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NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum
Denham

Autumn 2020



Welcome to the Autumn edition of Newslink.

As this edition of Newslink goes to press we are in a period of uncertainty as regards our emergence from the lock down rules of Covid-19.

It is great to see our local businesses resume trade after many months of total closure. Notably we can enjoy The Willow, The Three Horseshoes and The Old Cow Shed once more. I know that the last few months have been very stressful for the owners of these establishments.

As of the beginning of September the Village Hall remains closed, but there are plans to reopen in a limited form. Recent Government announcements however have thrown these plans into turmoil. Further updates will be posted on notice boards and via social media. We really hope that we can see the Village Hall back in use soon as it is such an important means of people beginning to socialise once again, even if it needs to be at a certain distance.

As we begin to emerge from complete lock down I think it an appropriate time to acknowledge the success of our volunteer scheme. I would like to thank all those who volunteered to help others. I would also like to thank Barrow Good Neighbours who helped organise the response and continue with their good work. I would also like to especially thank Mrs Kat Bowe who spent many hours administering the entire effort.

Early data from our now operational speed sign is very concerning. Whilst many drivers do indeed obey the speed limit in the village there is an unacceptably high number that do not. On one occasion a vehicle was recorded doing 75 MPH on Barrow Hill within the 30MPH zone. It was early evening and could easily have led to a collision should anyone have been emerging from Simpson Way. The data will be used to encourage the Police to prioritise the area for their attendance.

You may also be aware that we sadly saw the permanent closure of the long-established nursery "The Green Wellie". This community asset will be greatly missed by many, especially the more than 20 staff that unfortunately lost their employment. There were several factors that caused this closure, but it is impossible to overlook the effect of the recent Pandemic.

Finally we have very sadly seen the passing of one of our true Village gentleman Mr Les Hopton. Les had previously served on the Parish Council and continued to be very involved in Barrow village life. I am sure we have all enjoyed some of his poetry at some time or another. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends.

John Pearson.—Chairman Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council.

Belated Birthday Wishes to the Barrow Book Exchange

For its fifth birthday in July we gave the BBE a deep clean from top to toe, making the red paint gleam and the glass panels shine. We took out all the books, brushed away the spider webs, sprayed and polished the shelves and book box. Seeing it standing red and proud with its golden crown brought to mind the following poem, written in 2012 for the Micro Poetry Festival in the telephone kiosk at Great Gresham, Suffolk.

Ann Kronbergs

Life History of a Telephone Box

By Tim Cazalet

I stand red and proud with my gold crown
What on Earth? they say
Talk to someone from here? Surely not.
But they soon catch on and feed in heavy pennies
and crinkly thrupenny bits, and their slinky sixpences
and I stand red and proud with my gold crown
They call their mothers and their brothers and their grannies and their lovers
I miss you mum,
You're in the team Saturday OK?
I made some jam today
I love you, I love you too
and I stand red and proud with my gold crown
I am here at 3.00 in the morning
My baby is sick, come quick
I am here at half past eleven at night
There's been a crash, come quick

I am here in the darkest hour of the morning
My husband won't wake up, please come
and I stand red and proud with my gold crown
Just turn left and you'll see the red telephone box
Go just a few yards past.
Turn right by the telephone box and go straight on all the way.
Leave the telephone box on your right go past the turning and it's on your left - can't miss it
I am their guide and on dark nights I lead the faithful to evensong
and I stand red and proud with my gold crown
But what's this? New money?
O yes I take it all, the pennies and the new 2p's
the fives and tens and even the 50's
But that's ten shillings in real money, and they shake their heads
but I stand red and proud with my gold crown
But now it is quiet, and they don't come in
I'll call you this evening I hear them say they sit in their armchairs chatting away and I feel old, and I am no longer wanted
They ripped out my heart and left me to rot
and then sold me for a pound for I know not what
but then they cherished me and made me sparkle
and filled me with photographs and books and flowers
and even poems and now I am loved as ever I was
and I stand red and proud with my gold crown.

Barrow and Denham Good Neighbours Scheme

Under normal circumstances, volunteers provide services such as lifts to the West Suffolk Hospital, the surgery, the post office, the hairdresser, etc, and carry out minor DIY jobs/repairs or help to fill in forms, to people in our community. All services are free except when a lift is involved, when we charge 40p per mile (present rate) to cover the driver's costs.

However, with social distancing still in place, lifts are only possible where the volunteer driver has a large enough car that you can sit in a rear seat and be over a metre apart, and both your driver and you should wear a mask. Whilst this limits

us to very few drivers, at least we are able to offer this service again.

Services such as shopping, collecting prescriptions etc are still taking place as normal. Please contact us if you need help.

Sadly the regular coffee mornings that we hold, mostly at The Old Cowshed Tearoom (site of Barrow post office) and occasionally at the Town Estate Room, have had to be cancelled for the time being in order to comply with guidelines. If you would like our 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 whenever possible.

Good Neighbours HELPLINE 07930 328 930

Pigeons by David Holmes

Pigeons are becoming a pest in our garden, they seem to be capable of eating practically anything. They have a talent for stealing soft fruit the day before it is due to be picked whilst actively busy damaging other plants. They are now so fat that they can barely take off and even manage to break the branches they roost on, as for the mess they leave on our car ... but help is now at hand in the shape of a pair of sparrowhawks who have taken up residence in the area. I am now more aware that they are active around our garden because of the piles of pigeon feathers I keep finding, as opposed to piles of dung! A fat pigeon must make a hearty breakfast for a sparrowhawk.

The litter goblins have been busy again especially during the lockdown. There have been incidents of flytipping locally and, as usual, the litter goblins have been busy throwing litter from vehicles. There is one goblin who has really excelled itself this time. It thought it would be a good idea to get rid of the remains of their kitchen units by posting them in the newspaper recycle bin.

Barrow-cum-Denham Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan – Call for sites

Between the 8th September and 23rd October 2020, the Parish Council is undertaking a 'Call for Sites' as part of the Barrow-cum-Denham Neighbourhood Plan.

We are therefore inviting owners or agents representing potential sites within the Barrow Parish to submit sites to the Parish Council. This can be done using the proforma from the Parish Council website www.barrowcumdenhampc.com/neighbourhood-plan/

When completed, the proformas and maps of the sites are to be submitted to the Parish Clerk, 12A Simpson Way, Barrow, IP29 5EA by 23 October 2020. Any sites submitted will be assessed as part of the Barrow-cum-Denham Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. Mark Howard

The Rectory, Church Road, Barrow

Dear Friends,

It's really lovely to now be living in Barrow after spending the last four months commuting from Sudbury. I don't miss town life at all, and love waking up each morning to admire the country views around here, and especially that of All Saints' Church, which sits at the bottom of the rectory garden! There is something so strong and solid about that building, and as I walk around it each day I cannot but admire the incredible skill and commitment that was used so many centuries ago to build it. Throughout our county and our country, we are so fortunate to be blessed with these wonderful buildings, dotted throughout the land and standing as a beacon to the Christian faith. What would we do without them? Where would we go to have our children baptised, or hold our Sunday services, funerals, and weddings? So many of these services had to be cancelled during lockdown, so it's incredibly wonderful that they have restarted, albeit in different formats. But of course, all this comes at a cost, and our churches need to be maintained somehow; with a much-reduced income, this is very difficult. Hopefully, we will find ways to do this, and already we are working on some interesting ideas for later in the year. Do keep a lookout! Meanwhile, don't forget to check our website for the service times and other information. Meanwhile, I hope that over the next few months I will meet you either at one of our church services, or out and about around our lovely village.

With love and prayers, Revd Lynda

Neighbourhood Plan

First, many thanks to those of you who generously took the time to reply to the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. We had a good response, with 375 submissions which were generally thoughtful and considered. The data is being collated and a report prepared for review by the parish council.

In parallel, environmental and habitat assessments are being carried out by external experts, funded by grants. Together with the results from the consultation, they form part of the data gathering phase of the Plan.

Another aspect of the data gathering phase is a call for sites, whereby the parish council formally asks local landowners to propose potential sites for development. Elsewhere, in this edition of Newslink, you'll see a notice about this.

Recently, some parishioners notified me about great crested newts that they've found or seen in their gardens (or in one instance, that they found wandering across the floor of their house!). Again, you'll see a notice about this in this edition of Newslink. The presence of such a protected species in the parish does not necessarily stop the building of houses – the Parish Council is simply trying to find out more information as part of the Plan's data gathering activities.

Whilst the contents of the consultation are anonymous, a particular response did rather stand out - from an elderly resident of the village. The gist of one of their written responses was a gentle reminder that, all things considered, how lucky we are to live in this beautiful part of the world. Given recent events, it seemed very apposite. Perhaps such wisdom comes with age. I hope so.

Cllr. Mark Howard

Barrow-cum-Denham PC

Newslink

Submissions for the next issue should be emailed to the Parish Clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com by **Friday 27th November 2020**.

Please limit the number of words to no more than 200.

We are always after new content.

Great Crested Newts – Have you seen one?



Some parishioners have reported seeing great crested newts in their gardens and one report included the above beautiful picture. Great crested newts are a protected species and, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council would like to find out more information.

Contrary to their name, only males have a crest during a few months of the year and they are more usually identified from the dark markings on their yellow/orange belly – see image below. The great crested newt is the UK's largest newt – up to about 6 inches long - and looks rather like a miniature dinosaur. Perhaps surprisingly, they spend most of their time on land such as woods, hedgerows or gardens. In spring, they migrate from the land to breeding sites such as ponds, water features or ditches, preferably with plenty of underwater vegetation. The ponds need not be natural – great crested newts will happily breed in man-made structures.

Whilst the presence of great crested newts does not necessarily stop development, given the numerous ponds and ditches in our parish, we'd like to get an idea of how widespread the newts might be and feed this in to our environmental and habitat assessments.

If you've seen or know about such newts in the parish, please could you let me know by email or phone. Any information provided will be treated in confidence.



Cllr. Mark Howard - mark.howard275@gmail.com - 01284 811018

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BARROW FIREWORKS ARE SADLY CANCELLED THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19

BARROW ROCKS

The Parish Council have decided to make a feature out of the decorated rocks. If you find a decorated rock, please take it to 12a Simpson Way, Barrow, IP29 5EA and leave it in the box on the driveway before 10th October. If you would like to decorate a rock to be included please do.

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