

Issue 158 • Winter 2019

First Published 1975

Includes  
Barrow Focus

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# Editorial

**M**erry Christmas! Welcome to this bulging Winter edition. We've features to help you find fun and festive drinks in local pubs, be crafty (in the nicest of senses), and be able to find moments of calm on stressful days through mindfulness. And we're not forgetting those amongst us who have to work on Christmas Day. There's so much going on in the village at present - if you took part in everything you'd never sit still. You can join theatre groups, Health Walks, a Footpaths Group, a Good Neighbour Scheme, plan to watch a Centre Stage production, listen to Charnwood Orchestra or help Barrow become a highly successful Britain in Bloom village next year too. As this is our Christmas edition we have all the church services, a Christmas quiz and the origins of yule logs.

What we haven't got is an article relating to sports. We know this is a weakness but it's because we haven't got a Sports Editor. If you love sports, and know what's going on in the village, do get in touch [barspiller@btinternet.com](mailto:barspiller@btinternet.com). The BV team can help with the actual writing of articles if you can provide the info.

**Gaynor Barton, Editor**

**NB** Please note that 'Barrow: a Year in Pictures' has moved to the village website.

Front Cover: *Icicles cause by splash back in Cotes Road, March 28th 2013.*

## Community Hub Update

**B**USCA has received formal notice that the application to build a Community Hub on the picnic field on Fishpool Way has been refused.

*The grounds for the refusal are as follows:*

### Reason 1

This site is designated as a Local Green Space in the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy BuS5 states that development that is not clearly related to the use of the areas as Local Green Spaces will not be supported other than in very special circumstances. The need for a community centre is supported by policy BuS11 of the Neighbourhood Plan and this proposes that a sequential test will be applied to the location of such a facility. It is considered that the alternative sites which have been explored are not exhaustive and there are likely to be other sites which exist, possibly beyond the settlement boundary, which are not afforded the same level of protection as the Local Green Space. Insufficient evidence has been provided to satisfy the requirements of policy BuS11 and the need for the facility is not considered to be sufficiently special circumstances to outweigh the protection provided by policy BuS5. The proposal is considered to be contrary to policies BuS5 and BuS11 of the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan and paragraphs 99-101 and 143-145 of the National Planning Policy Framework which seek to protect Local Green Spaces.

### Reason 2

Policy CS 13 of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy and policy BuS1 of the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan seek to conserve and enhance the natural environment. In accordance with this policy impacts on biodiversity will require mitigation. The applicant has failed to provide evidence that adequate mitigation will be provided to compensate for the loss of most of the trees on the site and the adverse impact of this development upon biodiversity. Consequently, the proposal is considered to be contrary to the Policy CS 13 of the Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-28, policy BuS1 of the Barrow upon Soar Neighbourhood Plan and paragraphs 170 and 175 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### Reason 3

Policy CS16 of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy expects development to incorporate sustainable drainage to help reduce the risk of flooding. The site is partially within Flood Zone 2 where a Flood Risk Assessment is required. Inadequate information has been provided to assess whether the proposed development would reduce the risk of flooding. In addition, insufficient

justification has been provided for the use of a non-mains foul drainage system. The proposal is considered to be contrary to policy CS16 of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy and paragraphs 155 and 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### Reason 4

The application site is adjacent to a playing field used as cricket pitch by Barrow Town Cricket Club. There is a potential conflict between the proposed development and the use of the cricket pitch due to the risk of ball strike. Information is required to assess this risk and mitigate the potential conflict between the development and the use of the adjacent playing field for cricket. In the absence of this assessment the proposal is considered to be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework and the promotion of healthy and safe communities.

**BUSCA Trustees will shortly be considering "what next" in their endeavours to get a village hall for Barrow.**

**Judith Rodgers**

**If you wish to see more detail you need to go to the Planning Explorer section of the Charnwood Borough Council and select the specific application giving its reference P/18/0608/2.**

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**ETHEREAL TENANT - BY - KAY NICHOLLS**  
Ethereal Tenant explores what would happen if an abused child developed an alter-ego who took away the pain of their abuse. In this gritty speculative fiction, Adam Rowe's alter-ego takes on a corporeal form and, as he grows into a youth, this alter-ego begins to take on a frightening life of its own, no longer under the control of its host. Seen through the eyes of a retired cop who tells the story as a third party. The action takes place in Barrow-on-Soar in Leicestershire, and among the almost unseen homeless population of London.

Warning : Contains contextually appropriate strong language and violence.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and bred in the pretty Leicestershire village of Barrow-on-Soar, Kay has lived in Cornwall, and in Surrey, finally settling in North Devon. She has two daughters, a grandson and the two lovely men in her daughters' lives. She enjoys her close and loving family.





## Give the birds a Christmas Feast

**W**hile humans gorge themselves on turkey or celebration nut roast, spare a thought for the robins, the blue tits, and the blackbirds. Hilary and Andy Wiles of Brinvale Farm, Long Clawson have the ambition to get everyone feeding the birds all the time and not just at Christmas: "Our vision has been to get the nation feeding wild birds. Our plan to achieving this has been through providing top quality bird feed at affordable prices, with first-class service" they say with pride. They report a massive increase in public interest in feeding birds. Their own business has shown a 30% increase in this last financial year.

I went to meet Hilary and Andy at their farm in October. It's a lovely 15 minute drive into Belvoir country. They come from a family of four generations of arable farmers, farming right in the heart of Long Clawson. 20 years ago, as Long Clawson (of Stilton fame) was rapidly developing, it made sense to move to the outskirts and build a new farm – Brinvale which is now farmed by son Richard.

At the time, one of the uses of their grain was mixed corn for poultry. While visiting a local garden centre in 2004 they noticed bags of bird food. The conversation went something like "That's a good idea. We could make bird food. Let's try it." They made a ton, found a market and developed

a thriving business to supply wholesalers with a range of bird food mixtures. Next they became online retailers of top quality bird food to private households. They grow much of the grain on the farm including millet, canary seed and other grains used for bird food. Much of the rest is acquired from producers as locally as possible. They are highly knowledgeable about the needs of all sorts of wild birds and are very careful not to bulk out with wheat or barley. Their farming is fully bird-friendly with nesting borders in their fields, plenty of hedges, a wildlife pond and a regime that favours the flourishing of wild flowers and insects. You can see full bird feeders - and birds - everywhere.

Watching this growth in interest in feeding garden birds, they have built a retail shop on the farm and want to encourage local people to visit them, see how an arable farm can be both a successful business and a wild-life haven, enjoy the scenery and buy their top quality bird food at extremely competitive prices. I certainly did all those things when I visited Hilary and Andy! I could have bought feeders and fat balls too. All in all, it was an enjoyable trip out. Perhaps you might care to pay a visit yourself and give your garden birds a feast – and not just for Christmas.

**Judith Rodgers**

## Eddie celebrates two and a half years in his Barbershop business

**I**went to Eddie's Barbershop expecting a nice quiet 10 minutes chat to find out how the business has developed over the last two and a bit years. What I actually got was much more lively. I found two barbers busily snipping away and a crowd of customers waiting their turn. So my interview was of eight people instead of one. I got the works!

Eddie's Barbershop opened in 2017 filling the gap left after Barrow's previous barber retired. Two years later, Eddie has just completed a refurbishment inside and out – as Eddie said with a wry smile – "to smarten up the High Street". He has reorganized the internal space and employed two new barbers, Ash and Jake, so that all three have cutting positions. Ash said he was pleased to be drafted in and it was all much more matey than where he previously worked. The customers liked it too – not so long to wait, and entertaining while you did wait. In future, Eddie hopes to set up an online

booking system. The waiting customers liked that idea and gave him some on-the-spot advice! His aim is to increase availability and shorten waiting times, including the occasional request to cut girls' and ladies' hair. He will accept any reasonable request to cut (you can guess where that went) but draws the line at dogs. I didn't dare ask if he had ever had that request because I feared for the ears of his already chuckling customer.

So – Eddie has developed a happy and thriving business. May it go from strength to strength.

**Judith Rodgers**







*At 8,430 meters above sea level, the high-altitude expedition team celebrates after setting up the world's highest operating automated weather station during National Geographic and Rolex's 2019 Perpetual Planet Extreme Expedition to Mt. Everest. Learn more at [www.natgeo.com/everest](http://www.natgeo.com/everest). Photo by Mark Fisher*

## Dr Tom Matthews: Everest Adventurer

**I**recently had the good fortune to meet with a Barrow resident who was lucky enough to be able to fulfil his sense of adventure alongside his job. Tom Matthews is a climate scientist and earlier this year he was part of a team that installed a weather station on the top of Mount Everest - well, almost!

Tom grew up in the village of Croxley Green near Watford, Herts. It's not unlike Barrow in that it's surrounded by countryside with woods, a canal and a river. It's where he played as a child enjoying the outdoor life. As a 17 year old he had the opportunity, through a company called World Challenge, to visit Ecuador. Through this company he was offered the chance to plan, prepare for, and undertake an expedition to a remote part of the world; he chose Ecuador. It involved raising money, planning the programme, which

included a trek, some project work, and doing the type of things someone might do in a "Gap Year" but all in one month. The emphasis was on learning about far flung corners of the world. He found being in the rain forests and the mountains of the Andes very exciting so his choice of degree at university had to be Geography.

Loughborough University is where Tom studied as an undergraduate and where he later gained his PhD. This involved pursuing his interest in the study of the weather. After finishing his doctorate he worked

as an academic in Ireland for 18 months before doing a three year stint lecturing at John Moores University in Liverpool. Tom returned to Loughborough in July 2018 where he lectures in Climate Science. Tom's work involves studying the weather at high altitudes and installing weather stations. Through this work he was approached by National Geographic for his knowledge and expertise. Thus he became a member of the team to transport and install weather stations in the Everest region.

The journey began in January 2019 when the team flew to Lukla Airport in Nepal, then they took a two week hike to Everest Base Camp. In January the camp is completely empty but the group had the opportunity to experience low temperatures, to acclimatise and to practise climbing skills, including rope work. They also looked at some of the sites where they would be installing the weather stations.

The expedition properly began in March this year when the group returned to Nepal. Within a month they were at a point where they could go higher up the mountain. When they arrived at Base Camp they were astonished to see the change since January as it had grown to the size of a small town with hundreds of tents strewn across the glacier.

Tom described how a typical ascent of the mountain progresses. After a few days at Base Camp, at 5,300 metres, you then set



*Dr Tom Matthews and Dr Baker Perry, members of the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Extreme Expedition to Mt. Everest, work on the automated weather station at Everest Base Camp. Learn more at [www.natgeo.com/everest](http://www.natgeo.com/everest). Photo by Freddie Wilkinson, National Geographic.*



off for Camp 1 at 6,000 metres, then on to Camp 2 at 6,500 metres. This is a large, relatively comfortable camp with big tents where you can eat your dinner at a table! Camp 3 is a very basic camp on a very steep slope so you don't stay there for very long. The final stop is Camp 4, at 8,000 metres, where you also don't stay too long, as it is from here that you make your final climb to the summit. So it is quite an ordeal for any climber let alone someone there to do a job and having to carry extra equipment.

The scientists installed four weather stations at various points on the mountain. When the day for their ascent to the summit arrived they set off at midnight although many other teams had begun their attempts, unusually, six or seven hours earlier! Due to the poor weather in the Spring the number of 'summit' days had been reduced so there were huge numbers

of climbers attempting the summit that day. This resulted in a massive queue waiting to move up the mountain. At that altitude it is not to be recommended!

The Sherpa guides advised the team that to remain in the summit queue was dangerous. A decision was taken to set up the final weather station at a point on the mountain called, "The Balcony", about 400 metres from the summit. Tom, at this point, was able to take time to look around at the awesome views across the mountains with China to the North and Nepal to the South. The summit ridge seemed tantalisingly close from this perspective. It was a little disappointing not to get to the top of Everest but the highest weather station in

the world was safely installed. Now all four stations in Nepal are working, plus another in the nearby village of Phortse, and all are collecting data as you read this.

When I met Tom it was a year since his Everest adventure had begun. He's continuing his work at Loughborough University and busy planning his next expedition to Ladakh's mountains in Northern India. The peaks, where weather stations are to be installed, are a bit smaller, 6,000 – 7,000m. I wish Tom every success with his research, his future journeys and a huge thank you for sharing memories of his epic trip.

**Ginnie Willcocks**

**If you would like to read more about Dr Tom Matthews and his Everest journey, see National Geographic, "World's Highest Weather Station".**

# Ecobricks

## a great way to recycle your unrecyclable Christmas plastic

**C**hristmas time quadruples our packaging waste. This year, children are likely to make adults feel guilty when they see it pile up in the landfill bin (even though they've been happy enough to get the presents and the food). Here's a Christmas activity that will help eliminate the waste, the guilt and the children. Well, it won't actually eliminate the children, but it will keep them quiet for a long time.

Fill your plastic bottles with unrecyclable plastic, register the resulting 'Ecobrick' and take it to your closest Ecobrick collector: Loughborough Grammar School. **Here's what to do:**

Make sure your plastic is clean and dry and your bottle is clear plastic. Only use bottles with screw tops. Cut your plastic into small pieces and really stuff the bottle full – you can use the handle

of a wooden spoon to really push it all down. The smaller you cut the bits of plastic, the more you can push in and it's worth remembering that a bit of cling film every so often helps 'cement' it all together.

Your filled bottle should have a density of 0.33g per millilitre. That means a one litre bottle should weigh at least 333g; but it's probably easier to start with a 500ml bottle (167g). Register and validate it with GoBrik ([www.GoBrik.com](http://www.GoBrik.com)) and write onto the Ecobrick, using a permanent marker, the weight and the individual registration number you will be given.

Take your validated Ecobricks (it must be validated) to the reception



**Centre for Alternative Technology**

of Loughborough Grammar School and say they are for Viviana Perino or Ivor Potter and the Eco Club. The Eco Club made an earthbench last June using 75 ecobricks (filled plastic bottles) and they need a further 150 ecobricks for their next project.

Remember: your first Ecobrick is the most important, but your best Ecobrick is the one you don't have to make (because you have achieved a zero-plastic life).

This is an ideal project for a community group – children and adults. Viviana is pleased to come to a community association and give a workshop. If you are interested, contact her using the email address [v.perino@lsf.org](mailto:v.perino@lsf.org). Together we can make Ecobricks and give plastic a whole new value.

**Karisa Krcmar**

**ECOBICKS**

\* Fill a clean + dry plastic bottle with clean + dry plastic

\* Stuff the bottle with cut up plastic so that it meets the minimum weight

\* Log your finished bottle on GoBrik.com

\* Find your local collection point, and send them your brick to use in awesome eco - construction

SIZE GUIDE:  
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## New Look Barrow of Treats

**I**n July, the Homefield College café and sweet shop, Barrow of Treats began the refurbishments of both their premises on Barrow High Street. I had the privilege of being invited to their official re-launch on October 4th, although a few, un-noticeable, final touches are still to be completed.

I was warmly welcomed by staff member, Helen who explained how the work had been funded and supported through a charitable initiative with Loughborough branch of DIAM – a global company who create, develop and install retail and merchandising solutions. This work has included alterations to the layout of the café, creating more customer space, with new cabinets and bespoke shelving in both the café and the shop.

Through these facilities, the community has come to know the part that Homefield College plays in providing opportunities for students with learning disabilities to gain realistic working experience, assisting them to gain skills and confidence. They are supported with professional guidance from paid staff. Many of these students are then able to progress into paid employment.

The café and sweet shop have been tastefully decorated with new furniture to match the décor, new table cloths will show some of the history of the buildings, and also a few basic Makaton signs to help customers with student communication if necessary. There's a new menu as well.

I enjoyed the company and excellent customer care of students Ethan and

Craig and a delicious pancake, with strawberries and cream, prepared by Katie, a past Homefield College student, now in employment at the café. The café has a most pleasant atmosphere, is bright and welcoming, the shop is colourful and orderly

so on behalf of the Barrow Voice team I wish Homefield College and Barrow of Treats continued success in their vibrant, revamped premises.

**Ginnie Willcocks**





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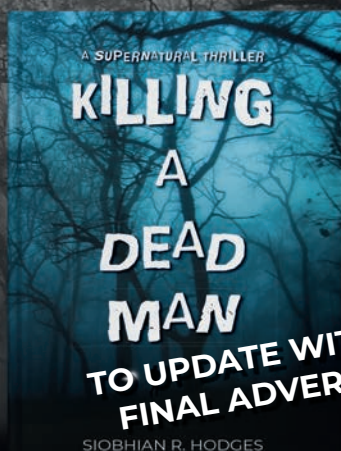
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# Take Time for a Mindful Moment

**C**hristmas is fun, exciting, and... busy. Christmas Day can be exhausting, the children over-excited and it can all feel too much. Even though mindfulness is not itself about chilling out, taking time out for just a minute or two can result in a calmer, more relaxed state of mind. Mindfulness is about consciously and deliberately directing attention to the present moment without making any judgements. It's about stopping for a moment; stopping being pulled from one manic activity to another; stopping your mind and your heart from racing around. And it's something all the family can do together. How? Follow this routine and bring some calm back into your day.

- Choose something that each member of the family likes to eat: a chocolate, a nut, a piece of dried fruit, a slice of Christmas cake... (individuals can choose their own).
- Sit down comfortably. Switch off any distractions: TV, Netflix and, yes, your mobile phone (it's only for a minute or two).
- Make your intention: say out loud "I am/ we are going to examine this chocolate in the present moment".
- Breathe slowly a few times, paying

attention to each breath in and each breath out. What does it feel like? Is the air coming into your body warm or cold? How do your ribs feel as they move in and out? This will help to start your focus.

- If you have young children and have a Snow Globe, you could change that bit to just quietly watching the snowflakes settle after and when it is all still, take a slow breath in and out.
- Then place on the palm of your hand the piece of food you have chosen. Really look at it.
- Look at the colour, the texture, the shape. Does it change over the object or is it uniform? Is it shiny? Dull? Round? Irregular shape?
- Touch it. Is it rough? Smooth?
- Put it in your mouth – but don't eat it yet. Just let it sit on your tongue. What taste comes through? Sweet? Bitter?
- Now, as you chew and swallow, think about how it feels in your mouth, in your throat.

There are lots of different ways of being mindful

and doing mindfulness. This is a quick one for Christmas for all the family to calm down and feel a bit more relaxed. If you are interested in finding out more and discovering more mindful techniques for different purposes (health, stress, study) watch out for information about mindfulness sessions in the library in 2020 or take a look at the book *Mindfulness for Study: from procrastination to action*. It gives you access to a dedicated website with downloadable mindfulness exercises.

Enjoy Christmas. You'll enjoy it more if you take a moment of mindful calm.

**Karisa Krcmar**



## Barrow Footpaths Group

**W**e've been snipping and picking for just about a year now and hopefully we're beginning to make an impact to the jitties and footpaths around the village.

Thanks to everyone who turns up for the tasks and for all of you who stop and chat with words of encouragement. It makes a real difference to us. We've even had tea/coffee provided a couple of times which is always well received.

You can see reports about all of the completed Barrow Footpaths Group tasks on the village website as well as dates for upcoming tasks. Details of all future events can be found on posters in the Parish Council Offices and the library.

We've recently started a monthly weekend based Community Litter Picking event for

those that can't join us during the week. We've teamed up with the Soar Bridge Inn who will be providing tea/coffee and biscuits once we've finished. Everyone is welcome to join in. We have gloves, bags and litter pickers so just turn up at the designated starting point to help keep Barrow tidy.

If there's an area that needs attention, whether it's overgrown or full of litter, please report it to the Parish Council so they can let us know.

**Annette Richardson**





# Chink! Chink! Cheers!

Last year Barrow Voice featured the Christmas menus available in our village's pubs and restaurants. Once again they will be offering the most delicious meals from the end of November to the end of December, but this time Barrow Voice has been investigating the range of entertainment and drinks on offer locally. The address and telephone number of each pub is given, but for more contact details please consult their advertisements on the advertising pages of this magazine.



Andy at The Navi making an Espresso Martini

## The Navigation Inn

87 Mill Lane Barrow, LE12 8LQ  
Tel 01509 412842

### Entertainment

New Year's Eve Big Fat Quiz of the Year with Andy your quiz master! Quizzing on the events of 2019. How good is your memory? Starts at 8pm – finishes at midnight. Pub closes at 1pm. Fun night.

### Festive drinks

**Cocktails:** Why not try an Espresso Martini made with vodka, strong coffee and coffee liqueur and shaken to a frothy cream. Hot Toddlies - whisky or rum-based cocktails with lemon juice, orange juice, honey and hot water. Mulled wine and mulled cider; the latter will be made with the draught Old Rosie – a strong cloudy scrumpy cider.

**Wines:** With traditional Christmas dinners

the Italian white Trulli Vermentino with its peach, lemon, mango and dry herb flavours go really well with turkey. If you prefer a rose, then choose the Boars Kloof, a South African wine from the Western Cape. This is a favourite of Andy's with its fruit flavours, especially as he's had the pleasure of drinking it in its country of origin. For a red, try the Marionette made from Monastrell and Syrah grapes. To bring in the New Year it must have bubbles so Spumante Prosecco is perfect.

**Beers:** As well as the familiar range of draught beers there will be special Christmas guest beers arriving.

## The Three Crowns

2-6 Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar LE12 8JS  
Tel 01509 621177

### Entertainment

December 20th 'Red Tape' – a live band. This successful covers band play American influenced rock – pop music and are a traditional booking at The Three Crowns on the last Friday before Christmas. The three musicians cover Eagles, Guns and Roses and Clapton classics amongst many many others.

Boxing Day: Race Night – a joyously exciting, very crowded night betting on eight on-screen horse races. Place your bets from 6pm. The pub is open from 11am.

### Drinks

This year The Three Crowns has chosen to really emphasise festive drinks and have produced a sharp glossy Festive Drinks menu.

Although the Spiced Orange French Martini heads the list with its wonderful mixture of spiced orange gin, amaretto, and pineapple juice, just a little lower down is the retro drink now

coming back into fashion - a Snowball! And although your mum may have loved it years ago, she had good reason to. It's delicious! A refreshing mixture of Warninks advocaat, a dash of lime and orange cordial bubbled up with a topping of lemonade.

But, if you love chocolate you must try the Baileys Choclatini. This is based on Baileys Irish Cream strengthened with a shot of vodka, sweetened with chocolate syrup, and decorated with chocolate flakes. Heaven for chocoholics! There isn't room to write about all their festive cocktails in this article so I'll end with an unusual one, served in a tankard. This is the Captain's Grog cocktail comprising of Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum, lager and lemonade served over ice with a slice of lime on the top. And if you sway a little on your way home blame it on sea sickness!

As well as cocktails, the bar staff will also be serving mulled wine and making Floaters. One of these is a sweetened coffee based drink with whipped cream poured slowly over a spoon to give it

a deep head. You can add any liquor, usually rum or whisky, for extra punch. Of course there is always a very good range of beers available and red, white and rose wines to drink in the bar or to accompany food.



From left to right - Lily and Charlotte with a Snowball - The Three Crowns





*Nathan raises a glass at the Cons Club*

## The Conservative Club

14 North Street, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8QA  
Tel 01509 768600

### Entertainment.

On Christmas Eve from 8pm to midnight there will be karaoke at the club and Boxing Day is Race Day. On New Year's Eve from 9pm to midnight the glamorous Cypriot singer Kaela Santosh will perform. She is a Tina Turner impersonator with a lively personality who enjoys encouraging members of the audience to dance along to her songs. It will be a fun night.

### Festive Drinks

Good value prices are a major attraction at the Conservative Club and these will apply over the Christmas period. Added to

the existing range of beers, London Pride, Doombar, and Charnwood's Vixen will be a yet-to-be-named Christmas Guest Ale. Pink gin is always popular here at Christmas but there are eleven other gins to choose from as well as whiskies and vodkas. Home-made mulled wine and some special festive cocktails will also appear. Freshly filtered, high end St Martin's brand coffee is served at only £1.50 a cup and a hot chocolate with added festive treats such as syrups, marshmallows and flakes are available to delight chocolate lovers of all ages, especially children.

## Rothley Wine Estate

Kingfishers Pool Vineyard, 43 Westfield Lane, Rothley, LE7 7LH  
Tel 0116 237 5168

### Entertainment

**Wine Tasting:** December 27th. There will be three sessions starting at 12.00pm, 1.30pm and 3.00pm each costing £18 per person. Booking is essential. These wine-tasting events are popular with adults who find themselves at a loose end, or want to do something for themselves after concentrating on children over Christmas. Liz Robson leads an interesting walk around the vineyard pointing out the different varieties she grows and the type of wine they produce. The group, of no more than eight, return to the conservatory to taste five wines: three are still wines - white and red; one is a sparkling; one mulled and one a fruit wine such as elderflower. Spittoons are provided, so you can spit out like the professionals, but most people enjoy the wine and swallow it! The wine tasting sessions are led by Laura Hadland, a restaurant reviewer for the Leicester Mercury. To book go to [www.rothleywine.com](http://www.rothleywine.com) and click on Tours and Wine Tasting. You can make a card payment.

### Festive Drinks

Liz told me the best wine to drink from their vineyard with your Christmas turkey is either the classic King Richard - a dry, fruity white wine with a lovely aroma - or Fearless. Fearless is described as being an off-dry wine, just slightly sweeter than King Richard which goes well with

meals involving sweet sauces, such as cranberry. The winery doesn't produce a dessert wine but both King Richard and Fearless would be very much enjoyed through to pudding.

To celebrate New Year it has to be a sparkling so choose High Hopes! As Liz pointed out we all need a touch of optimism in these confusing times. In High Hopes you are drinking Charnwood Forest in liquid form as the shingle and sand beneath the vines gives this bubbly

wine a mouth-watering hint of pear, melon and ginger.

The wines are stocked by the Loughborough wine merchants George Hill Ltd of 59 Ward's End Loughborough Tel 01509 212717. Give them a ring and they will deliver your order.

**Gaynor Barton**



*Liz Robson relaxes with her dog and King Richard*





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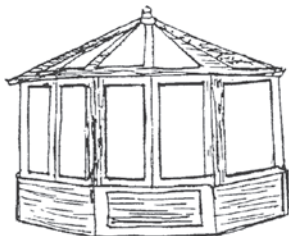
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# Business as usual at Christmas

**N**ot everyone gets time off work at Christmas – for some it's a normal working day. We spoke to some people in Barrow who will be on duty.

## The Shopkeepers

If you need more potatoes for lunch or extra cream for the trifle, fear not. Barrow Service Station's shop will be open on Christmas Day from 8am to 3pm. Owners Manoj and Daksha Devani say they enjoy being part of village community and are happy to open. Also behind the counter will be Ken who says when he worked last year, people were so pleased that they could call in for last minute things. When his shift is over, he will go home, put his feet up and his family will come for a meal in the evening.

Manoj says there is a festive atmosphere in the shop on Christmas Day. "People come to us for anything from food to alcohol to wrapping paper," he says.

He and Daksha will join family and friends for a late afternoon celebration. Five turkeys will be cooked and there will be about 65 people at the meal. In the evening, they will go to his brother's home. "We usually get to bed at about 3am - and then open the shop on Boxing Day!" he says with a smile.

## The Nurse

Helen Scaysbrook, a staff nurse at Glenfield Hospital, could well be catching up on sleep on Christmas Day if she has a busy Christmas Eve. She will be on duty in theatre recovery from 8am to 8pm and,



*Helen Scaysbrook*



*Manoj and Kaksha Devani with Ken*

following that, is on call until 8am on Christmas morning.

"I may have a busy night, or it may be quiet, I won't know until the time comes," says Helen. She says everyone tries to make it as festive as possible for patients and staff – after all, nobody wants to be in hospital over Christmas. We deal mainly with emergency surgeries over Christmas so we can't really predict how busy we will be." If things are quiet overnight, Helen will be up on Christmas Day, cooking a turkey with all the trimmings for her three children, (18, 16 and 11). If she has had a busy night, they will open presents on Christmas morning, then Helen will catch up on sleep. Her partner will help cook Christmas dinner, which may be delayed until the evening, then they will enjoy family time.

## The Farmers

There will be no day off for farmers Graham and Michele Crooks who own Paudy Rise farm on Melton Road. The couple, and their son Tom, will be up at 6.30am, feeding and checking on their herd of 140 Aberdeen Angus cattle. If any are coming up to calving, it could be a busy day for the family.

"We have had several calves born on Christmas Day," says Graham. "We never know what may arise, there may be animals with health issues that need to be watched and treated. One year we had a problem with the starter motor on the tractor, so that took up part of Christmas morning." The family has farmed since his grandfather

Albert started farming there in 1922, with Graham's father, also Albert, taking over from Albert senior, and Graham farming there since 1993.

Christmas Day is like any other day and with winter daylight hours being short, they are usually done by 4pm. Michele cooks the dinner, sometimes interrupted by farming duties if she is needed. Their daughter Mel and her husband Mark, as well as Michele's mum Deirdre will join them. Their other son Adam farms in New Zealand.

On Boxing Day, at 6.30 am, the routine will kick in again... Hats off to our farmers.

**Lindsay Ord**



*Graham, Michele and Tom Crook with Woody the bull, and their dog Bungle*



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# Barrow Focus

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

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## Barrow upon Soar Parish Council News

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## DEFIBRILLATOR

The Parish Council is pleased to share that a new defibrillator has been installed on the Charnwood Mill building on Sileby Road. Funds were donated by the Neighbourhood Watch which enabled the Parish Council to fund and install a third device.

The other two defibrillators are located on the Parish Council building on High Street and at the Feather 'n' Fur pet shop on Babington Road. There is also a fourth one at the Baptist Church in Beveridge Street. If you need to access a defibrillator you need to dial 999, they will advise you of the location of your nearest device and give you the access code. Once activated the device will give full step by step instructions on how to proceed.

## CCTV

The new CCTV system is now up and running in the village. The cameras cover the High Street from Jerusalem Island down to the petrol station. We hope that the installation will help to deter crime in the village and help the police with their investigations. If you have any queries, please get in touch with the Parish Council Office.



# Barrow Christmas Street Market & Big Switch-on

**Saturday 7th December**

**2.30pm with Christmas Lights Switch On at 5.00pm**

**Come and join us for an exciting Christmas market and a visit to Father Christmas!**

### **What to expect:**

lots of stalls selling Christmas presents, cakes, jams, crafts, light-wands, food stalls, games, face-painting, balloon modelling, fairground rides, Santa's Grotto, free mince-pies and the Christmas Tree Festival on the doorstep in Holy Trinity Church.

A lovely family event.





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### Traditional Wreath Making

Sunday 8th December (3:00 - 5:00pm)  
£35 per person



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# Getting crafty at Christmas

Barrow has been buzzing with workshops and preparations for Christmas over the past few weeks. The library has held craft and floral workshops, Taylor's Florist showed how to create fabulous festive displays and Freckles held sold-out workshops for brush lettering, wreaths, chunky knit wreaths and asymmetric wreath-making. In many homes too, creative people have been busy making decorations and stocking fillers.

Taylor's Florist held willow wreath-making and traditional wreath workshops and if you didn't get to one, Sharon Gudger gives these tips:

Start collecting pine cones; see what greenery you may have in your garden - conifer, laurel, ivy, holly, spruce are all good to work with; use good secateurs.

Use biodegradable floral foam when possible (available from the florist)

Prepare sliced dried fruit and Christmas fragrance oil.

Susan Barker and Joyce Barber have made place mats, tree decorations,

Christmas stockings, bottle bags, tree skirts, coasters and more - and they will be stitching away until Christmas. Well known at local markets under the name Busy Bees, their felt and fabric crafts are sold in the shop at John Storer House, Wards End, Loughborough in aid of John Storer funds.

Freckles coffee and gift shop have held wreath-making and brush lettering workshops and a knitted wreath like the one pictured will provide a talking point with visitors at Christmas. It is made by knotting chunky wool on a frame, giving an artistic result.

Barrow Library has held several events: a craft afternoon of library-themed decorations, a fund-raiser of Body Shop gifts and a demo by Sharon and Nicky of Taylor's Florists of miniature Christmas trees. The library will also hold a festive Open Morning on Saturday 14 December from 10am to 12.30pm, which will include Santa stories, crafts, a book sale, festive refreshments, a raffle and more.

Lindsay Ord



*Taylor's Florist:  
Christmas wreath making*



*Busy bees:  
Felt and fabric craft*



*Freckles:  
Brush Lettering*

## Christmas 2019 Quiz

Here's a Christmas Quiz with 20 questions for you to try.

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in The Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companion's names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas trees originate from?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

Puzzled? Go to page 23 for the answers.



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## Good Neighbours

**We've been planning and working away for most of the year and we are now ready to launch! Barrow upon Soar Good Neighbours Scheme will be open to help those that need a little bit of support from December.**

Following on from a successful recruitment campaign at Barrow Street Market in the summer, we have held a couple of Drop-In sessions at the Community Library which have been very well attended.

People were able to talk to volunteers from nearby Good Neighbour Schemes in Woodhouse Eaves and Rothley that have been successfully supporting their villages for some time.

We also had fantastic support from Dementia Friends, Charnwood First Responders and Leicestershire Police Scam Awareness Team.

### **What types of support will be available?**

- Befriending – cup of tea or a chat, reading a paper
- Transport – a trip to the doctors or

hospital, or hairdressers

- Household tasks - such as DIY, Gardening or help with shopping,
- Forms & IT Help - writing a letter, using the internet

We have received funding from the Parish Council and SHIRE Community Grants which has allowed us to set up a new website, and buy IT Equipment and Support, as well as start to get all of our volunteers DBS checked. It was recently confirmed that we have been chosen to benefit from the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. We plan to use these funds to provide days out, including transport, to some local visitor attractions such as Bradgate Park. The funding round runs until October 2020. Co-op Members can choose us as their

local cause. If you are not already a Co-op Member please join to help raise funds for our scheme and help us to make more great things happen in our community.

If you would like more information email [support@barrowuponsoar.org.uk](mailto:support@barrowuponsoar.org.uk), call **07771 625 591** or visit our website [www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk)



## Churches at Christmas

Churches Together in Barrow upon Soar wish everyone a very happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year ahead.



### **Holy Trinity**

Sun 8th	10:30 am	Christingle All Age Service
Sun 22nd	11:00 am	Carol Service
Tues 24th	5:30 pm	Crib Service
	11:30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Wed 25th	10:30 am	All Age Holy Communion

### **Baptist Church**

Sun 1st	4:00 pm	Christmas Messy Church
Tues 17th	7:00 pm	Christmas minus 1, a reflective service for those who have lost someone
Sun 22nd	10:00 am	Nativity Service
	7:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tues 24th	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Wed 25th	10:00 am	Christmas Day Celebration

### **Catholic Church**

Sun 22nd	3:00 pm	Carol Service at Divine Infant Syston
Tues 24th	6:00 pm	St Gregory's Sileby
	8.30 pm	Divine Infant Syston
Wed 25th	9:00 am	St Gregory's Sileby
	11:00 am	Divine Infant of Prague Syston

### **Methodist Church**

Sun 1st	6:00 pm	Churches Together combined Advent Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	6:00 pm	Traditional Carol Service
Tues 24th	6:00 pm	Family Carols and 'The Christmas Mystery'
Wed 25th	10:15 am	Christmas Morning Praise
Sun 29th	4:00 pm	Cakes and Carols



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

In our latest inspection we were awarded a GOOD rating.

We provide learning through play for children aged 2 - 5yrs. Sessions are run at the Methodist Church Rooms, Barrow upon Soar Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm and Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am to 3.25pm.

For more information please contact us 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.

(Registered Charity No. 1051390)

## Pilates & Fitness Classes in Barrow

Small friendly classes, suitable for a range of ages and abilities



Monday	9:30 - 10:30am	Keep-Fit @ Scout hut
	10.45 - 11.45am	Pilates @ Scout hut
	6:30 - 7:30pm	New Pilates class @ Library
	7:30 - 8:30pm	Pilates @ Library
Tuesday	9:45 - 10:45am	Ladies Keep-Fit @ Unity House, Loughborough
Wednesday	9:30 - 10:30am	Keep Fit @ Gap
	10:45 - 11:45am	Pilates @ Gap
	7:00 - 8:00pm	Pilates @ Gap

Please Contact Donna for details of venues and class availability  
t: 07787 315197 e: [donna@corefitness.org.uk](mailto:donna@corefitness.org.uk)

**To Advertise in our next issue please call:**  
**07718 153117**

# Barrow Voice



# Barrow in Bloom 2019



Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to all the community groups that help to keep our village so vibrant!

We've started work already on some of the ideas for Bloom 2020.

1. We've replanted three shrubs removed from Jerusalem Island in the jitty at

For the second year running, Barrow upon Soar entered the East Midlands in Bloom competition. The judges were in the village in July meeting representatives of our many community groups. The awards ceremony took place on Wednesday 18th September in Chesterfield, where we were awarded a silver medal and also won the category for most improved entry. Barrow Open Gardens also received a judge's award to recognise their 20-year anniversary – a very well deserved recognition.

the top of New Street. We hope to plant a variety of wildflowers here if we can keep the nettles under control! We're also planning on creating a small area of wildflowers in Millennium Park to allow us to master the maintenance required to keep them looking their best for as long as possible.

2. Towards the end of November we have a Community Project to get the muddy path at the bottom of Mill Lane play area re-gravelled to make it accessible again for pushchairs and motor scooters. Tarmac is supporting us and we're in discussions with a local tree surgeon to remove some of the overhanging tree canopy where possible. Once all the planning details are confirmed we will be asking local businesses and residents to come along and join in with the project. Posters will be in the Library, Parish Council Offices and also on social media.

3. We're asking local children to be involved with planting Daffodil bulbs in KGV. Again, more details to follow on posters and social media.
4. We've talked to village pubs about having a fun Best Pub Planter/Basket competition. We are running this event alongside the Barrow Open Gardens weekend. Come along and choose the Pub with the best display.
5. What do you think of the idea of having a Community Garden or Orchard in the village? We are hoping to get a field on Willow Road once the Parish Council has confirmed plans for adopting the area. Please let us know if you would support this.

If anyone would like to be involved please get in touch with the Parish Council.

**Annette Richardson**

## A talk by celebrity gardener Adam Frost in March 2020

Good News! The Gardening Club is delighted to have Adam Frost coming to talk to us about his seven Chelsea Flower Show gold-medal winning gardens. He will be speaking at Humphrey Perkins on Thursday 19th March 19th 2020. Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm. Adam is a well-known gardening celebrity and often hosts Gardeners' World on BBC1. He has a passion for gardens and for inspiration draws on memories, special places and people who have been influential in his life. He tries to design gardens which actually feel 'real' as well as being beautiful. He believes gardening is linked to well-being and that we just have to find the time to stop and smell the roses. Tickets are available from both Barrow Library and Taylor's Florist in the village and are £10 for a non-gardening club member or £5 for members. There will be refreshments on the night and a raffle. For further information please contact Maggie Bellamy on 01509 812213 or Jeanette Hollis on 01509 416437.

What a fantastic Christmas present tickets would make - something to look forward to during the winter months.

Jeanette Hollis



1. Advent
2. More than one, the bible doesn't say how many!
3. Deep pan, crisp and even!
4. Elizabeth
5. St. Nicholas
6. 25; 'no el'!
7. Bethlehem
8. 364
9. 1840s – in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole
10. Egypt
11. Three – Dasher, Dancer and Donner
12. Germany – it was Latvia but it was part of Germany then.
13. King Herod
14. Just like the ones I used to know
15. Carpenter
16. The Anglo Saxons - it means 'good health'
17. Shepherds
18. A six pence
19. Gabriel
20. In a manger

ANSWERS





## Book Now For Christmas!!

*From 28<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December*



**Christmas Lunch Menu served 12- 2.30pm Monday to Saturday...**

**1 Course £9.95, 2 Course £14.95, 3 Course £19.95**

**Main Christmas Menu served 12-9pm Monday to Saturday...**

**2 Course £20.95, 3 Course £26.95**

*We also have a Festive Drinks Menu with Cocktails & Mulled Wine!!*



### Alongside our Main Menu & Bar Menu.....

**Monday to Saturday 11am-2pm - Breakfast is served!!**

**Monday & Tuesday - Pub Classics/2 courses for £12.95**

**Wednesday - Curry Night/£10.95 includes free selected drink**

**Thursday - Steak Night/£11.95 for 8oz Sirloin with all the trimmings & more**

**Sunday 12-4pm - Our Amazing Sunday Lunch (booking essential!)**

**Monday to Friday 12-2.30pm - Senior Citizens Menu/Main Course £6.95**

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# Refurbishment of the Methodist Church

**M**any of you are aware that major things have been happening at the Methodist Church over the past six months. We would like to bring you up to date on what we have been doing and why we have done it.

The premises are used seven days a week by the church and community groups. The playgroup uses the hall, coffee lounge and kitchen five mornings and two afternoons a week, but during this time we cannot hold coffee mornings or lunches. Access to the worship area was difficult because of steps and a very narrow aisle. The area was not well insulated and the heating system was old and inefficient. With all these points in mind, we started our development project to improve our premises for everyone.

To achieve these improvements we have made major changes. In the worship area we have removed the pews and levelled the floor. We have also created a new glass entrance, converted an inside wall to a glass bi-fold wall and created wide double glass doors. This gives level access

from the pavement outside and provides a clear view from the pavement into the adaptable worship area. We have created a new coffee lounge and kitchen adjacent to the new entrance which will be available throughout the week. The new, wider corridor provides a ramp to the existing hall. The corridor is considerably more open and there has been some rearrangement of storerooms and toilets.

The premises have a flexible eco-friendly heating system and new insulation, making the whole premises more comfortable, more efficient and reducing our carbon footprint.

The work done on the premises will:

- Provide a worship area giving the opportunity for more flexible forms of worship



*View into the worship area / community space*

- Provide greater use of the premises for the church and the community to expand their activities
- Provide access to the whole of the premises for everyone
- Give an enhanced visual presence of the church on North Street

Already we have taken new community bookings for use of the premises in the New Year.

When the project is complete we will hold a Community Open Day to which you are all welcome.

**Mike Morley**

## Life at Humphrey's is as busy and exciting as ever!

**T**here have been a huge variety of visiting speakers in school this term so far, including Christian Hewgill (BBC Radio 1) who came to speak to our Media and Music students about how to pursue a career in media and creative arts. Students were entertained by his anecdotes and inspired to consider different careers that they hadn't previously thought about. One of our Year 9's said: "It was inspiring to talk to somebody who used to go to the school who has moved away and achieved something on a national level".

Our students are incredibly proud to be inviting members of the public to our annual show. This year they are performing the popular 'School of Rock' from 12-14th February 2020. We look forward to welcoming you all to celebrate our students' hard work on-stage and behind the scenes.

We held an Anti-Bullying Week (11th November) with a wide variety of events. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are hard at

work putting plans into action following a number of strategy meetings. The national commitment to stamp out bullying in schools is mirrored by the work that our staff have done to achieve the Carnegie Silver Award for supporting the mental health of all members of our school community.

You will have noticed that we are having a lot of building and renovation work done at school to make our buildings and learning

environments as beautiful as they can be. Most of the work should be completed towards the end of the autumn term.

You can keep up to date with our students' achievements and the day-to-day events on our social media pages:

**Facebook** Humphrey Perkins School (@HumphreyPerkinsSchoolBarrow)  
**Twitter** @HumphreyPerkins

**Kathryn Judge**



**HUMPHREY  
PERKINS  
SCHOOL**

## BARROW VOICE URGENTLY NEEDS A NEW ADVERTISING MANAGER!

**Are you newly retired and keen to do something really valuable for the community of Barrow?**

Here is your chance! There will be plenty of initial training and assistance. You don't need any particular skills or experience in this area (other than being comfortable with the use of emails). If you like meeting new people, being persuasive, being part of a team and are naturally persistent.

**THEN THIS IS THE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!!**

Contact Judith either by phone on 07718153117 or email [judithrodgers155@gmail.com](mailto:judithrodgers155@gmail.com) for an initial chat.

We Need  
**YOU**



# Barrow Upon Soar Health Walks

Weekly Walks at 10:30am every Tuesday - Three Crowns Inn Car Park,  
Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8JS



## Need to get more active but not sure where to start?

**Walking is a fun and gentle way of getting fit and staying healthy.**

- FREE Sociable walks around the village and countryside
- Various walks to choose from all led by volunteers
- Starter Walks are a leisurely 30 minutes
- Longer 60 and 90 minutes walks also available
- No need to book - just turn up!
- Please wear suitable footwear

**Starter Walks:** Suitable for people who have not walked much before, who are looking to be more active, or are returning from injury or illness. These walks also offer the opportunity for

people to increase their activity levels and are generally 20-30 minutes in duration. Most of these walk will be on flat ground and therefore may be suitable for wheelchairs and buggy walkers.

**Short Walks:** For people who have undertaken a number of Starter Walks and are now looking to take their next step to something a little more challenging. These walks are approximately 60 minutes in duration and can include some steps, stiles and uneven surfaces.

**Long Walks:** Longer Walks, intended for people who are used to walking or have undertaken a number of Short Walks. These walks will be about 90 minutes in duration, and will include some steps, stiles and uneven surfaces.

**Power Walks:** Longer Walks but taken at a faster pace, intended for people who have undertaken a number of Long Walks but prefer a faster pace. These walks will be about 90 minutes in duration, and will include some steps, stiles and uneven surfaces.

**For more information on these and other walks in Charnwood call the Active Charnwood team on 01509 63 2535 or visit [www.charnwoodsport.org.uk/walking-for-health](http://www.charnwoodsport.org.uk/walking-for-health)**

**Barrow Panto Group Presents**



**HUMPTY DUMPTY**

Written by John Hill  
Directed by Abi Crossley

**Friday 6th March - 7pm**  
**Saturday 7th March - 2pm & 7pm**

**Humphrey Perkins Community Centre,  
Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar**

**Tickets**  
£10; £8 concessions and Children; £32 family (2+2)  
From Flower Shop, High St, Barrow, by Paypal from [www.busca.org.uk](http://www.busca.org.uk)  
from members of the cast or Box Office (07554447632)

BARROW PANTO GROUP

**BUSCA**  
BARROW UPON SOAR  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
Registered Charity No. 1150176

## Christmas in the Library

### Christmas Open Morning

Saturday 14th December 2019

10.00am - 12.30pm

A warm welcome awaits you with Santa Stories, tombola, book sale, crafts, refreshments, raffle and much more.



Please support your local  
Community Library



# Review: The Final Act

**If it wasn't the butler, and it wasn't Colonel Mustard in the boardroom with a lead pipe, then who did murder the philandering and unsavoury artistic director of the Shadow Drama Players Theatre Company, Gresham Laud?**

Identifying the murderer – and the motive – was the task of the audience in the sold-out BUSCA/Barrow Panto Group Murder Mystery evening at Humphrey Perkins one evening in October. The table I was on was so far from solving the murder that we could have been on the moon, but we didn't mind. We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

After buying our drinks from the bar, we were invited to join the 'Shadow Players' after show party', and were introduced to the disgruntled cast as they bitched and moaned about their director and the maintenance man noisily went about his business "tidying up". During the evening Inspector Foot of the Yard asked for our help to solve the murder and we discussed this amongst ourselves as we tucked into



Red carpet man

the meal that was included in the ticket price.

Could it have been the lush and, increasingly drunk, Alphonse who may (or may not) have had a 'thing' for Gresham, the murdered director; who may or (may not) have been offered a job in radio; and who may (or may not) have embezzled company funds? Or maybe it was a joint murder by costume mistress Betty, her actor-daughter, Suzy (whom, we discovered, was Gresham's unacknowledged lovechild and whom he was wanting to lure into 'adult' films) and Suzy's boyfriend and fellow-actor, the jealous Dominic who wanted a role in a soap. Then there was aging actor, Gloria, who had a past but not much of a future and, it appeared, had known Gresham 'well'.

After food, drink, a lot of laughs and chances to question the actors, one table managed to come up with the right answer. The murderer was, in fact, Fred, the maintenance man.



*It was the handyman!*  
From left to right - Luke Menzel, Natalie Downs, Craig Johnstone, Ginnie Willcocks, Andy Northcote Smith

The cast kept in character throughout, worked very hard and it was clear that they too, were having fun. I haven't been to one of these evenings before, but I definitely want to go next year. It's a good, different, evening out with friends and a chance to meet new people. Well done to the cast: Andy Northcote-Smith, Jackie Johnstone, Luke Menzel, Craig Johnstone, Ginny Willcocks, John Bean, Natalie Downs, Steve Crossley; not forgetting Helen Sadler, the director and Alan Willcocks, Tom Smith and Ron Laver who did the 'techy stuff' and all the unsung heroes who manned the bar and prepared and served the food.

Karisa Krcmar

## Centre Stage in Spring! "The Beautiful Game"

Friday 20th March, Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow.

**F**ootball. Some love it, others loathe it, but we can't deny that it is somehow present in all of our lives. A family show, this is one for all to enjoy. The important thing is, you don't need to be a football fan to appreciate it.

The Beautiful Game is a laugh-out-loud look at Britain's undying obsession with football, celebrating everything from weird match day rituals to ridiculous arm chair opinionating. It may even attempt to explain the offside rule. Packed with unforgettable goals, chant-a-long hits and full to the brim with nostalgia, this show will have you casting your mind back to fixtures gone by.

Stories are expressed through the medium of physical theatre and are often accompanied by catchy tunes or pre-recorded anecdotes from die-hard fans.

It is a show for the whole family; the fanatic, the impartial spectator and the football widow. Even if you don't like football, The Beautiful Game will persuade you of its charms. It is performed by Next Door Dance, an all-female company based in Nottingham. They specialise in creating performances that are exciting and relevant to a wide range of audiences - especially those that might believe dance is not for them.

This latest show celebrates the everyday; with their tongues firmly in their cheeks the mundane is turned upside down, resulting in witty and thought-provoking theatre which will leave you grinning from ear to ear.

Tickets will cost £11 (£12 on the door) or £5 for students in full time education (£6 on the door). They can be bought online from [www.busca.org.uk](http://www.busca.org.uk) by Paypal, from Taylor's Florist or on the door. Enquiries from 07718153117











# OLIVER

**T**his year's production from the Barrow Youth Theatre and the junior section of Barrow Panto Group was the musical "Oliver", an adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist".

The musical first came to life in the 1960s, and then along came the film version in 1968. With the musical and the film came tunes that generations have grown up with. Now, 50 years later and it's Abi Crossley's turn to direct an amazingly enjoyable version of Lionel Bart's classic musical. The energy shown by the cast in acting, dancing and singing was infectious; any member of the audience who did not mumble the words to "Food Glorious Food" or "I'll Do Anything For You Dear" would be few and far between. Again, having watched the film, it was hard to imagine an amateur group being able to recreate the scenery required, but in this production the stage came alive for every part of the story. There was even a London Bridge and coffins!

It is traditional to single out the best actors in a show, but this not the Oscars, and in my opinion the whole cast of Oliver - from Oliver himself to the Dodger, via Nancy, Bill Sykes and the Bumbles, the workhouse children, and Fagin's gang all stood out. The Brownlow's and the undertaker should not be excluded either. Together it was a great performance; even a gender-swapped Bullseye got a look in!

The band complemented the signing, and the sound and lighting is of a standard other groups can only dream about. I also want to mention the costumes and scenery as both were very period! The whole effect was a good afternoon's entertainment and a reminder of younger days.

The general reaction was, "Can we have some more please?".

Finally, a back room mention for the organisers of the event who looked after the ticketing and hospitality. The tea, coffee, refreshments, raffle and of course the programmes were all of a very high quality.

**Eric Ellingworth**





# Christmas FAYRE

26th November - 21st December

12-2pm & 5-8.30pm

(Exc Sundays & Mondays)

3 courses £19.95

2 courses £17.50

Pick up  
a pre order form  
**TODAY!**

## Starters

**Spiced Butternut Squash Soup**  
with crouton, mini tin loaf & butter (v)(vga)(gfa)

• **Venison in a Blanket**  
with festive spiced chutney & baby leaves

**Prosciutto & Pomegranate Salad**  
with fig & pear dressing (gf)

**Smoked Salmon, Prawn & Crayfish Parfait**  
with sliced mini loaf, butter & salad garnish

**Festive Falafel**  
with spiced apple chutney & baby leaves (v)(vg)

## Mains

**Traditional Roast Turkey**  
with a bacon chipolata, homemade roast potatoes,  
stuffing & a side serving of stock gravy

**Chicken, Wensleydale & Cranberry Pie**  
with homemade triple-cooked chips & side serving of stock gravy

**Rich Ruby Steak Casserole**  
with wholegrain mustard mashed potato

**Grilled Seabass**  
with herb-crushed new potatoes & a side serving of  
lemon & caper dressing (gfa)

**\*Cinnamon-Spiced Sweet Potato Curry**  
with basmati rice & mini naan bread (v)(vga)(gfa)

All main courses are served with fresh seasonal vegetables \*exception

## Desserts

**Traditional Christmas Pudding**  
with brandy sauce (v)(gfa)

**Sherry-Soaked Sultana Cheesecake**  
with pouring cream (v)

**Homemade Panacotta**  
with mulled winter berries & shortbread finger

**Chocolate Orange Pudding**  
with vanilla ice cream (v)(vga)

**Three Cheese Plank\***  
consisting of Brie, Stilton, Red Leicester, crackers,  
butter, red onion chutney, frozen grapes, 50ml port (v)  
£5 supplement applies

## Children's Christmas Fayre

is also available upon request.  
Please ask for details

(v)=vegetarian (vg)=vegan (gf)=gluten free  
(gfa)=gluten free adaptable (vga)=vegan adaptable

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**Barrow  
Voice**



Barrow Voice is published by Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA).  
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[www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)



# The Yule Log

**A**t this time of year you see so much lovely food in the shops and in the ads on TV. One ad frequently featured is for a chocolate yule log. I began to wonder why and what the traditions are behind this modern chocolate covered cake, usually decorated with bits of fake holly and sprinkled with icing sugar snow. What was a real yule log?

Yule or Yuletide is the old name for the Winter Solstice. Looking back, its roots are possibly in the Iron Age and burning a yule log at the solstice certainly continued into medieval times. The yule log tradition may have started in the Nordic countries where at this time of the year the days are very short and the dark nights long. The belief was that feasts and celebrations involving fire would bring light back to the world... as it slowly did.

The yule log was an important part of the celebration in the home. A large log would be decorated with holly and pine cones....sometimes sprinkled with wine

and salt to protect against evil spirits.

In Scandinavia, larger gatherings of people would meet in longhouses. Longhouses had walls of peat or wattle and daub, a thatched roof and floor made of pounded earth. At one end the animals would live out the winter, at the other there was a storeroom and workshop whilst the centre of the house was a communal living area. In its centre was a great stone hearth to provide heat, light and a place to cook the meals. It was on this hearth the yule log would be placed. So it's not hard to see why, in the depths of a long, cold winter that the lighting of the yule log was a reason for feasts and celebrations.

In these big houses it wasn't just a log that was lit but a whole tree! It was carefully chosen and ceremonially brought into the house. As much as possible of it would be in the hearth with the rest of the tree sticking out into the room. It had been lit from the remains of the last burning log which had been carefully saved for this purpose. It was said to protect the house from lightning strikes; very much a concern in flammable dwellings! Each day of the 12 days of Yuletide this huge tree would be kept burning until the 12th night, when the feasting began.

Well, that explains the traditions behind the yule log but not why we have a chocolate version today! It is possible



that edible festive yule logs, without the chocolate, were a tradition at the feast but what we know as a yule log goes back to a Parisian patisserie. During the 19th century he invented a wonderfully rich chocolate confection, elaborately decorated, which he called a Buche de Noël which translates to Christmas Log.

*Enjoy!*

**Maggie J**

## Charnwood Orchestra "Back to Vienna" Concert

**T**he Charnwood Orchestra will be taking their audience to Vienna once more on the 18 January, to start 2020 in traditional Viennese style. The concert will take place at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, Cotes Road, Barrow, LE12 8JU.

Conducted by Nic Fallowfield, the Orchestra are delighted to welcome soprano Elizabeth Ryder who will perform popular songs such as The Laughing Song from the operetta Fledermaus and Vilja's song from the Merry Widow.

The Orchestra will also treat the audience to favourites from the Strauss family's

rich catalogue of Waltzes and Polkas - get your toes tapping to Thunder & Lightning Polka, Blue Danube, Radetzky March, Emperor Waltz and many more. Audience participation is encouraged, so do come along for a fabulous evening's fun and frivolity. We look forward to meeting you.

**Tickets will be available by**

**Paypal from [www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk](http://www.charnwoodorchestra.org.uk)**

**Email [tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk](mailto:tickets@charnwoodorchestra.org.uk)**

**From The Florist, High Street, Barrow**

**On the door**





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

## Editor

Gaynor Barton – 07792 545628  
editor@barrowvoice.co.uk

## Advertising

Judith Rodgers – 07718 153117  
advertising@barrowvoice.co.uk

## Distribution

Steve Morris – 412962  
distribution@barrowvoice.co.uk

## Features

Val Gillings  
Judith Rodgers  
Ginnie Willcocks  
Lindsay Ord  
Eric Ellingworth

## Photography

Judith Rodgers  
Gaynor Barton

## Advertising Artwork

Michael Webster

## Website

John Nurse

## Design, Artwork & Print

GOGO Marketing & Advertising

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2020

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2020

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The Editor  
55 Thirlmere Road  
Barrow upon Soar  
Leics LE12 8QQ  
editor@barrowvoice.co.uk



## Village Diary

<b>Mon 2nd</b>	New Horizons, Methodist Coffee lounge, 14.00, all welcome Charnwood Art, Bishop Beveridge Club, 19.00 - 21.00
<b>Tues 3rd</b>	Parish Council meeting, PC office, 19.00, everyone welcome, public participation at approximately 19.15
<b>Wed 4th</b>	Mothers' Union, Holy Trinity Church, 15.30
<b>Thurs 5th</b>	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society, Cons Club function room, 19.15
<b>Fri 6th</b>	Library Rhyme Time, 10.30. Let's Get Crafty, 13.30
<b>Sat 7th</b>	Methodist Church Minimarket, 10.00 - 11.00, all welcome Crochet Club, Methodist Coffee bar, 11.00 - 13.00
<b>Mon 9th</b>	Self Help Art Group; Bishop Beveridge Club; 12.30 - 14.30
<b>Wed 11th</b>	Gardening Club: mulled wine, mince pies and poetry, Barrow Library, 19.30, all welcome Bishop Beveridge Club Carol Service <b>(TIME?)</b> Barrow WI: Talk about cards, their history, games ideas, around the world, Cons Club Assembly Rooms, 19.30 all welcome Methodist Ladies Circle, 19.45
<b>Thurs 12th</b>	Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND WHEN))</b>
<b>Sat 14th</b>	Library Christmas Open Morning 10.00 - 12 noon
<b>Mon 16th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club Film: "Sometimes, Always, Never" 14.00
<b>Wed 18th</b>	Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND WHEN))</b>
<b>Fri 20th</b>	Library Rhyme Time, 10.30 Beveridge Club lunch, 12.30 - 13.30 Let's get Crafty, Library, 13.30
<b>Sat 21st</b>	BUSCA Christmas Dance with C&J Sound, Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, 19.30 - 23.00, tickets from Mike: 01509 413649
<b>Sun 29th</b>	Community litter-picking event, Fishpool Brook Jitty (Millennium Entrance) <b>((TIME))</b>
<b>Wed 1st</b>	Mothers' Union, Holy Trinity Church, 15.30
<b>Thurs 2nd</b>	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society, 19.15; Cons Club Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND TIME))</b>
<b>Sat 4th</b>	Methodist Church Minimarket, 10.00 - 11.00, all welcome Crochet Club, Methodist Hall, 12.00
<b>Mon 6th</b>	New Horizons, Methodist Coffee lounge, 14.00, all welcome
<b>Tues 7th</b>	Parish Council meeting, PC office, 19.15, all welcome; public participation at approximately 19.30
<b>Wed 8th</b>	Beveridge Club Fun Quiz, 14.30 Barrow WI: In-house Games Evening, Cons Club Assembly Rooms, 19.30
<b>Sun 11th</b>	Community Litter Picking event, Soar Bridge <b>((SOAR BRIDGE INN, TIME?))</b>
<b>Wed 15th</b>	Gardening Club AGM: 19.30, Talk by Gary Farnfield of Rainbows: 20.00; public welcome to attend the talk; venue TBC
<b>Fri 17th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club lunch, 12.30 - 13.30
<b>Sat 18th</b>	Charnwood Orchestra "Vienna and Beyond" concert, Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, 19.00, tickets from Taylor's Florist
<b>Mon 20th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club film: "Red Joan", 14.00
<b>Wed 22nd</b>	Methodist Ladies Circle, 19.45
<b>Mon 27th</b>	Barrow Book Club, Hunting Lodge, 19.00, "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver
<b>Thurs 30th</b>	Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND TIME))</b>
<b>Sat 1st</b>	Methodist Church Minimarket, 10.00 - 11.00, all welcome Crochet Club, Methodist Hall, 11.00
<b>Mon 3rd</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club Film: "Some Like it Hot", 14.00 New Horizons, Methodist Coffee lounge, 14.00, all welcome
<b>Tues 4th</b>	Parish Council meeting, 19.00, all welcome, public participation at approximately 19.15
<b>Wed 5th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club, Talk about Marilyn Monroe by Julie Ede, 14.30
<b>Thurs 6th</b>	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society, Cons Club, 19.15
<b>Wed 12th</b>	Barrow WI: Glen Lewin, butcher, Cons Club, 19.30 Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND TIME))</b>
<b>Mon 17th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club Film: "Downton Abbey", 14.00
<b>Wed 19th</b>	Gardening Club, Talk by Michael Salotti on Propagation; 19.30; venue TBC Methodist Ladies Circle; 19.45
<b>Fri 21st</b>	Beveridge Club lunch 12.30 - 13.30
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	Community Litter Picking event <b>((SOAR BRIDGE INN, TIME?))</b>
<b>Mon 24th</b>	Barrow Book Club, Hunting Lodge, 19.00, "When All is Said and Done" by Anne Griffin
<b>Tues 25th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club Pancake Day, 12.30
<b>Thurs 27th</b>	Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND TIME))</b>
<b>Tues 3rd</b>	Parish Council meeting, PC office, 19.00, all welcome, public participation at approximately 19.15
<b>Mon 4th</b>	New Horizons, Methodist Coffee lounge, 14.00, all welcome
<b>Thurs 5th</b>	Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society, Cons Club, 19.15
<b>Fri 6th</b>	Barrow Panto Group: "Humpty Dumpty", Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, 19.00, tickets from Taylor's Florist
<b>Sat 7th</b>	Methodist Church Minimarket, 10.00 - 11.00, all welcome; Crochet Club, Methodist Hall, 12.00; Barrow Panto Group: "Humpty Dumpty"; Humphrey Perkins Community Centre; 19.00; tickets from Taylor's Florist
<b>Wed 11th</b>	Barrow WI, Talk about Edith Piaf by Julie Ede; 19.30; Cons Club
<b>Thurs 12th</b>	Footpaths Group meeting <b>((WHERE AND WHEN))</b>
<b>Mon 16th</b>	Beveridge Club Film: "Mrs Lowrie and Son"; 14.00
<b>Wed 18th</b>	Methodist Ladies Circle; 19.45
<b>Thurs 19th</b>	Gardening Club; Talk by Adam Frost - celebrity gardener, Humphrey Perkins, 19.30, £10 for non-members, £5 for members
<b>Fri 20th</b>	Bishop Beveridge Club lunch, 12.30 - 13.30 Centre Stage show "The Beautiful Game", Humphrey Perkins Community Centre, 19.30; tickets by Paypal or Taylor's Florist
<b>Sat 21st</b>	Community Litter Picking event (Soar Bridge) <b>((WHERE AND WHEN))</b>
<b>Mon 30th</b>	Barrow Book Club, Hunting Lodge, 19.00, "Innocent Traitor" by Alison Weir

IS THIS VILLAGE DIARY VALUED? IF SO, WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO KEEP IT UP TO DATE. IT'S NOT A DIFFICULT TASK AND YOU CAN DO IT ENTIRELY BY EMAIL. Judith Rodgers has done this job for some time and it is the last edition she will do. But she will be happy to talk you through what needs to be done. **Phone her on 07718153117 or email judithrodgers155@gmail.com**

**Christmas Dance with  
C.J. Sound**

Humphrey Perkins Community Centre  
December 21st

**Barrow Panto Group presents  
Humpty Dumpty**

Humphrey Perkins Community Centre  
March 6th & 7th

**The Beautiful Game**

A Centre Stage production  
Humphrey Perkins Community Centre  
March 20th