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NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum
Denham

SPRING 2021



Welcome to the Spring edition of Newslink.

As Newslink goes to press we are at the very start of our emergence from the third lockdown.

No one could have imagined this time last year that this situation would have gone on so long.

During this time, we have seen the best in people emerge with a very positive response from a large group of volunteers to look out for the most vulnerable in our community. Let us hope that this is, as promised, the final lockdown that we are subjected to. One of the things we were hoping to do was create a permanent display of the painted stones which many enjoyed hiding and discovering during the various lockdowns. At the moment not very many of these stones have been handed in to the Parish Clerk. Can I ask if anyone has any of these stones or wishes to create some new ones to be included in the display that they donate them to the Parish Council.

Another issue that continues to trouble our village is poor road and pavement drainage. Following many meetings with the County Councillor and Highways it has been agreed that we will dredge the Brittons Road pond in the anticipation that this will allow water to more easily drain into the pond during times of heavy rain. Also, about the village ponds, can I please ask residents to refrain from leaving large amounts of grain beside the water. The amounts being put down will attract vermin to the area and create a new issue for people living close to our ponds.

The new Christmas lights were well received on the Green this year. I can confirm that they will be returning next Christmas, and thanks to a donation from our District Councillor they will be even better. I would like to thank the Byford family for the use of their power supply to enable this display to go ahead.

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council decided to freeze their element of your Council Tax bill. It was decided that following such a difficult year it would be inappropriate to add to the burden on household budgets by seeking to increase our precept.

It is with much sadness that we have learnt that "The Old Cowshed" will not be reopening at its current location in Church road. It is however hoped that the business will continue in a different format and we look forward to learning more details of what this will entail.

The Neighbourhood Plan for our village which addresses possible development in and around our villages for the next 20 years continues to be developed and more information on this can be found later in this edition of Newslink.

John Pearson—Chairman Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council.

The Rectory, Church Road, Barrow

Dear Friends,

"The end is nearly in sight", says Boris Johnson, announcing a four-step approach to release the country from Lockdown, and adding that if all goes to plan, all legal limits on social contact will end on 21st June. Did we ever expect to hear these words, I wonder? Great news - but I suspect we will all be wary and cautious.

How will we emerge from this period of isolation? Will we make up for lost time and start shopping again, eating out, visiting friends, and going on holiday? Will our world be different, or will we go back to the way we were? I hope that we will never again take for granted our freedom, our friendships or our families. These life experiences shape and form us to become people who are, more aware of the needs of others - the importance of a smile to a stranger, the ongoing need to give to the Foodbank, our Good Neighbour Scheme, and the wider world. There will still be people living alone who will need ongoing support, care and companionship, pandemic or not, and I pray we will continue to help them long after, and beyond, the pandemic.

Whilst our church community has been really engaged with a variety of online services and initiatives, nothing beats being back inside the building and so I really look forward to this, and particularly, at long last, being able to visit people for a chat over a cup of tea. We have much to thank God for – not least, for bringing us through these dark times and into the light.

With my love and prayers

Rev'd Lynda

Barrow Cricket Club

We still live in uncertain times but the chaps of Barrow Cricket Club anticipate and expectantly plan to play a full season of friendly village cricket this coming summer. Things may look a little different at the outset, with compliance and sanitation at every turn and the notable absence of our beloved teas but, like last season, fun-filled cricket should be possible.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with your local cricket team, Barrow CC play extremely friendly village cricket in Ickworth Park throughout the summer months against other local friendly sides and visiting touring teams.

We are a well-supported club but are always on the lookout for new blood and possibly even a modest showing of talent. If you have played cricket before and maybe drifted away under the pressure of a busy life or are just starting-out on your cricketing journey, why not get in-touch.

More information about the antics of the club and its stars are available at www.barrowcc.co.uk

If you are interested to get involved in any capacity please contact either Richard Ford on 02184 811897 or email richard@northstarcreation.com or Ralph Rawlings on 01284 811844 or email ralph.rawlings@btinternet.com.

Newt Sightings in Barrow-cum-Denham

Thank you to those who kindly sent details of their sighting of newts to the Parish Council. We received a total of 8 detailed sightings from around the parish and they will form part of our evidence base in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Newts are rarely seen in winter as they hibernate below ground, amongst tree roots, in dense vegetation, cracks in stone walls etc. In Spring, they emerge from hibernation and make their way to breeding grounds in ponds and water features. That means that there may be further sightings in the coming weeks and months.

If you see a newt and would like to log your sighting with an authoritative body, then The **Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service** is an independent centre for biological data, hosted by Suffolk County Council and supported by West Suffolk Council. They run a database of public sightings and great crested newts are one of their priority species. Previously, the database listed 0 sightings of great crested newts in Barrow-cum-Denham. The closest sighting is 1 in Saxham and 9 around Horringer. The database can be accessed by ecologists or developers considering potential sites or in planning applications.

All you have to do to log your sighting is to send a few details (and preferably an image) by email to SBIS. You can do this at <http://www.suffolkbis.org.uk>, using the 'ideal spreadsheet' from the recording page. Simply email the completed spreadsheet to Mr. Martin Sanford at martin.sanford@suffolk.gov.uk together with an image, if possible. The latin name for great crested newt is Triturus Cristatus and the latin name for a smooth newt is Lissotriton Vulgaris.

The spreadsheet asks for a grid reference for the sighting. You can find this on <https://gridreferencefinder.com/> and a 6 figure grid reference can be seen using the right button of your mouse. If you have any difficulties, simply enter the post code of the sighting rather than a grid reference.

There is space in the spreadsheet to enter comments and it is here where you can provide some background or explanatory notes to your sighting.

Whilst it may be tempting to lodge a fabricated sighting, please don't – all it will do is reduce the significance of genuine sightings.

If you need any further information, please contact me.

Cllr. Mark Howard
mark.howard275@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to make progress. If you have read previous reports you will be familiar with the 3 phases of the Plan process - gathering data, analysis and reporting. We are reaching the end of the data gathering phase and have lots of data – some of which was already known and some was a surprise.

One of the more surprising pieces of data was that West Suffolk Council's current Local Plan, Rural Vision 2031, contains land already allocated for 'Barrow Business Park'. This is for a B1 class business park on land near Barrow school, between Church Road and Colethorpe Lane. B1 roughly translates as light industrial, offices or research and development labs. Clearly, this will be news to many parishioners, since it was not mentioned during the parish consultation. Perhaps one reason for it being a surprise is that the allocation is listed under policy (RV4) in the Employment section, rather than the Barrow section, of the Local Plan. RV4 states that any eventual plans for this land should take in to account future expansion of Barrow school and it also allows the allocation to be changed to another use (e.g. housing) if a business park is not economically viable.

Another surprising piece of data was the existence of great crested newts in the parish. We understand that although some nearby parishes had recorded sightings of this protected species, previously there were no records of sightings in Barrow-cum-Denham. You will see a short report about the newt sightings and how to report them elsewhere in this edition of Newslink.

375 of you took part in the parish consultation and the resulting report is published on the PC web-site (www.barrowcumdenhampc.com) under Neighbourhood Plan. A wide variety of views were expressed but one notable aspect was the high level of support for protecting the parish's natural environment. This issue – often referred to as 'sustainability' - is at the very heart of the Neighbourhood Plan. One way to think about the Neighbourhood Plan is how to meet future housing targets, set by Central Government, without spoiling the parish's environment for future generations.

More generally, protection is an important theme that comes through from the consultation. This is unsurprising given that Barrow-cum-Denham is such a great place to live and many are understandably keen for that to remain so. One aspect of the Plan is to ensure that any new development is designed to maintain the parish's pleasant built environment. To this end, the PC applied for, and won, a grant for specialist consultants to develop a design code to help ensure that the design of any new development is sympathetic to what exists already. The design code is also published on the PC web-site alongside the consultation report.

Another part of the data gathering phase was a call for sites and the PC received 9 submissions for various sites in the parish. Using the data that we have collected, in the next phase of work we will consider those sites which are the most suitable and sustainable for inclusion in the Plan. Again, we have been fortunate to win support from specialist consultants who will provide independent advice and recommendations. Of course, this will be a difficult and sensitive part of the work but, unlike the emerging West Suffolk Local Plan, parishioners will have the opportunity to say whether they agree or disagree with the eventual Plan in a referendum.

Cllr. Mark Howard
Barrow Cum Denham PC

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, carry out minor DIY jobs/repairs or help to fill in forms, to people in our community. We can also offer some help with learning to use a computer/tablet/smartphone.

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, while social distancing is still in place, these services are restricted, and 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 only a few drivers, we are still able to offer this service. Shopping, collecting prescriptions etc are still taking place as normal. Please contact us if you need help.

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 if at all possible.

Good Neighbours HELPLINE
07930 328930

POLICE ISSUES

The Parish Council regularly receives information from Suffolk Police on a wide range of topics, which we wish to circulate to residents as quickly as possible. Apart from posting onto the Parish Council website (www.barrowcumdenhampc.com) and on the Barrow Village, UK Facebook page we also distribute via the clubs, employers, societies, and action groups to forward onto their members. If you wish to be included on the distribution list, then please contact me – my details are on the back page of this edition.

I am able to advise that the total number of crime cases reported to the Police, for the months of December 2020 and January 2021 for our parish, are 5, of which 1 was for Anti-Social Behaviour and 4 for Violence and Sexual Offences. Of the latter this includes many categories, including harassment, indecent assault, and domestic violence as well as murder, rape etc.

Ralph Rawlings—Barrow cum Denham PC

Newslink

Submissions for the next issue should be emailed to the Parish Clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com by **Friday 28th May 2021**

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

DO YOU BUY ANYTHING ONLINE??

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For details please contact Steve Pettitt, Church Treasurer Tel: 01284811998 Email: steve@mattpettitt.co.uk

PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

It has become noticeable that there has been a significant increase in the amount of dog mess that is fouling our footpaths and public areas. As we are all agreed, not only is this disgusting but is also a potential health hazard, particularly for children. Can you please ensure that you clean up after your dog and take your litter home or dispose of in the bins provided, which are dotted around the village. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ralph Rawlings.

Barrow cum Denham PC

Barrow Book Exchange

As everyone knows, the Barrow Book Exchange is a community project and it has been running now for over five years. Thanks to loyal Friends of the BBE who have kept the shelves tidy and taken away surplus books when necessary, the kiosk has stayed open 24/7 throughout this second lockdown.

Although the shelves and children's book box appear to remain well stocked as if by magic, it's worth reminding everyone that the system only really works well on a Bring-A-Book, Take-A-Book or Bring-Two-Books, Take-Two-Books etc. etc. principle. It is a Book Exchange and if people respect this, it's a real benefit to the readers young and old in the community. But if people forget this principle and use the kiosk as a skip for books, things fall apart.

Recently an entire collection of hardback biographies of seasoned criminals (Kray brothers etc.) was piled on the children's book box, blocking any access to the board books and picture books beneath. Although it doesn't take long to shift the books to another shelf, this kind of book dumping isn't helpful.

The BBE needs a few more helpers to keep the children's book box and shelf above it well stocked and in good order and to tell their friends about it. This is a great job for older children and their parents (or anyone in the community, of course). Please contact me via barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Many thanks

Ann Kronbergs

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place virtually this year via Zoom on Thursday 29th April at 7pm

Time: Apr 29, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86741978030?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86741978030?pwd=L3hZRy84aWFmREVCL3dXaXRtdV FqQT09)

[pwd=L3hZRy84aWFmREVCL3dXaXRtdV FqQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86741978030?pwd=L3hZRy84aWFmREVCL3dXaXRtdV FqQT09)

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Please contact the Clerk on 811952 if you are unable to access Zoom to discuss other options.

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Hedges by David Holmes

Spring is here at last and our hedge will need to be cut. Hedges are very important for wildlife, think of them as housing, shelter and highways. Our garden has a lot hedging, at least 150 metres along Brockley Lane alone. I know it is old fashioned but for many reasons, I prefer to cut it by hand with shears. One reason is that I can talk to people who are using the lane, another is that a bird who is nesting will soon tell me if I am getting too close to its nest. If I used machinery I would not hear its call. I can then avoid that section until later in the spring. The hedge is very old, possibly as old as the house (500 years), and is made up of many different species including hawthorn, box, yew, holly, hornbeam, privet, bay and spindle. I never cease to marvel at the way that nature will adapt to and flourish in different surroundings. As an example, behind the bottle bank on the car park, right in the corner where dust and rubbish has collected, there is now a healthy and thriving colony of wild violets. How did they get there and why were the conditions suitable for them?

Census is Coming! Households across England and Wales will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

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