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NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum
Denham

Winter 2020



Welcome to the Winter edition of Newslink.

Since our last edition we have been out of lockdown, into tier one restrictions, back into lockdown, then emerged into tier two restrictions. This is not what we would have hoped for. This current situation means that we still need to offer support to vulnerable groups, particularly the lonely and isolated at this time. For that reason, the volunteer scheme remains active and the Parish Council have allocated further funds to the Barrow Good Neighbours organisation. The focus now is to reach out to those who find themselves alone and isolated over the Christmas period. The Barrow Good Neighbours are collating a list of residents that have indicated that they may need support in the coming weeks.

In Tier two restrictions there are more rules that we are required to conform with. The most significant of these will doubtless affect our hospitality sector in the village. I hope that as many residents as possible continue to support these local businesses, within the allowable rules, to ensure we keep these valuable village assets.

The data is now in from the recent Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and I would like to thank all of those that took part in this exercise. This data is now being analysed and will help move forward the creation of the Plan.

We are now able to welcome The Colourbox to the village who have set up in the old Plum Tree site and are now able to offer Nursery provision in the village which we were sadly missing for a short period.

I was privileged to be invited to lay a wreath at a much-reduced Memorial service in the village. Despite numbers allowed being very small, the event was still a very fitting tribute to those who gave, and those who continue to give, so much for others.

I am pleased to say that it would now appear that the long running saga of the Sharpes Hill water feature has finally been resolved. It has not been Anglian Waters finest hour, but I am grateful that the persistence of local residents has seen this issue concluded. Ongoing issues remain however elsewhere in the village in multiple locations regarding poor drainage. The Parish Council are putting increasing pressure on both Highways and Suffolk County Council to Attend to these damaging issues.

Finally, the Parish Council have decided to invest some funds in some new Christmas Lights for the tree on the Green. These lights have been missing for several years and this festive season it seemed to be particularly poignant that we should try and bring some cheer to our residents. With that in mind can I wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

John Pearson.—Chairman Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council.



Barrow Book Exchange

<https://www.google.com/doodles/sir-giles-gilbert-scotts-140th-birthday>

The 140th anniversary of the British architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was commemorated by Google on 9th November 2020 with this animated Google Doodle designed by UK-based Jing Zhang. It celebrates the changing face of the red phone box, showing the architect drafting the concept for the kiosk along with the many usages these kiosks have had – including as miniature libraries and defibrillator stations - up to the present.

Liverpool Cathedral, Battersea Power Station, the University Library in Cambridge are among Gilbert Scott's landmark achievements, but the red telephone box which he designed in 1924 and simplified in 1935 is the most celebrated. The updated version, the K6 as seen in Barrow, was so popular that 60,000 kiosks were positioned in cities, towns and villages across the UK.

During 2020, despite the pandemic, the Barrow Book Exchange has continued to thrive on regular book donations and over its five years it has developed quite a fan base. One local mother told me how she had taken her little boy to choose a book at the kiosk almost every day from when he was two. By the time he started at the village school this year when he was four, he could already read.

Thanks to everyone in the community for their continued support in difficult times. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ann Kronbergs

Barrow Cricket Club – Alive & Kicking

I am aware of concern and speculation in the community regarding the wellbeing of our much-cherished Barrow Cricket Club. Fear not, the club is alive and well despite these atrocious times. We managed to rescue last season, almost in its entirety, and to play 10 matches in the new “Covid-compliant” fashion. Gone were the beautifully produced and presented cricket teas. Absent were the massed crowds and in were socially distanced picnics, sanitised balls and a mere smattering of adoring support.

After a winter of excellent preparation, the excited expectation was of the team flying from the traps in early May to ravage the sleepy foe. That was obviously not to be, and the season did not get to start until 12 July. Good fortune had it that our dedicated and well-connected groundsmen, Tom Wesley and Tim Jones, knew people and things others didn’t and they quietly toiled at the ground throughout the spring so that when Bo-Jo released the hand-brake of misery, Barrow CC could take immediate advantage. The planned weekend tour to Warwickshire was lost but we made the best of every opportunity and cherished what many had grown to consider an unexpected season.

With talk of vaccines (& some dodgy Russian cocktail) in the air the chaps are quietly confident in the possibility of a full season next summer. Who knows if we might train this winter, but be sure that if the beautiful game can be played, it will be.

If you are keen to learn more about the antics of the marvellous Barrow Cricket Club and its stars you should check-out www.barrowcc.co.uk and there you can enter our world of friendly village cricket.

Barrow CC are always looking for new members or supporters, whether that be to play, to umpire or score or to prepare and serve the all-important teas.

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.

Finally, from everyone at Barrow Cricket Club we wish you all a very merry Christmas and obviously a much improved 2021. Please all stay sensible and safe in the weeks to come and let’s all be there when this wretched episode is behind us!

Merry Christmas

Barrow and Denham Good Neighbours Scheme

*Are you feeling alone this Christmas time? Feeling low due to the current situation?
Or, do you know of someone who you believe may be suffering from loneliness and would appreciate a brief doorstep visit and chat at Christmas time?*

If you would like to be contacted, or know of someone who you believe would benefit from a brief visit, please phone us on our helpline.

Under normal circumstances, volunteers provide services such as lifts to the West Suffolk Hospital, the surgery, the post office, the hairdresser, etc. In addition to this, we can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, form filling and minor DIY/repairs, and give support and a friendly face to face contact with people in our village. 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 face 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

At the risk of being “too early” we wish you all a happy and safe festive season.

Barrow & District Local History Society

Due to the ongoing restrictions the Society is currently unable to meet, however as soon as we are able we look forward to welcoming members back in the New Year. New members and visitors are always welcome, and once we are back up and running we will be looking for a new Chairperson for the society. If you are interested and would like further information then please contact either Sylvia on [01284 810270](tel:01284810270) or Jo on [01284 811397](tel:01284811397), or you can email BarrowHistoryClub@outlook.com

Neighbourhood Plan

Since the last edition of Newslink, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been busy and I think we are making solid progress.

The huge amount of data from the consultation has been collated and compiled in to a report. This was recently reviewed by the Parish Council and their comments and observations are being incorporated in to a finalised report.

The call for sites is now closed and we received 9 submissions for various sites in the parish. I understand that this has caused some consternation but it is an important part of the data gathering part of our plan. The data has now been collated, a summary document prepared and a draft circulated to the Parish Council.

Thank you to those of you who reported on great crested newts in your gardens – this data is currently being collated and the next thing on my to-do list is to write a summary report for review by the parish council.

With the help of a grant, we were able to commission a study by external planning consultants about design guidelines for new developments. Our aim is to use this design code to ensure that any developments are, as far as practical, in keeping with the local character of Barrow & Denham. A first draft of the report has been reviewed by the Parish Council and our feedback provided to the consultants.

The key part of any eventual Neighbourhood Plan will be a small number of policies and the UK Planning Inspectorate will require that they are evidence-based. In other words, any policy must be based on solid data. The consultation, call for sites information, newt report, design code and other information are all part of the data gathering phase of the process. This data will form the basis of the next phase of the process – analysis.

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 26th February 2021**

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our deliverers and everyone who contributes to Newslink.

Fishing at the ponds at Lion Green and Orchard Farm Barns (on The Street).

We are lucky in Barrow to have ponds in the village that contain healthy stocks of fish. It's also a pleasant aspect of village life to see anglers – especially children - at the ponds, trying their luck. There has always been a requirement that anglers buy a ticket to fish the ponds, but over recent years it seems that this has gradually been forgotten to the point that people are no longer aware of it. In an effort to clarify the dos & don'ts of fishing at the ponds (such as no camp fires, no tents etc.), the Parish Council are renewing the requirement for a permit and will erect signs at the ponds to that effect. An annual permit containing the various rules about fishing is available from Barrow Post Office priced £1 for under 12s; £5 for under 18s/over 65s and £10 for adults. This will come in to effect on 1 January 2021 and a copy of the rules will be shown on the Barrow-cum-Denham PC web-site. We wish all anglers, young and old, tight lines!

Barrow Parish Council.

The Rectory, Church Road, Barrow.

Dear Friends,

I wonder what the season of winter conjures up for you. Short days? Long, dark nights? Cosy fires whilst outside a sharp frost turns everything glistening white? Apparently, winter doesn't begin until the winter solstice which this year falls on 21st December, and then we are at the shortest day – a day which lasts for just under eight hours - when the North Pole points furthest away from the sun.

This year for many, wintertime will be harder to cope with. Not everyone likes the dark nights, the lack of sunshine and warmth, and for most of us, as we reflect on this past year – a year like no other – we'll wonder how we managed to get through it. You couldn't make it up really. Yet thankfully, fast on the heels of winter will be spring providing light and hope. That glimmer of hope has been found in a possible vaccine against Covid-19 - a real answer to prayer. That glimmer of hope comes in the shape of the cross on which Jesus died, and from which he rose again to provide us with a new life in him. As we head into the season of winter, let us all look towards the light that shines, that glimmer of hope, holding onto the knowledge that the path before us is lit by the love of Christ.

With my love and prayers,

Revd Lynda

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Raptors by David Holmes

I am sure a lot of you will have seen Red Kites over the village. I have often wondered why they are called 'Red' Kites, a few weeks ago I found out why. Early one morning just after sunrise I looked out of the window and watched two kites circling over the garden as they turned in flight, the sun caught their feathers flashing bright red, not ginger but traffic light red.

The pair of sparrowhawks have been busy again, my neighbour has complained that 'my' sparrowhawk has killed five of his blackbirds, it also killed Reg our tame fledgling blackbird in the spring. Apparently to have sparrowhawks regularly in your garden is a sign of a healthy bird population. I am not sure that all small birds will be delighted to hear this. Whilst on the subject, I watched our smallest wren, a goldcrest, this morning looking for insects, mostly spiders, in the apple tree. The goldcrest is Europe's smallest bird, they are also resident in the Canary Islands. They are here all year but in cold winters some goldcrests migrate south. I often wonder how such a tiny bird can fly over large tracts of water without resting. I do know that some hitch a lift on ships but I like to think that they are so light that they can rest on a cloud.

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