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NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum
Denham

Autumn 2021



.Welcome to the Autumn edition of Newslink.

Thanks to the lifting of some of the Covid restrictions the Parish Council is now able to meet face to face back in the Village Hall. Whilst the use of Zoom was invaluable during the various lockdowns to enable the Council to function, it is a relief to be able to begin to return to some form of normality. The Parish Council meets on the first Monday (second Monday in the event of a Bank Holiday) of each month excluding August and January. Confirmation of meeting dates and agendas can be found on the Parish Council website or the Council notice board.

I mentioned in the last edition that there has been an application for 2 houses to be built in the beer garden of the Three Horseshoes pub. This application remains pending after a large number of objections and extra submissions by the applicant. In a seemingly unrelated move, we were surprised to learn Jerry was ending his tenure at the pub with short notice. We wish Jerry well in his future ventures.

Over the summer we received a complaint from a resident that a dog whilst off its lead in the playing field harassed another dog and seemed to be out of control. Whilst we don't wish to suggest that dogs can not be allowed off their leads, we would ask that if your dog is prone to be aggressive to other dogs, that you keep them under close control in shared areas.

The Parish Council did seek legal advice regarding the granting of the commercial lease to "Colourbox" at the Town Estate Room. This advice concluded that the Trustees had acted within their powers and since the Town Estate Room was not connected to the Parish Council it would be inappropriate for us to attempt to legally challenge their decision. We have been promised that the new tenants of the building will be offering community events and we await to see what this will involve.

The lifting of Covid restrictions has meant that bookings of the Village Hall have returned with renewed confidence. Many of the clubs and societies have managed to see out the last 18 months and it is encouraging to welcome them back. We are happy to note that a new coffee morning has been launched on Wednesdays from 9am to 12.30pm. This is a non-profit venture that is donating any surplus funds, after costs, to the British Heart Foundation. All residents are welcome to attend these coffee mornings.

John Pearson
Chairman Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council.

Hedges by David Holmes

It's time to cut the hedge again, there is a lot of it to cut. When we moved here in 1975 most of the old hedge had disappeared under a tangle of brambles and weeds. We started clearing the garden, and every time we found a tiny bird-sown box, holly, yew or hawthorn seedling, we replanted it in the hedge line. The years passed, the hedge grew, now it is 6 feet high and 3 feet thick, and looks as though it has been there for ever. My aim each year is to cut all the hedges before Christmas. The hedge is now a very important winter quarters for all manner of birds and animals. I prefer to use shears rather than power cutters, it takes longer but it means that I can hear the birds and I get to talk to people using the lane. The hedge is a bit uneven in places because of its bulk and my inability to follow a straight line. Unlike a neighbour further up Denham Lane in Barrow who is a retired engineer and has an immaculate golden privet hedge which I think he must measure with a spirit level.

The bird life can be very noisy down Brockley Lane, from ducks quacking to pigeons cooing. Some of the noisiest birds are wrens, one day while I was cutting the hedge, a family of about eight wrens were busy looking for lunch and the noise was deafening. There is a wren in the garden who enjoys looking for spiders around our garden furniture and, if it is a sunny day, after about five minutes of searching, he stretches out his wings on one of the chairs and sunbathes.

CHURCHES AWARDED ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Barrow Church has just been awarded SILVER in the Eco Church programme being run by A Rocha, a national Christian conservation charity that is 'working for the protection and restoration of the natural world'. The charity helps churches throughout the country to care for the environment and runs the Eco Church scheme. This is what their report said: "It was so encouraging to hear about the journey the church has been on in the past year to becoming an Eco Church, and so amazing that you recognised so much potential and opportunity. It is so great to hear about how you began by establishing some important relationships, and the decision for all five churches to go on the eco church journey. Thank you for sharing all the changes you have made, from the mowing regime, to installing bird and swift boxes, and your future plans too. It was brilliant to see the eco rectory garden and all that has been done there, especially the organic allotment and fruit orchard - what an incredible project! It was so great too to hear about your eco trail and the wonderful feedback from the headteacher....."

RISBY CHURCH have also received a SILVER Award with Denham and Lt Saxham awarded bronze and Gt Saxham working towards their bronze.

As I write this, the schools have gone back after the summer holidays, and we are now seeing autumn mists rising. The hedgerows are burgeoning with berries, and my runner beans are still (yes still!) producing a huge harvest. It's been a fruitful season in more ways than one. The home-grown produce has not disappointed, but best of all, we have been able to share a coffee with each other and sit and chat once more – just like the 'old times'! Recently I enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Friday lunch club in the village, where I saw for myself just how important it is to share a meal together. Jean and her team do a fantastic job every week of preparing a nutritious three-course lunch for a large number of people living in Barrow. I don't know how they manage it, but what I do know is that all those involved undertake this out of love, and with generous and giving hearts.

Sharing a meal together was something Jesus did on a regular basis - in fact it was an integral part of his ministry. When conversations begin, questions are asked, learning happens, relationships become more grounded, and faith is rooted and deepened. There is a richness that comes from sharing. Sharing is something we can all do; it may only be in a small way, and perhaps seem to us insignificant - but it can bring such joy and happiness to the receiver. One of the joys of growing one's own produce is to be able to share it with others. Just recently, I have been overwhelmed by people's generosity with giving to the Afghan Refugees with boxes, parcels and bags being donated in readiness for delivery to the central point in Bury. The people in our community have sharing hearts, as we have seen over the months of lockdown, and continue to see and for which we should all be immensely proud and grateful!

The Revd Lynda Sebbage, The Rectory, Barrow

Barrow & District Local History Society -

We are delighted to report that we will be restarting our society meetings in September, these take place in Barrow Village Hall at 7.30pm and all are welcome to join us. Current members will have their membership extended to the end of the year, annual membership is £10 and £3 per talk for visitors. The following talks will take place this year, due to an earlier booking in the hall please don't arrive before 7.15pm:

Tuesday 14th September - Stephen Poulter on "Theobalds - Britain's forgotten Royal Palace"

Tuesday 12th October - Martyn Taylor on "Two birds - The story of two rivers, the Lark and the Linnet"

Tuesday 9th November - Patrick O'Mahony on "The Hervey family, their service in the Royal Navy and the nation, from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II"

If you have any questions please contact Society secretary Jo on 01284 811397, or you can email BarrowHistoryClub@outlook.com

Barrow cum Denham Good Neighbours Scheme

Our volunteers provide services such as lifts to West Suffolk Hospital, the surgery, the post office, the hairdresser, etc, or will carry out minor DIY jobs/repairs, or help to fill in forms, etc.

All services are free, except when a lift is involved, when we charge 40p per mile (present rate) to cover the driver's costs.

With restrictions and social distancing regulations having being lifted on July 19th, we are delighted to be able to offer our services in full once again.

We will also be resuming our regular coffee mornings, open to all, so please make a note of the dates:

Wed 29th Sept – in the Village Hall, from 10am – midday, £3.50pp

Wed 27th Oct - “ “

Thurs 18th Nov - “ “

Tues 14th Dec - “ “

Please contact us if you need our help; 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 if at all possible.

Good Neighbours HELPLINE 07930 328930

MacMillan Coffee

Morning

Thursday 23rd September

10.30 – 12

Barrow Village Hall

£3.00 tea/coffee/cake

**BARROW LADIES GROUP
MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
2PM – 4PM
IN BARROW VILLAGE HALL
ALL WELCOME**

PARISH HANDYPERSON

The Parish Council Are looking to recruit a handyperson, **someone that is skilled at a wide range of repairs** to repair and maintain the parish councils assets.

The work would be on an as and when basis.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk

barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com

or 07917 509009

Report on Neighbourhood Plan progress

Although it may appear there have been no significant developments in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan since the last Newslink, a good deal has in fact been going on 'behind the scenes'.

First, following Cllr Mark Howard's resignation from the Council, I have taken over as lead member for the Neighbourhood Plan and we now have a four-member Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee, consisting of Cllrs Richard Ford, Andrea Hudson, Ralph Rawlings and myself, together with an informal Neighbourhood Plan working group, to steer the plan forward to completion. The Council is very grateful for the hard work and dedication Cllr Howard put in to bring the Neighbourhood Plan to its current stage of development.

Second, we have consultants working on site-assessment criteria to help us with site selection for the limited amount of new housing we believe the Parish should accommodate. Consultants are also working on helping us draft the guiding policies that the Neighbourhood Plan should embody. Both these studies should bear fruition within the coming weeks.

There has also been a significant development at national level. Reacting to great unease at its planned reforms to planning policy, the Government has changed its standard-method algorithm for calculating local housing need so as to direct more homes into areas where there are affordability challenges. Its principal way of doing so has been to introduce a 35% uplift to the post-cap number generated by the standard method to Greater London and to the local authorities that contain the largest proportion of the other 19 most populated cities and urban centres in England. It follows that the housing need to be met by more rural areas such as ours should correspondingly decrease. We have asked West Suffolk Council whether it now needs to revise its own calculation for the housing requirement in Barrow and we shall be meeting planning officers shortly to discuss this. As readers may recall, there is a discrepancy between the figures that we have calculated and WSC's figure, which is higher.

Cllr Zigurds Kronbergs

BARROW FRIENDLY FOLK GROUP.

We are a group of local musicians who play folk, traditional and popular tunes and songs. We meet every 1st Sunday of the month in the main hall of Barrow Village Hall at 7.00pm. Our next charity concert is on Sunday December 5th 2.00pm in the Village Hall, which is for the British Heart Foundation in memory of Jim, who was a member of our group.

We'll welcome any new players of any ability.

For more information please ring Sylvia 01284 810577.

Please support the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust on their annual 'Ride & Stride' event on Saturday 11th September, with all funds raised going to help the Suffolk Churches.

Whether you cycle or walk, please visit as many churches as you can with free refreshments at most churches to help support you on this event.

For Barrow, please phone Stephen on 07836 654474 to collect a sponsorship form, or if you prefer, email stephen.shelton@btconnect.com and have a form sent over to you.

Newslink

Submissions for the next issue should be emailed to the Parish Clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com by **Friday 26th November 2021**

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

New content would be more than welcome .

Special Exhibition of portraits of Mary Beale: Observations Saturday 23rd October 2021 to Sunday 30th January 2022 at Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds

This exhibition will interest anyone wishing to find out about the work of portrait artist Mary Beale, Barrow Rector's daughter, born in 1633 and brought up in the old Barrow rectory adjacent to the church of All Saints. Mary eventually became one of the leading professional artists of Restoration England. Her marriage in 1652 to Charles Beale, a young man with an established interest in the visual arts and in the mixing of colour pigments, was pivotal to her success, as was the patronage of Sir Peter Lely, court painter to Charles I and II.

With Observations the museum aims to place Mary Beale's life and work firmly within the context of the turbulent 17th Century, showing how she and Charles negotiated not only the cross-currents and aftermath of England's Civil War, but also the plague which raged through London in this period.

Ann Kronbergs

Come and join us at the...
BARROW BENEFICE

HARVEST SUPPER

With good food, live folk music
and a quality raffle! (Bring your own drinks)
Friday 24th September at 6.30pm

in Risby Village Hall



To book your place, please ring Annie Throssell
01284 801314 or email anniethross@gmail.com

Tickets: £5 each or family tickets (2 adults + 2 children) £12.00

Meet old friends and make new ones!

All proceeds to church funds.

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Parish Council Vacancies

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contact the Parish Clerk
barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com
if you are interested in applying.

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