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Cllr Ian Houlder	810074	ian.houlder@westsuffolk.gov.uk

PRIEST IN CHARGE OF THE BARROW BENEFICE		
Rev'd Lynda Sebbage	811280	revlyndasebbage@gmail.com

NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum
Denham

Summer 2021



.Welcome to the summer edition of Newslink.

As Newslink goes to press we are waiting for the last lifting of Covid restrictions which I fear will be pushed back. We do however now have both our village pubs re-opened and being well supported. The Doctors surgery continues to function with Covid restrictions, and you may have noticed that building work is well under way on the extension to the surgery to help cope with the increasing village population. It should also be noted that the Parish Council is once again able to hold its meetings face to face and both the May and June meetings have taken place in the Village Hall with suitable precautions. We will however need to observe the restricted numbers allowed in the Village Hall until the final lifting of Covid restrictions takes place.

After more than 2 years of lobbying by the Parish Clerk, we finally have the speed warning sign being deployed on Colethorpe Lane in the 40 MPH limit zone. This sign is a shared asset and we have been told that we can expect it to return at regular intervals now we have established the site.

There remains uncertainty about the future of the Town Estate Room in the Village. Whilst the property has no connection to the Parish Council, we have always seen the building as a village asset indeed we donated significant funds to the last extensive renovations. The ultimate decisions are made by the Trustees, and it seems that it is their aim to grant a commercial lease on the property which would alter its definition as village asset. The Parish Council continues to lobby on behalf of residents.

The Neighbourhood Plan has received a set back in April with the resignation of Councillor Howard who was the driving force behind the Plan, and who has committed countless hours of his personal time to bring forward the Plan. The Parish Council is grateful for the extensive work that Councillor Howard has already done, and we are determined to continue working to complete the project.

You may well be aware of a planning application to build 2 houses in the beer garden of the Three Horseshoes public house. The Parish Council was not able to support the application and have lodged their objection to the plans. We now await the planner's decision.

I hope you can all enjoy the current fine summer weather, and that we are soon finally free of restrictions placed upon us.

John Pearson

Chairman Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council.

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

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

Whilst social distancing is in place, however, these services have been restricted and lifts have 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 must wear a face mask. This has limited us to only a few drivers, but we are still able to offer this service. Shopping, collecting prescriptions etc are taking place as always.

We very much hope that government restrictions will be lifted in June, after which we look forward to offering a full service again, and arranging coffee mornings that will be open to all.

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Would you be interested in joining our local bereavement support group? It will be an informal meeting, probably once a month, and a safe place to share conversation over a cup of tea and cake. Please let us know if this is something you would like to be involved with.

Our first meeting is Thursday, 24th June at 11am at The Rectory,
Church Road, Barrow.

All subject to Covid regulations.

Please contact Revd Lynda on 01284 811280 email:

revlyndasebbage@gmail.com or Annie Throssell on 01284 810314.

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are just a short way off from what we have all been hoping for - a chance to be free from the Covid restrictions that have been in place for so long. Like a hibernating dormouse, some of us have been gradually resurfacing and getting used to being out and about amongst the community, whilst others, sadly, have not been able to. If you are like me, then you are probably feeling very cautious, and still unsure of what we can or cannot do - and possibly still worried about what the future holds.

Just a couple of days ago, I was hopping up and down in excitement! I witnessed a flock of swifts flying in helter-skelter fashion over the houses in Barrow. Their screams were exhilarating. They are a marvel of nature, living constantly on the wing, except to nest - but sadly, they are in decline, due to loss of nesting sites and habitat. However, many people are now doing their best to encourage them by providing nesting boxes, and long may that continue. The sight of the swifts made me think of one of Jesus' well-known accounts in St. Matthew's gospel, when he says: *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*

Yes, the future may still be full of concerns and worries as we step forward out of lockdown, but if we reflect on Jesus' words, may we draw comfort from knowing that we are loved and cared for by God - and surely that is of great encouragement to us all.

The Revd Lynda Sebbage

To contact the Rev'd Lynda: Telephone: 01284 811280

Email: revlyndasebbage@gmail.com

You can find our website here: <https://barrowbenefice.org.uk/>

DOG OWNERS – BAG IT & BIN IT

Since the Spring edition of the Newslink, there has been a slight reduction in the amount of dog mess fouling our footpaths and open spaces, so thanks to all responsible dog owners for cleaning up after your dog.

Regrettably, there are a minority of dog owners who have a total disregard for the rest of the community and expect others to clean up. As there are numerous litter bins dotted around the village there really is no excuse, so please clean up your dog's mess and take your litter home or dispose of in the bins provided. **BAG IT & BIN IT.**

Cllr Ralph Rawlings.

BARROW

SALE TRAIL

AND TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 3RD JULY

10AM-4PM

To register your sale or book a table in the village hall

Please send £5, name, address and a contact number to

12 Barrow Hill

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Proceeds to the village hall

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Any queries, 07977225579

New Ladies Group

Tuesday 20th July 2021 something to look forward to!! The all new Barrow Ladies group. We will meet at the village hall the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm-4.30pm, COVID restrictions permitting. Activities will vary, from meeting for refreshments and a chat, enjoying a speaker, craft activities or maybe a trip out. Subscription until December will be £5, and from January 2022 £10 for the year. A small charge of £2 will be made at every attendance, which will be increased to £3 on months that we have a speaker. All ladies over the age of 18 will receive a warm welcome. If you would like more information please contact Cathy Snell, 01284 810564

Ponds by David Holmes

Water is a necessity to life, it was in the past, it is now and it will be in the future. Barrow is built on a hill, there is no river nearby, so ponds were very important. The village is on an area of heavy clay therefore lining the pond with puddled clay was a useful way of stopping leakage. Apparently at one time the village had at least 58 ponds. Many of the ditches (now piped) flow into the main ones so they were like giant storage tanks. I have it on good authority that Brittons Pond (the main one on The Street) was named after a working horse called Britton who used to drink there.

The two ponds on The Street would have had a gentle slope at one end to help water the livestock and to wash down the wagons. The overflow ditches for the ponds (now under houses) would probably have flowed down the valley to Brockley Lane, but we cannot be sure about this.

Healthy ponds are a wonderful source of wildlife, we all know about the ducks but there are a myriad other plants and species that rely on them. At this time of year one of my pleasures is to stand by the pond down Brockley Lane and watch the ducks and moorhens with their young. Mother ducks tend to chase moorhens because they are known to drown ducklings. This year a mother duck built her nest against our house wall beside the kitchen hot water outlet pipe - so she had free central heating, whether the warmth helped her we don't know but she produced 10 healthy ducklings. As I write this early in the morning a large fox has just loped up the drive and disappeared into the orchard - watch out ducks!

POLICE COMMUNITY REPORT

I am pleased to advise that Suffolk Constabulary have appointed PC Lee Andrews-Pearce as our Community Engagement Officer who took up his position at the end April. He is keen to engage with the community and would welcome the opportunity to attend functions such as Parish Council meetings, fetes etc. In addition, it is likely we will see a greater police presence in the village in the form of foot and car patrols.

With regard to reported crime for the period February – April 2021 inclusive, there was a total number of 15, of which 12 for violence and sexual offences (this includes many categories including historic, harassment, indecent assault, domestic violence as well as murder, rape etc; 2 public order offences and 1 criminal damage/arson.

CLlr Ralph Rawlings

DO YOU BUY ANYTHING ONLINE??

If so, virtually every purchase you make can result in the retailer or company donating to your local church. Whether it is Tesco or Waitrose, M&S or John Lewis, Ebay or Amazon, and hundreds of others. It is such an easy way for you to support All Saints Church Barrow, at no cost to yourself.

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

Newslink

Submissions for the next issue should be emailed to the Parish Clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com by **Monday 30th August 2021**

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

New content would be more than welcome .

Barrow Book Exchange

One particular development of the last few months is that the children's section of the **Barrow Book Exchange** has proved super popular with younger readers. This means that the usual stocks of board books and picture books are running low. Conversely, thanks to generous donations, there's been a big influx of paperbacks for older children, along with unstoppable tsunamis of best sellers and other fiction for adults.

So we'd welcome more books for younger children and also we'd like to hear from anyone in the community who'd be happy to get more involved with managing the books and helping to promote the BBE within the wider community, especially of parents and young readers.

If you'd like to help out, please get in touch via Barrow cum Denham PC barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com

Many thanks

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Allotments

There are some allotments available to rent at the Mill Lane site.

If you are interested please contact barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com or 07917 509009

One of our allotment holders recently alerted us to more than 60 bee orchids growing on two of the unused plots. These orchids are protected so these plots will not be available. Feel free to take a look!

Councillor Vacancy

There is a vacancy on Barrow Parish Council.

If you are interested in applying please email the clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com

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