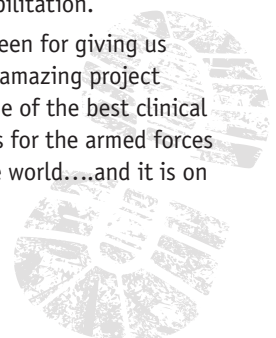
along it to the east and then up onto Hoton Hills, along the ridge in a westerly direction with a very good view of the development, back down to Kings Brook, past the large lake and a wood and finally back to the cars parked at the entrance to Stanford Hall. On the walk, we met several groups of work men who were attending to the surrounding environment. One group was strengthening the banks of the stream and lake (fishing will probably be available to patients) while another group were repointing and repairing the estate brick wall – miles of it. They were pleased to have a break and natter to us. They mentioned the location of a golf course within the grounds.

If you would like to find out more about the DNRC project, you can visit a number of websites including <https://www.thednrc.org.uk/seeing-is-believing/believing.aspx>

This one even gives you the opportunity to make a donation - this is a £250 million project and they aren't quite there yet! Whether or not the public will have the opportunity to visit the project when it is finished I don't know and nor did Mark Green. Clearly, there are important security issues, but we will probably meet wounded personnel because light employment and volunteering are likely to be important aspects of their rehabilitation.

Thank you to Mark Green for giving us some insight into an amazing project that is likely to be one of the best clinical rehabilitation centres for the armed forces and the nation in the world...and it is on our doorstep.

Judith Rodgers



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A New Community Building for Barrow

At last a potential site has been identified for a new building. At an open public meeting held on July 11th, BUSCA was pleased to announce that the Parish Council has agreed to support us in our efforts to build a New Community Building for the use and benefit of all residents on its plot of land off Fishpool Way.

The meeting was attended by 50 Barrow residents. Also in attendance was the professional project consultant, John Leney. An exhibition of other potential sites, plans and draft design proposals for the building was followed by a powerpoint presentation on the work of BUSCA in the community. The work done so far on identifying a site from an options appraisal, the potential uses of the building, outcomes from consultation of the Local Neighbourhood Plan and consultation with Barrow Parish Council, were explained.

The presentation was followed by a discussion of needs and potential uses of the building to update work already done. From this, a list of priorities for



the future use and design of the building will be deduced.

The next steps are to apply for grant funding to complete the feasibility study to prepare for applying for planning permission. Once this is achieved BUSCA will apply for major grant funding to construct the building.

This is a major project being undertaken by BUSCA on behalf of the people of

Barrow. Its aim is to provide additional sports and social spaces within the village to accommodate activities which cannot take place at present and some new activities and services.

If anyone feels they have appropriate skills or interests and would like to help in taking this project forward we would be pleased to hear from you.

Sue Rodgers - 01509 416533

New People for The Navi

The Navigation Inn in Barrow upon Soar, or The Navi, was always a focal point in the village even in my early days. It was thought of as a pub's 'pub', and to a lot of people was a sanctuary. Recently village residents have been lamenting what they saw as the passing of a tradition. The pub lost its sense of identity and was screaming out for a hero, or this case a heroine, to make things right again.

Suddenly, it was all go as word spread that local interests were again to become involved in running the pub - so welcome Cherelle and Garry, the new landlord and lady! They recently reopened the doors to a new look interior and it's proving a winner. Now light and airy, but without losing its character, The Navi is back in business.



Cherelle cut her teeth in pubs in Leicester and with her partner Garry, a chef, grabbed the opportunity, to, in their words, "Run a local-community focal point and family-orientated pub."

Not only will a new menu be available but there will be dedicated dining areas too. Cherelle was quick to point out that while being family, and of course pet friendly, some areas of the Navigation will be for diners without pets in a quieter area. During the summer the terrace will be a hub for guests and the function room will once again be open for hire. The restrooms are being smartened up and given a new look.

The selection of ales and beers will include occasional guest ales and some premium lagers. At some stage the

weekly quiz will return, along with the darts matches, and in the future there will be the occasional live music night. The Navigation will also be going for the Charnwood Beer Quality standard.

The opening hours will be 12 till 11pm everyday with a food service Monday to Saturday between 12.00-15.00 and 17.00-21.00: Sundays from 12.00-16.00

Follow the The Navigation Inn on Facebook and Instagram.
Email : info@navigationinn.info and
Tel: **01509 413611** for reservations and enquires.

One thing you might ask: What happened to Jack's Strap? Well, it's resting... something the Navi is not! (I have no idea what this means. Ed)

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A Parlour Concert with Mister Keith

Centre Stage in Barrow: Friday September 29th

We are delighted that Barrow has been successful in its bid for three Centre Stage events this year. The first is A Parlour Concert with Mister Keith on Friday September 29th starting at 7.30 in Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, LE12 8JU.

The show welcomes you on an intimate journey by flickering candlelight using expertly crafted songs, stories and humour to draw a picture of a forgotten era. Find yourself remembering first loves, lost loves and time gone by. The gifted Mister Keith, ably assisted by his small "orchestra" of multi-instrumentalists will introduce you to the traditions of a Victorian Parlour concert where everyone joined in.

So expect at least to sing in his choir or help him create new songs and stories in front of your eyes. It's a terrific show!

Tickets can be bought from the Paper Shop or the library in Barrow or by PayPal from www.busca.org.uk (you don't need a PayPal account; just use your card). Bought in advance of the show they cost £10, £9 (concessions) and £5 (children under 16).

With the feel of cabaret, you can enjoy our well stocked bar while you watch the show. Disabled access is good, parking is a doddle and the venue is warm and inviting. This must be the way to enjoy professional touring theatre.

**Any enquiries to me
Judith on 07718153117 or
judithrogers155@gmail.com**



Party Puppets at the Library's 2nd Birthday!

Barrow Community Library celebrated its 2nd birthday with a little help from David and Danuta Lloyd and a multitude of puppets! Music, cake and book sales and the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge all created a great celebratory atmosphere. For two years, over 40 volunteers have been keeping the library open for 21.5 hours per week! A fantastic achievement! A big thank you to our growing number of regular visitors both young and old and of course our amazing volunteers!

Our Autumn programme of events includes:

- Music Quiz 22nd September
- Talk on the Quorn Online Museum 25th September
- Valuation Event 7th October
- Talk on Essential Oils 30th October
- Christmas Flower Arranging 27th November
- Plus our regular Get Crafty Fridays 1.30-3.00, Games afternoon last Friday of the month, Rhyme Time fortnightly and Saturday Stories weekly.

Something for everyone! Please come along and join us. For further information on events contact the library on **01509 416356** or email on library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk

Catherine Holmes



Donations to help keep the library running can now be made through the BUSCA website under 'Donate to Library'. For further information contact Angeline Kazianis on 01509 416356 or email on library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk



The New Village Map at Barrow Deep Lock

Have you walked past it yet? Good, isn't it? The original idea was to encourage boaters, slowed down by the lock, to learn more about Barrow. As the village is out of sight from the canal, many narrow-boaters on the 'Leicester Ring' sail through oblivious of its existence. I realised this in the spring of 2014, when writing an article for Barrow Voice about boaters, so passed on the suggestion for a towpath sign to the Parish Council. Now here it is! But who did it and how?

The answer is local artist Chris Bates, pictured bottom right. Chris started work on the map in the spring of 2016, and although it involved a vast amount of work, even perfectionist Chris was pleased with the result. So what was involved in its creation?

The first steps were to decide on the places of interest to be depicted and the nature of the background map itself. Chris painted many watercolours of Barrow's landmarks, more than the actual number finally used, whilst at the same time researching the map. Chris looked at other village signs, such as those at Quorn, and consulted a wide range of maps including the Ordnance Survey as he was keen to produce something just right for Barrow. As the village is growing daily, decisions had to be taken about which new developments should be on the map as some were started but far from finished. To solve this problem Chris turned amateur surveyor, riding his bike around the embryonic estates making pencil drawings of the roads. And he checked all the footpaths too! He really showed an amazing concern for accuracy. Then came the decisions about colours: which colour should represent the built up areas, which the spaces, which the roads? Well, at least you'd think spaces

would be easy. You colour them green. But then which shade of green? There are dozens on file! And how do you try to get the sense of the houses lining the streets having gardens behind them? The urban area isn't uniformly dense. Chris did this by deciding on a yellow/orange wash to indicate the built-up areas then with a damp brush removed some of the colour in the middle to give the map a slightly 3D effect. Look carefully or you don't notice this artistry, but it makes such a difference.

Whilst considering details like this Chris would often discuss matters with councillors and parish council staff so that he kept everyone in the picture and could receive feedback. But once the map was finished - descriptive text in the key at the bottom copy-checked, named roads correctly named and the plesiosaurus compass-point found a good position in the top right hand corner, the work was scanned and sent off to the printers. There was still some to-ing and fro-ing even then but eventually everything was completed to Chris' satisfaction. It's a super map and a wonderful achievement. Thanks a lot Chris.

The sign was erected on June 11th by the Canal and River Trust's Steve Taylor, a Volunteer Leader, together with Trust

Volunteer Gordon Fowkes. They both thought the sign of superior quality, one of the best they'd seen, and said it should last for at least twenty years. But durability doesn't come cheap and it cost £3,090, less £1,000 grant funding obtained years ago. They found it easy to install, it only took about 90 minutes, although definitely a two man lifting job. Steve was keen to point out that The Canal and River Trust is always looking for more volunteers. Gordon enjoys being one as it's a sociable life and keeps him fit. The work they do often involves schools or universities or is practical, such as restoring old 1890s mile-posts and improving towpaths. So contact the trust www.canalrivertrust.org.uk if you'd like to help.

Gaynor Barton



Narrow-boating with The Baldwin Trust

Local residents, Richard Jayes and Donald Flagg, are members of The Baldwin Trust, a local charity run by approximately forty keen unpaid volunteers. The Trust offers canal and river trips to various groups of people in the local communities; Barrow-based organisations such as the Bishop Beveridge Club and members of the Baptist Church are regular users.

At the Barrow Street Market, held in July, a further twelve local people also applied to become volunteers for the Trust. The Trust operates two 70ft-long narrow-boats, one berthed at Pillings Lock Marina and the other at Leicester Marina near Thurmaston.

The most popular length of trip is four hours, but this can be modified as required. Groups of up to 12 people can be accommodated, and the four-hour trip costs just £100 (or under £8.50 per head).

A popular four-hour trip is to leave Pillings Marina heading towards Barrow, taking in the sights of the countryside and railway arches and sailing under the bridges into Barrow Deep Lock. Then the various waterside gardens can be viewed as we sail in the direction of Mountsorrel and Sibley.

The Trust was originally formed to help the patients of the Baldwin Ward at Leicester Frith Hospital. The hospital treated patients with learning and mental health problems. The Trust provided a narrow boat for outings. This aim is now extended to include community, care and family groups and gives an enjoyable day out spent in a tranquil waterside environment.

Our boats have been modified to be very "user-friendly". Both are fitted with ramps and electrically operated lifts to make boarding as easy as possible for wheelchair users and those with mobility problems.

The boats are fully fitted-out with a toilet, heating and cooking facilities and many users bring a picnic to enjoy at their leisure. The Trust runs trips during the spring, summer and autumn, and also offers popular, shorter, Santa-trips near to Christmas.

We are currently fund raising for a replacement boat and are always most grateful for any donations. For further details and enquiries relating to either our trips or donations please contact Ellen on 07923 817 718, or visit our website at www.baldwintrust.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.

Richard Jayes



Charnwood Orchestra

Saturday 23rd September - 19:30pm

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The orchestra will once again be conducted by Nic Fallowfield, performing a celebration of classical works. There will be an interval bar.

Tickets cost £13, £11 (concessions) and £3 for accompanied children under 16. Tickets can be bought via PayPal from www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk, at the Paper Shop in Barrow, on the door or by phoning 07718153117.



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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 Hitchhiker's Guide to University

University is a wondrous time in your life where you can learn to push yourself to achieve things you never thought possible while also making friendships that will last a lifetime.

Well, now we've got the standard advertisement for going to university out of the way, let me explain in a little more depth what the first year of university is like.

As I say, I have only been at university for one year and of course some things vary between each uni and each course, but there are some things that will remain the same no matter what you do or where you go. Personally, I'm taking a BA (hons) in Media Production at the University of Lincoln, which I enjoy for the most part. Inevitably there will be modules you don't enjoy as much as others (if at all) but that's fine because finding out what you definitely don't want to do with your life is still an important factor in finding out what you do want to do. If you find that, actually, the whole course isn't what you were hoping for then of course that's a shame but there are still options you can take: you can switch course for example or if you feel that university really isn't for you then you can always drop out, which is absolutely not as disgraceful as you may or may not believe. In fact it's not uncommon to hear of someone's flatmate or friend leaving university from stress or not liking the course.

This is where making friends comes in.

Almost everyone you ask will tell you it's a good idea to live in halls for the first year even if your home is close to your university. It's important to get along with your flatmates as they can often help you get through university... or at least make it a little more interesting, I can tell you that from experience. Take time to hang out and talk to your flatmates even if at first they don't seem like people you would normally make friends with; on paper I would never have made friends with the people in my flat but a year down the line and they're some of the best friends I've ever had. It is worth mentioning, however, that you can switch flats if it turns out you really don't get along. I should warn you though, if you put a group of 18+ year-olds in a house for a year virtually unsupervised you should be prepared for a lot of madness. I felt like every day I would walk out of my room and see something I never expected I'd see which has led to more crazy situations and stories than I can count; I've lost track of how many times I've eaten breakfast surrounded by half empty bottles of assorted cheap alcohol.

Speaking of cheap things, going to university isn't one of them. We all know that university is expensive. Firstly, there are the tuition fees, which have just gone up to £9,250 and may or may not go up again depending on the university (honestly I don't know how it works). On top of that there are also accommodation

costs which vary, and of course there's living money, i.e. shopping for food etc. All is not lost however, as there is a loan system in place that students can apply for, which is worked out based on parents' income. For example, someone in a low income family could be given more than someone from a high income family. The maximum amount a student can be given is roughly £8,000 per year, with the minimum being roughly £3,000 per year and can be done in advance to be paid automatically at the start of each academic year. As it is a loan, students are expected to repay it once they leave university however this will only begin to happen once you are earning at least £21,000 per year within thirty years of leaving university, at which point your employer will start deducting it from your salary and at the end of each tax year will pass on your repaid amount to HM Revenue & Customs. This will continue until you have fulfilled your repayment.

From what I've seen and heard from others, there is no right or wrong way to spend your time and money at university; some choose to put their loan towards their tuition fees, others put it towards accommodation or living. From what I can see the only constant is that parents also subsidise their children with an allowance (either weekly or monthly). Well... that and students and parents complaining about how expensive it all is.

Elliot Wilkes



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Rothley Wine Estate: well worth a visit

The vineyard is on a lovely site only 15 minutes drive from Barrow and is easy to find as it's immediately after Greene King's Rothley Court Hotel if you're driving up Westfield Lane, or just after Rothley Golf Club if you're coming down the hill. You can't see the vines from the road as they are grown in what once was pasture, grazed by horses, to the rear of the large, low, 1970s house, clearly numbered 43. But you can't just ring the bell and walk in; you have to go online to book a tour or join a wine-tasting group. I'd do it though. I thoroughly enjoyed my trip and can confidently recommend it. June 2017 prices were £6.00 for the tour, no wine-tasting, or £12 a group-tour, 8 people, with wine-tasting. They aren't daily so you need to book and prices may change.

Your excellent guide is Liz Robson, the vineyard's owner, and if you're lucky, Mabel too: her youthful crazy pointer. There are over 1,000 vines arranged in long rows on the site and all clearly marked. Liz explains the characteristics of each vine as you pass so that you learn, for example, that grapes from the Orion vines form the base for their white sparkling wine because they are disease resistant, sturdy and reliable. Orion is a grand old gent of a wine! As a contrast, the vine Solaris is like an unruly nephew – a much younger, less reliable member of the white grape family, but grown for its tolerance of northern climes. Together with Siegrebbe, a well-established hardy perfumed grape, Solaris forms half of 'King Richard' - the vineyard's dry white wine. Liz has a love of history, which comes out in many ways including two impressive 'medieval' arches, see pic, and in the names of her wines.

Her expertise is passed on to visitors, quite effortlessly and in a most entertaining way, as you walk along



the grassy paths between the vines. In early summer all the tiny grapes are green so you definitely appreciate someone telling you what they'll become. You certainly can't tell that Pinot Noir Precois, Regent and Rondo will eventually turn purple and end up in 'King Henry', the vineyard's red.

One variety, Madeline Angevine, is grown just to provide bottles and bottles of white for the volunteers. Isn't that great? The vineyard is heavily dependent on free labour and uses it frequently for pruning and tucking-down in winter and harvesting and pressing in the autumn. Volunteers are often friends, or people with a little time on their hands who enjoy working in a vineyard for a bottle of wine at the end of the day. Ages range from late-teens to the over-sixties and you too, Barrow Voice reader, would be welcome - only bear in mind a full day's work outside in a vineyard is tiring. Men with large feet are particularly welcome when it comes to crushing the grapes in September!

But back to the vineyard. It's on a south-facing slope, at the base of which

runs Rothley Brook and here you can find the vineyard's small jetty. It's a lovely spot with kingfishers nesting nearby, hence the original name 'Kingfishers' Pool Vineyard'. Sadly it had to change as there was a hot-tub manufacturer of the same name and it caused confusion...

From the jetty, you walk back up the slope to where the wine-tasting takes place: outside around a garden-table in good weather, inside in a conservatory in bad. From here you progress to the front of the house where the grapes are pressed, the liquid processed and the wine blended. I have far too little space to go into the complex chemistry of it all, but rest assured you learn a lot. If you are at all interested in wine you'll love visiting the Rothley Wine Estate. There is disabled access too.

Gaynor Barton

For more information, or to make a booking, go to www.rothleywines.com or ring 0116 237 5168



H2O: Labour of Love - Christmas

Barrow's Shop Window Displays

Have you ever noticed the amazing displays that adorn the shop windows in our village shops? They always amaze me with the thought, imagination and artistic flair that the staff apply to these creations. I've observed them over the past 12 months in order to share some of them with you. You might want to look out for the changes that occur throughout the year.

H2O in North Street deserves a special mention as Sharon and Elaine spend quite some time planning their displays. Did you see their recent effort for Wimbledon Fortnight with huge, bright green tennis balls plus other items connected with this sporting occasion in the windows? Their Christmas one is a "Labour of Love" with hundreds of gold baubles suspended from the ceiling on invisible thread giving the impression of golden bubbles floating above your head.



Hair Boutique: Halloween

Halloween is another opportunity for great fun with skeletons, witches, broomsticks and lucky black cats in the windows of Hair Boutique, Barrow of Treats and H2O. Barrow of Treats also has a feature for Diwali, Festival of Light, at the end of October. At Christmas all the shops take on a sparkle, especially Victoria Jane with its special tree trinkets, brilliant cards and unusual gifts.



H2O: Halloween

There are far more occasions than those mentioned here. Keep looking for the changes and spare a thought for the time, imagination and effort that goes into making our shops so colourful and interesting.

Ginnie Willcocks



Victoria Jane: Christmas



Barrow of Treats: Diwali



Sweet Shop: Halloween

BOSCAPS 2017

Boscaps 2017 was another extremely successful play scheme, attended by 282 children ranging in age from 5 to 12 years. The children thoroughly enjoyed all three art rooms with activities ranging from 'emoji' cushions and jo jo bows to fantasy film and 'Harry Potter' wands. The themed days within the 5-7 room allowed the younger ones to really get into character. I think the most popular was the superhero day. This allowed them to get very creative making superhero masks, arm cuffs, glasses and door hangers. There were several boys whizzing around showing off their new creations.

We were delighted to see so many people 'finger knitting' this year, the longest scarf measured out at 11 metres, which stretched out across the entire classroom. Boscaps would not be the same without the ever popular 'junk' modelling; this allows the budding engineers of Barrow to get stuck in and create some very interesting sculptures and models.

Although the weather this year was not in our favour, this didn't stop the sports coaches getting outside and providing the children with some fantastic team building games and sports tournaments, including: hockey, football, basketball and dodgeball. It is just fantastic to see children of all ages being active and working so well together.

We like the play scheme to enable children to experience new things and, on Tuesday and Thursday morning, we saw some slithery snakes sneak into Humphrey Perkins hall along with some of their friends including owls, lizards and a rather lively rabbit. Roll up! Roll up! Wednesday and Friday morning were slightly more energetic with plates flying, stilts wobbling and lots of concentrated faces trying to juggle. Yes, you guessed it - the ever popular circus skills workshop. There was a dance workshop every day, which allowed the children to experience different styles including, jazz, street, commercial and elements of acrobatic. This resulted in a new routine everyday. On Friday, the children had the chance to show off their new found skills in a little 'show' that was put on for the circus skills and dance workshops.



If all that wasn't enough, the children also had the opportunity to stay for the afternoon sessions. Monday afternoon we bounced down to Wymeswold with a 'Jump Giants' (trampolining) trip. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons the children could develop their skills in either dance or sport with more concentrated sessions within these activities. On Wednesday we got our skates on and headed over to Nottingham to slip, slide and bump our way around the ice rink (and that was just the coordinators)

As you can see we had a very action packed week with something available for everyone!

Well done to all the children. It was a pleasure being with you.

Thanks have to be given to all the helpers who attended; without you

giving up your time we simply couldn't provide this fabulous play scheme. We would also like to thank Leicestershire County Council Early Years, Barrow Upon Soar Parish Council, Charnwood Borough Council and Central Business Services for their help and support.

Finally, thank you to all of the Boscaps committee who work hard all year to put on such a great event.

See you all next year. We will confirm the date for next year (as we are already being asked) asap. We think it will be 6th - 10th August 2018.



If anyone would like to be involved please contact us through the website www.boscaps.co.uk or come along to one of our registration evenings.



Music for all at the Summer Street Market on July 9th

This year the Summer Street Market was enlivened by a variety of musicians who contributed greatly to the market's happy atmosphere and success. Thank you musicians one and all!



Pete, aka Mr Music, resting



Vicki Wallin and 'Any Harmony'



Philipa & Hebe Jackson



Ben Lewis-Skeath

Rowans: more than red berries

After summer's article in *Barrow Voice* about hedges and the Rosaceae family, I came across the Rowan tree as belonging to that family too. Although one of its common names is Mountain Ash, it's not related to the big ash trees we see on roads leading in and out of Barrow.

Rowan is Rosaceae sorbus acuparia, whilst the ash tree goes under the wonderful name of Oleaceae fraxinus excelsior - very majestic! That's also the family name of olives and lilacs.

The Rowan probably got its common name from where it originated high in the northern hills and bleak mountains of the British Isles, gnarled and bent clinging to life on rocky outcrops.

Its very being there enriches the poor, rocky soil for surrounding vegetation. It's often grown for just that purpose when foresters are planting a new stand of trees because rowans quickly provide a windbreak and nourishment for the young trees.

It's a small neat tree and also suited to lower regions. It does well in gardens and verges growing to about 30 feet tall and not usually needing to be pruned back to keep it in check.

In spring its creamy-white, tiny scented flowers grow in flat clusters beloved by bees that help pollinate them for the scarlet berries in autumn. These

berries, when ripe, soon attract the birds: if you are very lucky you'll see waxwings fill the tree, then, just as suddenly, fly away leaving the tree bare of fruit. They are rare visitors but not impossible to see in Barrow.

Once we went dashing down Slash Lane as we'd heard that they'd been seen there. Sadly we missed them ...they'd flown....but other folk had excitedly spotted them. One day maybe....

Rowan mythology goes back to Greek and Roman times. In the British Isles the tree is said to protect against magic and witchcraft, having local country names such as wicken or witch-wood. In olden times rowans were planted as a protection against evil, near to houses to guard the family within, and in such places as graveyards and stone circles to combat supernatural forces.

Rowan wood was used for many things: for a child's crib or old-folks walking-sticks; for spindles and spinning-wheels and sailing-masts for small boats. The wood, they thought, protected all those



July 2017, my Rowan tree with orange berries. Good Summer - earlier fruit?

who used it. Christian crosses were often made from rowan wood too - thus giving religious protection in both old and new ways.

Although not to be eaten raw, rowan berries have their uses in the kitchen; rowan jelly to complement meat or poultry, rowan wine and even rowan vodka - made rather like sloe gin.

But it's the pretty tree itself that I think is lovely; the soft, downy pinnate leaves as they emerge in spring through to the lovely creamy flowers of early summer, then as the autumn arrives the scarlet berries hold sway until hungry birds eat them up leaving the rowan free for its last bow before winter. In good years the leaves can turn through golds and reds to deep burgundy. This leaves us with the tree's bare beauty until the following spring and the cycle of life starts again.

Maggie J.



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- The Latest Village News
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- Featured Articles
- The Latest Community Events
- Sports News
- Diary of Forthcoming Events

Barrow Voice



Barrow Voice is published by Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA). Opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the editorial committee or the Community Associations. BUSCA is a registered Charity No: 1156170

www.barrowvoice.co.uk

Adam Wilkes ASA National Summer Championships 2016



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Young Charnwood Athletes GO GOLD!

I don't think anyone would call me a sporty person, or a particularly active one if I'm honest, but there are a number of people in the Charnwood area who certainly are!

There are a number of programmes and organisations with a presence across Leicestershire that are dedicated to ensuring that the country's young athletes get the full support they need to reach their true potential. One such programme is the Leicestershire & Rutland Sport's GO GOLD programme;

"The aim of GO GOLD is to support talented young athletes, including those athletes who are being recognised by their National Governing Bodies as being our future Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth athletes and potential medal winners."

Their funding comes in two levels: "Performance" and "Podium". Athletes who fall under the Performance category are referred to their local authority (i.e. the Charnwood Borough Council) who, if the authority is participating in the programme, will provide a grant of £100. However, athletes competing at a Regional, National or International level in their given sport will qualify for the Podium funding category which is split into three tiers. Tier three allows athletes a grant of £250, tier two allows

athletes a grant of £500 and tier one earns athletes the title of GO GOLD Ambassador and a grant of £1000 (£750 for those in team sports).

Another way young athletes can benefit further from their respective sport is through the Advanced Level Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) sports performance programme, which targets athletes between the ages of 16 - 19 who have the potential to compete on the world stage or receive a professional contract in the future. Athletes on the programme can take one of two pathways. In Pathway One, athletes can expect to achieve one of the following: Level 3 (A-level equivalent) Subsidiary Diploma in Sport, Level 3 Diploma in Sport (Performance & Excellence) or Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (Performance & Excellence). This is expected to take between 18 - 24 months. Athletes who take Pathway Two can expect to receive a Certificate in Understanding Sports Performance, which is expected to take around 12 - 20 months to finish. While on the AASE

programme, athletes are required to attend scheduled workshop days where they will be taught vital knowledge about achieving sporting excellence by top coaches in their given sport. Additional work will occasionally be set for the participant to complete at their own discretion as well as maintaining a monthly blog of their progress.

As mentioned, there are a number of local athletes on these or similar programmes including my brother Adam, now 17 years old, who has been involved in both programmes since 2016. His aim is to eventually qualify to be part of team GB and compete on the world stage. Any good quality sporting equipment is surprisingly expensive so the funding he receives goes towards his sporting expenses; in his case, swimming equipment such as racing trunks, hotel bills for competitions away, petrol money, etc. As someone who has to drive to and from training nine times a week, he definitely appreciates a subsidy.

Elliot Wilkes

Barrow Voice is published by Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA). Opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the editorial committee or the Community Association.

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Mulberry Square Marketing
Services - 0116 237 4603

Advertising Deadline

23rd October 2017

Copy Deadline

29th October 2017

Copy to:

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Village Diary

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sat 16th | Clock Club rummage sale in aid of toddler group 10 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club Saturday Stories in the library; 10.30 Barrow Show; Methodist Church; flowers, fruit, vegetables, baking, art, photography show, craft. |
| Mon 18th | Bishop Beveridge Club film: "Viceroy's House" 14.00 in Bishop Beveridge hall; Members £4.00; non members £4.50 |
| Wed 20th | Knit and Natter: 14.00 - 16.00 at Methodist Church Garden Club: "Ancient Woodland" by Gerald Price; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30 |
| Fri 22nd | "Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00 Music Quiz in the library; 19.30 |
| Sat 23rd | Charnwood Orchestra Annual Concert at Holy Trinity Church; 7.30. Tickets from The Paper Shop |
| Mon 25th | ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club Quorn online museum: talk in the library; 19.30 Barrow Book Club; The Hunting Lodge; 19.30; New members always welcome. |
| Wed 27th | WI Harvest |
| Fri 29th | Let's Get Crafty + Games session; 13.30 - 15.00 in the library Paper Shop, Library and BUSCA website Centre Stage - Parlour Concert with Mr Keith |
| Sat 30th | BOG 'Barrow meets Chelsea' Fete; The Gap, Baptist Church, 12-4pm. Pop-up gardens, plant sales, activities for children and good food. |
| Mon 2nd | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club |
| Tues 3rd | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30 |
| Wed 4th | Mothers Union |
| Thurs 5th | Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society; Cons Club function room; 19.15 |
| Fri 6th | "The Sound of M...urder" a Murder Mystery performed by Barrow Panto Group; 19.30; tickets from Paper Shop and library |
| Sat 7th | Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; 10.00 Valuation event at the library; 11.15 onwards BUSCA Ballroom Dance with Just Us at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30 for 20.00; tickets from Paper Shop and library |
| Mon 9th | Bishop Beveridge Club Day Trip to Peterborough ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club Sweet Memories; 14.30; Methodist Church |
| Wed 11th | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 Barrow WI: "Myths of Belly Dancing - Roxanne Dinsdale; 19.30; Function Room, Cons Club |
| Fri 13th | Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30 "Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00 |
| Mon 16th | Bishop Beveridge Club film: "Another Mother's Son"; Bishop Beveridge Hall; 14.00 |
| Wed 18th | Gardening Club; The GAP behind Baptist Church; 19.30; Colours from Nature (Natural Dyes) - Linda Rudkin |
| Sat 21st | Clock Club rummage sale in aid of toddler group 10 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club |
| Mon 23rd | ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club |
| Mon 30th | Barrow Book Club; The Hunting Lodge; 19.30; New members always welcome. |
| Tues 31st | Talk: "Essential Oils" Library; 19.30 |
| Wed 1st | Mothers Union; 14.30 |
| Thurs 2nd | Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society; Cons Club function room; 19.15 |
| Mon 6th | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome |
| Tues 7th | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30 |
| Wed 8th | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 |
| Fri 10th | Barrow WI: Annual Meeting / game / craft; 19.30; Function Room, Cons Club "Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00 Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30 |
| Sun 12th | Remembrance Day service and parade |
| Wed 15th | Knit and Natter: 14.00 - 16.00 at Methodist Church Bishop Beveridge Club: Fun Quiz; 14.45 Gardening Club; The GAP behind Baptist Church; 19.30; "Attenborough Nature Reserve - Nigel Slater" |
| Fri 17th | Barrow Youth Theatre: "Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies"; 19.00; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from The Paper Shop, library and BUSCA website |
| Sat 18th | Clock Club rummage sale in aid of toddler group 10 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club Barrow Youth Theatre: "Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies"; 19.00; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from The Paper Shop, library and BUSCA website |
| Mon 20th | Bishop Beveridge Club Christmas Lunch trip to Birstall Golf Club |
| Wed 22nd | Craft Afternoon for adults; library; 13.00 - 16.00 |
| Fri 24th | "Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00 |
| Mon 27th | ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club Talk at the library: Your local florist; 19.30 Barrow Book Club; The Hunting Lodge; 19.30; New members always welcome. Christmas Tree Festival (runs up to Sunday 3rd December) |
| Thurs 30th | |
| Fri 1st | Centre Stage "Truth and Truffles"; 19.30; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from Paper Shop etc |
| Sat 2nd | Switching on of Christmas Lights and Street Market 14.30 - 17.30 |
| Mon 4th | New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club |
| Tues 5th | Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30 |
| Wed 6th | Mothers Union: Christmas Celebration Gardening Club; The GAP behind Baptist Church; 19.30; Annual General Meeting (7.30pm members only) and Party Night (8pm all welcome) |
| Thurs 7th | Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society; Cons Club function room; 19.15 |
| Fri 8th | Baptist Lunch Club; 12.30 |
| Mon 11th | Bishop Beveridge coach trip; York Medieval Christmas Market; call 413212 |
| Wed 13th | Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 Barrow WI: "Christmas during WWII" by Felicity Austin; Function Room, Cons Club; 19.30 |
| Sat 16th | Clock Club rummage sale in aid of Rainbows Hospice; 10.00 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club |
| Tues 26th | Barrow Runners 6 mile Handicap Race; contact Mick Ballard; 01509 413586 |



Registered Charity No. 1156170

Centre Stage

Parlour Concert with
Mr Keith
29th September

The Sound of Mu...rder

A murder mystery
performed by BPG
6th October

Shades of Autumn Dance

with Just Us
7th October

Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

by Barrow Youth Theatre
17th & 18th November