

BARROW *Voice*



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WINTER 2007



Holy Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival



Diwali Feature
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New Beat Bobby
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Editorial

Why does Christmas seem earlier?

Is it an age thing? When you are a child, you long for Christmas Day but the wait appears to be never-ending. Now it seems to arrive earlier each year which is strange, after all there is no surprise about the date! We hope you enjoy this seasonal edition.



The end of the year is always a time to look back and also forward to 2008. Our aim is to keep improving and this year we made the decision to pay more to make Barrow Voice even better with a higher quality paper. It is thanks to our advertising revenue that we were able to do this and we hope you like the results. So this brings me to the inevitable end of year thank yous, to our advertisers obviously, to Barrow-upon-Soar Community Association (BUSCA) for its support and encouragement, to Mulberry Square for layout and print, and last but by no means least to the Barrow Voice team, all volunteers who give up their spare time to plan, write, take pictures, create adverts, send invoices, edit, proof read, distribute and maintain the website.

What a team! Have a great Christmas and we'll be back in the New Year.

News

Jane Tindle is the new Echo correspondent

Margaret Earl has been the reporter for the Loughborough Echo Barrow Village News for 14 years. She has now decided that it is time to retire. Barrow Voice and the Community Association would like to take this opportunity to thank for her hard work and commitment over all these years.

Two years ago, Margaret distinguished herself by winning the Silver Quill Award for services to the Loughborough Echo newspaper in the Village News section.

Taking over the reins is Jane Tindle. We are delighted to welcome her to a role that is so important to the success of so many village events. Jane asks that your notices, reports and press releases are typed wherever possible and that, if you humanly can, you email them to her at jane@tindle01.fsnet.co.uk

Her phone number is 01509 414201 and if you need to pop an article in to her, she lives at 45 Melton Road. It is down the jitty between Melton Road and the top of New Street. Even more tricky is that you have walk through a wooden gate off the jitty and walk down between houses no 49 and 43 (the Orange Box) She will need material by the Monday evening at the latest if you want an entry into that week's Echo. She will consult the Village Diary and the Folder as well as take articles sent to her. The Village Diary and the Village News folder are kept in Barrow Library. If the library is shut, put your item through the library letterbox clearly labelled for the folder. Jane also asks that she receives a copy of every poster that is displayed in the village.

Jan Hind has kindly agreed to provide the report of Parish Council meetings.

So please: DO USE ALL THE AVAILABLE METHODS OF SPREADING THE WORD OF YOUR EVENTS AND NEWS: the Echo Village News, the Village Diary in the library, the What's On monthly sheet (phone Mike Morley on 412982), the village website www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk the new notice board outside the library (key at Barrow Express, next door and at the library) and..another new one: the board in the entrance to Visual Answers.

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News

Barrow Voice welcomes new businesses

The year 2007 seems to have been one of 'all change' for Barrow shops. Since the last edition of Barrow Voice, we welcome three new businesses: Barrow Express on North Street, and Sparkles and Victoria Jane Home and Gift on High Street.

Barrow Express is a mini supermarket/convenience store that replaces the Spar. Raja Thomas, the new proprietor, has completely transformed the shop, inside and out and is justifiably pleased with its new appearance. Opening hours are 7.30 am - 10.00 pm on Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 10.00pm on Saturday and 10.00 am - 10.00pm on Sunday. Raja has introduced DVD rental and has stocked his shelves with a very wide range of goods, from groceries, wines and spirits to magazines, household items and pet food. He runs special offers that are highly competitive eg 2 litres of milk for just 99p.



Sparkles' address is 3, High Street. It is run by Shane Marsh and offers ironing, dry-cleaning and general house cleaning plus repairs and alterations. You can take your curtains in for dry-cleaning, for example, or you can contact Shane on 414777 to arrange for free collection and delivery. Or you may wish to arrange for weekly/daily/fortnightly cleaning of your house.



The third new business is Victoria Jane Home and Gift. Situated at 15, High Street, this central location will be a welcome addition to Barrow's shopping 'centre'. Victoria Jane is selling an impressive range of specialist lines including Yankee Candle, Bombay Duck and Gisela Graham as well as hand-crafted cards and other gifts. The telephone number is 01509 412701 and the shop is open from 9.00 until 5.30 Monday to Saturday.

We wish all these businesses well.

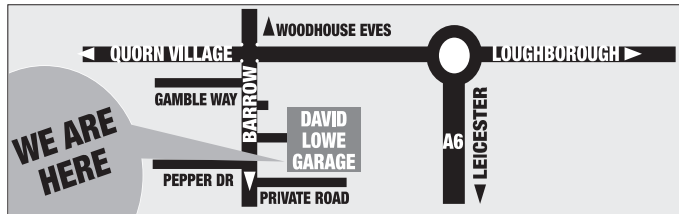


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News



Marans 2007 – the experience of a first time twinning family

It had seemed like a really good idea at the time - why not finish off our holiday in France with a visit to Marans and take part in the 10th Anniversary Twinning Celebration? We can book our own accommodation and join in (or not) as much as we feel like, playing it safe just in case we didn't get on with anyone...or so the plan went!

First of all we joined the Twinning Association (was it really only £6 for the four of us?) on a wet January evening and were made incredibly welcome by all the 'old hands' and younger hands. It was after this that plans went astray as those great-looking self catering cabins in the 'Camping Municipal' that had plenty of online availability turned out to be fully booked for July, as did most of the other alternatives and we had already booked the ferries! No choice but to trust in the association to find us a host family to stay with. We were allocated a family, but communication before the trip broke down due to their e-mails getting stuck in the dreaded 'spam filter'. So it was into the great unknown- after all, who in their right mind would want to put up with an unknown English family, never mind the two under fives!

After a fantastic 10 days at Disneyland and the idyllic Isle de Re we approached Marans with some trepidation, not knowing what to expect. Suddenly we were there and joined the other 'twinners' in front of a picture perfect 'Hotel de Ville' with flags flying and brass band playing. We thought we must have coincided with another event in the town, but no; all this revelry, drinks and canapes were in honour of the Barrow visitors.

This theme continued for the next three days as each event laid on for us seemed to compete to be more exceptional than its predecessors - a welcome banquet, a river cruise with four course meal (yes, food and drink featured a lot!), culminating in a full day visit to the fabulous 'Puy du Fou' park (think of the scale of Disneyland but spectacles involving hundreds of actors and animals rather than rides).

The French couple that we stayed with, Didier and Collette, turned out to be hugely welcoming, living in an old converted farmhouse where the kids found endless features to explore. The eating and drinking went on late into the evening with valiant attempts at French and English on both sides. We have already committed to returning in 2008 - after all, there was hardly any time to explore the town of Marans, never mind the beaches, the port of La Rochelle, the Cognac region.....

Why not join the Twinning Association and get involved in the next visit? There is also a programme of great social events held throughout the year from wine tasting to magic evenings. Contact Kathryn Timmons on 416168.

You don't have to join the twinning association to get something out of Barrow's links with Marans. Simply visit the town and you'll be made especially welcome if you mention you're from Barrow.

Chris, Megan, Bronwyn and Lewis Payne





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News

Musical Developments at Holy Trinity

Some readers will know that Holy Trinity Church has appointed a new Director of Music. David Birchenough was appointed just before Christmas 2006 as organist and choir director.

Since his appointment we have been pleased to hear an exceptionally wide variety of music in our services and are fortunate to have appointed someone with David's talent and expertise.

Over the past year the size of the choir has increased, welcoming five new members. They not only sing for our regular weekly Sunday services, but have also sung at 15 weddings this year and taken part in major services and festivals at the church. In October they sang during the Organ recital, given by David, to celebrate 100 years since the current organ was installed in the church.

You don't need to be an expert but if you are enthusiastic about singing and would like to be involved in this growing choir we would love to hear from you.

Choir Practice is held on Monday evenings at 7.00pm. Please contact either David Birchenough on 07805 057360 or Revd John Whittaker on 01509 621834 for further details.

So that's what it was!!!

Lots to find out in the Heritage Group's latest publication: 'Places of Historic Interest in Barrow upon Soar'

Have you ever walked around the village and looked at some of the old buildings and quiet little spaces and wondered what on earth they were in the past? If so, wonder no more - your questions will be answered in the latest publication from the Barrow upon Soar Heritage Group.

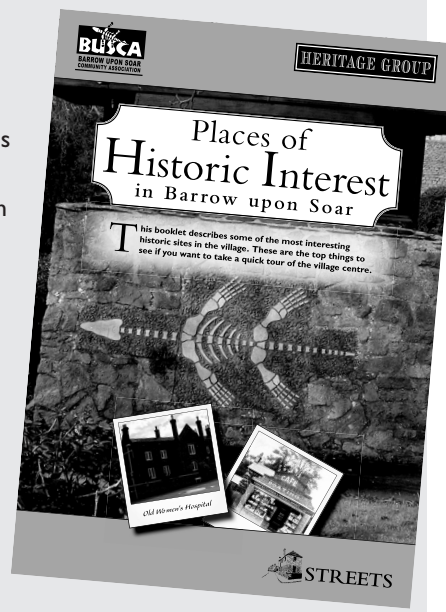
This publication, unlike previous offerings from the Heritage Group, is not a map, as such. Instead it is a handy little pocket-sized booklet, full of fascinating photographs of buildings both ancient and modern, together with information on their history and purpose throughout the years. Buildings like the Old Men's Hospital in Church Street, which was an almshouse, (a place where 'six needy, infirm or aged' could live their lives out despite their poverty). This was thanks to money left by Humphrey Babington, in honour of his uncle Theophilus Cave. The old men had to attend church and pray for Babington and his uncle. Needless to say you couldn't live on benefits in those days, so without this money the old men would possibly have starved.

Another interesting building featured is the 'Round House', first the Village Lock-up (a prison), then the home of the village fire engine and later the store for the coffin bier. (This was a trolley used to wheel the coffin to church for funerals.) There is an entry regarding the famous Barrow Deep Lock - a very important place when huge loads of goods were carried along the canals and well-maintained locks were essential to the barges' success. A more recent subject is the Millennium Sundial, which is a truly impressive modern structure and has one of the biggest gnomons in the country, surrounded by a chapter ring of granite blocks, very much in keeping with our local tradition of granite working.

The publication contains a referenced map showing the position of each place of interest and a photograph (or line drawing) of every one. Why not take your very own 'Barrow Heritage Walk' with this fascinating little booklet and learn whilst you walk.

Finally, and very pleasingly, the booklet is completely free of charge from The Paper Shop, Post Office, library and other Heritage Walks outlets in the village of Barrow upon Soar.

Jan Hind



Feature

The Origins of Local Place Names

Places, when they were first named, had meanings. Most place names in Britain are made up of two or more 'word parts' which refer to: the people who lived there (eg the name of a family or tribe); and/or the type of settlement (eg a town or a farm indicated by word parts like ham or ing or tun or by or thorpe); and/or something about the physical features of the place (eg near a wood or a river). The complication, for us, is that these descriptions were often in a language which is no longer spoken. The very first rule for understanding the origin of place names is that whatever the name sounds like, now, and whatever it seems to mean to our ears, now, is probably wrong!

For example: 'Breedon on the Hill' sounds as if it means something like 'the settlement of the Breedon family which is on a prominent hill' (and if you know the place it is a very prominent hill) but it doesn't mean that at all! What seems to have happened is that the ancient Britons (the Celts) called it 'The Hill' in their language (their word for hill was 'bree'). Centuries later, the Anglo-Saxons conquered the area and asked the locals what it was called: 'Bree' they were told. Right ho, they said, it is now called 'Breedun' ('dun' being the Anglo-Saxon word for hill) meaning Bree Hill. Centuries later still, the language changed again and the word for hill became 'hyll'. It then became 'Breedon Hill' or 'the hill called Breedon'. Which roughly translated means 'The Hill called The Hill called The Hill'. So good they named it thrice.

How do we know this? Well, it is informed guess-work by people who have studied the ancient languages. Unfortunately, some of these languages were not written down so what we know of them is based upon the reports of newcomers trying to learn the old languages. For example, 'The Domesday Book' of 1086 is a record of a census made by clerks who spoke Norman French. They went around the country finding out about the existing settlements from locals who mainly spoke Anglo-Saxon or Viking or Celtic. Not only did the Normans not necessarily understand what they were told or hear it clearly but their spelling was not standardised so the book is full of their attempts at writing down what they thought they heard in a made-up phonetic script. No doubt some scribes were better at this than others. Breedon is spelled 'Bruidun' in the Domesday Book: the rest is speculation.




Feature

Some local examples of place names

- Soar is thought to be Celtic - and therefore pre-Roman - meaning 'the flowing one' whereas Trent meant 'the trespasser' (ie liable to flood). Wreake was 'twisted or winding' in the language of the Danes
- Almost no names survive from the time of the Romans: they were abandoned or renamed by the Anglo-Saxons. The place we now call Leicester was called 'Ratae coritanorum' by the Romans (taken to mean the 'rath or circular entrenchment of the Corieltauvi tribe'). This became 'Ligera or Legra ceaster' for the Anglo-Saxons (meaning something like 'the settlement of Ligore's (?) people at the place that used to be a Roman city'). By the time of the Domesday Book it was being called 'Ledcestre'
- Barrow upon Soar was 'Barhou' in the Domesday Book. It is thought to mean 'bearu' (Anglo-Saxon - ie Old English - for a grove or wood') near the River Soar. It probably does not refer to a barrow as a burial mound as such places use the word part 'beorg' (as in Barrow near Oakham in Rutland)
- Loughborough was the fortified place ('burh') of the Anglo-Saxon man called Luhhede. Quorn, first listed as 'Querendon' in 1220, was the 'dun' or hill (Buddon Hill) where 'cweorns' or quern-stones were found for grinding grain. Hoton was the farmstead ('tun') on the spur of a hill ('hoh'). Walton on the Wolds was the settlement ('tun') of the British serfs/slaves (the 'Walas' from whence comes the word for 'Wales') on the wooded, high forest land (the 'wald')
- Most of the local names are Anglo-Saxon but, in this region there are, also, many names that reflect the Viking invasions of the 9 - 11th centuries. In Leicestershire they came, mainly, from what is now Denmark. The country was divided, roughly, along the line of the Roman road Watling Street (now the A5). North-East of this frontier was the area where the law of the Danes (the Danelaw) applied. This is the area which is full of names derived from the Scandinavian languages. Any settlement ending with the word part -by, for example, is likely to be a Danish Viking settlement. Sibleby means the farmstead ('by') of Sigulfr (a personal name). Rearsby is Reidarr's settlement. Frisby on the Wreake is the settlement of the people from Frisia or Friesland in what is now North Holland/Germany/Denmark. Normanton is the settlement of the Norsemen (ie Norwegians)
- The Norman French (from 1066 onwards) controlled the country but left relatively few place names in this region. The fact is that most of the towns, villages and hamlets in Britain were already in existence at the time of the Norman conquest (ie are at least 1000 yrs old). Local examples of French names are: Mountsorrel (possibly a reference to Montsoreau or Mont Sorel in France or to the colour of the granite hill ie sorrel-coloured); and Beaumanor Park (meaning beautiful - 'beau' - and 'maner' - meaning seat or manor)
- A few places were settled much more recently and their names reflect more modern word usage: obvious examples are Ellistown (named after John Ellis who opened a colliery there in 1875/76) and Coalville

Arthur Gardner

The Triumph of Good over Evil

Gaynor Barton goes to the heart of the Diwali celebrations in Leicester and talks to people in Barrow about this joyful Festival of Light

It's December and we are looking forward to the family gatherings, presents, cards and festive meals of the Christmas period, but to many people with an Asian background one of their biggest festivals, Diwali, has just ended. 'It's like your Christmas' Indian friends would tell me, so I went to the heart of the Diwali celebrations in Leicester, Belgrave Road, to find out more.

October 28th was the start of it all when the road was closed, the special illuminations switched on and singing, dancing and music filled the air. The party continued into the night with a great firework and laser beam show bringing the official part to a close. Informal partying went on for much longer. However, the first day of the five days of the Diwali festival only started the following week, working up to the highlight on Friday November 9th when once again the road was closed and celebrations like those of October 28th were repeated but with even greater gusto. So the celebrations were massive. Why, I asked myself? What's it all about?

Well the name, I learnt, is easy to explain as 'diwali' comes from the Sanskrit word 'deepavali' which means 'a row of lights'. Lights are crucial to Diwali as they are an important part of an extremely old story. This story, called The Ramayana, is a very long one, full of exciting incidents and bloody battles. Key parts of the tale were often told to me and I realised two facts are important to remember. The first is that the good King Rama loses his wife to an evil King Ravana who steals her and carries her off to his own kingdom of Lanka. The second is that the good King Rama is cheated out of his kingdom and spends 14 years in exile. But eventually it all ends happily: King Rama defeats the evil king in battle and is reunited with his lovely wife. Later he is able to regain his kingdom and return in triumph to his old capital where the delighted citizens welcome him home by putting lights along his route.

Therefore it's a classic story of good triumphing in the end. Yet there's another aspect to this tale and that's a religious one. King Rama is not simply a good, wise man but an incarnation of the God Vishnu, and therefore Divine, as is his wife Sita who is an incarnation of the Goddess Laxshmi. This is why Hindus visit temples during Diwali. As it's a great family time, many try to go to the temple in family groups, as well as meet in each other's homes for extra special meals and the exchange of sweets, cards and gifts. The homes themselves are usually looking their best as they have been cleaned very thoroughly before being decorated with streamers and lights, especially 'diyas' - little oil lamps.

House of Sarees

People too like to look their best. Wearing new clothes is very much an aspect of Diwali so I visited 'Anokhi - House of Sarees' where there was a wonderful range of sarees and punjabi suits from relatively plain ones to the stunningly glamorous. Bright colours are the order of the day for the festival - you must never wear black! I was fascinated to hear that some women try to have five new sets of clothes so that they can wear a new outfit each day of the five days of Diwali and look gorgeous every time they go out visiting their friends. If you are in this lucky position you grade your new outfits so that they increase in intricacy and glamour as you approach November 9th. Jewellery is important too and should always match.

If your saree is blue, for going to the temple on key days. If your saree is blue, for example, you should wear sapphires, if green then emeralds, or for white sarees diamonds are the most appropriate accessory. How lovely! You can always buy fake ones from the saree shops of course but for the originals find a jewellers. This is easy on Belgrave Road so I crossed over to Mr. Kishor Bagiya's shop at number 106.



Feature

Surrounded by walls bedecked with glistening gold chains, necklaces and bracelets he agreed that matching jewellery was worn if possible but went on to talk about the importance of gold at Diwali. I learnt that it was usually husbands who bought gold for their wives as gold always made a wife happy and husbands liked happy wives! He explained that very wealthy men bought the wide gold diamond encrusted bangles, the simply prosperous liked the matching gold necklace and earring sets and if on a tighter budget just a gold chain. Gold is particularly important as the Goddess Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity is worshipped during Diwali on a day called Dhan Teras. Traditionally a family would put any gold jewellery they had in front of a shrine to Goddess Laxmi and ask her to protect the family's fortunes over the coming year.

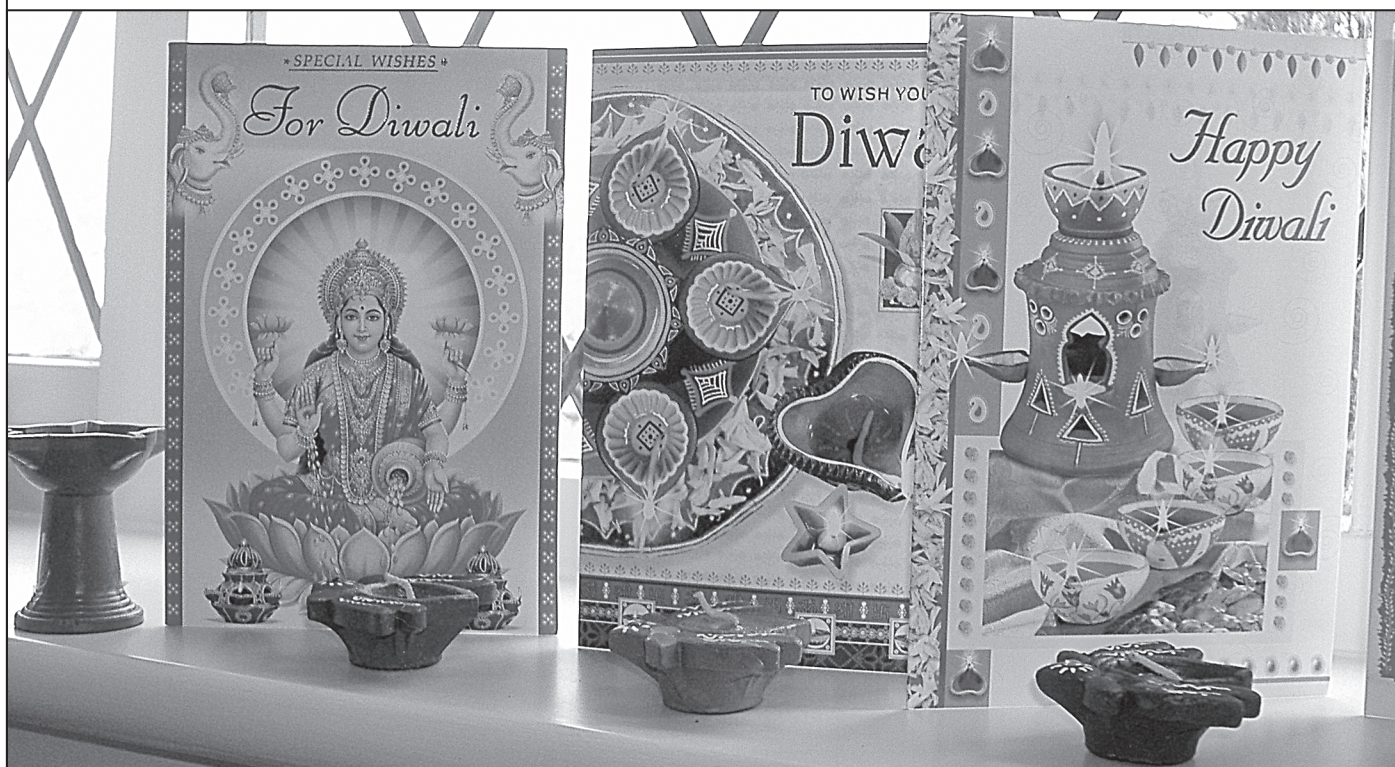
So from my time on Belgrave Road I learnt a lot about Diwali. Did any Barrow people with Asian backgrounds go there to celebrate Diwali I wondered.

Sheena and Daksha Patel would love to have more time to devote to Diwali but running Barrow Post Office gets in the way! Their festivities have to be squeezed around Post Office opening times but they do try to get to Belgrave Road for the switching on of the lights and the big day itself. They carry out the most important aspects of the festival such as meeting up for family gatherings, exchanging presents, sending cards, ringing relatives abroad, and going to the temple on key days. For Sheena and Daksha not only Diwali but the start of the Hindu New Year is equally important and so on both days they put away their work-a-day clothes and wear their best sarees. (The start of the Hindu New Year closely follows Diwali as everything is linked to the lunar calendar.) However, they stress that they don't buy five new sets of clothes each and don't always receive gold from their husbands! Very practically they talk about what they would like as gifts in advance.

Sunny Jassal of the Soar Valley Dental Practice very much enjoys celebrating Diwali too, but as most of her family live near London, she goes south and has never personally experienced the Leicester celebrations. However, another person who has is Jasvinda Ajimal, who lives in Barrow with her two daughters, but teaches in Leicester. Her approach to Diwali is more low key as she is Sikh and although her religion celebrates at this time it is for a different reason and more quietly. Jasvinda sends just a few Diwali cards to people she knows will really appreciate them and visits Belgrave Road with her daughters during the run up to Diwali. She feels at this time you can absorb the festive atmosphere but avoid the crush of the main days when 20,000 to 30,000 people are revelling in the road.

Yet it was talking to Mr. Mohammed of Barrow's 'Masala' Take Away that brought home the universality of this joyful Festival of Light. Mr. Mohammed's a Muslim from Bangladesh but sends sends Diwali cards to all his friends- 'Hindu, Muslim, Christian mix!' He says it's just celebrating the triumph of good over evil and everyone can celebrate that.

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People

PC 4206 Lynne Gilbertson: Barrow's NEW Beat Bobby

As you may know, Andy Houghton, who has been our beat bobby for the past two years, left Barrow in October to work for the police in the prison service. We thank him for all he has done in the village and wish him well in his new job.

Barrow Voice is pleased to welcome Lynne Gilbertson as the new beat bobby for Barrow and the Wolds villages to replace Andy. We hope she will enjoy working in our community.

After pursuing a number of careers, Lynne joined the Police Service seven years ago. A mere 18 months later, she took on the challenging role of beat bobby in Shelthorpe. She likes the idea of taking responsibility for a particular area: tackling problems and trying to find solutions. She says 'it is the positive side of police work'. She feels she has achieved some successes in Shelthorpe including securing the youngest ASBO(12) in the county. She is hoping that the young man, an influential part of a gang, will shortly have the ASBO lifted after good behaviour. As she says, 'everyone benefited: the community, the rest of the gang and the youngster himself'

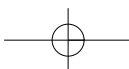
Lynne actively sought the Barrow/Wolds position. She has found the area to be 'full of nice people; a warm and welcoming community. People address their own issues in a very positive and healthy way. However, it is also a very large area and that will bring new challenges'.

She is busy establishing links with the Traffic and Youth Action Groups as well as with Neighbourhood Watch. In Shelthorpe she had built a really good relationship with local youngsters and she is confident that she will be able to do the same in Barrow, carrying on the excellent work of Andy and Nigel Ritchie, our Community Police Support Officer. She will be concentrating on antisocial behaviour in particular 'hot spots' in Barrow, trying to identify root causes so that she can begin to find solutions.

Although Lynne is married to a police dog-handler, she herself joined the force late. She feels this gives her a wide perspective: she knows what it is like to be an 'ordinary person'. She knows the kinds of expectations that the public can have of the police. She even knows what it feels like to be let down by the police. She wants to ensure that this doesn't happen, as far as possible, in her term of office.

Lynne's message to the people of Barrow: 'I would like to be a very visible and friendly face. I want to be approached and greeted. Please let me know if you have problems, however small. I will then try my best to help'.

Judith Rodgers



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People

Frances Davis: A tribute from Barrow Voice

Frances Davis, a truly remarkable woman, died this year at the age of 90. She was born in Cornwall and was very proud of her Cornish roots but Barrow became the home she loved.

Frances was five when her parents moved to Leicestershire. Being a brilliant scholar, she was educated at both Loughborough High School for Girls and Loughborough Grammar School for Boys where she studied sciences. For a girl to be educated at the boys' school was almost unheard of at the time but it seems her grandfather pulled a few strings. Frances excelled at school, becoming Head Girl and also captain of various sports teams. She could have gone on to Oxford or Cambridge to obtain a degree in sciences or classics or medicine but chose instead to go to the progressive University College of London where she gained a degree in Psychology.

It was whilst she was lecturing at Liverpool Physical Training College that she met her future husband Christopher. The couple were married when Frances was 23 and, as was the norm then, she gave up her career to become a full time wife and eventually a mother. The family moved to Barrow in 1946 and took on the restoration of the Old Vicarage next to the church. It had previously been the home of Cannon Drew. Being a railway fanatic, he had moved into his "dream home" next to the railway line. Frances's father died in 1943 and the young couple invited her mother into their home. She lived with Frances until she died 30 years later. Sadly Frances's husband died in 1951, only five years after moving to Barrow leaving Frances with two young children aged eight and six. Having her mother living with her proved invaluable as it enabled Frances to devote her considerable energies to the many good works she became involved with.

To name everything that Frances did would require several more pages but I will mention a few. In 1952 she was a founder secretary of the Bishop Beveridge Club and in the 1960s the trustees bought the old Adult School building, converting it into the well equipped and welcoming club house it is today. She was also a founder member of the WI which of course is a group that



still thrives today. She did voluntary work with the Leicester Diocesan Adoption Society for nine years resulting, 30 years later, in her still receiving Christmas cards and photographs from the adoptive parents who were by then proud grandparents. It was around this time that Frances became a JP serving on the bench for more than 25 years. In the late 1980s she was Deputy Chairman of the Bench and Chairman of the Domestic Court. She was chairman of the Trustees of Barrow Charities, President of the Loughborough YWCA, vicechair of John Storer House, a Church Warden, Senior Trustee of the Friends of Barrow Health Centre, organiser of Red Cross loans, a

Parish Councillor, and so the list goes on. Frances well deserved her OBE in recognition of the outstanding work she had done for the benefit of Barrow and beyond.

What a delight it would have been to sit and talk with Frances - she had such wonderful memories of 'old' Barrow. In an interview for Barrow Voice in the late 1980s she recalled that as a child she lived in Church Street quite close to Highfield Farm and could remember all the open spaces and the delph holes where she built dens near Fishpool Brook. She remembered children coming out of school at lunch time, (no school meals then). They would run down the grassy banks (now the Banks), over the Pringles, (now Breachfield estate) over the railway line (no council houses on Sibley Road) and onto Ellis Cement, all to take their fathers' dinner. Often they would meet up with Sibley children on the same mission. Then they would play for a while before hurrying back to school. Frances also remembered the village smithy shoeing horses opposite the church. The great event of the year was the united Sunday School outing. The young children would climb on the back of Jem Squires lorry while the rest walked behind the Barrow Silver Band on a tour of the village returning for tea and then on to Highfields Farm for sports. What a wonderful picture that paints of a time when such simple things gave so much pleasure..

Frances worked tirelessly for over 50 years to benefit other people. She loved Barrow and made such an impact that her name will be held in esteem for a very long time to come. Frances Davis was a truly remarkable woman.

Val Gillings

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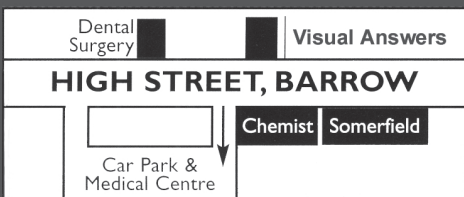
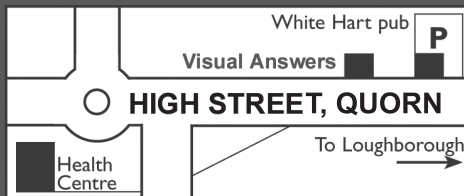
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Seasonal

Christmas Recipes

'Itsa my favourite time of year, snow on the ground, jingle bells and loza red, red wine!

Christmas Fudge

Squidgy, fruity, crunchy, sugary goodness!

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups of whole pecan halves
- 3 cups of sugar
- 1½ cups of heavy cream
- 1½ cups of chopped Brazil nuts
- 1½ cups of chopped walnuts
- 1 cup of candied cherries
- 1 cup of candied pineapple
- 1 cup of white corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put the pecans, brazil nuts, walnuts, candied cherries and pineapple in a bowl.
2. Mix together the sugar, cream, corn syrup and salt in pan. Bring to a boil, and cook to soft ball stage.
3. Remove from heat and add the vanilla.
4. Beat, then pour over fruit and nut mixture.
5. Press into a long pan.
6. When set, cut into squares.
7. Then yum it up!

Christmas Apple & Cinnamon Loaf

Itsa bella, bella witha your English Tea!

INGREDIENTS

- 2½ cups of flour
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1 cup of sugar
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- ½ cup of butter (to be melted)
- 1 beaten egg
- ½ cup of milk
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla essence
- 1 cup of peeled, chopped apples
- ½ cup of raisins
- ½ cup of chopped pecans (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C/Gas Mark 4)
2. Lightly grease a loaf pan all over.
3. In a mixing bowl, mix up the flour, salt, baking soda, sugar and cinnamon.
4. Add the melted butter, egg, milk and vanilla essence. Stir & mix well, whilst folding in the raisins, chopped apples, and pecans.
5. Pour the mixture into the loaf pan.
6. Sprinkle the top with chopped pecans.
7. Bake for 45 minutes or until the center of the loaf is cooked.
8. Leave to stand for 10 minutes in the pan before transferring to a wire rack to cool.

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Gianlucca Bazooka

Prune Crema Catalana

This Catalan specialty is similar to crème brûlée. The sweetness of the cream contrasts with the acidity of the fruit, and with the crispy topping it tastes magnificent!

INGREDIENTS

- 150ml red wine
- 50g stoned 'ready to eat' dried prunes
- 30g caster sugar
- 200ml double cream
- 2 egg yolks

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Simmer the red wine with the prunes and 10g of the sugar in a small pan until the wine has become syrupy and the prunes are completely soft. It should take 15-20 minutes.
2. Split the mixture between two small soufflé dishes or ramekins or use one medium-sized dish.
3. Bring the double cream to the boil with 5g of the sugar, remove from the heat and then quickly whisk in the egg yolks. Return to a very gentle heat and cook, stirring constantly for 3 minutes.
4. Take the saucepan off the heat and pour the cream mixture over the prunes until you reach the rim of each dish. Leave to cool and then refrigerate for at least 30 minutes, which will allow the cream to thicken.
5. Sprinkle the remaining sugar over the top of each pot. Caramelize the sugar with a cook's blow torch or by placing the dishes under a very hot grill for 2 minutes until it begins to bubble and turn golden.
6. Leave to cool before serving to allow the sugar to harden.

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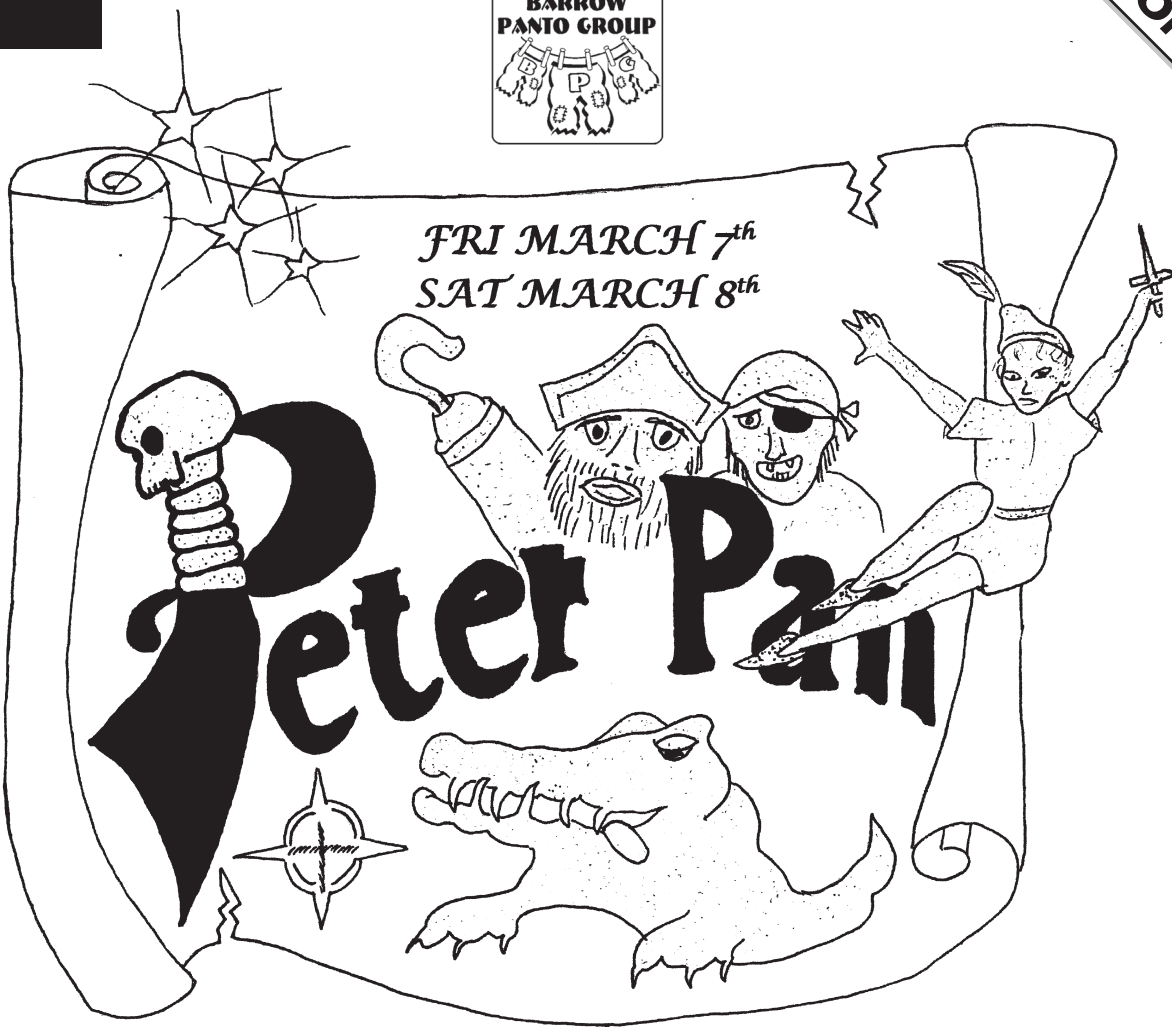
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Letters

'Elaine: this is what
Jerusalem roundabout
looks like in 2007'



Message from "Down Under"

Dear Barrow Voice Editor,

I have just read with interest the information on your (Barrow Voice) website, thank you very much.

My husband & I run a small business here in Perth, Western Australia and we are in the process of "importing" a mechanic from Leicestershire. I recently asked Mike that if he ever goes to Barrow Upon Soar would he please take a photo of the old church and to my delight he has! I used to go along to Barrow church as a little girl with one of your local residents, a lady by the name of Mary Bakewell. Mary passed away some years ago but I think her son Keith still lives in Barrow.

Mary and her husband Harold used to live in Nottingham Road, number 12 if my memory is correct. I used to catch the train from Leicester to Barrow Upon Soar and stay during weekends and school holidays. I loved the years I spent at Barrow and in my childhood dreams I thought I would grow up and live there myself!

I recall Bakey (Mrs Bakewell) telling me that she used to live in a house that was built where the existing roundabout now is (that's if it is still there; I am talking 38 years ago!!)

My last look at Barrow in 1969 was with the roundabout snow covered. It was a terrible winter that year and I saw Bakey the day before I left for Australia on February 23rd and arrived in Perth to extreme heat. We had five days of over 100 degrees!! It was such a contrast from the weather I had just left.

Great to read about the place I loved so much.

Thanks again. Kind Regards,

Elaine Martin, by email: elaine.tfs@arach.net.au if anyone would like to get in touch

Clarksonisms...or what the Jeremy Clarkson might say about Barrow...

Now I'm not one to stand in the way of progress and the need for more housing is inevitable. There are however going to be many, many more cars going down the High Street. Carbon emissions aside, just how are they all going to fit?

Well they're not! Anyone who stands waiting for the bus on any weekday with the ability to count on their fingers will soon lose track of the volume of vehicles currently using it. The effect of the additional weight of traffic will be overwhelming. But you're in luck, because there is a solution. And that is to bung another road in. Straight across from the new Cotes Road roundabout to the bypass at Quorn. Another one from Pawdy Lane, (or is it Melton Road) across the back of Breachfield through to Slash Lane and across the flood plain to Mountsorrel. OK, so there are a few houses, a railway and a river in the way, maybe even some bats and a wildfowl or two. But any engineer, a few strong armed blokes and a man with a gun can sort that out. Problem solved!

The Barrow ring road in place, local developers will drop an indiscreet amount of themed housing estates across the flood plain. Barrow Town Football Club will move into properties called 'The Belvedere' or 'The Dorset' and the WAGS will all shop on Barrow High Street thus boosting sales and re-vitalising the businesses.

I hear you say, -"wait a minute". There is an action group dealing with traffic management within the village at this very moment. I can also here Captain Mainwaring saying "I wondered when you'd spot that Wilson".

Yes, I know it's all too easy to knock the efforts being made to improve the life of the village, after all we now have a community police officer and there are well intentioned folk doing there darndest. Unpaid and selfless work. I genuinely respect their efforts. But as I said they can't stop the march of progress. With the new marina development at Pines (Pillings) Lock and its facilities for 300 boats, the riverside public houses will indeed benefit from greatly increased trade. Proctors Park might well enjoy a glorious revival, at least until some forward thinking planner decides the canal needs a by-pass.

Don't think for a second that if you are a boater you will get the opportunity to wander out of the village while you wait for your turn to use Barrow Deep lock either.

The council will take care of that. They will have the Slabs closed before you can say - "I've just walked the Pennine Way without incident, and I'm a pensioner" - Not good enough I'm afraid. Health and Safety! There are conkers out there.

The only safe way the get the kids to school from Quorn to Barrow and vice versa is by car, a 4x4 if you have one. Failing that any good gas guzzler will do. Carbon emissions? Someone else's problem!

So, in a nutshell - thanks, but I'm off back to the Cotswolds.

Clarksonism represents the views of Barrow Popular Front BPF (Current membership 1). A bit like the pile of bricks in an Art Gallery or the story of the King's new clothes. at the end of the day someone has to tell it how it is. And it's a bit of a mess.

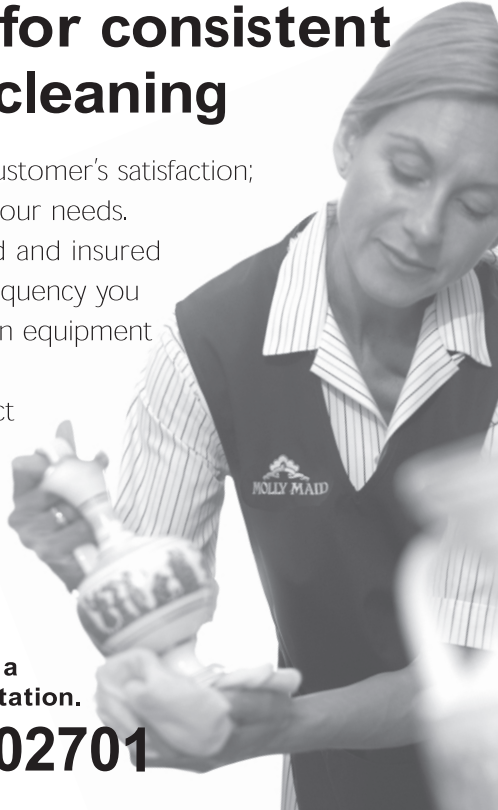


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Young Barrow

What an exciting October half term Barrow Youth Action Group had!

A craft teacher taught glass painting to seven young people one morning and then in the afternoon 10 learnt how to do encaustic art.

The glass painting was undertaken very enthusiastically with one young man completing nine items! They painted glasses, vases, and coasters, with flowers, animals, Christmas scenes and abstracts, amazing their parents with their creativity.

I had never seen encaustic art before and watched fascinated as first the teacher, then the youngsters produced incredible pictures with the hot wax. They were each given a key ring and a fridge magnet to put some artwork in. At the end of the day they asked whether we can do similar things every half term!

On the Saturday we hired a climbing tower which was sited on the King George playing fields for 5 hours. Fortunately the weather stayed dry. We had a steady flow of young (and not so young!) men and women scaling the tower, clinging to what looked like tiny lumps of plastic. On the way up they did Spiderman impressions, then happily let go as the instructors lowered them to the ground. They were bound to get hungry and sure enough we had freshly barbecued burgers and hotdogs ready to buy! I think that by the end of the session everyone was exhausted but very satisfied; it was another excellent day.

The day the young people went back to college and school we heard that we have been approved to receive a grant for the majority of the money needed to put a youth shelter on the King George field. This is something that young people themselves have asked for. The Parish Council has very kindly agreed to fund the balance and also to provide ongoing maintenance and insurance.

What a week!



BOSCAPS 2007

This year's BOSCAPS was attended by over 300 children from Barrow and surrounding villages. It ran from August 6th for one week from 9.30 to 12.30 for children aged 5 - 11 years of age.

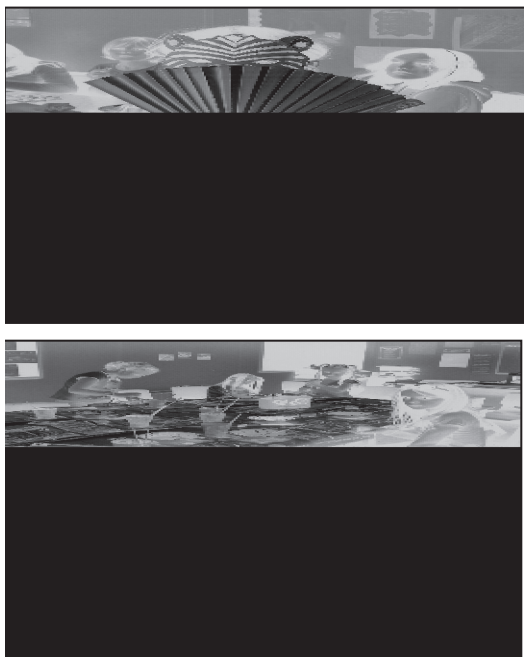
Children choose which activities they want to do, many taking part in all activities on offer: sport, crafts including T-shirt printing, designing your own flip-flops, patchwork, mask making and workshops on dance and circus skills. There were also trips to Drayton Manor Park, Twin Lakes and ice skating.

The scheme was supported by Humphrey Perkins High School, Leicestershire County Council, Barrow Parish Council, Barrow Community Association and Charnwood Borough Council to whom we give thanks.

Help is always needed and the play scheme could not run without volunteers. If you are interested in helping please contact either Alison Johnson on 01509 412142 or Carol Westbury on 01509 412385.

Don't delay: we're planning next year's BOSCAPS NOW!!

Carol Westbury



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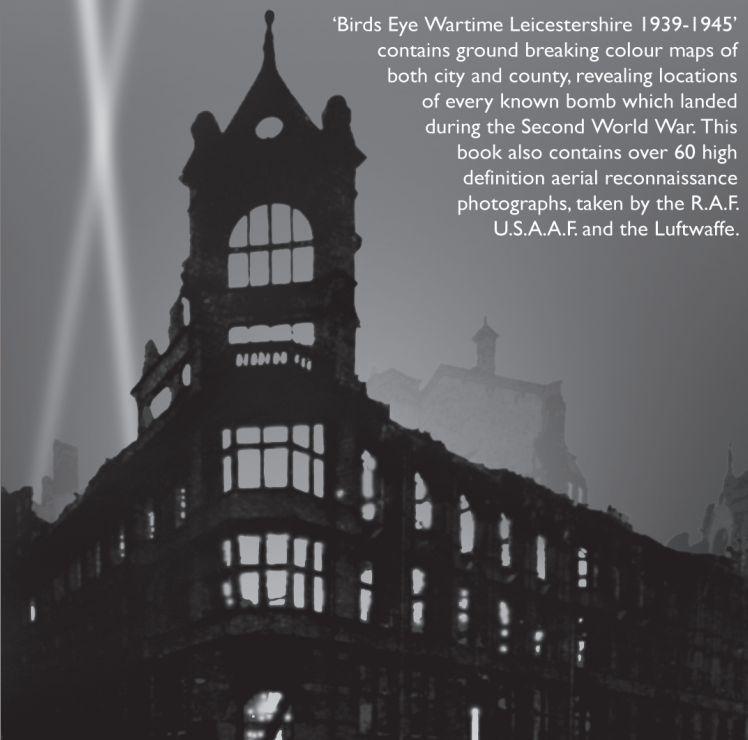
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Young Barrow

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Barrow Youth Action Group wants nominations of young people aged 15 - 25 years for partial sponsorship on a week-long expedition as an active member of crew on a Tall Ship.

The young person will have the chance to experience all aspects of sailing including sail changing, steering, keeping watch and visiting ports in Europe. There will be 36 young people altogether plus an experienced crew of 12.

We are looking for candidates out of the ordinary, who may not have spent much time travelling, and who may be willing to keep a video or photo-diary of the trip. Once all the nominations are in we will choose one person for the voyage.



INFORMATION REQUIRED

Name of person being nominated: _____

Their address: _____

Their date of birth: _____

Their parental signature if under 18 years old: _____

In less than 150 words tell us why you think they should have this opportunity:

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary:

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Your email address: _____

Name & address of referee who would support this nomination:
(eg school teacher or other professional person who knows the young person)

NOMINATIONS MAY BE SENT TO;
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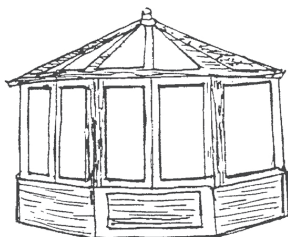
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Young Barrow

Young Barrow gets healthy!

Children at Barrow Pre School Playgroup have been learning about healthy living thanks to a grant from the Local Network Fund. They have been trying all sorts of unusual fruits and vegetables, and have undertaken the Healthy Eating Challenge with their families. This involved recording on a star chart the healthy foods they tasted at home, with the reward of a (healthy) goody bag for those who completed the charts.

David Lem, chef at the Pear Tree pub and restaurant and Playgroup parent, got the children making their own pizzas and talked to them about some more unusual vegetables they could use as toppings. A visit from the local dental therapist aims to encourage children to look after their teeth and a paramedic, complete with ambulance should be dropping in soon.

The children are also being encouraged to be more active too, keeping a Fitness Diary of all the exercise they do and undertaking a sponsored Autumn Toddle around King George V playing fields. Money raised goes to Rainbows Children's Hospice and Playgroup. New PE equipment has proved popular with tricycles and scooters, a scramble net and balance bars keeping children physically busy. Amy Doherty from Stage Coach will be teaching the children some simple dance routines. Even staff receive some training from the Top Start scheme to give them ideas for introducing children to sports equipment.

The Playgroup would also like to the Trap for their donation of £1000 raised at its annual music festival. This will be very welcome to replace worn equipment and fund activities and craft projects.





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Silver Jubilee Party at Brook Lane

Voice From the Past

Another glance in the Barrow Voice archives....

From Volume 2 No 1 September 1976

A wide range of evening classes at Barrow was announced, ranging from Art to Yoga and included Winemaking, Ballroom Dancing, and Metalwork.

The recently formed WEA offered courses on Comparative Religion, Music, Plays and Playgoing and Natural History.

Vol 2 No 2 October 1976

On 23rd November, the CA presented the EMMA Theatre Company in three short plays about the battle between the sexes in the past, present and future. The plays were: *The Bear* by Anton Chekhov, *See the Pretty Lights* by Alan Plater, and *Then...* by David Compton.

Functions held by the Womens' Conservative Association, The Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society, and Friends of Roecliffe, were announced.

Vol 2 No 3 December 1976

The Village Appraisal, 1975 - 1976, produced by the Parish Council contained many interesting facts. At the time Barrow's population was about 4410, with 1654 dwellings and the current policy was that no further major building development would be allowed beyond Humphrey Perkins School and along Nottingham Road. However, plans did exist for about 100 dwellings mainly on two sites: Barrow House, and an extension to Breachfield Road. There were three resident doctors, and the long awaited health centre was in the pipeline, although the lack of a local

dentist was deplored. The Rail Service Action Group was making strenuous efforts to get the rail service to Barrow restored.

Vol 2 No 5 February 1977

The 2 O'clock Club was formed, meeting on Mondays at the Church Rooms. A Mini PlayDay took place on 5th Feb with David Watterson. In an open letter Miss Walker, chair of the Parish Council, pleaded with everyone to participate in the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations on 7th June, and the same edition carried an appeal for a 'Village Crier' to publicise the events.

Vol 2 No 6 April 1977

It was reported that Rev M G Woodward MA CF was moving to the parish of Clare, in Suffolk at the end of April. It was also reported that the Pancake Race and Wheel Barrow dash held on Shrove Tuesday was won by Irene Murray and Heather Leader (wheelbarrow) and Pam Brown (pancake). The competition with Barrow in Suffolk was included and we retained the trophies.

Vol 2 No 7 April 1977 'June Revels'

The 4th Donkey Derby contrasted the dare devil riding of the Kamikaze Motor Cycle Rodeo, with the grace and power of Falconry, all rounded off with a Barn Dance. The Silver Jubilee arrangements provided a whole week of events including: Best Dressed Shop Window competition, special church services, a whist drive at the Bishop Beveridge Club, and a concert by pupils of Hall Orchard and Humphrey Perkins Schools.

On 6th June, two representatives of the youth of Barrow carried a message of loyal greetings to Beacon Hill to be received by the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of the Queen. Then, at 11.30pm, a bonfire was lit, part of a chain of bonfires the length of the country.

On 7th June, a procession of floats and people in fancy dress, led by pipes and drums and Miss Jubilee, started from Driver's car park. There were competitions, games, entertainment and an evening dance.

Applications were invited for a village handyman, hours to average 6 hours per week (312 hours per year), at a wage of £300.30 per year.

Vol 2 No 8 August 1977

The Scout Group thanked Mr & Mrs Middleton for the use of their garden for the Annual Fete, at which over £400 was raised.

The play scheme BOSCAPS took place and visits were arranged to Filbert Street, Ladybird Books, Boots factory in Nottingham, Brooksby Agricultural College, and Wollaton Hall.

The Bishop Beveridge Club, now over 25 years old, advertised their fete on 10th September which was due to be opened by Mr Frank Craven, of Misterton Hall.

It was announced that the Architects had started on the plans of the new community building at Humphrey Perkins, and that grants by Charnwood and the Education Authority had been made.

If anyone has old photos of these events, it would be lovely to get them scanned and put onto the village website. If so, please contact Jane Tindle on 01509 414201.



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Old Barrow

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Horses for courses

The main breed was the Shire, found in most districts of England it stood 16 to 17 hands and weighed about three-quarters of a ton although some were bigger and heavier. Common colours were bay, brown

and particularly good tempered and docile; the most useful characteristics in a work horse. In reality most working horses on the small farms were cross breeds. It would have been far more important to know which farm the foal came from and to have had a good look at its parents than anything else.

I still have vague memories of my father, Joseph Bird junior, working with two Shires; they were grey and as I remember were called Kitty and Blossom. Blossom was the older and was used where one horse was required. Kitty being younger and still in

He did however have many stories to tell of his time with the horse.

There were as many problems buying a horse in those days as buying a second hand car today. My father told me of the time when my grandfather (Joseph Bird senior) bought a horse from a persuasive dealer. It looked fine but it was not until it was put in the shafts that its true colours emerged. It had the habit, when it felt it was being worked too hard, of lying down. This of course either snapped or cracked the shafts. I thought it prudent not to ask what grandfather did with this horse.

Going back further to when my grandfather was a young man at the turn of the century, tractors were becoming available but they were still in their embryonic stage and considered by many to be more temperamental and unreliable than horses. On a cold wet morning it was more by pure luck than mechanical reliability that the tractor would start. This made catching an unwilling horse child's play by comparison.

I don't think my grandfather ever drove a tractor or ever wanted to. His life was spent solely with working horses. As a young man he would take a stallion around to the various farms to service the mares. I think he must have thought this a much better job, escaping the hard graft of farm work for a while. He would be away from home sometimes for as long as a few weeks. He got the chance to travel beyond the local Village, see other farms and meet other people. He would sometimes be shown great hospitality and given a warm bed for the night; at other times he would have to spend the night in the stables with his horse. It was on one of these trips that he met his future wife Lydia, my grandmother. She worked as a cook in one of the manor houses he visited. No doubt he would have been well looked after on these occasions.

Dave Bird

CORRECTION

In Dave Bird's previous article about hay-making, it was stated, incorrectly, that his family has farmed four Barrow farms, including Barrow View Farm. A reader has pointed out that Barrow View Farm lies on the site of what used to be called Brook Farm and that the Bird family did not farm there.



Joseph Bird Senior binding near to Fish Pool Brook at Cream Lodge, Pawdy Lane.

and black, greys being less common. The Shire was rather slower than other breeds. It exerted its power steadily which effectively put less stress on the harness than a snatch would. The Clydesdale, again a popular breed, had a greater length of leg and a rather lighter body making it appear taller, though in fact it was a similar height to the Shire- because of its longer leg it was a faster mover than the Shire and tended to be favoured where road work was important.

The Suffolk Punch, distinguished by its barrel shape and bright chestnut colour, was popular on the wetter heavier soils because its legs were free from feather and therefore easier to keep clean. During the 1920s a new breed was introduced from France- The Percheron. It was smaller than the Shire but a quick mover

training worked alongside Blossom when ploughing or when other heavy jobs needed to be done. When I was a child these animals seemed absolutely enormous. My father would lead Blossom to the side of a field gate which I would then climb in order to get on her back; her back was so wide it was like trying to sit astride a large barrel and as she walked she rolled from side to side making it necessary to cling onto the harness on the head collar but what an exciting ride for a six year old.

Horses versus tractors

My father's younger life would have been spent with the heavy horse but by the time I came along he was beginning to look with some envy at the neighbours who had tractors. Eventually he clubbed together with his brothers to buy a couple of Standard Fordsons.



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- The Latest Village News Items
- Reports On Issues Affecting People In The Street - Young & Old
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- The Latest Community Events
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Village Life

Holiday at Home 2007

A time for laughter, excitement and learning

The summer included for a good number of our 'seniors' a week of laughter (how many fingers do you need to play a recorder when you have no music and have only just discovered which end to blow into?), excitement (sailing, even on the Avon, with the assurance of the 'skipper' that water in the hold is purely incidental!) and learning (a wok is not to be worn, but can be used to help provide a sumptuous meal, watch this demo).

Through the Baptist Church link with the elderly at its Luncheon Club and Happy Hour and by general invitation in the village for the first week in August, groups met each day other than the Thursday day off for a programme of events including Lunch, Flower Power, Stratford, Make mine Music and Healthy Living done dangerously in the best sense!

Gallons of tea, stacks of sandwiches, quantities of cake, loads of laughter, 'ohs and ahs' accompanied the serious pleasure of friendship and fun together. Who said that the elderly do not know how to let their hair down?

Age Concern was the organization that provided the focus for our giving.

Watch out for the reunion and the programme for 2008 as it unfolds.

Judith Morrison



Playmates

Parties for
2, 3 & 4 year olds

Be amazed as the children discover the puppets, bubbles, teddies, games and activities, all hidden in the magic box.



Juniors

Parties for 5, 6
& 7 year olds

- Crazy dancing to the latest hits
- Wacky Games and Karaoke
- Funky Prizes and Party Bags

For more information, call your local party leader on **01509 413873** or email jackieandverity@jabberjacks.co.uk or visit www.jabberjacks.co.uk



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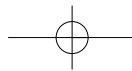
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Village Diary



www.barrowvoice.co.uk

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- Thurs 6th** WEA Tim Fisher course part 2; 10.15 - 4.00; Scout Hut
- Fri 7th** Centre Film: Scout HQ; 7.30; "The Grinch" (PG): Christmas-time entertainment for all the family
- Sat 8th** Clock Club Christmas Jumble; come and join in the carol singing; mince pies and refreshments; Church Rooms; 10.00 - 11.30; Surplus to Barnardo's. Everyone welcome. Admission free
- Sun 9th** BUSCA presents another Centre Stage production: musical: "The Hired Man"; HPHS; 7.00pm; tickets from the Paper Shop
- Mon 10th** WI; Members Evening; Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
- Tues 11th** OAP Tea; Hall Orchard Primary School
- Fri 14th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30
- Sun 15th** Holy Trinity Coffee Morning; Church Rooms
- Mon 31st** New Year's Eve Ball and Party; 8.00; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; Tickets from the Paper Shop

- Sat 5th** Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning
- Tues 8th** Parish Council meeting; starts 7.00 with public session; Parish Council office; all welcome
- Wed 9th** Gardening Club 'WATER GARDENS AND WATER FEATURES' Speaker Jeff Bates
- Fri 11th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
- Mon 14th** WI at the Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm

- Sat 2nd** Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning
- Tues 5th** Parish Council meeting; starts 7.00 with public session; Parish Council office; all welcome
- Wed 6th** Gardening Club: 'INTERESTING SHRUBS FOR ALL THE YEAR ROUND' Speaker RJ Gregory
- Sat 9th** Clock Club Jumble Sale
- Mon 11th** WI at the Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
- Fri 15th** Labour Party Quiz night; Bishop Beveridge Club
- Sat 16th** BUSCA Valentine's Dinner Dance; HPHS; 7.00 for 7.30; "Just Us" duo Tickets from the Paper Shop

- Sat 1st** Methodist Mini mart and Coffee morning
- Tues 4th** Parish Council meeting; starts 7.00 with public session; Parish Council office; all welcome
- Wed 5th** Gardening Club; 'GROWING VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS' Speaker Graham Wagstaffe
- Fri 7th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm
Panto Group: "Peter Pan" the Panto; HPHS; 7.00 - 9.00 Tickets from the Paper Shop
- Sat 8th** Clock Club Jumble Sale; 10.00 - 11.30; Church Rooms
Panto Group: "Peter Pan" the Panto; HPHS; 7.00 - 9.00 Tickets from the Paper Shop
- Mon 10th** WI at the Bishop Beveridge Club; 7.30pm
- Fri 14th** Baptist Church Luncheon Club; 12.30pm

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

BUSCA EVENTS

- December 9th** "The Hired Man" a musical that has had world wide success. Performed by the New Perspectives Theatre at 7.00pm.HPHS Community Centre.
- December 31st** New Years' Eve Party and Ball with dancing to the Danny Rogers Big Band, HPHS Community Centre
- February 16th** Valentine's Dinner Dance with Just Us
- March 7th and 8th** Barrow Panto Group performs "Peter Pan, the Panto" HPHS Community Centre, 2.00 and 7.00

Tickets for all these events can be bought from The Paper Shop, High Street, Barrow

