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#### CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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#### BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Ian Houlder	810074	ian.houlder@stedsbcc.gov.uk
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#### POLICE INFORMATION

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Ixworth Police Station	01284 74100	
Martlesham Heath	01473 613500	

# NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum Denham

Winter 2015



The Parish Council are grateful for the support of Hopkins Homes and Pigeon Investment Management Ltd for sponsoring this publication.

Welcome to the December issue of Newslink, and as we approach Christmas can I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish all parishioners a Happy Christmas.

I have recently used this space to appeal for donations towards a new heating system for the village hall. I am delighted to report that, thanks to the very generous donations received, together with a contribution of the funding we received in respect of the Grove Park development, a new heating system has now been installed in the hall. Once again, a huge thank you to those who responded to the appeal.

In the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16, the Parish Council thought that it was prudent to impose a small increase in our share of the council tax precept. It has always been our view that maintaining a sensible level of reserves within our accounts makes good sense, and that it is better to seek a small increase in the precept, rather than impose a large increase when our reserves run down. For those who do not know, our annual income from the precept is around £25,000 per annum, and our major item of expenditure is the maintenance of the large number of village greens. We also pay for grass cutting on the village playing field, and we are responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard and cemeteries. This does not leave a huge amount for other items.

However, I am delighted to advise that for the financial year 2016/17, the Parish Council **will not be seeking any increase in the precept**. Having given the matter very careful consideration at our budget meeting in November, we concluded that our level of reserves is sufficient for the present. We were helped in reaching this conclusion by the knowledge that we are still able to call on additional monies from the Grove Park development to fund other projects that enhance or improve community facilities. Residents should note that we have already made a commitment to assist the Town Estate Room Foundation with funding, but if anybody has any thoughts on other community facilities that could be enhanced, or introduced, then please contact the Parish Council.

Finally, can I remind you that the Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month (except January and August) at 7.15pm in the Village Hall. We welcome members of the public to our meetings and individuals and groups do have an opportunity to raise matters of community interest before we begin the formal business of the meeting. If you do wish to raise an issue please contact the Parish Clerk in advance, to ensure we allocate appropriate time for discussion.

**Graham Judge**  
**Chairman**  
**Barrow cum Denham Parish Council**

## Barrow and District WI

The WI meets on the first Tuesday of every month, usually in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Most evenings we have a speaker, followed by tea/coffee and some rather lush home-made refreshments. In July and December/January, we meet for a BBQ/meal.

We also organise a few social events throughout the year – with one already on the calendar for July next year when we are taking a trip down the river Orwell. Travelling by coach, we will have lunch on board during the cruise and there will be plenty of time for relaxation and chat.

As part of the wider Suffolk West Group, we have access to many varied activities – crafts, talks, sporting activities, days out and much more.

If you would like to come along one Tuesday you will receive a warm welcome. Or ring **Chris James on 01284 810277** for more details.

### Programme 2016

**5 January:** Festive Meal at The Crown and Castle, Risby.

**2 February:** Amanda Redmond: *Tales of her Travels. (She is also a World Challenge Leader).*

**1 March:** Craft Evening. *Led by our members, we are going to learn how to make gift bags.*

**5 April:** Jane Paley: 'So you thought you knew about tea'.  
*Humorous & light-hearted*

**3 May:** AGM plus resolutions meeting.

## Barrow & Denham Good Neighbours Scheme

The Scheme provides occasional services, such as lifts to the West Suffolk Hospital, the surgery, post office, hairdresser etc, minor DIY jobs/repairs or help to fill in forms, to people in need in our community.

Please volunteer to help - especially for jobs during the day, or to hold the phone - by contacting us via the Helpline number below.

If you would like assistance, ring the Helpline number and leave a message. The phone holder will get back to you to take details and arrange the assistance. Please allow at least 3 days notice.



Good  
Neighbours  
Helpline  
07 930 328 930



## Weeping Willow

There seems to be all sorts of rumours circulating about the future of the pub. The Parish Council has been in contact with the new owner, and he has confirmed that his purchase of the building has gone ahead, is now complete, and that it is not on the market again. However, he has advised that he thinks it will take a year to get the necessary planning approval for the changes to the structure, undertake the refurbishment work and get the pub open again. He has promised to keep the Parish Council updated on progress and when more information is available we will make sure it is reported in Newslink.

## Barrow History Society

We meet in Barrow Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise stated) at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome, £2 per meeting\*.

All enquiries to Sylvia Greening (810270).

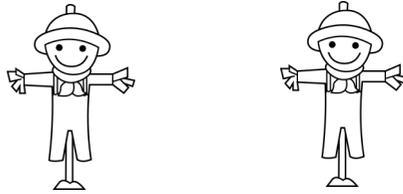
**12 Jan:** *English Impressions - Home and Garden with Gertrude Jekyll* - Caroline Holmes

**9 Feb:** *Castles of Suffolk* - Edward Martin

**\*8 March:** *An Eccentric Look at Suffolk* - Charlie Haylock. This is a fund-raising event. Tickets (£8) for non-members are now available from Brenda Shering 811404 or Sylvia Greening 810270. The ticket price includes a glass of wine and buffet

**12 April:** *Landscape of Suffolk* - Mark Mitchels

## The First Ever Barrow Scarecrow Festival



This event was a huge success and we raised just over £2000 to go towards the renovation of the Town Estate Room.

Thank you to everyone who embraced this new event for the village and made magnificent scarecrows, joined in over the weekend and generally helped to make it such a success.

Hopefully we will do this again in two years time. Watch this space!

## Newslink

Submissions for the next issue should be emailed to the Parish Clerk by **Monday 29 February**. The Newslink will be delivered week commencing 14 March.

Deadline for the following issue is **Monday 30 May** for delivery week commencing 13 June.

Items should be approximately 200 words maximum but editorial rights remain with the Parish Clerk. It is helpful if they are produced as a Word Document.

The Parish Council would like to thank all our volunteer deliverers, who give up their time to bring your copy of Newslink to your door, and wish them a Merry Christmas.



## The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Many people will be aware that Her Majesty, the Queen will celebrate her 90th Birthday in 2016 and that there will be major national events taking place over the weekend of 11 and 12 June. One of these will be a street party for 10,000 people to take place in The Mall.

The Parish Council believes that it would be appropriate for Barrow and Denham to organise their own celebration event, or events, to mark this significant occasion, and are seeking volunteers to help with the organisation. They have also agreed to provide some funding for any events that do take place.

Initial thoughts are for a village party to be held on The Green, not necessarily on the same date as the national event, but this is simply a first idea, and it may be that different areas in the parish want to organise their own celebrations.

However, the first step will be to form a working party to co-ordinate ideas, agree dates etc, and if you are prepared to help can you please contact the Parish Clerk, Sarah Cox on 810183, [barrowcumdenhampc@btinternet.com](mailto:barrowcumdenhampc@btinternet.com)

## Barrow Town Estate Room

In recent weeks and months you may have been aware of various happenings and activities in and around the Town Estate Room on The Street in Barrow and wondered what is occurring.

A major fund-raising and renovation project is underway to raise approximately £90000 and to sympathetically transform the tired building with the ambition to develop a vibrant community centre in the heart of our village for the use of all.

In time we will create a general information point with tea and coffee facilities, internet access, photocopying services, advice sessions and various recreation activities for all people and age groups in the village.

The recent and well supported Scarecrow Festival was one such fund-raising venture and to-date the fund is approaching £60000 so we are well on the way to our eventual goal.

We look forward to giving future reports on the progress of the project and ask if anyone requires more information, or is moved to offer any assistance or additional fund raising efforts, to please contact Sue Houlder at [houlder49@btinternet.com](mailto:houlder49@btinternet.com)

### Barrow Post Office 1st Birthday at the Udder Room

We've had an interesting year with lots of publicity about the Post Office in its new location. With various newspaper articles, a Radio Suffolk interview and putting Barrow in the spotlight on BBC2's programme Signed, Sealed and Delivered, when local characters made their celebrity appearance on the big screen!

The Udder Room would like to thank all the residents of Barrow and Denham for supporting the Post Office's move to its new location, which, after a few teething problems, has thrived for a year now.

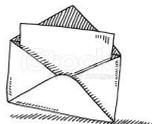
With this in mind, we would like to remind people of our opening hours as they have now been extended.

**Monday-Friday 8.30am - 5pm  
(Open all day)**

**Saturday 8am - 1pm  
(Coffee Shop/Farm Shop open  
until 4pm)**

**Sunday 10am - 4pm  
(Coffee Shop and Farm Shop only)**

Coming into the Festive period we would also remind you that Christmas stamps are now available. If you have any queries regarding last posting dates for cards and gifts, both to the UK and abroad, please pop in and ask.



### Reporting Road Hazards

In the past, potholes and highways issues in general have been reported to the Parish Clerk who has then been in touch with Suffolk County Council (SCC) to organise repairs.

Following the redesign of the SCC website, it is now very straightforward to register faults by any member of the public. Simply go to [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk) and click on Online Services. From here, under the Report section, you can select which Highways issue you wish to advise them of, and follow their forms to upload your report. You will be able to see easily if the fault has already been reported and even follow the progress of its resolution.

### Barrow Garden Club

Are you up for a challenge?! The Club are looking for enthusiastic villagers who would be interested in helping revive the Village Shows. You do not necessarily need to be green-fingered - an eye for detail and strong muscles are some of the qualities required! If this appeals to you, please come along to the AGM on **12 February** when you can join the Club for a very reasonable £10 annual fee, or come as a visitor for £2 per meeting. If you would like to lend a hand at the shows only, your help would still be much appreciated and you can call **Kirstie Ford on 811897** to register your interest. Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and cover a variety of topics throughout the year.

### Barrow Cricket Club

As I sit here on a wet and blustery late November afternoon my thoughts, as they often do, drift to sunnier times and sweet memories of golden summer afternoons. The smell of linseed, the crack of leather on willow, darting swallows swooping over sun-drenched pavilions, awestruck spectators gasping at the honesty and intensity of the spectacle played out before them.

In just 6 short months these days will return to us and the gentlemen of the Barrow Cricket Club will reassemble from their slumbers to re-join the fray and do battle across the county.

You could be part of the story. If you are interested in playing a comedic and extremely friendly class of village cricket, don't delay, get in touch and learn more about this dubious opportunity.

Throughout the winter we hold indoor nets in Bury St Edmunds on **Monday evenings** and any budding cricketers are urged to come along and have a go. If you think you're ready for this fun-filled challenge, join the club and please contact **Richard Ford on 811897** [richard@northstarcreation.com](mailto:richard@northstarcreation.com)

### Christmas at All Saints Church Barrow

Christmas Eve is an exciting time, especially for children as they look forward to the big day.

Our Children's Crib Service on **Thursday 24 December at 3.30pm** is a unique way for them to discover the Christmas message. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes - we would love to see you and your children there, whatever their age!

Also on Christmas Eve, at 6pm, our Carol Service takes place. I always look forward to the amazing atmosphere at the Church at this time - candlelight, Christmas tree and traditional carols. Bring the whole family! If you are new to the village, or only get to Church once a year, you will receive a warm welcome.

Barrow is a thriving community, with the Church at the centre of much of what is going on.

Do make the effort to come and join us at this wonderful time of the year, we would love to see you.

A very Happy Christmas to you and your loved ones.

**Steve Pettitt Barrow PCC**

[steve@mattpettitt.co.uk](mailto:steve@mattpettitt.co.uk)

