

Barrow Voice



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Winter 2015

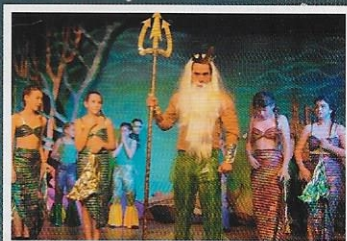


Inside this issue...
Cotes Road: Why dig it up?

**BARROW
FOCUS**
see page
17



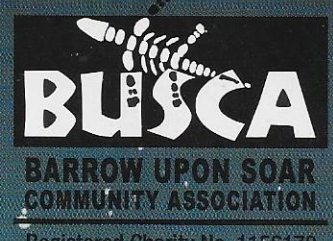
Towpath Closed!
Page 19



Little Mermaid
Page 21



Barrow Voice is 40
Page 30



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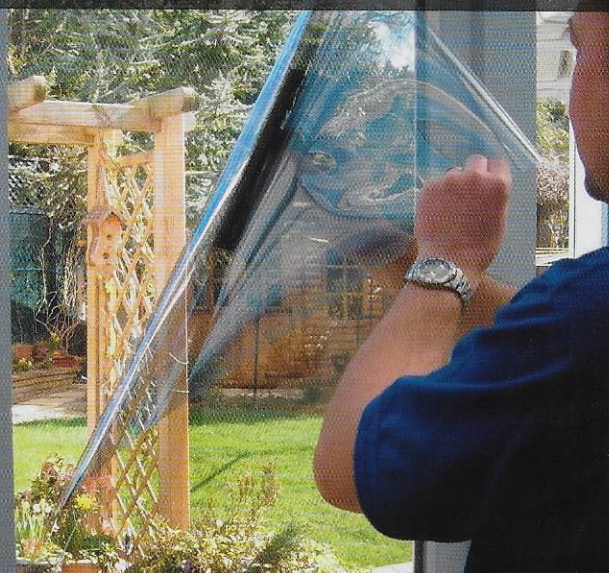
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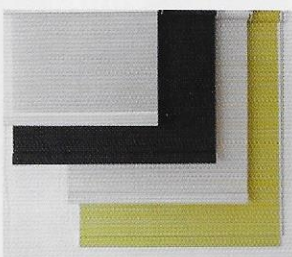
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Editorial

I read recently that the editor of the Daily Mail is given 2,000 stories everyday from which 100 are selected. Wow! The Barrow Voice team doesn't come up with quite so many, but in this edition we do range far and wide. As well as publicising all BUSCA events and reviewing the Murder Mystery there are two nostalgic features: Alan Morgan remembers life in Barrow years ago and Christine Dredge goes back to the early days of Orchard Kennels.

As a contrast Elliot describes being in Edinburgh for the Fringe this summer and Julie rides the Roberts No. 27 bus to Syston or wanders the jitties counting her steps. We even cover a little civil engineering: Ginnie interviews men repairing the towpath and I talk to those who dug up Cotes Road.

Finally at the end of the magazine, in the sports section, you'll find Steve's unique Rugby World Cup blog. There's a lot to read in this 36-page winter edition. I hope you enjoy every page.

Merry Christmas,

Gaynor Barton, Editor

Front Cover : Barrow from the air (December 28th 2014) Dave Bird

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Bishop Beveridge Club Members and Committee, may I thank all the volunteers who have made it possible for our library to continue to offer excellent services to our residents. Without these hard efforts by the Management Committee and the support of the Parish Council, there is no doubt that we would have lost what is a vital service to our community. We hope that it will continue to thrive. In addition any new services will be welcomed and supported by us all.

Thank you again in appreciation,

Joyce Noon (Mrs)

Chairman: The Bishop Beveridge Club

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the feature earlier this year about Judith Rodgers' love of outdoor swimming.

Like Judith, I moved to the Midlands having lived for many years by the sea. Initially we moved to Wymeswold and although I loved the village I felt very 'landlocked' so as soon as I discovered the much more 'watery' Barrow on Soar I managed to persuade my husband to move there. So 5 years later we did so, and we have now lived in Barrow for over 30 years. Although I still miss the sea, not only for the open expanses of water but also for the beautiful sea air, moving to Barrow has certainly meant that I feel more at home. I soon discovered that it was possible to swim in the river and was amazed how few other people shared my interest. There did used to be a group of youngsters who would turn up at the weir in the summer, but I rarely encountered any other adults. There was also a notice warning that swimming could be dangerous next to a strategically placed life ring!

So whilst recognising the potential dangers of swimming (in common with almost every other activity) I do feel that it is very sad that the opportunities which are on our doorstep are not more fully appreciated. Indeed in these very regrettable 'times of austerity' and closures of publicly owned pools, it is probably even more important that we try to make use of what nature provides free of charge.

See you in the water next year!

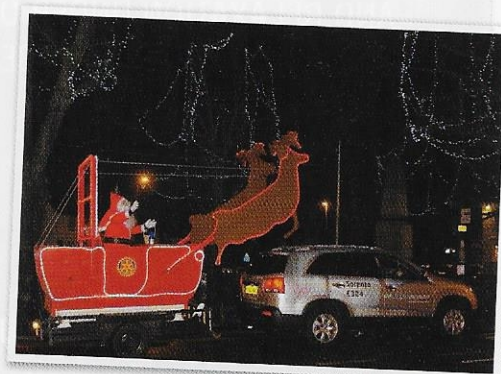
Sheila Taylor

Soar Valley Rotary Club's Santa's Sleigh visiting times in Barrow

The Rotary Club's Santa will visit Barrow upon Soar on three evenings in the lead up to Christmas: Thursday Dec 10th - Willow Road area, Friday Dec 11th, North Street, Thirlmere Road, Babington Road and finally Tuesday Dec 15th - Mill Lane and Melton Road area. The sleigh will tour these areas between 6pm and 8pm.

As usual, Santa will be greeting families whilst Soar Valley Rotarians will be collecting for Rotary Charities. Look out for Santa, give him a wave, and should you wish to donate he will be very grateful. All the money collected goes to charities large and small such as Wishes 4 Kids, Rainbows, LOROS and the Air Ambulance.

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BRAG Housing Development Update

(Barrow Residents' Action Group)

Jelson Homes – up to 292 units on land at Melton Road – The Breachfield

This developer has outlined planning permission for up to 292 units from May 2013 and earlier this year submitted a Reserved Matters application detailing site layout, height of buildings and the building materials to be used. We referred to the intention to build three storey units on rising land as aiming to create a Rural Manhattan. Our local Ward councillors, Cllrs Pauline Ranson and Hilary Fryer 'called in' the application for determination at a meeting of Charnwood Borough Council's planning committee. At this time there is no information when this application will be heard, although we do know that the Borough's planning officer sent back the application to the developer with a number of requirements for change, and by the beginning of October 2015 had not received a reply. Barrow Parish Council, your Ward councillors and BRAG will speak in opposition to this application at the planning committee. If you want to object by writing to the Borough Council the application number is P/15/0229/2.



David Wilson Homes – around 70 units at Orchard Kennels, Nottingham Road

This developer received full planning permission for this development in September 2013. At this time the Orchard Kennels website announces that the kennels will be trading until at least 7th April 2016 but we have no information on a starting date for building work. This site has been subject, post permission, to a number of issues including land ownership and access.

Barwood Homes – around 70 units at Strancliffe Hall, Cotes Road

Building work on this site is in progress and throughout the Summer (2015) extensive works have been on going to provide drainage for surface water (not foul water drainage). These works have required a sixteen weeks closure of Cotes Road and the attendant disruption. These works did not appear in the original plans for the site but are reassuring to Cotes Road residents who feared their properties would be flooded by water running from the site, across Cotes Road and in to their properties on the opposite side. The developer must pay for these works.

Morris Homes – 70 units at Catsick Hill, Cotes Road

An application by this developer was refused by Charnwood Borough Council's planning committee earlier this year (2015). The developer appealed the decision and a Hearing (in public but not a public inquiry) was held on 29th and 30th September 2015 in front of government appointed planning inspector Mel Middleton. The Inspector received statements from interested parties beforehand; the appellant (Morris Homes), Charnwood Borough Council, Barrow Parish Council and BRAG. During the inquiry, there were a number of representations from the floor opposing the developer, including the impact on the countryside and views across the valley to Charnwood Forest and the faulty operation of the foul sewers on Cotes Road which, on occasions, discharges raw sewage into the gardens of some existing properties. The Inspector made a site visit and to a number of key locations in the village including Barrow Railway Station, the primary school to see morning arrivals and the chaos caused by cars, the Barrow Bridge and traffic flows at peak times. A large amount of inquiry time was spent in arguments between the developer's representatives and the Borough planning officers and their legal representative on the appropriate calculation of land supply for building across the Borough at this time in view of the Core Strategy for housing and the impact of massive sites on the outskirts of Loughborough and Leicester.

The result of this appeal should be known by the end of October 2015, before this issue is delivered.

Alan Willcocks, Vice-Chair, BRAG

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The appeal by Morris Homes to build 70 houses on land at Cotes Road has been dismissed by the inspector. This estate will not be built.

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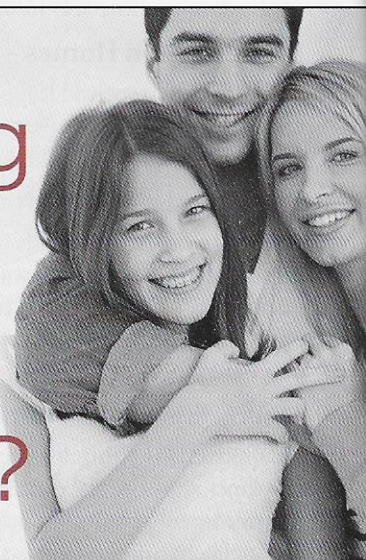
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Feather 'n' Fur Pet Supplies

When I first noticed the bicycle fixed to a lamp post at the bottom of Nottingham Road, advertising the pet shop, I decided to visit Feather 'n' Fur to have a chat with Graeme and Ann Fisher. Although I have been there as a customer often enough, it has never occurred to me before to find out about this long established Barrow business.

Graeme started the shop as a convenience store and off license in 1997, Ann helped out and then joined him full time in 1999. Previously, he had been a sales rep for Volvo and Ann had been a child minder. The conversion of the shop to pet supplies was the creation of a coincidence; a customer asked them to get in a particular kind of dog food. Graeme managed to track it down, but he had to buy a huge quantity. He risked it to oblige, but other customers wanted to buy it too when they saw it on the shelves. In no time at all, it was all sold. Shortly after, a rep. arrived unbidden, and tried to persuade Graeme to buy a particular brand of cat food for his two aging and ailing cats. Reluctantly, he agreed and was then amazed when the cats thrived, customers wanted to try it too - and came back for more! At this point, Graeme and Ann decided to switch to pet foods.

They specialize now in natural pet foods, with their own dog and cat feeds having 100% natural ingredients, no artificial colours, flavours or preservatives, nasty e-numbers (yes, pet foods have e-numbers too) and proper cuts of UK sourced meat. They have a loyal following of local customers mostly. The foods are based on hypoallergenic diets, free of wheat, gluten, grain and added sugars. They have a marked improving effect on dogs and cats with itching skin, allergies, hyper-activity and even some behavioural problems. Despite the lack of sugar, they are very popular with animals, proving that added sugar is not required in a quality feed. In fact dogs and cats, just like humans, do not need added sugar in their diet, but just as humans, it is addictive. Have you ever wondered why cats lick the jelly off most popular tinned food? It can be positively syrupy!

Graeme and Ann have wondered about selling animals, but have decided to take the moral stance not to increase the numbers of animals in Barrow, instead making sure that the ones that are here, are better cared for.

They have two dogs that are very much a part of the family. Their three children, Ian, Beth and Megan provide help so that they aren't completely tied to the shop but can get away with their campervan on short breaks.

So, sit up pet owners of Barrow, it isn't just humans that can benefit from a healthy diet!

Judith Rodgers



The Lily Room

Barrow has become something of a haven for the beauty industry over the past few years. A new business, The Lily Room opened in September, located in the premises of H2O, the hairdressers in North Street.

Jo Perry has been a beauty therapist for 20 years but has recently been working from home in Loughborough whilst raising a family. Ten years on, she was ready to take the next step: "It was a natural progression to set up my business within the beauty environment, now that my children are older" she explained. Jo specializes in massage and advanced waxing for women, in addition to the usual facials and nails etc. She is constantly amazed at how good modern beauty products, such as the Neal's Yard range, are. She loves working with their creams, lotions and scrubs.

After college in Leicester, Jo was determined to push the boat out and had some interesting adventures resulting from her taste for travel. She lived and worked in both Norway and Australia and really enjoyed becoming familiar with their different ways of life. She has retained her love of the outdoors, making sure that the family dog gets her out regularly into the countryside.

The Lily Room is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, as well as a late night on Wednesdays. You can book appointments by phoning Jo on 07527326544 or email her on j.mcdonagh231@btinternet.com

We wish her well.

Judith Rodgers



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Twenty Years of Orchard Kennels

I started working here in the early '90s when the owners were Jill & Ken Allen-Melvin. At that time, they only looked after donkeys, and our afternoons were spent mucking out stables and the kennels were very primitive in those days. Every year we held an 'Open Day for Donkeys' a very elaborate affair with donkeys and traps arriving from all over the country; with me doing the catering in the big barn.

Jill was a harsh boss who believed that everyone should work for his or her money. And we certainly did. We only had hosepipes bringing water to the 100 kennels, which meant that when the water froze in winter it had to be carried in buckets from the house. Every time it rained, the dogs had to be locked inside as there was no roofing on the outside runs. Eventually Jill and Ken decided to devote their time to the donkeys and the kennels went up for sale.

The new owners were John and Lynne Goddard and they asked me to stay on. John was a plumber by trade and his first job was putting water and heating into the kennels. Such luxury! We had hot water and a small kitchen. He also put roofs onto the runs so there was no more locking the dogs in when it rained. I got on well with John, but Lynne and I occasionally crossed swords. We had some funny times and some sad ones, but with John's health gradually deteriorating and following a bad attack by an Alsatian, they decided to retire and I was passed on with the sale. This time it was very different.

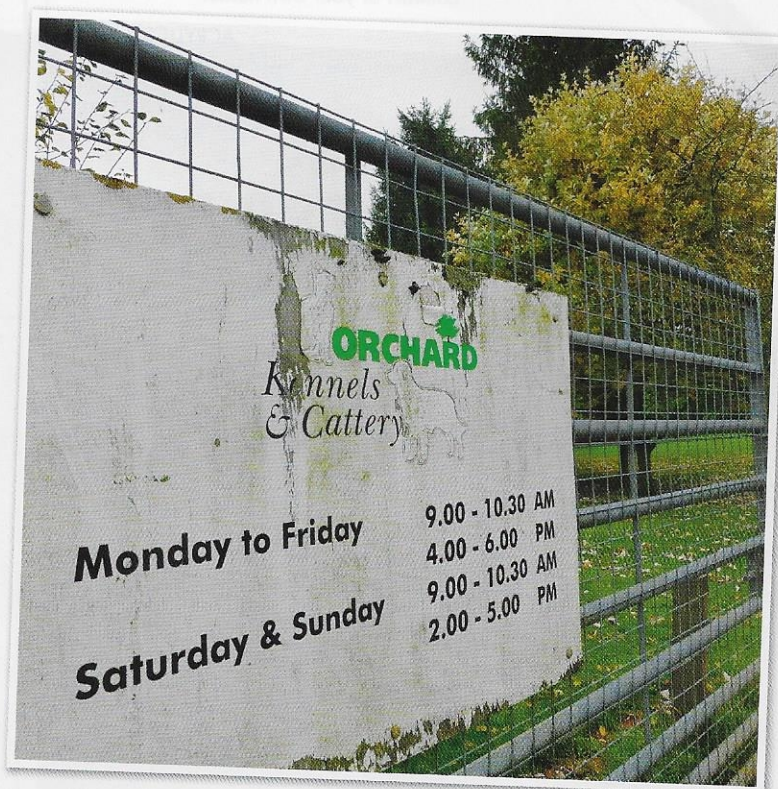
Hayley and Jamie Longstaff were moved in as managers by Mick Watts, the new owner, who we saw fleetingly once a week. Things started to change dramatically. The old cattery was turned into a 'Small Animals' kennel and a shiny new cattery was built complete with windows instead of open mesh. No more digging cats out of the snowdrifts! The old barn became a hydro-pool and two new kennel blocks were built.

The kennels were growing! Then something very challenging happened. The MOD kennels at Melton had some problems which resulted in them being closed with us taking 35 of the Police and MOD dogs that were in training. What a difference after being used for people's pets - though some of these could be nervous or nasty! These were NOT pets and we had to learn to treat them very differently as they were working dogs, a lot of whom would be going abroad to help save lives. Some of them were sniffer dogs - cocker spaniels and small Labradors. We did give them sly cuddles and for three years we learned how to cope. It was very sad when they finally left us to return to Melton.

Eventually, Hayley and Jamie moved on, and we finally got to know Mick & Katie Watts. They moved into Kennels' House, and we've all worked together for many happy and eventful years.

Now I've decided to retire. I've been through the lives of many animals: overjoyed when they came in as puppies and kittens, then crying when, in old age, they passed on. I've seen many young, nervous, and sometimes cocky thirteen year olds come to walk dogs through the summer holidays, only to watch them bloom into young men and women, some still coming back from university, or bringing their pets with their new families. Orchard Kennels has been a part of me for over twenty years and through it I've made many friends who I hope to keep in my retirement.

Christine Dredge



Christine's successor, Emily Brown, with Max (Shepherd) and Rufus (Cavi)

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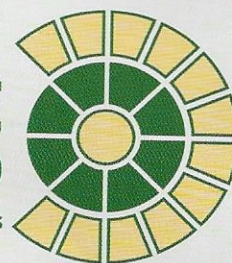
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Nose to nipple - skin to skin

If you are breast-feeding a baby in Barrow there's plenty of help around. Help? Why do mothers need help? Surely breast-feeding a baby is the easiest and most natural thing in the world? Well, the answer to that is, "not always."

I learnt about the problems when I visited Catherine Dyer, mother of two, and a newly qualified Charnwood BRAS Volunteer who lives in Barrow. BRAS stands for 'Breastfeeding Reassurance And Support' but of course is a cheerfully tongue-in-cheek acronym as brassieres are so crucial to breast-feeding mums!

New babies sometimes have difficulty attaching themselves to the breast which may be because they're not being held in the right position or because mum isn't clear about how best to help them latch on. Here the 'nose to nipple' phrase comes into its own. Don't aim the mouth, aim the nose, as it forces the baby's head back and the nipple slips straight in. If a mum gets worried about her baby not gaining weight in the first few weeks she may want to give up and reach for a bottle of formula. At this point BRAS volunteers can be crucial as they offer support and encourage persistence, as the benefits are so great.

There's evidence that breastfeeding is better than formula as the baby not only receives immunity from a range of diseases through the milk, but it also has longer-term advantages. Breast fed babies get all the emotional satisfaction of being held skin to skin with mum, and are less likely to be obese in childhood. Mum too benefits as she is less likely to develop breast cancer, and it's argued that breast feeding helps a mum get her former figure back more quickly. The other great advantages are that there are no bottles to make up and the milk's free! The recommended period is at least the first 6 months, but of course a few mums continue with occasional feeds until their child is three or four. The latest figures for mums still breastfeeding at 6 weeks is 69% in Barrow, which is brilliant as it's far higher than the more generalised South Charnwood figure of 48%. Yo - Barrow!

BRAS is a voluntary organisation with members across the whole of Charnwood. Four of these live in Barrow and all were trained by NHS and Local Authority staff over 14 sessions. You may hear about BRAS from your midwife, your health visiting team, BRAS active facebook page or from a friend passing on their help-line number. BRAS believe 'preparation is the key' and help with preparation for breast feeding through ante-natal workshops in which parents to be can latch a puppet correctly onto one of the BRAS famous knitted boobs! However, they don't assume everyone who attends will go on to breast feed; they just encourage women and their partners, or supporters, to come and learn more before making that final decision.

After baby is born, mums can attend breast feeding cafés held in 'Sure Start' centres in Loughborough, Shephed, Mountsorrel, Syston and Birstall, where either a health visitor or trained nursery nurse is always on hand to offer advice. Not just for Mums, anxious new dads and other family members can ring through to the help line for timely advice and support. If the phone isn't answered immediately then you can leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Thank you very much for your time Catherine. I'm sure your organisation is a sanity-saver to many a stressed out new mum.

Gaynor Barton



Catherine Dyer

If you would like to get in touch, here are some useful contacts:

website: www.charnwoodbras.co.uk

facebook: BRAS

Email: charnwoodbras@hotmail.com

Phone or text: 07583 041 054

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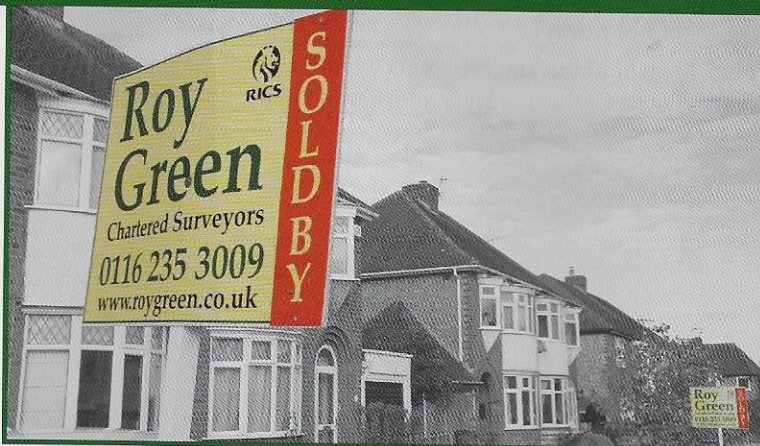


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Barrow Buses

Some people like to travel the world, but I get my travel adventures much closer to home. This week I decided to catch the number 27 Roberts bus to see exactly where it goes.

I waited at the bus stop on North Street, the bus was due at 10.10am and it arrived exactly according to the timetable. When I got on there were three other women, although two of them got off at the next stop in Nottingham Road. So there were only two passengers as we headed out along Nottingham Road, then turned right and rattled through Walton. It was a lovely autumnal day and the extra height you get from a bus seat meant that I was able to see over the hedges and walls. It's surprising what a difference that makes.

There was no reason to stop in Walton, so we continued along Big Lane then went straight across towards Seagrave. There, we turned left past the primary school and round the houses and the village green. Again, there were no passengers wanting to get on or off. Sileby was the next destination, where we stopped for my fellow passenger to alight. Briefly I had the bus to myself (apart from the driver of course), but at the very next stop a woman with two children got on (I'm guessing they were about seven and nine). One of the young girls sat at the front of the bus with her mum, the other one chose to sit nearer the back. For most of the rest of the journey the two girls carried on a conversation - loudly!

As we headed on down King Street in Sileby we followed the number 2 Kinchbus but that turned left into Swan Street while we continued to Barrow Road where we turned right and headed back towards Barrow then left into Slash Lane. During that time we picked up two more passengers. After turning right at the end of Slash Lane, we went onto the by-pass before going into Mountsorrel via the Budgens roundabout. By now it was 10.30am - so it takes 20 minutes to get from Barrow to Mountsorrel - although the route is definitely scenic! We then travelled to Rothley crossroads and turned left, by-passing Cossington. As we reached Syston at 10.45 there were six adults and four children on the bus. I got out at Syston, but the bus carries on to Thurmaston.

I had an excellent cup of coffee at Syston then walked to the railway station where I caught a train back to Barrow. It took just seven minutes.

That afternoon I decided to take the number 27 bus into Loughborough as I needed to buy a new vacuum cleaner. I waited at the bus stop by the Methodist church and again the bus was on time. It only takes ten minutes to get to Loughborough because the number 27 bus goes via Cotes Road straight into Loughborough. (The number 2 bus goes round Quorn first and takes 22 minutes to get to Loughborough). There were only four passengers.

I bought my vacuum cleaner and headed back to the bus stop but this time I caught the number 2 bus. These buses run every 30 minutes whereas the 27 bus only runs once each hour. The number 2 bus was busy and there was lots of friendly banter between the driver and the passengers.

Some villages do not have good public transport, but we are lucky in Barrow to have regular buses and a railway station - if you've never tried leaving the car at home - I recommend it.

Julie Gardner

A photograph of a bus stop sign for route 27. The sign is blue with a large green circle containing the number 27. Below it, it says 'buses leave this stop for Loughborough'. Further down, it lists 'Loughborough' with a travel time of 11 mins. There are two columns of departure times: 'Mondays to Fridays' and 'Saturdays'. Both columns show times 7.44 am, 8.44 am, and 9.44 am. At the bottom, there are two green buttons with the number 44.

Mondays to Fridays	Saturdays
7.44 am	7.44 am
8.44 am	8.44 am
9.44 am	9.44 am

A photograph of a bus stop sign for route 27. The sign is blue with a large green circle containing the number 27. Below it, it says 'buses leave this stop for Syston & Thurmaston'. Further down, it lists destinations: 'Rothley', 'Syston', and 'Thurmaston' with travel times of 30 mins, 40 mins, and 45 mins respectively. There are two columns of departure times: 'Mondays to Fridays' and 'Saturdays'. Both columns show times 7.10 am, 8.10 am, and 9.10 am. At the bottom, there are two green buttons with the number 10.

Mondays to Fridays	Saturdays
7.10 am	7.10 am
8.10 am	8.10 am
9.10 am	9.10 am


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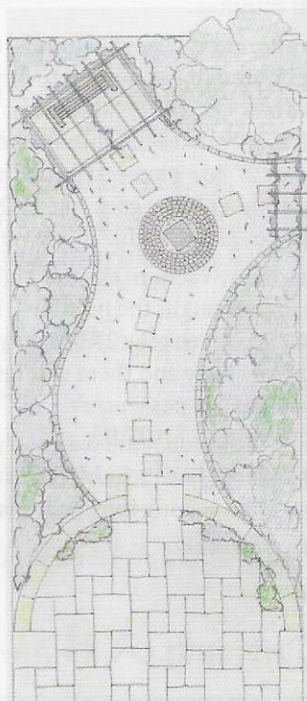
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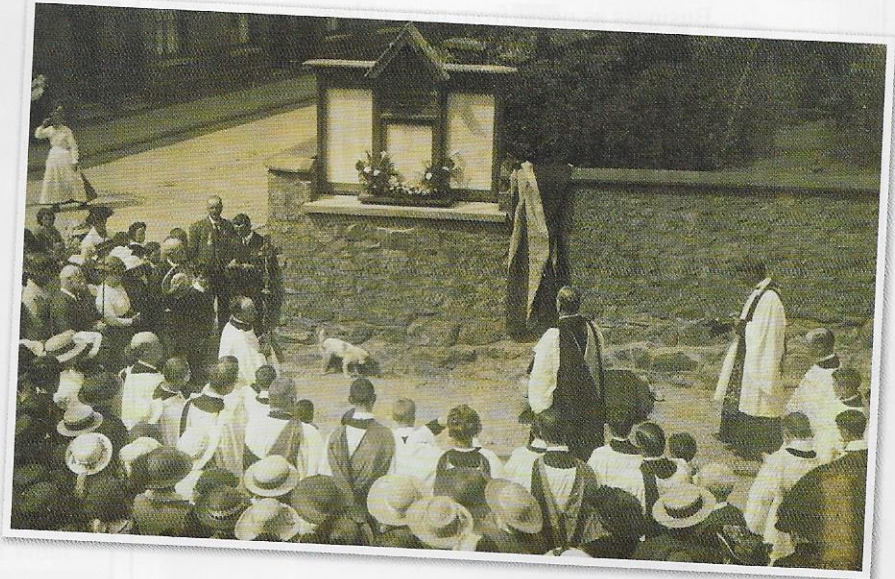
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In Conversation with Alan Morgan

These two wonderful photographs were given to me by Alan Morgan, a retired cabinetmaker and fountain of knowledge when talking about Barrow in his younger days.

The first photo shows the unveiling of the War Shrine by the Bishop of Peterborough on June 14th 1917. This was not a memorial to the dead. It listed the three hundred and fifty men who left the village to fight in the First World War. Flower vases were set into the shrine so that any villager could place flowers there and have a few quiet moments with their thoughts. Thirty-two of the men never returned. The shrine was set into the wall of the vicarage garden, on the corner of Church Street and North Street, where previously there had been a cottage. I resourced this information from Barry & John Wilford's book, 'Bygone Barrow'. No one knows what happened to the shrine.



The second photograph is taken from 'Town End Corner', which is now where the old people's bungalows stand on Nottingham Road. It looks posed as children stand around, a bike leans against an ornate lamppost and a horse and cart are just turning out of Breadcroft Lane. Further down is Monkey Row - where do these names come from? What a shame they are not still in use.

Alan's grandfather owned five of the cottages: the first three being thatched. These caught fire in 1940 and had to be reroofed with slate. Alan can name all the people that lived in the houses including Lijah (Elijah) Taylor, who was a chimney sweep. As a small boy Alan can remember Lijah buying a motorbike. He was rather nervous of the machine and although started it up outside his home couldn't stop it until he crashed into the gate of The Binges right at the bottom of Brook Lane! Needless to say he had to push it back home. Another lovely name Alan remembered was Scranny Albert (Shelton). He lived on Monkey Row and was gardener to Captain Huston.

What characters there must have been! There were two farmers from Cotes Road who always settled their differences with fisty-cuffs in the middle of the road after a few bevvies in the Bishop Blaize pub on South Street. Alan has given me a list of all the dwellings and the people who lived in them from Town End Corner to the bottom of the High Street and on the other side from Church Street to Breadcroft Lane. What a memory!

All those years ago apricots were grown in Barrow. Where The Three Crowns car park, now stands, was a large Victorian house, the Iliffes lived there, and next to it stood Alan's Dad's boot and shoe repair shop. The Iliffes garden ran behind Mr Morgan's shop, the row of cottages that still stand on North Street and also behind the Three Crowns. Within it was a walled garden and one of the walls contained cavities in which fires were lit to heat the bricks and supply enough heat to grow apricots. Brilliant!

When Alan was a boy there were three bus operators in the village: Squire's whose premises were where Marans Mews now stands on Warner Street, Cook's on Flesh Hovel Lane and Harris' who operated from his garage in the High Street. The driver for Mr Harris was known as 'one-arm-Smith'. Apparently while 'one-arm' drove one handed he also smoked a cigarette!



While Alan was still at Hall Orchard School, he played football for the Barrow junior team. He well remembers being taken to Shelthorpe by bus, walking to the ground, then, after the match, having to walk all the way back home - a good three miles. No one picked you up in those days.

When Alan passed his eleven plus, and went to Humphrey Perkins Grammar School, the sport for boys was rugby but Alan and his friends had a passion for football. One day they were caught playing football on the hockey pitch. They were lined up and made to put their outstretched hands on the grassy bank so that they could receive two mighty whacks of the cane.

Alan told so many stories that my pencil could not keep pace! Thank you, Alan, for giving me a glimpse into the past.

Val Gillings

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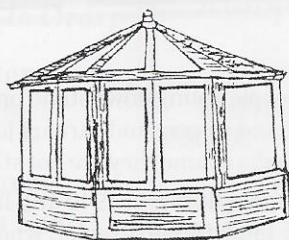
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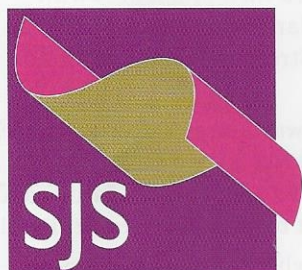
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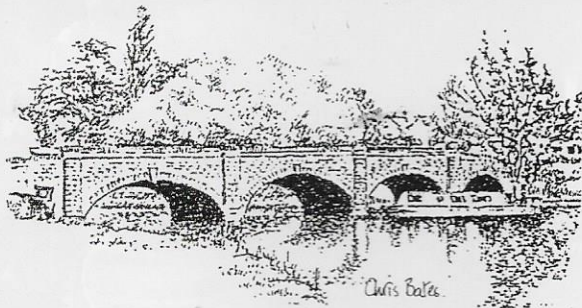
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Barrow Focus

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King George V Playing Field: Teen Area Official Opening

A dry and warm Saturday 31st October saw the official opening of the new 'teen area' at King George V playing field.

We were proud to have Matt Elliot, ex Leicester City Football Club player (1997-2005) and now commentator, to officiate. Although his time was restricted because LCFC were playing away at West Bromwich, he took time to chat to Barrow Town under 13s and under 11s. These teams interrupted their training for a short break and a 5 a side game on the new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). Matt also signed autographs and had pictures taken with those who came along. A good day for everyone as Matt's team, Leicester City, went on to beat West Brom 3 - 2. All youngsters enjoyed crisps and drinks, kindly sponsored by the village Cooperative store.



I.20 Bridle-path proposed extinguishment

Network Rail has submitted an application for a section of the I.20 (from Sileby Road, over the railway, toward Breachfield /Melton Road area) to be permanently closed.



Full details are published on the 'News' page at the Parish Council website www.barrowpc.org.uk

The following is an extract:

'Network Rail has stated that since the crossing is unsafe and given the lack of practical alternatives to cross the railway tracks, the route should be extinguished. Having received an application to extinguish the route, Leicestershire County Council is now seeking the views of interested parties before considering the matter.'

I would be grateful if you would let me have your comments on this proposal by 11th December 2015, and advise if it would be your intention to object to the proposal should the Council decide to make the 'Order'.

The Parish Council resolved to 'strongly oppose the extinguishment' at its meeting held on 3rd November.

Residents' comments should be sent directly to:

jane.x.moore@leics.gov.uk

Christmas 2015 Quiz

A selection of anagrams which could be: the names of Christmas songs, Christmas food, Christmas saints, Christmas animals or plants, activities you take part in at Christmas, famous Christmas gift distributors or things associated with the gifts themselves. If you find them all well done!

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. CONGRESS LIAR (5,7) | 9. I'M A POET MADMEN (9,4) |
| 2. CAN ASSAULT (5,5) | 10. SMART HERETICS (9,4) |
| 3. REFRESHED ERUDITE LONDONER (6,3,3,4,8) | 11. OFF THE SANE PEST (5,2,7) |
| 4. DRASTIC CHARMS (9,4) | 12. IN ACTION SLASH (5,8) |
| 5. IN THE GLINTS (6,5) | 13. VICARS THEMES (9,3) |
| 6. ENJOY MAD SHARP (4,3,6) | 14. HONESTY WARMS FONT (6,3,7) |
| 7. UNREADY CABS (6,5) | 15. TINY PAY VITAL (8,4) |
| 8. GAP PAWN RIPPER (8,5) | |

Puzzled? Go to page 25 for the answers.

Churches at Christmas

Churches Together in Barrow wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a peaceful and blessed New Year.

Holy Trinity

Sun 6th	10:30 am	Christingle Service
Sun 20th	6:00 pm	Carol Service
Thurs 24th	5:30 pm	Crib Service
	11:30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Fri 25th	10:30 am	All Age Holy Communion

Catholic Church

Thurs 24th	6:00 pm	Night Mass - Sileby
Fri 25th	9:00 am	Dawn Mass - Sileby
	10:30 am	Day Mass - Syston

Baptist Church

Sun 13th	4:00 pm	Christingle Service
Sun 20th	10:00 am	Community Nativity Service
	6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Fri 25th	10:00 am	Family Christmas Day Service

Methodist Church

Sat 12th	11:00 am	Nativity Festival
Sun 20th	6:00 pm	Carol Service
Wed 24th	6:00 pm	Crib Service
Wed 25th	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Praise

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TOWPATH CLOSED!

I was quite alarmed to see this sign on the gate to the towpath just as you enter the village. Then I remembered that the towpath here was virtually covered in water, and that you had to walk through the adjacent field to reach the proper footpath. Clearly, the local landowner was not keen on this arrangement as there's a sign that states, 'Private Property, Keep Out'.

Thankfully, the Canal and River Trust had identified the need for this section of pathway to be restored to its original state. I met Michael Banks, Canal and River Trust, and Tom Patrick, RHD Direct Limited, to talk about the work that is being carried out. Michael explained about the investigative work that the Trust has to conduct before work can begin on any restoration project. Heritage, conservation and ecology are just a few of the areas that have to be considered once a site has been identified. This means that a project begins many months before any site work can commence.

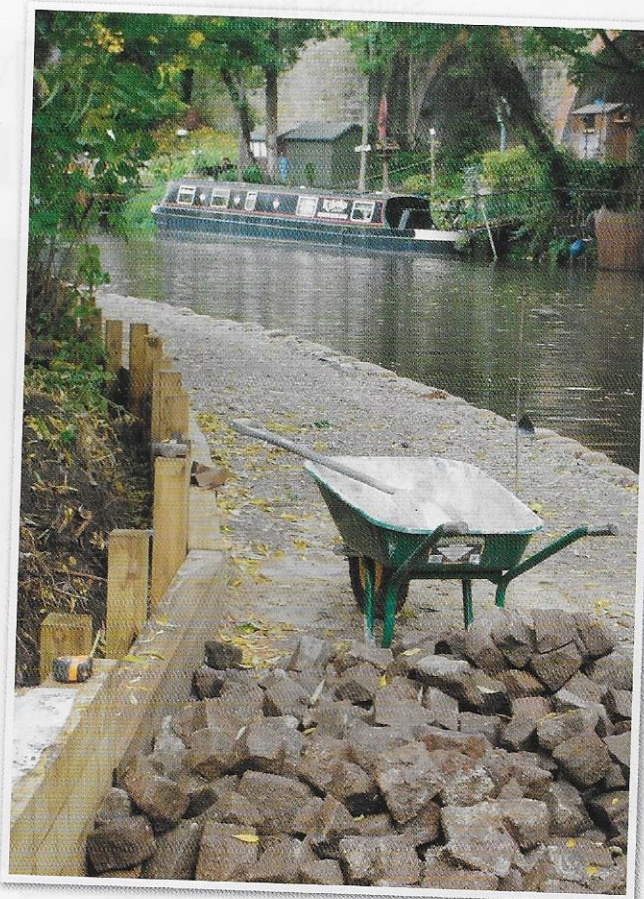
After a quick induction, plus an on-site Health and Safety awareness talk from Tom, I was issued with a hard hat and a hi-viz jacket, and then allowed on to the work location. I spotted a couple of piles of shaggy rubble, which on closer inspection turned out to be old granite sets that had been dug out of the tow path. These sets would have been laid down a couple of centuries ago when transport by canals and rivers was at its height. These craggy lumps of granite were buried in layers of soil, so had to be riddled to separate them from the earth as they will all be re-laid in the new path. I was also shown some of the granite slabs that formed the original wash-wall on the side of the riverbank. Over the years, many of these slabs had been washed away, or had fallen to the bottom of the river, so it won't be possible to restore the wall to its previous condition although the trust does aim to retain the natural fabric of an area, wherever possible. Instead, the wash-wall will be constructed from cement filled hessian bags, which will form a durable and efficient barrier. The bags are secured in place with 1.2m metal pins to prevent them from being washed away.

On the day I visited the job of re-laying the sets had just begun; quite a daunting task when the distance to cover is 150 metres, and is like completing a giant jigsaw without the picture! The sets were all hand cut but are not all the same shape and size but one surface is shiny, caused by the horses' hooves trotting along it many years ago. This shiny surface has to be upper side when the blocks are set in a lime mortar. The edge of the path nearest the riverbank will be covered with a layer of soil and will

be seeded with a mixture of grass and wild flowers. There is a timber retainer on the opposite side to keep soil from falling on to the path, especially at times of flooding.

The work was due for completion on October 19th and is to be officially opened a week later on October 26th. By the time you read this, the newly restored towpath will be open so all of us can enjoy this attractive riverside walk once again. Thank you to Michael and Tom for giving me the remarkable opportunity to visit this site whilst the work was in progress and also to the Canal and River Trust who will be looking for volunteers to help with completion of the restoration once the contractors have left the site. If you would like to find out more about volunteering visit the web site at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Ginnie Wilcocks



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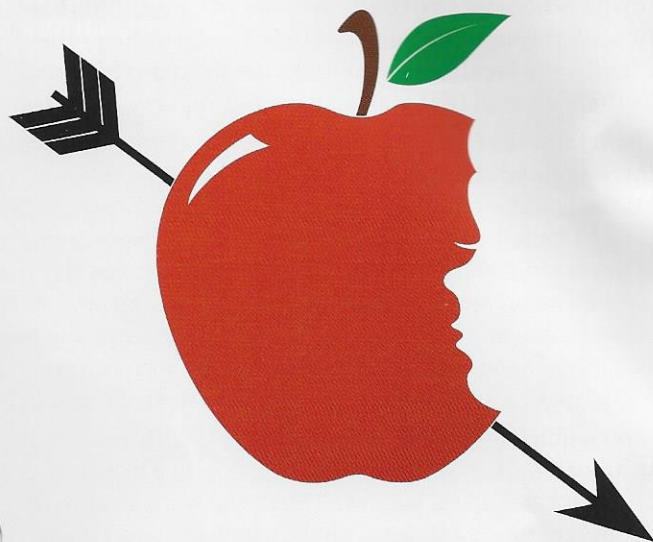
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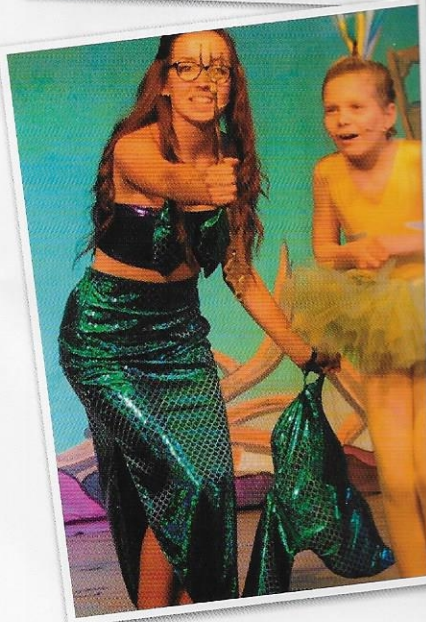
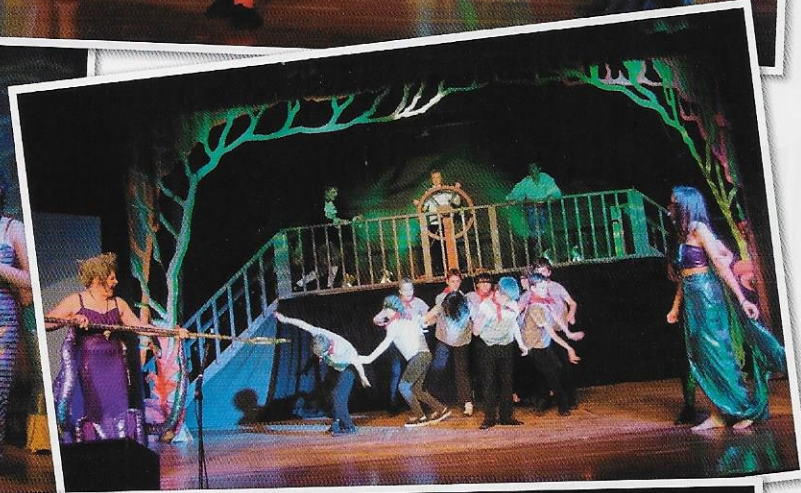
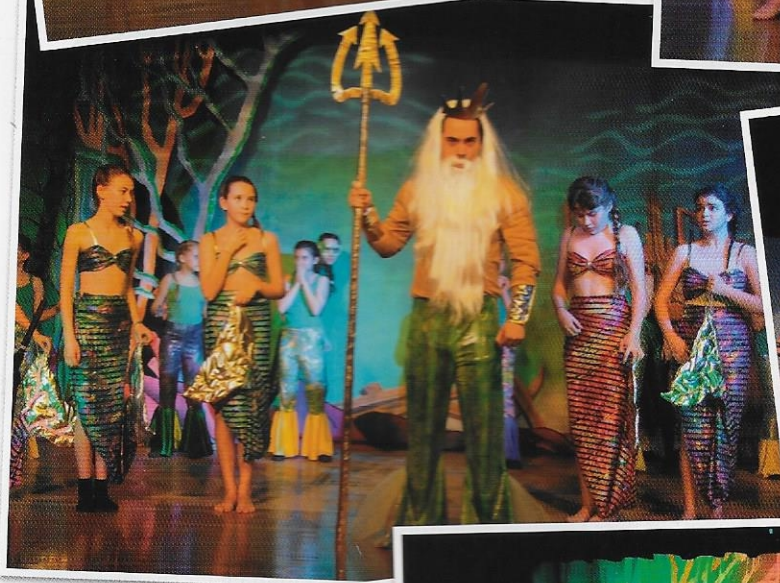
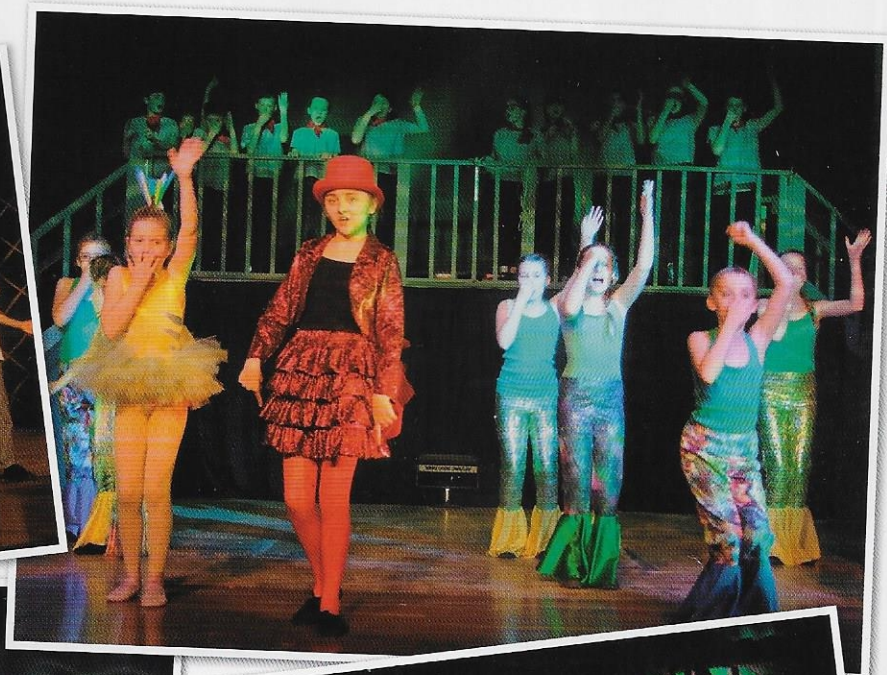
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VisualAnswers.co.uk Dyslexia-Eye.co.uk DryEyesTreatment.co.uk

* Professional examination and fitting fees may apply and are not included. Free trial offer limited to first 25 bookings only.

Award Winning Eyecare

See What You've Been Missing

Photos from Barrow Youth Theatre's production of The Little Mermaid





Where Did You Even Get That?

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is the world's largest arts festival and takes place every year in August. During this month the city becomes a hive of activity and life. People come from all around the globe to visit and see the enormous range of shows that are on at various venues across the city. This year I was among them, but not as a tourist, as staff.

Many of the venues, particularly the temporary ones, are owned by various groups and companies. I was fortunate enough to get to work for one of these companies for some of the festival. We spent a week setting up our venues; this included blacking out windows, setting up very expensive industry-level lighting, building each box-office (basically a small shed) and a considerable amount of decorating. Over the following few weeks I was taught how to run the box-office and how to direct and help people. It was a very enjoyable experience which I would recommend to anyone, even though I had to do a few evening shifts. The number and diversity of shows at the Fringe is endless; there is everything from low budget productions to award winning West End shows and everything from dance performances to dark comedies and professional comedians. Anything you could possibly be interested in watching is on somewhere. One of the many perks of being staff is that you get free entry to

anything on at your venues, or venues owned by partner companies.

However, as you might imagine, working at the Fringe involves staying there, which of course means staying away from home. Fortunately, another perk of the job is that some companies rent accommodation for the staff during the festival. All 20ish members of general staff at that company live together in a large flat, only a ten to twenty minute walk from all the company's venues. What I didn't realise was that having twenty or so 15 - 20 year olds all staying together, unsupervised, meant that every night was alcohol night. This may sound scary to some, but for all those parents out there rest assured that for a non-drinker, it's absolutely hilarious!

There is very little funnier than watching several drunk teenagers doing things. However, it's not what goes on after you go to bed, but what happens when they're still up, that surprised me. One morning I woke up to find a packing crate, one high heeled shoe and a random piece of board

on the mantelpiece. Nobody seemed to know where they had come from and it wasn't until the people who had 'found' them woke up at around 1 o'clock in the afternoon, that we learned how they'd got here. The next day I woke up to find more mysterious artefacts on the mantelpiece: that day's included a John Lewis shopping basket and a portion of Al Murray's face, not the real Al Murray, just the face from a billboard outside.

This continued for quite some time, apart from one day every week when the house was inspected and everything was hidden. By the end of my stay the list of stuff we'd accumulated included: a traffic cone, the rest of the Al Murray sign, two bed legs, the other shoe, a 'No Parking' sign and two out of six letters from a McDonald's coffee sign. I left before the festival finished so what happened to the collection at the end I don't know. All I know is that after I left it kept on growing. Whilst there, every morning my first words to anyone, were: "Where did you even get that?!"

Elliot Wilkes

Return to Talbot Manor Did you do it?

It seems a rather interesting coincidence that someone in Barrow is murdered on the same day every year. I wonder if there is an event that comes around regularly which results in someone's death. As it happens there is: Barrow Upon Soar's annual Murder Mystery, which was once again a complete success.

The team of actors gave excellent performances which made the show fun and interesting to watch. Many of the actors appeared to have just as much fun as the audience. Despite having very few lines Cringe (my favourite character) was always doing something hilarious which often involved staring at a random member of the audience for no foreseeable reason.

The turnout was fantastic with almost a full hall and every single person enjoyed themselves; there wasn't a single person I could see who didn't laugh or get involved. The ploughman's supper was delicious

and enjoyed by all. This was followed by a lovely slice of cheesecake.

The question and answer portions of the evening are always fun; it not only gives you the chance to find out a little more about the story, but also produces some funny questions. One such question is of course "Did you do it?" - This, obviously, is a pointless question because the murderer can lie!

Quite possibly the best round of questions was the 'secret question' round in which each table writes down one question that will be answered in front of everyone.

However, the question is not read out, so



the only people who understand the answer are the table who asked the question. As a result, most answers are a simple 'yes' or 'no', which doesn't give any clues away about what the question was, but is still very funny to watch.

If you didn't manage to see it this year, no doubt someone will be killed next year - somebody should really look into that! This year it was Truscott what did it.

Elliot Wilkes

Centre Stage presents The Origin of Species

BUSCA is relieved to be able to share the good news that Charnwood communities can still enjoy Centre Stage professional shows, just. It was touch and go after Leicestershire County Council pulled out of the scheme, but Charnwood Borough decided that it was too valuable a scheme to drop.

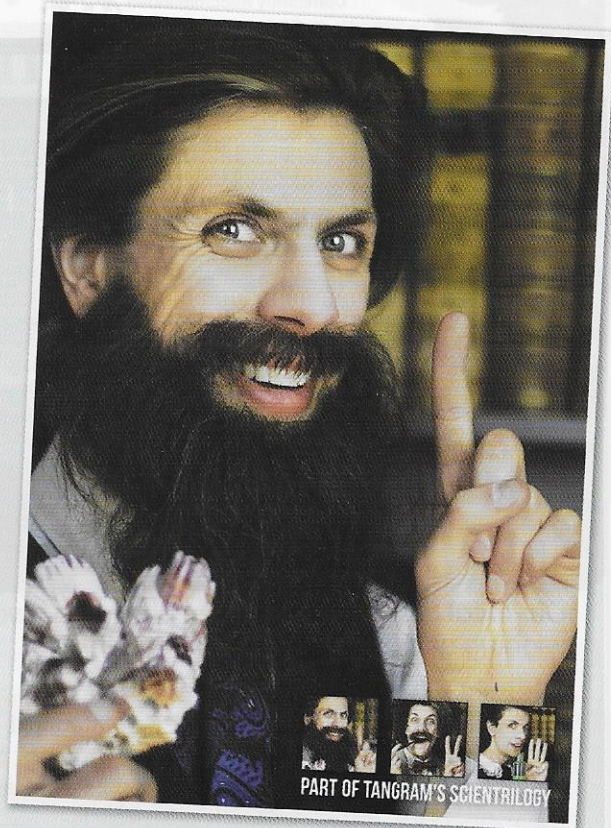
So, make sure that you come along on Friday February 5th to enjoy The Origin of Species, a musical comedy by the Tangram Theatre Company, hot from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It has had rave reviews wherever it appears such as: "witty, clever, absurd, the jokes spring out at you when you least expect. Grown ups will love it. Kids will adore it. A gem".

It tells the incredible story of how Charles Darwin came to discover the secrets of evolution and why it took him over twenty years before he plucked up the courage to publish his remarkable ideas. It's a show packed with big theories, terrible puns, brilliant physical comedy and six cracking original songs about everything from blasted boring barnacles, to the perils of marrying your cousin; "science can rarely have been such fun".

The Origin of Species is on Friday February 5th starting at 7.30 in Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow. Tickets cost £9, concessions £8, children £5 and family £24. If you buy in advance, discounts bring this to £8, £7, £4 and £22. They can be obtained from The Paper Shop, by contacting the box office on 07718153117 or judithrogers155@gmail.com or by PayPal on the www.busca.org.uk website.

Do bring the family along and enjoy it for yourselves. This is touring professional theatre at its best.

Judith Rodgers



Martin Page

Barrow Upon Soars



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**Barrow
Voice**



'A Winter's Night in Vienna'

Concert brought to Barrow by Charnwood Orchestra

Barrow's Christmas wouldn't be the same without this hugely popular seasonal event. Note down 16th January in your new diary to make sure you book seats in plenty of time. As usual the Viennese concert will be in Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow, LE12 8JU starting at 7.00pm.

We will do our best to get you back into the festive mood with a free glass of bubbly or fruit juice and the hall decked with beautiful flower arrangements. Even the players will be sporting red carnations.

The lights will dim and you will be enthralled with a medley of Viennese dances. Apart from the three favourite must-haves: Blue Danube Waltzes, Thunder and Lightning Polka and Radetsky March, we have yet again assembled a new programme including: the Tik-Tak Polka and the Klipp Klapp Galop, both by Johann Strauss 2, the Neckerei Polka by Joseph Strauss (which means teasing), the Gold and Silver Waltz by Lehar and Mit Dampf Polka by Eduard Strauss if we can get hold of an anvil! - You can guess what that means!

Tickets will cost £14.00 (£12.00 concessions) and £3.00 for accompanied children under 16. They are available from the Paper Shop, High St. or by contacting the box office on 07718 153117 or judithrodgers155@gmail.com or via Paypal on www.charnwodorchestra.org.uk

How about giving tickets for this concert as a novel Christmas present?

You have no need to go to Vienna to watch Lorin Maazel when you have this just down the road! Eat your heart out, Andre Rieu.

Judith Rodgers

Christmas Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Carol Singers | 6. Mary and Joseph | 11. Feast of Stephen |
| 2. Santa Claus | 7. Brandy Sauce | 12. Saint Nicholas |
| 3. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer | 8. Wrapping Paper | 13. Christmas Eve |
| 4. Christmas Cards | 9. Pantomime Dame | 14. Frosty the Snowman |
| 5. Silent Night | 10. Christmas Tree | 15. Nativity Play |



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Barrow Pre-School Playgroup



Barrow Pre-School Playgroup is an OFSTED registered charity playgroup.

In their recent inspection they were awarded a GOOD.

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

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


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

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Cotes Road: why dig it up?

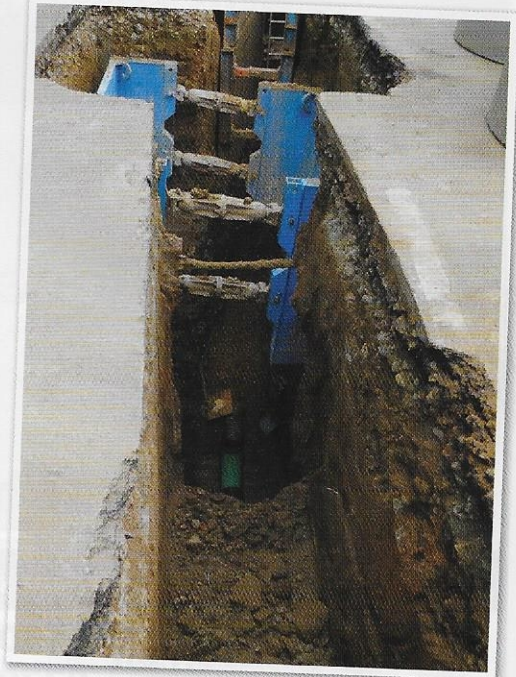
Many a Barrow residents must have groaned as they once again detoured through the Willow Road estate because Cotes Road was closed. Yet everyone knew that it was for 16 weeks as that was the length of time Winbur, the ground-works' contractors, had allowed for the job. But thankfully it wasn't closed for all 16 weeks - Winbur smashed it in 14!

"We finished ahead of schedule because on the whole, everything went well and the good weather helped": said Matt Palmer the Winbur Contracts Manager. But what had these civil engineers been doing for 14 weeks? Why was the road dug up in the first place?

Mr Palmer told me a new storm drain had been needed to drain the 83 new houses being built by Barwood Homes, off Cotes Road. I learnt there are very strict regulations relating to the size of storm drains these days and the existing rainwater storm drain was too small. (The existing foul sewer system is on a completely separate system and is big enough to cope with the extra volume from the new homes). Nowadays you also have to be prepared for unexpected floods - 'attenuations' - in civil engineering speak. In order to prevent flooding, a temporary floodwater storage pond is being constructed on the Barwood Homes site. This is called a 'retention basin' which will be between 4½ and 5 metres deep, and in future years will become an attractive wild life area as well as acting as a flood safety device.

For the technically minded, the trench was 5 metres at its deepest point and the new 225 mm diameter storm drain was made of thick blue plastic. The pipe itself rested on a layer of pea-gravel, which also surrounded it, but a thick layer of Type 1 MOT (crushed stone) was put on top before being capped with tarmac. The road will be allowed to settle for a year then the whole road planed and redone. There are eleven new storm manholes along its length, as every time a drain changes direction you need a new manhole. It was a quite a job.

But what was it like for people who were affected by the road works such as Humphrey Perkins bus drivers and people who lived on the road itself? Two drivers I spoke to, Mr Louis Reed and Mr Gavin Harris, had different experiences as they had different routes. Mr Reed, whose route included Swithland and Rothley, said it hadn't affected him much but Mr Harris's had been lengthened by about 15 minutes each trip as he'd always had to drive the long way round through the Willow Road estate. It also affected parents picking



up children as there were long queues of cars and buses all arriving or leaving the school at the same time and only able to use one route. However, the start and end of the school day was never altered.

And for the people living along Cotes Road itself, what was it like? Well the common experience seems to have been one of increased dirt and dust in the home and of course inconvenience especially when the trench was directly in front of your house. But the attitude was generally one of tolerance as it was appreciated the work had to be done. Clare Richards, a resident with four children under four, told me that initially she had been shocked as they were only told by letter three weeks before the work began. Poor communication! However, she said she had managed to negotiate set times when she could cross the trench in a car. She said that although things had occasionally gone wrong, at one point houses lost gas, electricity and some even water, she felt the site staff had always done their best to sort out problems quickly.

Gaynor Barton



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Barrow Voice

IN EACH
ISSUE

www.barrowvoice.co.uk

- The Latest Village News
- Reports On Issues Affecting People - Young & Old
- Articles With A Historical Perspective
- The Latest Community Events
- Celebrity Reports
- Sports News
- Diary of Forthcoming Events

3,000 copies published quarterly and delivered FREE to all households in Barrow upon Soar

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All enquiries should be made through:
Judith Rodgers - 07718 153117 or advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk

One step at a time

Recent research has shown that walking for twenty minutes a day can add seven years to your life. Walking is probably the easiest and cheapest form of exercise that there is - even for people like me who haven't got a sporty bone in their bodies. And if you live in Barrow there are lots of lovely walks right on your doorstep.

I might not be sporty but I have become a little competitive though. Three years ago I joined an online group www.10000steps.org.au which allows me to record the number of steps I walk each day, sets up a different challenge every month and provides information about how I'm doing compared to other members of the group. I am very proud to say that, for the last two years I have been the top UK woman (although as my daughters have pointed out, there aren't that many UK women in the group). It's also true that I have become a little obsessive about recording the steps. I wear my pedometer (it's not very high tech and cost me about £18) at all times - it starts off the day in my dressing gown pocket so that the 37 steps into the kitchen to make that first cuppa get recorded and included in the daily total.

Ten thousand steps a day is a goal lots of people aim for. For me, 10000 steps is about 4 miles - but of course it varies according to the length of your stride. Some days I have already done 7000 - 8000 steps by the time I get back from work but if I've had a day where I've been desk-bound or stuck in meetings then I might have only managed 2000 - 3000. As I said earlier, I have become a little obsessive, so I try to get out and walk each evening in order to increase my step count.

Here are some of my favourite routes - approximate step counts provided. All routes begin at The Three Crowns crossroads.

20 minutes fairly fast walking (with 2 brief stops to talk to a friend and to stroke a rather vocal kitten) - just under 3000 steps (approx 1 mile).

Walk up Cotes Road past Humphrey Perkins School. Turn right into Strancliffe Lane (Bridle Path). Take the first right turn down Flint Lane footpath, which eventually leads to Buttermere Drive and then Thirlmere Road. Follow Thirlmere until you turn right into King George V Recreation Ground. Go past the playground area on your right then turn left up the jitty that comes out in North Street opposite the Methodist Church. Turn right past the library and chip shop to return to the Three Crowns.

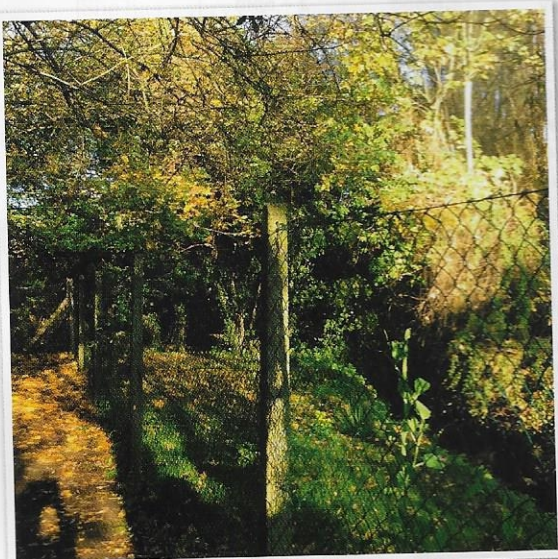
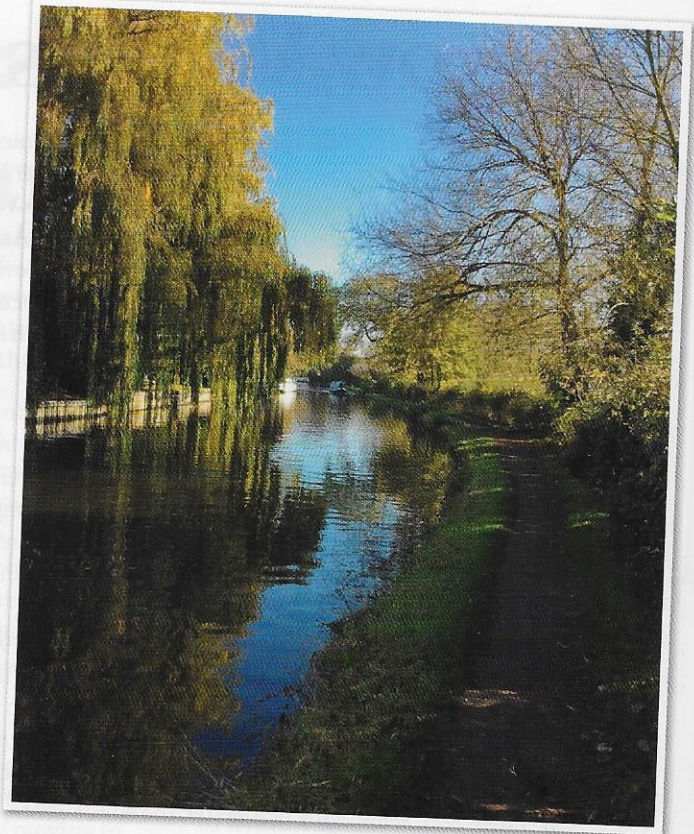
45 minutes moderate walking - around 6000 steps - with suggestions of alternate routes to make for more stepping

Go down the High Street towards Jerusalem roundabout then cross into Bridge Street and turn left onto Proctors Park Road, over the bridge then turn left again onto the towpath. Go along the towpath then up the steps at the Navigation pub, across that bridge and up the hill into Derwent Road, turning immediately right into Welland Road where there are nice views across the river. Follow it round until it turns into Avon Road where you turn right up a jitty that zigzags round to Sileby Road. Cross Sileby Road and walk towards Grove Lane but turn left onto a footpath just before then. This will come out on Grove Lane opposite the Railway Station. Turn right up Grove Lane, which becomes Melton Road, crossing Fishpool Way and walking up the hill on Melton Road, past Millennium Park, until you see the sign for a bridle path (turning left). That takes you along the back of Millennium Park. At the end of the path turn left to get back to Fishpool Way - or for a longer walk turn right and follow the bridle path going past the allotments onto Nottingham Road. The shorter route though is to go along Fishpool Way and turn left on Nottingham Road and walk back to where you started.

If you're aiming to do 10000 steps in one walk do the walk above, following the allotments bridleway to Nottingham Road. Then at Nottingham Road turn right and keep going until you get to the end of Strancliffe Lane (left off Nottingham Road). This is a lovely, peaceful walk under trees with some good views across the fields. It comes out on Cotes Road. However, I don't recommend this path if there's been a lot of rain. Strancliffe Lane is also sometimes referred to as 'Mud Alley' for good reason.

Most of the time though, I set out to walk with no clear idea of where I'm going. There are loads of different routes and plenty of interesting jitties to explore in Barrow. And there are lots of friendly people too.

Julie Gardner



Barrow Voice is 40!

Yes, it really is 40 years since the first copy of Barrow Voice came fluttering through the letterboxes of Barrow residents. Rather fewer letter boxes in 1975 than there are nowadays. The first copy in September 1975 states it is Volume 1, number 1, 'Official Newsletter of the Barrow upon Soar Community Association'. There were volumes 2 and 3 then from September 1978 copies only show the date of issue until 1983 when the format changed. The new A4 size format became a Free Community Newspaper with Issue 1, hence the most recent copy, which is number 141, should really be over 200 if the originals were to be counted.

In the beginning, the newsletters were bi-monthly, entirely funded by the Community Association, consisted, mainly of diaries about village events interspersed with some items about local history and parish council news but no advertising. In 1983, a new editor changed the look, it was bigger, had more pages, had longer articles, was printed professionally and adverts were included to raise the revenue needed to pay for the printing. When this new editor left the village in 1984 there was an appeal for more helpers to join the BV team: that's when I joined.

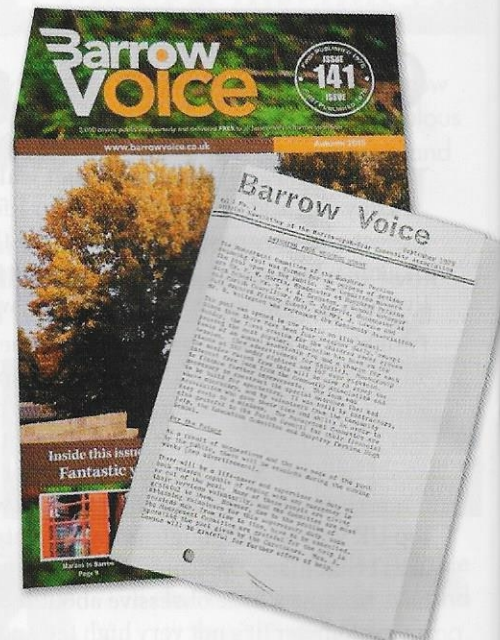
It was a time consuming process to produce the magazine in 1984. All of the articles were hand written then typed up by a lady called Mary Yates. Everything had to be prepared in columns in order that the editorial team could cut and paste items on to the pages which were then sent to a print company in Loughborough. Since then Barrow Voice has evolved with a variety of designs with various fonts and logos from being produced at Humphrey Perkins repro department to its current, light, bright, professional appearance. It's mainly supported through advertising and occasionally from BUSCA funds.

In the December 1978 issue of the newsletter, the editor wrote, 'I ask you to support our modest publication. It may not be beautiful, sensational or earth shattering but it is ours and exists to inform and entertain the people of Barrow upon Soar.' Things have moved on and Barrow Voice has undergone numerous manifestations but I hope it still informs and entertains the people of Barrow, and beyond.

If you would like to have a look at some of the old issues of Barrow Voice there are a few copies in the local history section of Barrow library.

Ginnie Wilcocks

And a big thank you to Mulberry Square for 12 years of unstinting advice and support to Barrow Voice.



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Speak to Angeline to discuss how you can help or ask for an application form

Angeline Kazianis: Barrow's Library Coordinator

Angeline Kazianis is a Barrow girl: she was born Angeline Harriman, her father was the owner of Geoff Harriman Designs, his premises were in Warner Street where Marans Mews now stands. Angeline was educated at Hall Orchard School, in the old school building on Cotes Road, and then went on to Humphrey Perkins and Rawlins

When Angeline left school she went to work in Sileby at B.W.W. Displays, formerly Belgrave Wire Works, stayed for three years and is still friendly with the family that owned the firm. Whilst working there she also attended a business school in Loughborough. In 1991 Angeline and her sister went on holiday for the first time without their parents, to Corfu, and they loved the island so much that they came home, gave up their jobs and returned to Corfu where they spent the rest of the summer camping.

They returned for a holiday in 1992, and in 1993 went back again with the intention of staying for the summer, but Angeline stayed on and only returned to Barrow to visit her parents occasionally. Angeline met Stathis Kasianis on her first visit to Corfu and they became friends. Stathis had to go away for two years to do his National Service but after doing his military duty the couple often found themselves working in close proximity to one another. The friendship blossomed and they were married in 1999; forty family and friends from England attended the ceremony. They went to live in the traditional Greek village where Stathis' parents lived.

Angeline was welcomed with open arms! She has a very good relationship with her mother-in-law and speaks to her on the telephone every week. Whilst living

in Corfu, Angeline learned the language and for a time worked in bars, hotels, and restaurants. However, for the last three years they were on Corfu she worked for Kosmar Holidays, as an administrator in their head office, and also did airport duties - a job she loved.

The return to Barrow, with her husband, happened in 2001. For a time they lived with her parents and then bought a house in New Street before moving to their present home in Beaumont Road. The couple have a son in Year 5 at Hall Orchard and a daughter in Year 7 at Humphrey Perkins, so their children are both following in Mum's footsteps.

On returning to England Angeline worked at Rawlins for eleven and a half years before moving to Newbridge High School in Coalville for two and a half years. An avid reader of Barrow Voice Angeline saw the advertisement for the library coordinator post and wanting to be more involved with the local community she applied for the job. Lucky for us she got it!

The role of coordinator involves: managing the volunteers in their delivery of library services, organising the rotas to match the opening times, opening and locking the library, providing



Library coordinator Angeline Kazianis is in the centre

induction, training and support to the volunteers, being responsible for all cash transactions as well as banking and record keeping. There are also committee meetings to attend and progress reports to write. Angeline is also involved in fundraising and other things too numerous to mention: she is a very busy lady. It is good to see the displays that are being put up in the library to advertise local events.

Angeline would like to take this opportunity to thank the Library Management Committee for their continued support and also the forty volunteers for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to making the library such a wonderful place for people to visit. She says it is a pleasure to work with them. If anyone is interested in volunteering please pop into the Library and have a chat with Angeline. She will be only too happy to see you or you can send her an email library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk

Val Gillings

'Rhyme Time' for under 3s, fortnightly on Fridays 10:30 - 11:00

'Saturday Stories' for 4 - 6 years, fortnightly on Saturdays, 10:30 - 11:00

'New to Computers', bookable assistance with computing, Wednesday 5:00 - 7:00

To find more information about any of these, ask for Angeline in the library or phone 0116 305 3543 or email library@barrowuponsoar.org.uk

Barrow Upon Soar Village Show

From Bean Day to Buzz Day

On Saturday 19th September, the excitement in the air was infectious as people came into the show for the results. The Best in Show was won by Ann Childs with a superb fuchsia in flower. The young man who got a first with his pumpkin is intending to get Best in Show next year! We were very pleased with the increase in entries this year, even though it seemed as though everything had finished growing early.

The entries for the 'Longest Bean' section were better than last year, although we had to mend one bean with Sellotape after it was snapped in the car park on the way to be staged. Our judge, Joan Cammock, from the Leicestershire Guild of Judges was highly amused and carefully measured each bean.

The Craft section was a new venture. The knitted squares have all been sewn together into a blanket although the disaster square has been unravelling. It wasn't a square or even a parallelogram, one side was 6 inches but the others were all different! David Dipple will take the blanket to Ethiopia when he has room in his luggage. The paintings were a bit of a headache to stage in the church but we had got just enough room to do them justice – there are a lot of talented people in Barrow. 'Bean Day 2016' will be on May 7th, the first Saturday in May, at the same time as the mini-market. Look out for details in Spring Barrow Voice.

Tilly Yates



The Ardeche

During the summer holidays, scouts from all over the Charnwood area got the opportunity to take part in a nine day outdoor adventure in the Ardeche region of south central France. Fifty nine scouts and seven leaders set off on Saturday 1st August from Humphrey Perkins High School for a two day long coach journey. We caught the ferry from Dover to Calais. As the sun set we approached Calais to complete the second half of our journey to the campsite. Finally we arrived at the campsite: it was early morning and the sun was blazing.

We were shown our tents, downed bags and got stuck into our first activity. We all got the chance to take part in different activities each day - all of which were great fun! Most days ended with a swim in the river.

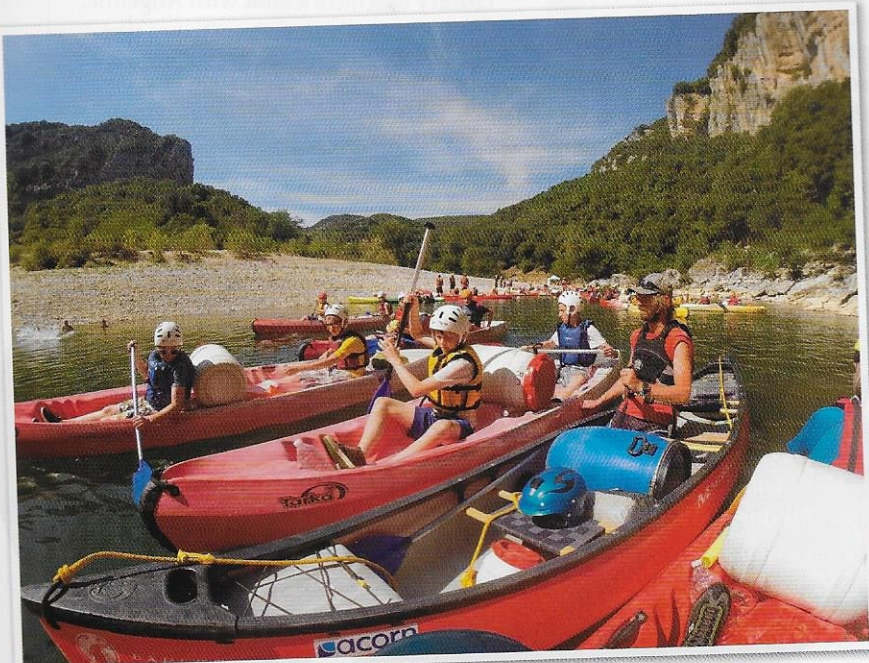
The main adventure of the trip was a two-day, (27 km!) kayaking river descent down a section of the Ardeche River. This did include an overnight camp stop which I would rather call a stop with a tarpaulin overhead. As scouts, we welcomed all visitors to our

camp even the wild boars running through in the early hours of the morning. All members of the group made the descent safely and it was by far the most memorable part of the trip.

Soon, the last day approached, and we were back on the coach for a two day return journey - all tired and exhausted but with a real sense of achievement. We couldn't wait to get back to tell everyone what an amazing time it had been. We did so much in such little time but it was the best time ever.

I would definitely recommend joining the scouts; you'll have the opportunity to go on camps, make more friends, have a great time and make lasting memories. I would like to say a massive thank you on behalf of all the scouts to Andy Parker and all the leaders for giving up their time and sharing this once in a lifetime experience!

Poppy Chapman



Fieldfares and Redwings

Autumn is leaving us here in Barrow, the trees bare and dark with few flowers left to cheer us up. Like a lot of us, I love to feed the birds and it's fun watching their antics on the feeders.

What I really look forward to is the arrival of our winter visitors, the Fieldfares and the Redwings. They are members of the thrush family but are subtly different.

With a little patience (and maybe binoculars) you can see which is which. Both have the speckled breast of the thrush family, but the Fieldfare is slightly larger, has a greyish head and brown back, with a dark strip above the eye, like a black eyebrow.

The Redwing has a creamy gold flash above the eye on a brown head and back. Under its wings its red feathers show as its wings move.

We see them mostly on the lawn under the fruit trees; they love the fallen apples, pears and plums. We also save some fruit for them and put it out gradually as they arrive. Although the birds enjoy the fruit they supplement their diet with insects, slugs and snails when they can.

Berries such as rowan and hawthorn in the hedgerows are another favourite food and the pyracantha, berberis and cotoneaster berries in the garden are also stripped bare by the hungry birds.

Both species live and breed far in the north of Iceland down through Scandinavia and as the ice and snow arrive, the birds migrate south and come in flocks. Sometimes only a few birds arrive in November and December, with more arriving in the cold months of the New Year.

Will they come to your garden? It all depends on the severity of the winter how far south they travel. So, if you see flocks of birds with speckled breasts, look closely, they could be our winter visitors looking for food.

Maggie J



Redwing main image: Nottsexminer.Wikimedia Commons
Fieldfare inset image: Ian Kirk. Wikimedia Commons

Barrow WI's steam train trip

Celebrating the inspirational 'WI over the past 100 years', Barrow WI experienced a wonderful evening on the 16th September aboard one of the vintage steam trains at the Great Central Railway.

The event began with a fleet of taxis transporting us to the GCR Loughborough station. We were warmly welcomed with glasses of bubbly, which seemed to affect a few of our passengers on the platform.

We boarded the Pullman coach and soon spotted three ladies who looked familiar. Was it in a Barrow pantomime where we had seen them before? One of the ladies introduced each of the guests - I was the Countess of Church Street! The other two ladies were dressed a-la Les Dawson, doing his Ada Shufflebotham impression. They hilariously entertained us with their "over the garden wall" gossiping and amusing anecdotes of many of our members.

The laughter had given us an appetite and GCR staff laid on a delicious buffet, which we enjoyed whilst watching the Charnwood countryside go by. Music, prizes and a good old natter followed and sadly a farewell to one of our members who is going to pastures new. The train pulled into the station, we disembarked, time to go home, taxis waiting. Where will the next 100 years take us?

Pat Moore

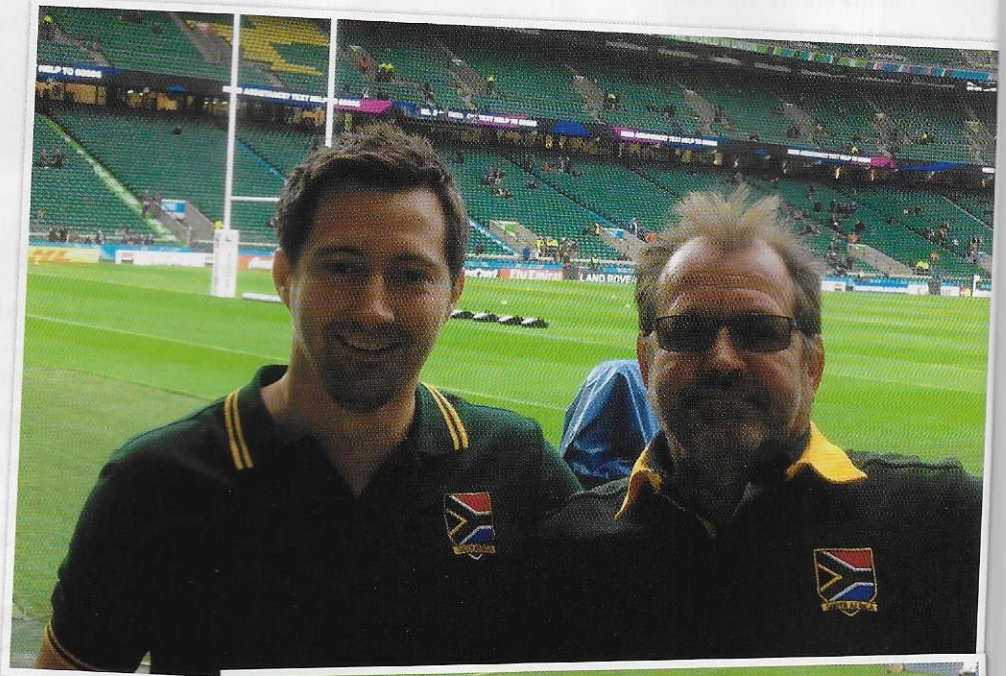


Steve's Rugby World Cup Blog

It all started last year when we, my son and I, tried to get England match tickets in a lottery type sale. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful so planned to watch the matches in our local pubs: dates and kick-off times were added to the calendar. My wife (supportive) bought me a new 2015 England Rugby shirt for my birthday. I put my England bunting up between the trees in my front garden, all ready, and counted down. September, Friday the 18th, at 8.00pm was the first of England's games in Pool A. There were 4 pools A,B,C,D each consisting of 5 teams, with the top two of each group going through to the quarter finals.

FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 6.30PM

My son and I adorned in our new England shirts walked down to the Navigation in Barrow, renowned Rugby pub, excited that it was finally all kicking off and leaving early to ensure prime seats. It was not as busy as we thought, but the atmosphere was good. During the game potato wedges with BBQ dip were put in front of me (not advisable in a brand new white shirt) England beat Fiji 35-11 scoring 4 tries to earn a bonus point. Good start or so I thought. The morning after the washing machine went bang, mother in law (a benefit of her living next door) to the rescue to clean my shirt in anticipation of the next game.



SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

This was the day of England's second match against Wales at Twickenham. We watched it at home - wife had invited friends! (We had an Indian takeaway which arrived an hour and a half late). It was a tale of 2 halves, England 10 points up at half time and cruising, so didn't mind leaving the room to eat the food. On return I don't know what had gone wrong but we lost 25-28 in the last minute. GUTTED!

SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER

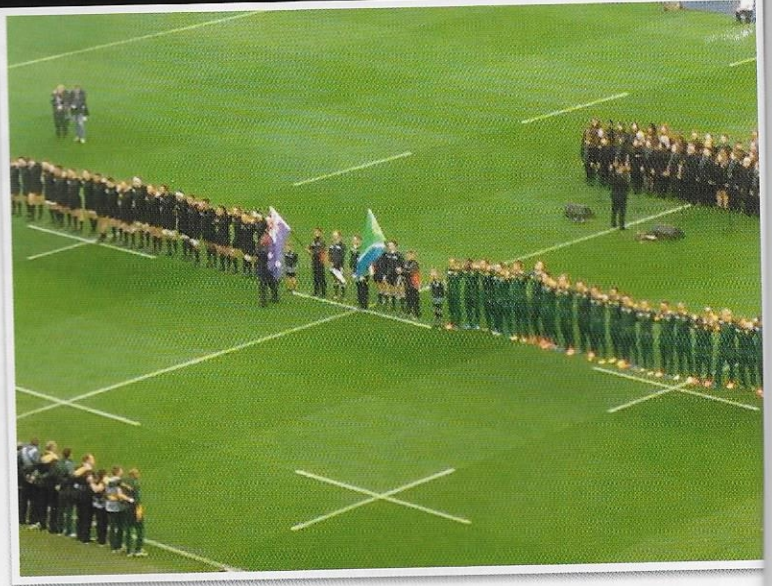
England v Australia a must win game for us. Ten of us went over to the Steaming Billy in Sileby, good cheap beer and free samosas at half time, but that did not make up for a drubbing by the Aussies. We lost 13-33 and were the first host nation in World Cup history to be knocked out in the group stages. The next morning I looked at my shirt in a heap on the floor and went out to rip down and bin the bunting.

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

On a brighter note we had bought tickets for Argentina v Tonga at the King Power stadium on the day after England's ousting. It was my son's 30th birthday and we had been upgraded to a V.I.P box which meant no queuing for the bar and a brilliant view. The atmosphere, along with the company, was well worth the £75.00 each for the tickets. It was a brilliant game which Argentina won 54-9. The Mexican wave, which went round four times, topped the day off with a smile. England's exit forgotten.

SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

Off we trot again to the Navigation to watch South Africa v Wales in the quarterfinal. My son and I went shopping to buy South Africa shirts in the morning - mainly to wind up my Welsh friend Pete who we knew would be there. The beer flowed and it was a great game, and very close, but Wales were beaten, I did cheer - revenge! The rest of the home nations were knocked out in the Quarter Finals; Scotland being the unluckiest getting knocked out in the last minute by Australia 35-34 by a controversial penalty!



SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER

We extended my son's 30th celebrations and bought tickets for the semi-finals at Twickenham: South Africa v New Zealand. Those shirts came in handy - £125 each - my wife is very understanding. We had a great day out but a disappointing game in which New Zealand won 18-20. Beer was a staggering £6 a pint, but worth it to watch the New Zealand war chant the HAKA live. It was amazing. Luckily I wore both New Zealand and South African shirts which I swapped at half time. This pleased both sets of fans, as we were neutral, and they found it all very amusing. The Great British weather arrived and it lashed it down. We were drenched walking back to the car.

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER

So, to the FINAL, back down to the Navigation. It was quite busy with most people cheering for New Zealand, six of the family were with me and we had a sweep-stake on who would be closest to the final score - my youngest son won! It was a good fast game and the atmosphere was friendly with the pub dressed up ready for a Halloween Party. Final score was 34 - 17 to The All Blacks. This brought the six weeks to an exciting end.



SUMMARY

It has been a great spectacle, **second only** I think to the Olympics. The fans were amazing. At the semi final I met fans of every nationality including Belgian and **saw no** trouble along the way. The most exciting team, I thought, was Argentina and the best game was South Africa v Japan who won 34-32. This leads me on to the next World Cup in Japan in 2019. My wife can't wait!

Steve Parker

Karate Black Belt Grading

On Sunday 20th September 2015, a Shotokan Karate Black Belt Grading was held at the main dojo in Barrow-Upon-Soar by the Leicester & Loughborough Shotokan Karate School.

The grading consisted of one junior and four senior 1st Kyu brown belts, who were attempting to gain the coveted black belt along with five senior 1st Dan black belts who were going for their 2nd Dans. The grading panel of four was led by Sensei Peter Statham who was himself awarded the honour of 6th Dan, on 4th July 2015, by the Amateur Martial Association's executive committee. This was rewarding thirty-seven years in the training, competing and teaching of Shotokan Karate.

Leicester & Loughborough Shotokan has been established for fourteen years and welcomes students from beginners - age 5years - upwards.

Peter Statham is contactable on 07719 975 099 and llskarate@gmail.com



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Village Diary

Thurs 3rd	Christmas Tree Festival (Runs until Sunday 6th)
Fri 4th	Bishop Beveridge Club evening film show; "Gone Girl"; 19.00, details 01509 414519
Sat 5th	Switching on of Christmas Lights and Street Market 14.30 - 17.30
Mon 7th	Hardback Book Sale: Library (Runs until Saturday 12th) New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00; all welcome
Tues 8th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee; Cons Club; 19.30, all welcome
Wed 9th	Crafts; Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 Beveridge Club Bingo; 14.30 Barrow WI: Decorating the Christmas table; Trinity Rooms; 19.30 Gardening Club; The GAP behind Baptist Church; Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm members only and Party Night (8pm All welcome)
Fri 11th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
Sat 12th	Methodist Nativity Festival; 12.00 - 16.00
Mon 14th	Bishop Beveridge proposed coach trip to Castle Howard at Christmas, details 01509 413212
Sat 19th	BUSCA Christmas Dance with C&J Sound, Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30 - 23.00, tickets from Paper Shop
Mon 21st	Beveridge Club film; "Miracle on 34th St; 14.00
Sat 26th	Beveridge Club: Boxing Day open coffee morning, free coffee and mince pies: 10.00 - 12.00
Mon 11th	New Horizons; Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00, all welcome
Tues 12th	Parish Council meeting, PC office; 19.15; everyone welcome (public participation at approx 19.30)
Wed 13th	Crafts, Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 Barrow WI, Trinity Rooms; 19.30
Fri 15th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
Sat 16th	Charnwood Orchestra "A Winter's Night in Vienna concert, Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30; tickets from the Paper Shop
Mon 18th	Beveridge Club film: "Woman in Gold"; 14.00
Wed 20th	Beveridge Club showing of the Barrow Panto: "Aladdin", by Brian Henman: 14.30, details from 01509 414519 Gardening Club, The GAP behind Baptist Church: 19.30
Mon 1st	New Horizons, Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00, all welcome
Tues 2nd	Parish Council meeting, PC office; 19.15, everyone welcome (public participation at approx 19.30)
Fri 5th	BUSCA presents a Centre Stage professional touring show: "The Origin of Species" a musical comedy for all the family; 19.30, tickets from the Paper Shop Beveridge Club film: "Everest"; 19.00
Tues 9th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee, Cons Club; 19.30, all welcome
Wed 10th	Crafts, Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 Barrow WI, Trinity Rooms; 19.30
Fri 12th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
Sat 13th	BUSCA Valentine Dance with Just Us, Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.30 - 23.00, tickets from Paper Shop
Mon 15th	Beveridge Club film: "45 Years"; 14.00
Wed 17th	Beveridge Club talk: "Bess of Hardwick" by Julie Ede; 14.30 (£3 for non-members) Gardening Club; The GAP behind Baptist Church; 19.30
Wed 24th	Beveridge Club Bingo; 14.30
Tues 1st	Parish Council meeting, PC office; 19.15, everyone welcome (public participation at approx. 19.30)
Fri 4th	Beveridge Club film: "A Walk In The Woods"; 19.00, enquiries from 01509 414519 Barrow Panto Group: "Snow White", Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.00, tickets from Paper Shop
Sat 5th	Barrow Panto Group: "Snow White", Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 14.00 and 19.00, tickets from Paper Shop
Mon 7th	New Horizons, Methodist Coffee lounge; 14.00, all welcome
Tues 8th	Neighbourhood Watch Committee, Cons Club; 19.30, all welcome
Wed 9th	Crafts, Methodist Church; 14.00 - 16.00 Barrow WI, Trinity Rooms; 19.30
Fri 11th	Baptist Luncheon Club; 12.30
Wed 16th	Gardening Club, The GAP behind Baptist Church; 19.30
Sat 19th	Daffodil Dance with Martin Atterbury
Mon 21st	Beveridge Club film: "Sufragette"; 14.00, enquiries from 01509 414519



**BARROW UPON SOAR
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity No. 1156170

December 5th

Christmas Street
Market

December 19th

Christmas Dance
with C.& J.Sound

February 5th

The Origin of the
Species: A musical
comedy, Centre
Stage production

February 13th

Valentines Dance
with Just Us

March 19th

Daffodil Dance with
Martin Atterbury