

Issue 153 • Autumn 2018

First Published 1975

Includes
Barrow Focus

Barrow Voice

www.barrowvoice.co.uk



Co-op opening



Marans



World Cup

BUSCA
BARROW UPON SOAR
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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3,175 copies published quarterly and delivered **FREE** to all households in Barrow upon Soar

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Written by Paul Falcone • Produced by Helen Sadler



Death by Radio

7:30pm – Saturday, 6th October 2018

Humphrey Perkins School

Barrow upon Soar



Tickets £12.00 each available by Paypal from www.busca.org.uk,
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Editorial

This edition of Barrow Voice is awash with photographs. We've had such a brilliant summer it's meant many events in the village have occurred under sunny skies.

Barrow Open Gardens was a phenomenal success and the group's new-openers are featured here. The World Cup was less so but England did reach the semis and warm evenings meant we could follow them in local pubs on outdoor screens. The weather was hot for the Street Market too and building work at the library couldn't possibly have been delayed by rain! (We have photographs showing the improved kitchen and toilet facilities.) And see how gorgeous Marans is in the summer - dining al-fresco under flowering trees! So although this is the autumn edition it does look back over the last few months while also anticipating the future with information about the marking of the end of WW1, the October Murder Mystery and Barrow Youth Theatre's production of 'Hairspray'. Much is coming!

Finally, a plea: if you have any Open Gardens photographs you are willing to share online through the Barrow Voice off-shoot 'A Year in Pictures', please send to either Helen Sadler hesadler17@gmail.com or myself barspiller@btinternet.com.

Gaynor Barton, Editor

Front Cover: Home-grown fungus (Found in a Barrow Road ditch near The Slabs, October 2016).

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I would be grateful to have the opportunity to reply to a letter you published from Martin Wigmore in the last issue of Barrow Voice, dated Summer 2018.

Mr Wigmore referred to a planning application made by BUSCA to provide a community hub on land at Fishpool Way. Mr Wigmore states "the Millennium Park being used for the site...". Actually, the application does not affect the Millennium Park but refers to land known as the picnic area separated from the Millennium Park by the driveway to Fishpool House. Personally, if any application came forward for any kind of building on the Millennium Park, I would be dismayed.

It remains in our plans to use Humphrey Perkins School for the large BUSCA events e.g. pantomimes, youth theatre, murder mysteries and dances and would expect that other users who require a large venue in this village would do similarly. Mr Wigmore appears to be under the impression that this plan is about providing rooms for hire as available in the village pubs and clubs. I can only assume he has not read the planning application. For example, he makes no reference to the provision in the plan for a sports hall. The activities that will occur there cannot possibly be provided at the venues he mentions, neither can those others detailed in the application, for example, a day-centre for the elderly.

Mr Wigmore asserts that "It's taking money away from the very community it is supposed to serve". I can only guess at what is meant here but it may suffice to say that no public funds from any source have been used so far or will be used for the construction. All funds have been raised by the voluntary action of BUSCA and will be used in the best interests of the community.

By the way, the building and all it offers, will be available to residents of Walton on the Wolds and beyond.

Alan Willcocks
BUSCA trustee.

Peter Preston (as a boy)

(Barry Wilford's article is in response to one in the spring edition written by Jerry Sykes. Peter Preston became The Guardian's most famous editor because he changed a small regional paper, The Manchester Guardian, into an important national voice.)

On my return from South Africa I was saddened to read of the death of Peter Preston, a boyhood friend of mine. He was indeed born in Cotes Road on May 23rd 1938, and I believe, in the Dutch style house after the new roundabout. He moved later into the village with his family to live at 'The Cottage' in South Street. After that the obituary becomes rather blurred.

From April 1945 onwards I lived with my family at Geo Hill's grocery, opposite 'The Cottage', so we soon became friends. He was in the Cubs with me and was indeed very sporty, being a very agile goalie between two strategically-placed trees on his lawn whilst I was the super striker. One day on April 7th 1948, a month after taking my 11+, whilst playing with Peter, Mr Preston came home ill from work. He was a greengrocery manager at a wholesaler's in Nottingham Road Loughborough. Mrs P suggested that I go home as Peter would go and sit with his father. On April 11th his father died of polio, and 11 days later Peter had



Peter Preston as a young newspaper man

the disease. By April 26th it was touch and go for Peter; by the 30th there was a turn for the better. During the next month my father took Mrs P by car to Harlow Wood to visit Peter, now mostly encased in an iron lung. By June 2nd Mrs P [later to become Mrs Brown] with the rest of the family, Bill and Susan, moved to 'Banockburn'. On his return from hospital I cycled most Sunday mornings from Barrow to his new home in Quorn. I believe that he was encouraged by his physiotherapist to take up magic, and indeed marionettes, to encourage the use of his hands. Many a Sunday morning he would entertain me and his siblings at a model theatre set up in the garage. I do believe he once appeared in a Barrow Scout Gang Show doing conjuring tricks. I continued to visit Peter until 1953 when I started an engineering apprenticeship at Herbert Morris Ltd whilst Peter was at Loughborough Grammar School, Oxford University and beyond.

Barry Wilford



The 'New' CO-OP - The Opening

They did us proud! The reopening of the CO-OP on Friday May 18th saw a razzmatazz, sunny return to the High Street of our one and only supermarket. After six weeks of closure and £700,000 expenditure there was certainly a tremendous desire for its doors to reopen. The Pop Up in the car park had been better than nothing, but basics get boring and pricier Waitrose needs a car.

By 11am the Queen and Prince Harry had arrived, which was good of Harry as he was marrying the following day, and pupils from Hall Orchard, one from each class, had helped our Parish Council's Wendy Woodhouse cut the celebratory CO-OP tape. Amazing what a large pair of foam scissors can cut. There were special promotions to encourage people inside, £2 off if you took a pic, and the array of fresh veg that met you was impressive. Outside a contented hedgehog helped raise money for new hedgehog homes and guides and brownies, with home-made fuzzy bugs, encouraged you to choose them as a CO-OP Local Cause. Then food appeared - scones with jam and cream, sausage rolls and CO-OP stickered cupcakes: pity they forgot the CO-OP stickered Prosecco.



Feedback

A small survey of shoppers showed that there were some positives and some negatives for the refurbished store. Among the positives were the wider aisles, giving the shop a lighter and more spacious feel. The baskets on wheels were appreciated, particularly by the older generation, and in the main, the cabinets were approved of, but some said it was difficult to find items.

On the negative side several shoppers were disappointed that some brands were no longer on the shelves, including many of the CO-OP's own brands. The checkouts also got a mixed reception: some saying that the ratio of staff-operated tills and self-service ones was wrong: there should be more staff-operated ones. Others really liked self-service card payment, saying it was much quicker, which just goes to prove you can't please all the people all the time!

Gaynor Barton and Val Gillings

Brand New Facilities at Barrow Community Library

The Barrow Community Library management team has secured a grant from the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) to update the kitchen, toilet and outside store and replace the boundary fencing.

Three years ago, when the library became a volunteer run facility, we inherited very basic toilet and kitchen facilities and very limited storage. The toilet, which doubled as storage, was only accessible by going through the office and kitchen. Not at all user friendly! The kitchen was very outdated and back in the day it was never anticipated it would be used by community groups. Work began in June to improve all this.

You should now be able to see a fully accessible toilet with the addition of a baby changing table. The kitchen has been updated with the addition of a separate hand-washing facility. The store cupboard has been designated as an office for Angeline, the volunteer co-ordinator. The corner of the building where bins were stored has been converted to a closed-in store area and the crumbling fencing has been renewed.

The library is increasingly being used by community groups and hire groups, the income from which is essential to sustain the service as funding from the Leicestershire County Council tapers out. Library users, those attending the weekly events, meeting groups and exercise classes will benefit from the upgraded facilities as will our 50 fabulous volunteers when they are on shift.

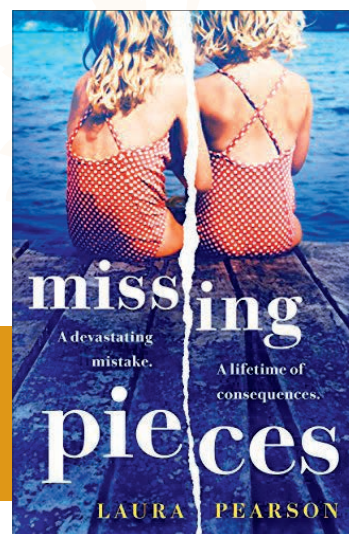
Please pop in to see our new facilities.

We are looking forward to a busy autumn to include a music quiz, monthly talks, and weekly craft and Rhyme Time groups.

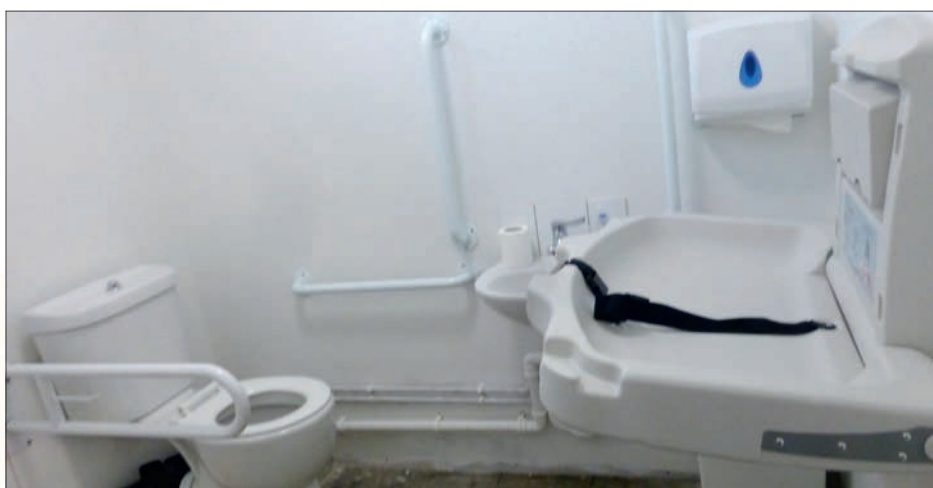
Catherine Holmes



New kitchen



Local author Laura Pearson will give a talk in the library at 7.30pm on Wednesday September 26th on her first novel "Missing Pieces", which was published in July this year.



New toilet and baby-changing facilities

Watch out for events on our website: www.busca.org.uk/community-groups/library. The library space is available for hire. For details email library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk or ring 01509 416356. Donations to keep the library running can now be made through the BUSCA website under "Donate to the Library". Finally, we are always looking to improve the service we give. The management team is very interested in your comments, which can be added to our Comments Book.

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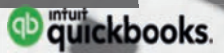
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Frances Acton BEM

Volunteering is the lifeblood of Barrow and many people devote countless unpaid hours to improving the life of the village. Now, one hard-working volunteer has received a special honour for her invaluable contribution.

Frances Acton has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for years of service as governor of Hall Orchard CE Primary School and 1st Barrow Guides leader. The citation is for services to the community in Barrow Upon Soar, Leicestershire.

"It has been a rather overwhelming but also a very heart-warming experience to receive this award," she said. "People have been so generous with their congratulations and kind words and their excitement has been extremely infectious. However, I feel very strongly that this award is not just for me. We are very lucky to have so many voluntary groups in our village and I know I am not the only one who deserves an award."

Frances will be presented with the medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire in the near future and she'll be heading off to a Buckingham Palace garden party next summer.

What has motivated her over two decades? A strong sense of duty and commitment to the community she lives in, as well as the enjoyment of voluntary work, she says. She also cares deeply about the healthy development of young people, hence her involvement in the school and guides.

Frances stepped down from her role as Chair of Governors at the end of last year, not knowing that her colleagues had nominated her for a BEM, an indication of how much she had been valued. She was appointed a foundation governor of Hall Orchard in 1997 and was involved, at a strategic level, in the conversion of the school to an academy. She is proud that the school has always retained its family atmosphere and Christian ethos, in spite of its size. She was not only in the upper level of management at the school, but was also a parent - her children Jess and Oscar are now in their 20s - giving her a well-rounded view of school life.

Guiding has been a passion since she was introduced to Brownies as a little girl in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was something she loved and it sparked a life-long interest.

Frances sees guiding as the perfect vehicle to nurture the development of self-worth in girls. Her involvement as a volunteer began when she became a Brownie helper in Barrow in 1999 and started helping at Guides in 2001. She then took over as unit leader of 1st Barrow Guides and later became a Division Residential Advisor.

"Guiding is the biggest women's organisation in the world and Leicestershire is very active in guiding. It provides an opportunity for personal development, for girls to learn skills and to build confidence. We go on camps, which are lots of fun, and allow girls to have adventures in a safe environment. We try to be relevant. Guiding is not always seen as 'cool' but we certainly do cool stuff!"

Activities are on a local, county and regional level and there are also international trips. 1st Barrow Guides will be going to Grenada in October.

Her professional career has been mainly in education, as a consultant and advisor in school governance and she is now an English Second Language tutor in Leicester and elsewhere in the East Midlands.

Here, again, she is giving time as a volunteer for the City of Sanctuary in Leicester, teaching English to refugees and asylum seekers. She teaches three classes a week and says it is very rewarding, though sometimes distressing.

"The students are not always able to access further education, some are not permitted to work while their applications are being processed and, often, they struggle to communicate. Many have experienced terrible trauma in their home countries and they have to adapt to a new culture. It is very hard."

Some are highly educated - one student was a neurosurgeon from Syria, another an engineer from the Kurdish part of Turkey, and there are many others who are highly skilled. Stories of hardship and trauma abound but there are also success stories of students who have gone on to further education or employment.



Frances, who lives with her husband Michael, is also a woman of faith.

"I truly believe that God calls us all to serve one another in whatever ways we can and I would encourage everyone to give back something to their community and volunteer in some way - you may well surprise yourself how much you enjoy it and how much you get back in return."

Lindsay Ord



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Barrow's Meadow Feeds:

a quirky equestrian feed supplier with a twist in its tail

Kate Evans, owner of three horses, has set up a most unusual business in Barrow. She has always owned horses but when she moved four years ago from Manchester she couldn't find feed supplies for the very different needs of the three animals.

She lives with her two children in Barrow and the horses are also stabled here. Her research confirmed a big gap in the market and last October she bit the bullet, left her job in Nottingham, and set up Meadow Feeds in Barrow.

The shop is at the top of Brook Lane and to begin with Kate just concentrated on selling horse feed and other supplies. She quickly developed a good customer base and got to know customer needs – which often included requests for a nice cup of tea! She pondered this one and came up with the twist: she now offers tea, coffee, cake and vintage ice cream and not just to her horse-feed customers but to anyone who comes into the shop. You can pop in and order a bag of molasses, a slice of red-velvet cake, a cup of coffee, a vintage ice-cream, a bucket of water, a hay net, treats for your horse, which

is tied up in the shade of the shop, and then sit outside at an inviting table!

I asked what vintage ice-cream is and she showed me a pretty antique china cup filled with ice-cream, decorated with a wafer and positioned by a ceramic horse's head. Kate explained that she is working on developing the horse theme for a new expansion: in June she publicised her first Meadow Feeds event on Facebook. A converted horse trailer rolled up and was positioned outside Meadow Feeds. The business is called One Potato Two and sells hot potatoes with homemade fillings. It was a roaring success so she has booked Raphael's Pizza next, also a converted horse trailer. Kate was so busy helping that she had no time to take photos or eat anything herself.



The next trailer to arrive in Brook Lane is Street Food, selling Greek, Caribbean and Thai food. Keep a look out on Kate's Meadow Feeds Facebook page for the details.

In fact, it would probably be worthwhile noting what else Kate thinks of. She is certainly full of ideas. She already sells farm feeds for pigs, sheep, pot-bellied pigs and hedgehogs! She provides a cleaning and repair service for horse rugs, clipper sharpening, personalised horse wear, including t-shirts and offers Facebook competitions with prizes. I wonder if she's ever thought of becoming the village blacksmith???

Barrow Voice applauds her business imagination and wishes her every success.

Judith Rodgers



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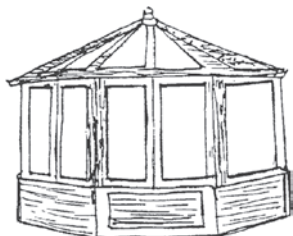
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Inland Inspiration: a very new river-based business for Barrow

Barrow is sometimes accused of underplaying the value of its lovely bit of the River Soar. Rarely does the river play a central role in village events (apart from when it floods). However, a new business, based at The Boathouse at Barrow, will encourage us all to get out onto the water and be inspired by the experience.

Inland Inspiration is the brainchild of Kirst Elton. Although born in Leicester, Kirst had his first taste of kayaking and canoeing in Newark, Nottinghamshire, in 2009. He learnt the basics but then gave it all up in favour of martial arts. Four years later he decided to give paddling another go and joined the Holme Pierrepont Canoe Club (based at the National Water Sports Centre near Nottingham). He became obsessed with canoeing and kayaking and trained solidly, gaining qualifications, all the time climbing the ladder. The idea for setting up a business came as just an inkling in 2016. It wasn't until his "occupational fortunes suffered a blow" recently that, with the support of his family and friends, he decided to go ahead. He discussed his ideas with Colin Broadway, the owner of The Boathouse at Barrow, and was quite overwhelmed by Colin's generosity, help, advice and knowledge, and included the very practical help of providing Kirst with a base for his business.



Kirst Elton at Bedford Weir

So what is Kirst actually offering? First and foremost, he wants to create the opportunity for anyone, young or old, able-bodied or not to get into the right type of canoe or kayak and have the experience of paddling safely in the beautiful surroundings of our river - getting a taste of the outdoors. He aims to give a quality experience. He hopes that people will want to do this at any time of year, although obviously, the amazing summer weather of 2018 will have been particularly helpful to him. If they want to follow up with coaching, then Kirst is the man. He is thrilled when this pathway happens. He has been coaching members of the family, and a friend, and he has found their progress quite inspirational.

September and October are good months to go out on the river – so – why not give it a try before the winter sets in?! Give Kirst a ring on 07715 393 067. But don't forget that you can paddle in January too!

Barrow Voice wishes him well in this exciting venture.

Judith Rodgers

Natural Elements: Barrow's new High Street physio business

One of the familiar businesses on High Street, Activity4All has recently changed hands and although it still offers physiotherapy, we see new faces and a different emphasis in Natural Elements.

I interviewed Annie Rea recently. She is a fully qualified physiotherapist working in this private practice that has three bases: in Groby, Desford and Barrow. Their common aim is to help clients move better, look better and feel better.

"Maybe you want to ditch the painkillers, get back to a long lost sport or just want to be able to run around with the grandchildren. We can help you," says their website.

Three physiotherapists, Annie, Claire and Ross work in Barrow at different times so you do need to ring for an appointment (0116 367 6472) or book online from www.thenaturalelements.co.uk They offer conventional treatments, but in addition there is an opportunity to benefit from a range of complementary therapies. Annie's speciality is medical

acupuncture, which she finds can help clients experiencing morning sickness, anxiety, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) or needing pain relief. Samantha offers sports massage and deep tissue massage and Jo is the reflexologist.

Annie was born and bred in Birmingham but did her training at Glenfield Hospital before specialising in acute orthopedics in Coventry. After the birth of a son and then a daughter she worked in a private practice that included work in Loros, our wonderful Leicester Hospice. She especially enjoyed working for Loros and saw the benefits of their emphasis on complementary treatments including aromatherapy (particularly effective in the treatment of depression) and reflexology. She is keen to introduce more complementary treatments to Barrow.



Annie Rea

Barrow Voice extends Natural Elements a warm welcome to Barrow.

Judith Rodgers



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Jim's altar and cross

Jim Hardy's Gift To The Village

Jim Hardy stepped into Barrow's Cemetery Chapel on Cotes Road for the first time when he was asked by a member of the Parish Council to take a look at the floor to see if repairs could be done. When he entered he noticed a very bare wall that, to his mind, was crying out for an altar. Having always wanted to gift something to the village he decided that he would make one.

Looking through a book entitled 'Gimson and the Barnsley' he was struck by a sketch of a cross. It was of a carved stone cross at Torcello in Italy made by the famous craftsman Ernest Gimson. Jim is a devotee of him, and from that moment he was inspired to make a cross to go on the altar.

Originally the cross was going to be fairly plain, but during the carving of it, Jim's wife Pem died: they had been married for 58 years. Jim decided that the cross would not only be a gift to the village but also a memorial to his wife, so the carving became more intricate. The cross is carved out of teak, with climbing plants and boxwood flowers to represent Pem's love of gardening and her favourite colour yellow. The workmanship is incredible. The boxwood flowers were made separately, with the centres being thicker than the petals to enable small screws to be inserted to fix the flowers to the cross. The hole was then infilled with a mahogany plug.

The work on the cross began in 2017. It is difficult for Jim to estimate how

many hours went into the carving but he worked on it for a year. The altar was also made in teak. All the wood came from Jim's workshop but he had to buy steel brackets to attach the altar to the wall of the chapel. To add the finishing touches, Jim had simple candlesticks made and bought candles to place in them. The overall effect is stunning. I am sure that the Parish Council, and the village, are very grateful for the wonderful gift that Jim has given to the village and are in awe of his craftsmanship.

But a little history to explain why there is cemetery on Cotes Road. In 1893 the church wardens were given notice that the churchyard surrounding Holy Trinity was to close for burials so a Burial Board was formed. Seven members searched for land for a new cemetery and land on Cotes Road was chosen. The cost of the land and the chapel was £1,700. The land and chapel were dedicated on March 30th 1895 and the first burial, a Mrs Fanny Jaques, took place on April 21st 1895. The Parish Council has the care and maintenance of the Cemetery

Chapel and the grounds. The chapel is open several times a year including Easter Sunday, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Remembrance Sunday. A visit to view this Victorian building is very worthwhile and while there you will get the opportunity to see and admire Jim Hardy's gift to the village.

Val Gillings



Jim Hardy



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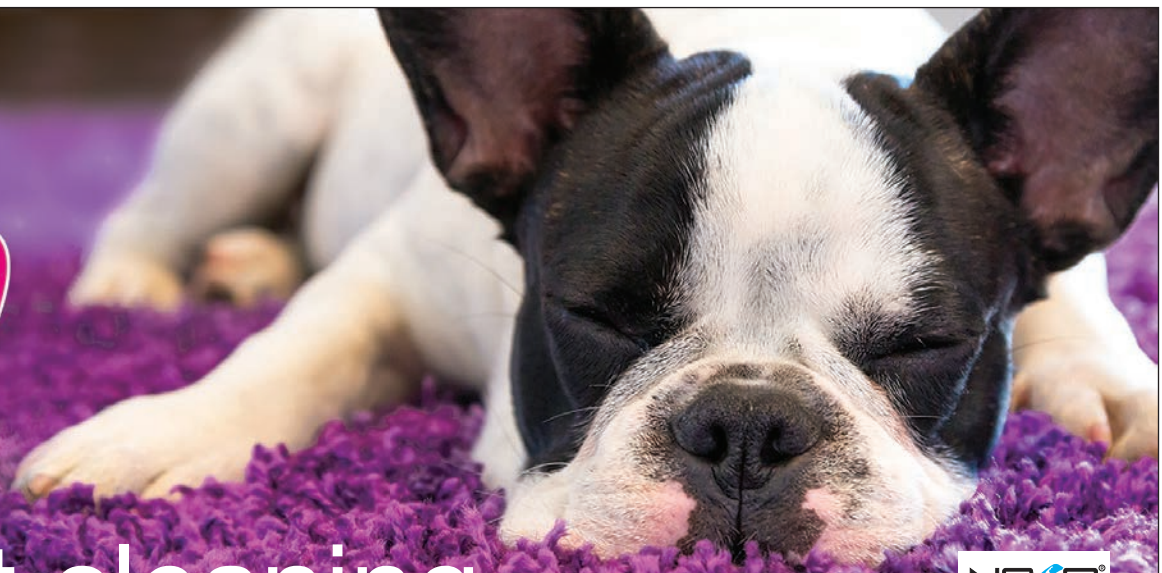
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The Banks: A Hidden Gem



From left to right Vicki (M), Vicki (W) with Rufus, Anne with Maisie and Graeme with Pepe

On the little road that joins Breadcroft Lane and Babington Road lies The Banks and within this road you can find three diverse businesses.

At number 32 is Vicki McGuirk's Beauty and Holistic Studio. Vicki is a born and bred Barrow girl and opened her studio 10 years ago. She offers a wide range of services, specialising, amongst other things, in eyelash extensions, micro-blading and express lashes. Vicki also offers a full-body hydrotherm massage which is very good for pregnant women as it is calming, relaxing and comfortable. Among other treatments are waxing for both women and MEN! She has a sports physio visit the studio once a month as well as a Botox practitioner. So impressed

was I, that I booked an appointment there and then for a bit of pampering. Tel: **01509 621664**

And talking of pampering, our next visit was to number 41 where I met Vicki Wallin; well known to our readers as her Wash & Wags pampers Barrow's dogs. Vicki has been a dog-groomer for 30 years and the dogs are well looked after in a calm atmosphere, as I witnessed while I was there chatting. You can follow the adventure on their Facebook page Wash & Wags Leicester or Tel: **01509 416971** or **07765835034**.

To conclude my visit to this tranquil part of Barrow, on the corner of The Banks and Babington Road at number 87 I found the pet-shop Feather 'n' Fur. Graeme and Ann are always on hand to give advice on pets and they have a wide range of products from bedding to feeds for all your pets: cats, dogs or hamsters. Believe it or not, humans can get some essentials there as well as they stock milk, eggs and even soft drinks for the thirsty. Graeme also informed us that he is a silversmith and these products are also available; handy if you're looking for a present for yourself or your pet. It's well worth a visit as many already know. Tel: **01509 415594** closed Sunday/Monday also follow on their Facebook page Feather 'n' Fur Pet Supplies.

Sue Ellingworth

Good Neighbours

It is probably not surprising how much the idea of fences and boundaries have entered our language. Good fences, the saying goes, make good neighbours. And when the worst has happened and we've fallen out we talk about mending fences. With the number of people in Barrow rising, it seems a good moment to look into the legal position of fences - and hedges.

There are also a number of commonly held beliefs that appear not to be true. This article is far too short to have all the answers but it might whet the appetite for your own research. As so often these days, I consulted the internet and found some very useful websites about boundary problems. I started with one called Fences and Boundaries, and you can look at it yourself if you are interested.

The single best piece of guidance from my research is - talk to your neighbour. Don't let bad feeling grow like weeds. The enormous number of possible difficulties is more easily looked up yourself so I looked into the most commonly occurring issues.

Fences. The boundary goes with the land deeds. The owner of the fence, owns both sides of the fence and the owner's neighbour cannot stain the fence, use it to support plants or any other construction even if s/he lives on the right hand side of it. In short, anything you do to your neighbour's fence without your neighbour's

permission - including staining, painting or applying preservative to your side of your neighbour's fence - amounts to criminal damage. A commonly held understanding is that the owner of the fence is responsible for the right side and the neighbour the left. This does not appear to be the case - the owner is responsible for both sides.

- **Can I hang things on my neighbour's fence?**
- **Can I use my neighbour's fence as a support for my own plants?**
- **Can I paint my side of my neighbour's fence?**

Only if your neighbour gives you permission to do so.

Nor can you expect the owner of the fence to repair it unless s/he intends to do it, even if it borders your property.

Trimming hedges. Theoretically, you shouldn't trim your neighbour's hedge for fear of doing criminal damage to his property. However, your neighbour's hedge has no entitlement to occupy the air space

above your land. This would appear to give you the right to alleviate the nuisance caused by the encroachment of your neighbour's hedge onto your land, allowing you to trim back its branches to the point at which they each cross the boundary. Should you then return the trimmings to your neighbour, as they are his property? General practice is that you trim your side of the hedge and dispose of the trimmings yourself.

And what about the height of the hedge? Well, as it is your neighbour's hedge then he is entitled to decide to what height it grows. You may therefore trim only your side of his hedge where it crosses the boundary and you may not reduce the height of the hedge. There are some famous court cases when the fast growing fir trees have caused problems with light, and the reason they hit the news appears to be that the law cannot take specific situations into account and the only way to get satisfaction is through the courts.

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A bring-and-share lunch at Mauricette's house in Marans

Marans 2018

This year, thirty four members of the Barrow and District Twinning Association travelled to Marans for our bi-annual visit. Nineteen of us flew from Stansted Airport and the rest travelled by car, camper-van and car/caravan.

Three couples who were new to the group stayed with French hosts who were also new twinners, so it was a learning curve for them all. Jasper the dog also made his first visit, generously allowing his owners to accompany him. It was also the first time for his master, but his mistress had been before, so they received a warm welcome from their French friends, as did we all.

A varied programme had been arranged for us. Our first full day found us taking a twenty minute ferry ride to the Ile-d'Aix. This is a small island with a fortified village and coastal forts that were created in the 17th century due to the conflicts between France and England. An excellent lunch was provided for us at a local restaurant, with time in the afternoon to explore the island. The following day we were taken to the delightful Chateau de la Roche Courbon, the origins of which began in the 15th century, but in the 17th century it was 'modernised' turning it into a comfortable home. After the tour of the chateau, conducted by an entertaining guide who spoke perfect English, we had a picnic lunch under the trees to protect us from the hot sun.

There are 6,000 hectares of marshland around Marans so on Sunday we were taken to see how the marshes were managed. This is done by a network of

dykes, ditches and canals. In the past there was an elected Master of the Dykes, who was provided with a house for himself and his family. The position often passed from father to son. There is no longer a Master of the Dykes and the house is now a museum. After the visit we had a bring-and-share lunch provided by our French friends at the beautiful home of Mauricette and Daniel. The final organised trip was to the port of La Rochelle, where the director of the port told us its history. He used an excellent diorama to point out the positions of the various piers where grain, fuel and wood were offloaded and also where the large passenger liners docked. We then boarded our coach and were taken on a tour of the docks. The most interesting part was driving around and actually entering one of the huge submarine pens that the Germans built during World War 2. These were so strongly built that, despite the RAF dropping numerous large bombs on to them, they were unable to penetrate the pens. They really are a sight to see.

Each evening was spent with our hosts, sometimes quietly in their homes, much appreciated after a busy day or joining forces with other twinners and their hosts. The last evening was spent in what is now a traditional way, all of us sharing in a bring-and-share supper at the home of Colette and Didier. This ended with a

singsong of English songs, and perhaps for us some not so well-known French songs. We will have to get some practice in! Regardless, they were all sung with gusto.

All too soon it was time to say goodbye to our friends, some of whom we have known for 22 years. We now start planning for their return visit to us next year. If you are interested in joining the Twinning Group please contact our secretary Helen Duxbury on **01509 552867**, or come along to one of our social events. It is not necessary to speak French - those in the group who don't always seem to manage.

Val Gillings



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Barrow Voice



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Barrow Parish Council at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs

BARROW REMEMBERS: 100 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WW1

Cllr Claire Forrest has researched each of the 72 soldiers and located their graves, which are spread between the war cemeteries in France, Belgium and Britain, as well as Iraq and Gaza. We are very grateful for the support of the fantastic volunteers who have come forward from the village to make this project possible. More than thirty Barrow residents travelled to Europe to ensure the wreaths were safely delivered to their destinations. In order to put a person behind their man's name, each volunteer was provided with a short family history of their soldier, and a poem to read out as part of the wreath laying ceremony.

It's easy to underestimate what an impact the First World War had on life at the beginning of the 20th century. If you know a little about your family history you might know that your family didn't lose a close relative in the Great War. But what has come out of this research is that your family would not have been untouched by the war.

The research has transformed the carved names on the war memorials into real people: not just husbands and sons, but cousins, nephews, godsons, sons-in-law and friends and neighbours. The people of Barrow lost work mates, footballers, cricketers, bandsmen, choristers, bell ringers, incorrigible rogues and well-respected citizens. Some of our fallen were recent additions to the village and others could date their families back for centuries. All of them were missed by someone in Barrow. Charles Stone of The Molehill, Barrow, was killed in Belgium in September 1917. Before the war he was an overseer at Driver's Hosiery Factory in Barrow and was a member of the choir at Holy Trinity Church.

Some families in Barrow suffered significant loss – none more so than the Ferrins. Mrs Ruth Ferrin of Walton Lane learnt that her husband, James Ambrose, and son William had been killed within days of each other in February 1918. Two other sons were reported as prisoners of war, but at the end of the war only one returned. The other, Harry, it was assumed, died soon after he was last seen in battle on August 6th 1918.

Mabel Lockwood lost her brother-in-law George Arthur Dennis, who died on September 1st 1916, and then her brother George Henson Lockwood on May 29th 1918. Meanwhile, Loveday Cox (nee Raven), who lived in New Street, lost one of her sons-in-law, John Hill, in 1916 and then lost her only son Herbert in 1918.

Remembrance Day is now approaching. Barrow Remembers will culminate with an exhibition at Holy Trinity Church displaying not only information about each soldier, but photographs of their graves laid with a wreath. Also look out for the Poppy Trail:

large poppies displayed around the village near the places our soldiers lived.

The exhibition opens at the Parish Church on 3rd November 10am - 4pm with refreshments, 7th November 11am - 4pm and 10th November 10am - 4pm. The Poppy Trail will start on November 3rd and ends on November 11th .

We do hope you can come along to commemorate the lives of the 72 extraordinary individuals that are Barrow upon Soar's 72 fallen soldiers from World War I.

Helen Duxbury

P.S.

The Mole Hill, Barrow upon Soar was given as the only address for Bombardier Stone. Do you know where The Mole Hill was? Do you have family photographs or memories that you would be willing to share with the village during the exhibition? Please contact the Parish Council office asap to discuss further.

Use a mobility scooter?

Beware Barrow's footpaths and jitties!

My task for this issue was to visit a lady on Sileby Road who said she lives in the forgotten end of Barrow. I rang her to make arrangements for a visit expecting her to say she lived at number 200 odd Sileby Road, or even on Huston Close, so was completely surprised when she told me her address as it is just the other side of the bridge over the brook, heading towards Sileby!

When I arrived at her house I was greeted by ferocious barking so expected to see a large dog accompanying her to the door, wrong! The source of all the noise was a Border terrier, quite a small breed really but he did sound fierce and clearly felt threatened by my presence. Bobby, the terrier, was quickly despatched to the kitchen where the noise continued until he was certain that I was a welcomed visitor.

I was soon engaged in conversation with Susan Smith and curious to know why she felt this particular area of Sileby Road was "forgotten". Susan explained that there was a little more to this statement and she proceeded to tell me about her circumstances.

Both Susan and her husband have disabilities; they have mobility scooters but struggle to use them in Barrow. For instance, they would like to visit The Soar Bridge, taking their little dog for a walk on the way. Their preferred route would be to take the jitty from Sileby Road

through to Avon Road, along Welland Road then down Ribble Drive to Mill Lane. From Mill Lane there's a footpath alongside the children's play area that leads into Pig's Close then on to Bridge Street. From here it's just a short distance to the pub. Sounds simple doesn't it? I decided to give it a try and imagined myself on a mobility scooter.

The first thing I notice, in the jitty, are the many humps in the tarmac caused by the growth in tree roots over the years, Then there's the overhanging foliage from trees and shrubs, especially the brambles at this time of year. Right at the end of the jitty is the 'piece de resistance' a dog-leg metal barrier that is completely non-negotiable with a mobility scooter!

The route to Mill Lane is fine from this point BUT the footpath to Pig's Close is another obstacle. I doubt anyone would be able to get a pushchair along here and there's certainly not enough room for a mobility scooter. There's brush underfoot and overhanging branches from the hedgerow. There is one positive however, the footpath through Pig's Close is pretty good although I'm not sure how it would be in wet weather.

I can hear you thinking that there must be an alternative. There is, it's Sileby Road, where, in places, the footpath is very narrow, cars are often parked partly on the pavement and it isn't suitable for a small dog. Surely there has to be a case to consider improving this route, making it accessible to everyone?

Susan also highlighted some of the other problems she has been experiencing due to poor access for people with disabilities. She likes to do her own shopping and used to use the local Co-op. Until its recent refurbishment the shopping trolleys, here, used to be available from the front of the store, now they are kept in the car park. Just imagine the problem this can cause for people like Susan, who can walk, albeit slowly, and as long as she has something to hold on to. She can't leave her scooter



Dog-leg metal barrier

unattended in the car park but it would be fine at the front of the store. Susan asked the manager if a few trolleys could be available at the front of the shop but was informed that everyone comes by car nowadays so they had to be in the car park area!

This conversation made me so much more aware of the difficulties that affect people like Susan and her husband. I wondered what, if anything, could be done. Firstly, have a look at your front garden, do you have shrubs or hedges that hang over the footpath? If you do, please cut them back. Please park carefully and certainly not on the pavement. If you see someone struggling to reach an item in the supermarket offer to help. Perhaps the Co-op manager will give some thought to the needs of shoppers who struggle with their mobility. I know mobility scooters are allowed in the store but how do you negotiate the sliding fridge doors, what happens when you can't reach the item you need?

Susan did mention that staff in other places were helpful. She said that at H2O they are most obliging and that although the path in front of their shop is in a poor



Narrow overgrown path

state the staff will help her get to the back of this shop and enter by the rear door where there are no steps.

As I walk around Barrow now, I look at the state of the jitties and footpaths, I consider how I would manage if I had mobility problems or was using a scooter like Susan. Generally they are appalling e.g. Church Street, Beveridge Street, The Banks, Hall Orchard jitty, Sibley Road and High Street just to name a few. What can be done to improve this as some people are virtually housebound due to this problem? **Perhaps the Parish Council could offer some advice in the next issue of Barrow Voice.** Watch this space! Thanks again Susan for your time and your story. I can well understand why you feel your needs are forgotten.

Ginnie Willcocks - With thanks to Susan Smith.



Co-op trolleys in car park only

A Helping Hand for Carers

Carers are the unsung heroes and heroines of society and many care for people with dementia, a condition affecting 850 000 people in the UK. Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of progressive neurological disorders affecting the brain, of which Alzheimer's is the most common, and caring can be a tough job. But if carers are given information and support, it can make life easier for them and the person they care for.

Barrow's Prue Padmore is a volunteer at the Alzheimer's Society, which runs courses for carers at various venues in Leicester city and Leicestershire. She has seen first-hand how they benefit from the courses, as they learn more about the condition and how to manage it.

The Carers Information Support Programme (CrISP) is held once a week on Tuesday afternoons, over six weeks, for two and a half hours per session. Subjects covered include practical advice, like strategies for dealing with difficult behaviours, as well as legal issues, like drawing up powers of attorney and getting finances in order, accessing benefits and services, and looking after yourself.

"Carers benefit from meeting others in the same situation and sharing practical tips," says Prue, whose mother had Alzheimer's. "The course is excellent and I love meeting the carers who are mostly lovely people trying to do their best. Dementia does not follow a set pattern – everyone's experience is different."

Alongside the course is an activity group for people with dementia, so if carers are unable to get go out on their own, they can take along the person they care for. Courses are free and the person being cared for must have had a diagnosis of dementia.

All you have to do is contact the Alzheimer's Society and put your name down. You will then be advised of groups in your area.

The Alzheimer's Society welcomes volunteers to help with CrISP courses and in other areas too. The society offers a range of local services, including Singing for the Brain, dementia cafes and befriending services, like Side by Side. Volunteers are needed for these services and others – and volunteering can be hugely rewarding. Phone the society to find out more. Call **0116 231 6921** or email: **justine.sanders@alzheimers.org.uk**.

Tips for carers

- Look out for dementia support groups in your area and meet others in the same situation. Visit alzheimers.org.uk/dementia or phone the National Dementia Helpline on **0300 222 1122**
- Involve others. See if other family members or friends can help out and give you a break. You can discuss this with them with or without a counsellor
- Take breaks. This might mean getting someone to stay with the person you care for while you meet up with a friend, have time to yourself or have

a few days away. There are also formal schemes such as day or short-term residential care

- Look after yourself. Eat nutritious food, take exercise, get enough sleep and find time to relax. This is not always easy and you may need to enlist help
- As the person's dementia progresses and they need more assistance, consider getting help at home

The Alzheimer's Society provides information on all this. They have a comprehensive free handbook called "Caring for the Person with Dementia", which you can order from their website and there is a lot of information on **alzheimers.org.uk**. You can also call **0300 222 1122**.

Lindsay Ord



Prue Padmore

The Alzheimer's Society holds fund-raising Memory Walks around the country and one will be held in Abbey Park, Leicester on Sunday 30 September at 11am. There are two courses, 2km or 7km, suitable for all ages, pushchairs and wheelchairs. You need to register by 27 September. See www.memorywalk.org.uk or call 0300 330 5452.



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**Barrow
Voice**



High Street

Bustling Barrow: The Summer Street Market

On Sunday 8th July, and bathed in wall to wall sunshine, the annual Street Market once again proved a very popular attraction, not only for Barrow residents but also visitors from the surrounding villages. The traditional High Street, with its blend of shops, pubs and cafes, shared space with an eclectic array of market stalls running between the dinosaur island (Jerusalem) and Cotes Road, also including a number of stalls sited on the public car park behind the Co-op.

The friendly atmosphere was enhanced by music provided by local Leicestershire band Juke Box Live, who played both traditional and modern by request. Town Crier, David Dipple, (Oyez!) patrolled in a jolly manner, happy to pose for photos whilst dishing out sweets to the children.

Visitors to the event were amazed to see the fabulous variety of goods on offer. There was something to interest everyone from traditional Indian crafts to wood-turning and handmade children's clothes, hat stalls, flower stalls, bric-a-brac, jewellery and a waste-textiles stand selling a massive range of recycled clothing.

Food was very much on the menu with the local scout group serving bacon and sausage butties. Other delicious delights included pies and samosas, alongside marshmallows, homemade biscuits, cakes and ice creams... there was even a noodle horse-trailer!!

All in all a cracking family day out... here's looking forward to the next.

Rosie and Shaun Horrocks



Indian crafts



Hats



David Dipple



Musicians: Peter Yates and David Spiller

Barrow Open Gardens 2018: Lights! Camera! Action!

Act 1: Scene 1 - 10.59 am Saturday 23rd June... the stage was set, the sun shining, gardens on parade, cakes baked, Rainbows in the Roundhouse and as...

*The overture was about to start,
Openers crossed their fingers and held their hearts,*

*It was curtain time and they were ready to go,
Another op'nin', just another op'nin', of
another show!*

(after Cole Porter)

Every year Barrow Open Gardens brings something different to delight our lovely, loyal, supporters and 2018 did not disappoint. Once again we had planned a diverse horticultural spectacle, but this year there was something extra... there was more than a little touch of the theatre about our event.

The cast of 2018 included a core of hardy perennials ably supported by a bevy of returners and a wonderful bunch of first-time openers who together made sure Barrow Open Gardens had its most successful ever weekend.

Our two-day programme was an invitation to explore some of Barrow's hidden



Andrea and Rob (Warner Street)

delights and secret gardens and like the audiences of the medieval Mystery Plays move from scene to scene and watch the action unfold.

The ensemble cast of 27 was made up by a mixture of gardens of different sizes and styles, all loved and tended and each with their own dramatic character.

There were havens of wildlife, a fairy grotto, grazing sheep, beautiful ponds and a plant-filled amphitheatre with an astonishing backdrop over the River Soar.

There were green rooms and waterside settings where delicious food could be enjoyed, intriguing walled and secluded gardens, interesting, absorbing spaces



Anne (Brook Lane)



Cherrill and Brian (Sibley Road)



Total raised for Rainbows



Katie and Vera (Beveridge Street)

designed for adults and children to share and, of course, there were beautiful gardens where visitors could experience a masterclass in plantsmanship and gardening knowhow.

It was theatre in the round and thanks to the hard work of lots of Barrow people and businesses it was a fantastic success and together we made a grand total of £7,025 to give to Rainbows.

Casting for next year's production is already open so if you would like to come and join us please get in touch email: barrowpengardens2018@gmail.com

Lin Webb



Carol and Dave (New Street)



Katherine and Steve (Cotes Road)

See us at 'BARROW DOES AUTUMNWATCH' – in the Baptist Church car park in Beveridge Street - Saturday 22nd September 12-4pm. Scarecrow event supported by BUSCA.

Barrow's World Cup 2018

If anybody from the village went out to Russia they kept it very quiet. Barrow Town Football Club helpfully 'WhatsApped' hundreds of their contacts but none were found to be out in Volgograd, Novgorod, St Petersburg, Samara or Moscow.

If they were anywhere else, who were they supporting? People just stayed at home, watched their own TVs or went to the pub. And in Barrow they had quite a selection to choose from - with high quality, large-screen TVs.

The Soar Bridge Inn, The Navigation, The Boat House, The Three Crowns, The Hunting Lodge and the Conservative Club all showed the matches and with one exception clearly



Semis – 3 Gareth Southgates (Three Crowns)

advertised the games. The exception was The Hunting Lodge which had decided on a low-key approach as they didn't want noisy supporters disturbing their diners. However, even here, it was on, quietly, above the bar for the regulars.

It all kicked off on Monday June 18th with a win (2-1) against Tunisia. This was expected, so enthusiasm for the

whole tournament was still cautious. Yet one house, and van, had been decorated with England flags from the very beginning and that was Pauline and Dave Kimber's of New Street. And then England beat Panama (6-1) and hopes rose stratospherically. Kane was a hero. England played Belgium a week later and lost (0-1) but it didn't matter as



England v Croatia (Three Crowns- first half goal)



England v Sweden (Conservative Club concentration)



Peppercorns: from left to right Megan, Kerry, Katy



Pauline and Dave's house (New Street)



*England v Columbia
(Three Crowns - tension)*

they were already through to the Last 16. Shops put flags in their windows or in flower baskets, The Barrow of Treats stuck pics of footballers in theirs, the CO-OP strung paper matryoshka dolls across the ceiling and Peppercorns started selling mini-gingerbread men wearing England shirts.

Once out of the Group Stage, matches became crucial viewing. The Last 16 game against Columbia was nail-bitingly tense: the relief of a win after penalties quite glorious. England managed to beat Sweden easily (2-0) in the quarter finals and Rio Ferdinand became 'a believer' who forecast England would win the Cup. By this time Peppercorns had banished their minis and started selling full-size gingerbread men in the England strip. Every pub was now rammed and the singing of 'It's Coming Home' drifted tunelessly along the High Street.

Unbelievably England had reached the semi-finals.

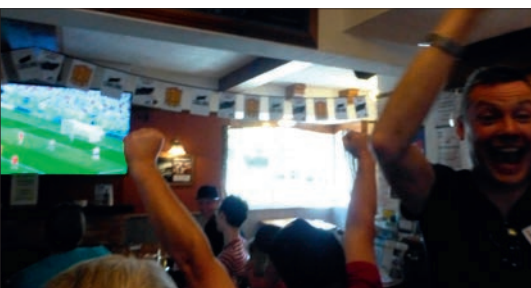
Disappointment lay ahead. After a wonderful first half, Croatia scored two quick goals and won. It was all over. Football didn't

come home. Yet hope lives on. By 2022 the youthful England team will be older and wiser and may go on to triumph in December in Qatar. Fingers crossed...

Gaynor Barton



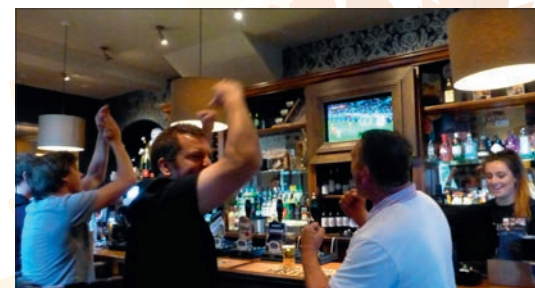
England v Belgium (The Navi – before kick-off)



*England v Panama
(Soar Bridge Kane scores the 6th goal)*



*England v Panama
(Boat House – first half)*



*England v Columbia
(Hunting Lodge)*



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Barrow when Harry wed Meghan

For the most part it was very, very low key. As you walked through the village on the morning of May 19th you couldn't tell anything at all special was happening out in the wider world until you came to The Three Crowns. Then you did.

There were large TV screens inside and out and the place was a riot of red, white and blue. There were balloons tied to the railings, Union Jack-bedecked walls and most telling of all, drinkers sitting in the sunshine wearing tiny Union Jack bowler hats. You could eat, drink and watch Serena, Elton and Posh walk to the church, listen to the mould-breaking service and see the beautiful couple ride off into the sunset - or was it just a quick trot round Windsor? Further from the screens, children bounced on a distinctly non-royal castle or were kept amused by professional entertainers. The garden filled up: this pub, on this Saturday, was certainly a good place to be to watch a royal wedding.

Gaynor Barton



*Harry and Meghan at the altar
(Three Crowns)*



Union Jack bowlers (Three Crowns)

Limestone Drive Street Party



The residents of Limestone Drive hosted a street party on Sunday 5th August. The day was organised by a committee of five households, and more than forty residents attended the event, which had a baking competition, toys, games and activities for younger attendees, charity raffle, a barbecue and of course plenty of bunting. The partygoers were asked to make a donation to LOROS, instead of covering the food costs, and the total donation from the day was £500.

Organiser Alasdair Walker said "Having recently moved to the street, we initially wanted an excuse to meet our neighbours, and once we'd seen how keen people were, a committee was formed and the plans got bigger and bigger. It's surprisingly easy to ask the council to close a road for a street party, though Limestone Drive being a cul-de-sac also helps. It was great to see everybody play their part to get the day organised, and we ended up with a great event. Everybody had a great time and we definitely feel a stronger sense of community as a result. I would encourage anybody who wants to get to know their neighbours to give it a go!"

Alasdair Walker

The Charnwood Orchestra



Charnwood Orchestra

Charnwood Orchestra kicks off its 2018/19 season with a concert of works by Felix Mendelsohn, Ludwig van Beethoven and the Swedish composer and clarinetist, Bernhard Crusell.

The concert will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 7HP on Saturday the 15th September 2018 at 19:30. The Orchestra will be conducted by their Musical Director, Nic Fallowfield and will be performing:

- Hebrides Overture – Mendelsohn
- Clarinet Concerto No 2 – Crusell – Solo Clarinet, Neil Aston
- Symphony No 2 – Beethoven

Tickets for the concert are available for purchase either:

- www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk
- Barrow Library
- On the door

Tickets cost £13.00 – Adult, £11.00 – Concessions, £3.00 Under 16s.

Hebrides Overture - Mendelsohn

Mendelsohn was inspired by a trip in 1829 to the Scottish Islands. The Overture does not precede a play or opera but is a standalone composition depicting moods of rolling seas and the feelings of solitude that Mendelsohn experienced on his visit to "Fingal's cave".

Clarinet Concerto No2 in F minor "Grand Concerto" - Crusell

The son of a bookbinder, Finnish composer Bernhard Crusell received his earliest musical education from a clarinetist of the Nyland regimental band age 8. He later became a distinguished soloist as well as

composing his own works. The concerto gives ample opportunity for soloists to show off their technical and virtuosic abilities. We look forward to Neil's performance with great anticipation.

Symphony No 2 – Beethoven

At the time of writing the work, Beethoven was already experiencing some hearing loss. However, the symphony, like other music written at the time, shows no signs of Beethoven's concern and what would have been despair for such a great composer and musician. He was thought at the time to be seeking treatment from notable physicians to better understand and potentially seek a cure to his hearing problem.

Give Anne a ring!

Anne Kingham, of New Street, Barrow, is launching a new venture with her hand-made art glass. The idea is that anyone looking for a gift that is a bit different can ring Anne on 01509 416823 and she will take items in the required price range to their home. Alternatively, they can go to Anne's home, have a cup of tea/coffee and a chat and see what is available. All is completely without obligation, of course. Prices from £5.00.

Anne thinks this will be a nice, sociable way of buying without having to trek round the shops or trawl the internet. It would also be helpful for anyone elderly or disabled. However, Anne is on the net so you can visit her website at www.annesglass.co.uk or send her an email: annekingham@gmail.com



Centre Stage in Barrow: The Importance of Digging Holes

We are delighted to announce our first Centre Stage production of the season: "The Importance of Digging Holes: The Great War and More" brought to us by the professional touring theatre company Harp and a Monkey, full of rousing music and droll Lancashire humour.

The harp 'n' banjo driven electro-folk-storytelling trio Martin Purdy, Simon Jones and Andy Smith imbue their first set with a deep Lancashire sensibility that shines through in their beautifully crafted and sometimes spooky vignettes of northern life, love and remembrance. The outfit channel the ghosts of summers spent in municipal parks and winters walking on the moors. Songs about cuckolded mole-catchers, a lone English oak tree that grows at Gallipoli, care in the community and medieval pilgrims...

As part of an ongoing project to mark the centenary of the First World War, the second set is new material and re-worked traditional songs which strive to challenge stereotypes of the conflict. They focus heavily on forgotten aspects of the war (from the horror of being a postman, to

the role of musicians) and also on the forgotten men - those ex-servicemen who came home, and their families.

Formed in 2008, Harp and a Monkey are proud of the strength of their reputation as a quality live act and excellent rapport with their audiences. 'Absolutely top stuff... very, very interesting and unusual song-writing. An Incredible String Band for the 21st century.' Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2 'Folk Show'

The Importance of Digging Holes will start at 7.30 on Friday October 12th in the Community Centre, Humphrey Perkins.

Tickets will be available on line from www.busca.org.uk by paypal or card, at The Flower Shop and the Library. Prices all give a £1 off for tickets bought in advance: £10 for adults, £9 for concessions and £5 for under 18s.



This is the way to experience professional theatre: within walking distance or easy parking, warm, welcoming, cheap, with a bar and good disabled facilities.

DO COME!

Judith Rodgers

Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival is to be held in Holy Trinity Church from Thursday November 29th to Sunday December 2nd.

On Thursday November 29th we will welcome Jo Bostock from BBC Radio Leicester who has very kindly agreed to come along, open the festival and switch on the tree lights. This is a lovely occasion which brings village people together, many of whom will have decorated a tree. Tickets for this event will be on sale from early November and include refreshments.

By popular demand we will once again be holding a variety concert of local talent on Friday November 30th in church. Tickets for this event will also be on sale from early November and will include a glass of mulled wine in the interval.

The festival is open to the public on Friday November 30th from 9am to 5pm, Saturday December 1st from 10am to 7pm and Sunday December 2nd from 11.45 to 5pm. A Christingle Service will be held in church at 10.30am on Sunday. This is an all-age service and everyone is very welcome to come along and make a Christingle.

Refreshments will be served throughout the festival in Trinity Rooms; these will include homemade soup and roll, and a variety of homemade cakes, tea and coffee etc. There will also be a children's and adult tombola and a grand raffle, with lots of super prizes, so do come along and join in this amazing event.

If you are interested in putting a tree in yourself or for your business, (it is free) please contact me Jean Cooke - jeancook45@tiscali.co.uk or phone 07775508289

Jean Cook



Paxillus Involutus

"Aaagh" yawned Sergei to his neighbour Klaus as he awoke from a deep sleep, "Did you hear the wind in the night?"

"Yeah", was the reply from Klaus, "quite something wasn't it."

"I'll be glad when the weather warms up a bit."

"Yeah, be nice to do a bit of sunbathing instead of hiding under cover all the time".

Slowly the days lengthened, with the change from winter to spring, warmer sunny days intermixed with cooler rainy days, even the occasional shower of snow, although it didn't affect Sergei and Klaus and their families too much.

All around their abode the signs of spring were everywhere, with grass growing fresh new blades, trees bursting into leaf with the blossoms on the blackthorns as usual preceding its leaves.

Due to their location deep in the forest, Sergei, Klaus and their relatives never saw many visitors, as they were off the beaten tracks, only the occasional naturalist, studying the particular species of flora and fauna to be found there.

Most days Sergei and Klaus had a chat, generally about the weather as most people in Britain find the weather and its vagaries a principal source of conversation.

The animals were of course ever present, rabbits hopping by in the twilight, stopping to have a nibble at various plants and trees, their noses always twitching as if they were ladies suddenly smelling something odious, field mice with their amazing climbing abilities to reach the seeds they live on, sometimes foxes would trot by, often with their cubs as if their parents were taking them sightseeing, even the odd badger.

However, one afternoon a family arrived in the dell, two adults and two children, the adults immediately sitting down in a cool shady spot, while the children roamed around, looking at the plants and flowers, the lichens on the trees and any animals, birds or insects that still remained after the loud laughter and calling between the children.

From their secluded spot, Sergei and Klaus and families waited with apprehension, hoping that the children wouldn't come too near, but their parents called them back shouting "Time for tea" and after eating slowly, wending their way out of the forest.

"Phew, that was close!" said Klaus, "they were getting a bit close".

"Mmm, you're right," replied Sergei, "thought I might have to try the old trick to get rid of them."

Peace reigned for a while, the summer days passing with the droning of insects fluttering of fledgling wings as they left their nests, predators prowling afoot or pawing, when

stealthily without warning, a man arrived in the dell, a basket over his arm as he looked cautiously about, peering into the bushes and undergrowth.

Seeing Klaus and Sergei, he stopped dead looking almost bemused at them, then peering closer for a better look.

Both Klaus and Sergei tried to hide away but it was too late, the stranger had seen them so they just stood saying nothing, until the stranger moved towards Klaus and tried to pick him up from the ground.

"Help, help, I'm being murdered" yelled Klaus, "get off me, help".

With an incredulous gasp, the man let go, and forgetting his basket with its contents dashed off out of the forest.

Coming to the next village, he dashed into the first shop he came to, and without any explanation blurted out "Mushroom talking, I've just heard some mushrooms talking".

"There, there, m'dear," replied the lady shop keeper, "you just sit down and take it easy, you've probably overdone it a bit".

"I did, I did, I heard them talking," said the stranger, "down in the forest just a few minutes ago."

"What were these mushrooms like then?" asked the shopkeeper.

"Brown red with lots of black spots, about four or five inches across."

You should get a guide to fungi" said the shopkeeper, "they're renowned for being highly toxic, even touching them causing hallucinations. People think they've heard them talking, I'd forget all about them if I were you."

Back in the forest, Sergei and Klaus settled down for another spot of sunbathing, secure in the knowledge they were safe for another few weeks at least.

William M Haynes

This story was placed third in our short story competition.



The Elder Tree

The elder tree (*Sambucus nigra*) is a small British native tree; its frothy white flowers in spring and dark shiny berries in autumn are familiar sights in the hedgerows around Barrow.

There's also a lovely cultivated elder tree called *Sambucus nigra* Black Lace. It has dark leaves, pink flowers and reddish berries in the autumn and is very pretty. You can use it in the same way as the native elder. You only need one elder tree to have berries because the flower has both male and female parts so is self-pollinating.

The flowers are popular these days for elderflower cordial. I was reading on the Belvoir Fruit Farms website that it was the first cordial that they ever made with everyone, family and locals included, out in the hedgerows picking the flowers.

The cordial is easily available these days. I did make some years ago, which was more successful than the elderberry wine we tried to make. What a mess! Just trying to remove the berries from the stalks was bad enough let alone making the wine itself! It stains, or it did us, hands, clothes, tea-towels etc. These days I rely on ready-made and some farm shops sell elderberry jams and jellies too.

There is much folklore written about the elder tree. Planting one, especially a self-set seedling, near to the house was thought to protect against lightning strikes and evil spirits. But to burn elder wood on the fire could have dire consequences, bringing death and disaster in its wake. This is because it was believed the wood released the devil into your home. Witches and the like are said to live in elder trees!



Elder Black Lace - (pink flowers)



Elder tree (white flowers)

Try cooking over an elder wood fire and the food isn't fit to eat. This is possibly because the wood has a nasty strong smell even before it's burnt! The wood has a pithy centre which, when removed, leaves the tubes hollow and suitable for pipes, chanters and whistles. The fairy folk, it's said, use instruments like pan-pipes made from elder. They love music and dancing especially on Midsummer's Eve. One much newer tale about the use of elder wood is found in the Harry Potter stories by J K Rowling. The elder wand is one of the Deathly Hallows. It's the most powerful wand in that magical world defeating all other wands it encounters...as long as you are the True Owner...

The tree is thought to have derived its common name of elder from the Anglo Saxon word 'aeld' (fire) and this is related to the fact you could easily remove the pith and blow down it. Fire was so important to the Anglo-Saxons as it provided heat for cooking and food. They used iron and flint to strike a spark and then blew down tubes of elder wood right into the heart of the fire like a primitive bellows.

Wildlife loves the elder tree. The flowers attract butterflies, moths, bees

and a variety of pollinating insects. The berries are a treat for birds and small mammals, quickly stripping the ripe berries in no time at all. The elder is also known to have health-giving properties, although parts of the tree are potentially toxic, which is why I would always recommend using medicines bought from reliable sources and not home-made. Elderflowers and berries are said to alleviate allergies and to boost the immune system. They are also said to be antiviral, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory and are often used in colds and flu remedies. Elderflowers are said to help sore red eyes, whilst a tea may have preventative qualities that boost natural good health.

It's so hot as I'm writing this! What a summer this year! My favourite go-to drink in this weather is elderflower cordial and iced water. You can find lots of recipes on the internet or in magazines, some using wine or gin, fizzy or still water and all very refreshing. A delight to eat with it is a slice of elderflower drizzle cake - like lemon drizzle only made with the cordial. I hope we have a fruitful autumn after the summer drought.

Maggie J

Barrow Panto Group is 21

I know coming of age is now considered to be 18, but I thought it would be nice to mention that 2018 marks the 21st year since the group's first production. It was Humpty Dumpty. Have you ever heard of a pantomime called Humpty Dumpty? Actually, I did go to a panto production at Hinckley a few years ago called, Humpty Dumpty, "Oh Yes I did!" It was nothing like the Barrow version.

In the early days of Barrow Panto, members of the group would write the scripts, sometimes just one person wrote it, at other times a group of people would make contributions. This went on for a few years, then for some time the group purchased scripts, but the home-grown ones were always the best in my opinion.

Going back to the big guy, I'm wondering if any readers remember the story of 'Humpty and Dina Saurus', with a multitude of nursery rhyme characters in addition to King and Queen Jel and their son... wait for it... Jel. Son! Plus their other children, the Jelly Babies! I recall that dear Doctor Earl was the dame. He could never remember his lines! We had such a lot of fun as I'm sure the group continues to do so nowadays. It goes with the territory!

It would be good to record some of your memories in the next issue of Barrow Voice. Do you remember Abanazar's beard flying off into the audience, the millennium production of Jack and the Beanstalk, the fire brigade having to come out at a dress-rehearsal as the smoke alarm had been activated or Richard (dame) having the whole audience on their feet doing Gangnam Style? So, if anyone who is, or has ever been, part of Barrow Panto Group has a memory they would like to share please write to me, Ginnie Willcocks, care of the editor of Barrow Voice at: editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

Ginnie Willcocks



*Prince Jel Son
(Craig Johnstone)*

*Sand, Gypsum and Gravel (Robert Marten,
James Thompson & John Canning)*

*Dina Saurus (Jackie Rodgers)
Humpty Dumpty (Tom Fairbrother)*

*Tweedledum and Tweedledee
(Ginnie Willcocks and Denise Harrison)*

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 Association.

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Village Diary

Sat 15th	Clock Club rummage sale in aid of paediatric oncology and cakes for MacMillan. 10.00 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club Barrow Show; Methodist Church; crafts/flowers/fruit/veg. Charnwood Orchestra Annual Concert at Holy Trinity; 19.30; tickets from the Library.	Sat 22nd	Barrow Open Gardens and Gardening Club present BARROW DOES AUTUMNWATCH including a Scarecrow Competition; The GAP, Baptist Church, 12.00 - 16.00
Mon 17th	Bishop Beveridge Club film: "Greatest Showman" 14.00 in Bish Bev hall; Members £4.00; non members £4.50	Mon 24th	ART Self help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club Barrow Book Club: "Wolf by Wolf" by Ayan Graudin; The Hunting Lodge; 19.30; New members welcome.
Tues 18th	Methodist Men's Supper Group; 19.30	Wed 26th	Bishop Beveridge Club visit to Taylors Bellfoundry (members priority) 414519 Talk in the Library: Laura Pearson, local author, 19.30
Wed 19th	Garden Club: Shakespeare's Flowers - Michael Brown; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30	Fri 28th	Bishop Beveridge Club canal trip from Pillings Lock with lunch at the Waterside, Mountsorrel 414519 Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Baptist Harvest Banquet; 12.30 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library
Fri 21st	Silver Sports ie Carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library Music Quiz in the library; 19.30	Fri 12th	Centre Stage: "The Importance of Digging Holes: the Great War and More"; 19.30 at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from Flower Shop, Library
Mon 1st	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome ART Self help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club	Mon 15th	Bishop Beveridge Club film: "Finding your Feet"; Bishop Beveridge Hall; 14.00
Tues 2nd	Sewing Workshop at the library Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30	Tues 16th	Baptist Coffee Stop; 10.15 to 11.45
Wed 3rd	Mothers Union	Wed 17th	Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30; Walk on the Wildside - Richard Adams
Thurs 4th	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society; Cons Club function room; 19.15	Fri 19th	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library
Fri 5th	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library	Sat 20th	Clock Club rummage sale in aid of paediatric cardiology at Glenfield - Heart Link 10.00 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club
Sat 6th	Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; 10.00 Craft & crochet in the Methodist Coffee bar; 11:00 - 13.00 BUSCA presents a Murder Mystery: "Death by Radio" performed by Barrow Panto Group; 19.30; tickets Flower Shop and library.	Mon 23rd	ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club
Mon 8th	ART Self-help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club	Fri 26th	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library
Tues 9th	Bishop Beveridge Club coach outing to Kings Lynn 413212 details	Sat 27th	BUSCA Ballroom Dance with Just Us; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Doors open at 19.00 for 19.30
Wed 10th	Bingo at the Bishop Beveridge Club 2.30pm. 413227 Barrow WI: Vanessa Savage: valuations of ceramics, jewellery & objets d'art; 19.30; Function Room, Cons Club	Mon 29th	Barrow Book Club reading "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte; The Hunting Lodge; 19.30; New members always welcome.
Fri 12th	Silver Sports ie Carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 "Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00	Wed 31st	Talk in the Library by Rainbows at 19.30
Thurs 1st	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society; Cons Club function room; 19.15	Sat 17th	Clock Club rummage sale in aid of Clock Club; 10.00 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club Barrow Youth Theatre: "Hairspray"; 14.00 matinee and 19.00; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets: from Flower Shop, library and BUSCA website
Fri 2nd	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library	Sun 18th	Barrow Youth Theatre: "Hairspray" 17.00
Sat 3rd	Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; 10.00 Craft & crochet in the Methodist Coffee bar; 11:00 - 13.00	Mon 19th	Bishop Beveridge Club Film: "Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"
Mon 5th	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome	Wed 21st	Bingo at the Bishop Beveridge Club 14.30. 413227 Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30; Christmas Crackers - Janette Merillion
Tues 6th	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30 Sewing Workshop in the Library; 14.00	Fri 23rd	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 "Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00
Wed 7th	Mothers Union Fun Quiz at the Bishop Beveridge Club 14.45 start	Mon 26th	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.
Fri 9th	"Let's get crafty" for adults; library; 13.30 - 15.00 Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Baptist Dance with Tea; 14.30	Wed 28th	Christmas Glass Fusion Art workshop. The Bishop Beveridge Club; 14.00; 414519 to book. Talk at the library: Demonstration of Christmas table flower arrangement by local florist at 19.30
Sun 11th	Remembrance Day service and parade	Thurs 29th	Christmas Tree Festival
Wed 14th	Bishop Beveridge Club: Fun Quiz; 14.45 Barrow WI: Annual Meeting and Christmas Tree making; 19.30; Function Room, Cons Club	Fri 30th	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library Christmas Tree Festival
Fri 16th	Silver Sports i.e. carpet bowls, table tennis, snooker, coffee and chat; Baptist Church/GAP; 10.00 - 12.00 Let's Get Crafty 13.30 - 15.00 in the library Barrow Youth Theatre: "Hairspray"; 19.00; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets: from Flower Shop, library and BUSCA website	Tues 4th	Parish Council meeting; PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome; public participation at approx 19.30
Sat 1st	Christmas Tree Festival Methodist Minimart and Coffee morning; 10.00 Craft & crochet in the Methodist Coffee bar; 11.00 - 13.00 Switch on of Christmas Lights & Street Market 14.30 - 17.30	Wed 5th	Mothers Union: Christmas Celebration Bingo at the Bishop Beveridge Club 14.30. 413227 Gardening Club; The GAP-behind Baptist Church; 19.30; Annual General Meeting (7.30pm members only) and Party Night (8pm All welcome)
Sun 2nd	Christmas Tree Festival	Thurs 6th	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society; Cons Club function room; 19.15
Mon 3rd	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome ART Self help group; 12.30; Bishop Beveridge Club	Wed 13th	Barrow WI: Chocolate by Tom Phillips; Function Room at Cons Club; 19.30
		Sat 15th	Clock Club rummage sale in aid of Rainbows Hospice; 10.00 - 11.30 in Bishop Beveridge Club

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

EVENTS



BPG Murder Mystery
'Death by Radio'
Saturday 6th October

Centre Stage
The Importance of Digging Holes. The Great War and More
Friday 12th October

Autumn Dance
with Just Us
Saturday 20th October