

Barlaston Parish Council

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The Heron



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Issue 7

July 2015

News from the Parish Council



Chairman Gareth Jones

I very much hope that you find this edition of the Heron interesting reading. Enclosed with it you will find a programme for the Village Show and Fete on the 5th September. Since it was re-launched five years ago the Village Show has gone from strength to strength and this year's is quite ambitious in its scale. The Show organisers were greatly encouraged by the way villagers responded to the show last year, appreciated the happy atmosphere and decided to build on it.

Please look at the categories that interest you in the programme and make a resolution to enter. Please put the date firmly in your diaries. The Village Show Committee work very hard to put on an enjoyable event and deserve the support of the whole village. Barlaston is a busy Village, there is a lot going on and the Heron provides an opportunity to draw activities to your attention.

Neighbourhood Plan

Good progress is being made with the preparation of the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan and it is anticipated that a completed draft will be out for consultation at the end of the year. The Parish Clerk was successful in his bid for government funding to support the development of the Plan and this money is being used to obtain professional planning support from *Urban Vision*, a leading authority on neighbourhood planning. Issues that are of significance to residents have emerged from the analysis of the 2014 questionnaire, the 5 steering group discussions and the recent consultations relating to the housing needs analysis.

These are:

To preserve and enhance the special local environment and to protect the greenbelt.

To improve the social facilities for all age groups in the village.

To support the health and well-being of residents in the village and to aim to retain the health and medical facilities in the area.

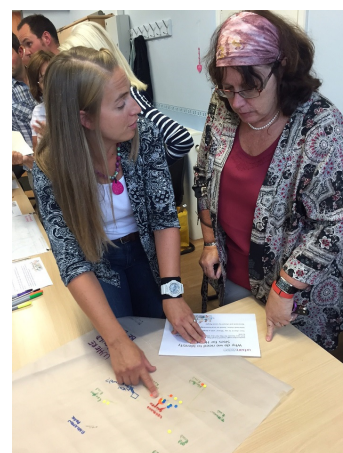
To reduce traffic speed through the village and to look for some traffic calming measures on the worst affected roads.

To ensure any housing development is appropriate for the village and is within the agreed settlement boundary for the village.

To ensure Barlaston has sustainable development and supports its residents with employment, enjoyment and an environment that all can enjoy.



Urban Vision led recent consultation sessions with villagers in each parish ward.



Hannah Barter from Urban Vision explains the consultation process to Barlaston resident Sue Thomas.

The Neighbourhood Plan once agreed should help to realise the hopes and aspirations of the people of Barlaston.

Traffic and Disruption



The bottom half of the village is really suffering at present due to the closure of Meaford Road and this situation is likely to continue until the New Year.

The redevelopment of the Meaford Power Station site is a key aspect of the County Council industrial regeneration policy and it is planned that the site will become a major local source of new employment and therefore in this context the short term disruption to Barlaston residents is justified. However, what is not acceptable is the dangerous situation along Tittensor Road and the Parish Council is in regular contact with local authority traffic engineers in attempts to mitigate the situation.

Recent surveys have shown the volume of traffic along Tittensor Road has significantly increased, which was to be expected, and further, traffic speeds have also increased, a matter of extreme concern. It is evident that attempts to divert traffic from the south to Trentham roundabout and then along Longton Road as an access route to the village have not been successful.

The current situation calls for extreme vigilance, speeds need to be monitored and the HGVs that are breaking the weight limit need to be reported. The Parish Council have asked for better traffic calming measures to be installed and speed limits to be enforced and pressures will continue to be applied on this. There is a real concern that there could be a major incident on Tittensor Road while Meaford Road remains closed.

Cllr. Gareth Jones

Drivers on Speed

Still actively involved commercially, I drive around the country quite a bit. I am always amazed by the variance of traffic calming measures I come across in towns and villages. These vary from signs begging motorists to show care when they enter a village to the most extreme speed bumps or cushions which if not driven over slowly could result in a whiplash injury!

The former perhaps has very little effect on the heartless or those lacking any form of social conscience, the latter resulting in frustration and annoyance by motorists who by the time they have bounced their way for what seems like an eternity, the right foot goes down to the floor in frustration. I can understand (not condone) it. Inappropriate speed control / traffic calming measures belong in Room 101.

I have lived in Barlaston for many years and walked the length and breadth of the village many times. I see the heads turn toward the sound of an accelerating engine, the thundering bounce of an empty HGV or the screech of brakes.

We are on a commuter, rabbit run. Cars drive through this village daily on their way to other destinations. Most do so at sensible speed and respect our village. Some do not. We don't need this problem but what can we do about it?

The Highways authorities tell us we need evidence. I think the evidence is plain to see; you only have to spend a few hours in the village and you will witness speeding cars and HGV's. I personally would welcome SOME traffic calming measures; appropriate and relevant, unobtrusive but effective, sensible, deliverable and in context with our rural appearance.

If you agree with me, you can help. I don't have a great deal of spare time, I don't suppose many of us do but I would very much like to hear people's opinions, ideas and thoughts on how we can protect ourselves from the inevitable serious accident. Maybe you have 2-3 hours a month to spare maybe at a weekend but great if you have time during the week. Perhaps you have very little time but a great idea. We need to get organised so that we can provide Highways with enough hard evidence to suggest (and provide) relevant measures.

Let me have your thoughts. Email me. macmillania@gmail.com

Cllr. Ian Macmillan



Barlaston Village Show and Fete 2015



Following the success of last year's Village Show/ Fete the Village Show Committee have managed to raise enough money to repeat it again this year. The Show and Fete will be held on Saturday 5 September opening at 12 noon.

Funding has come from our local County Councillor Ian Parry, through the Staffordshire Local Community Fund, who has paid for the hire of a marquee and for the first time this year our Show prize winners' cups have been sponsored by local businesses.

We would like to say a big thank you to the following businesses for their support:-

- A. J. Philpott and Sons
- Andrew Brown Engineering
- Barlaston Parish Council
- Country Cabin
- Mark's Quality Meats
- One Stop
- Pennywise

Premier Stores

Our programme this year, included inside this edition of the Heron, has been designed by Kate Szafranski, who volunteered her services at last year's show, so a big thank you to Kate. To enter an exhibit into any of the classes you can complete the registration form on the back page of the programme or download it from our website barlastonvillageshow.co.uk

Without volunteers the Show/Fete wouldn't happen. We desperately need help on the day. If you are willing to help out, please contact Lynne Coates on 01782 372245 or by e-

mailing info@barlastonvillageshow.co.uk.

We have a wide variety of stalls in the marquee and many local groups and charities will be raising funds for their chosen cause so make sure you come along and support them. Dudson's Charity Team will be there offering ceramic painting of plates and mugs and all proceeds from this will go to the funding of next year's Show.

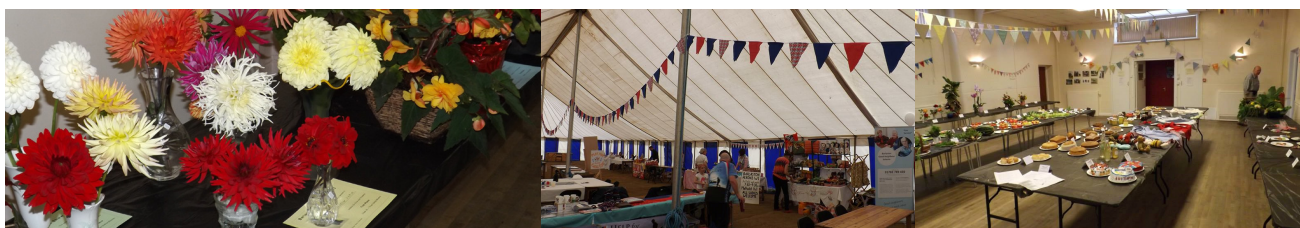
Live entertainment comes from *Bend The Rules*, *Abracadabra Children's Entertainers* and *Glorishears of Brummagem Morris Dancers*. We also have a demonstration from Staffordshire Police who will be showing off some of their police dogs and their skills and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service will be there with one of their Fire Engines.

Food will be available from 12 noon and includes a BBQ, Hog Roast, Cream Teas, Fine Coffee and Bar on the Village Green and Coffee, Tea and Biscuits in the Village Hall.

The Fun Dog Show we start at 12.30 pm with registration at the Village Green from 11.30 am. Details of classes can be found in the Show Programme.

To enable us to start the Show at 12 noon we have had to bring judging of the exhibits forward to 10.30 am. The Hall will be open to receive exhibits on Friday 4 September from 4.00 pm until 7.30 pm and from 8.00 am until 10.00 am on the morning of the Show.

It promises to be a fun afternoon out with something for all the family so please come along and support us. All profits made will be put towards next year's Show/Fete.



Barlaston History Snippets - Tim Cockin

I'm Tim Cockin, the Wassail man and local historian. I've started to write Barlaston's history. It began in February as a village history snippets page on Facebook using the memorabilia of my friend the late Ernest Hawkins and has grown into a full-blown detailed history of Barlaston.

Anyone can send in old photographs - or I can come to you and yours (so it's safe with you). Two hundred and fifty people plus are members, and the number grows. At least 12 people have made their own archives available to me.

I'm covering every aspect of the village, from the Bowling and Cricket Clubs to public amenities, from footpaths to the Hall, village hall, Green, Church, Methodist Church, events, shops, houses and places of work. It could take years, in fact - like history itself - it is never-ending.

I chose Facebook because it's a never-ending free blog, unlike a website. People can write in and share memories. Indeed, contributors have been able to piece together the whole history of hitherto never-written-about subjects like shops, Barlaston First School, and Scouting and Guiding, simply by making comments and jogging each other's memories.

The Page has reunited former Barlaston natives from all over the world. We've had a collective-coming-together remembering the day Stoke City arrived by train at Barlaston Station after winning the FC League Cup final in early March 1972 - the whole village it seems turned out to see the players begin their

triumphal bus tour of the Potteries. Andrew Bowler, whose parents ran the newsagents in Station Road, has even 'posted' a short cine movie of the event. There have been requests for photographs of royal visits; we've fondly remembered Mrs Kelsall of Parkside Stores, Barlaston Park, and much interest has been created by the profiles of the late Ruth Dickson, Jack Dando, Ernest Hawkins, Roy Finney and others. There are currently about 280 photographs posted; our earliest dates from c1904, our most recent to 2012.

Unlike most history Facebook pages I try to write a comprehensive history of each subject so by leaving the legacy of a 'written' as well as a photographic archive.

Because of the nature of Facebook 'posts' do get jumbled up from the chronological order in which I catalogue them. But no one seems to mind. You get use to it. Look out for the different subject headings called ITEMS where you will find the main text on a particular subject. These appear with a pertinent cartouche illustration, the

Subject heading in 'Wedgwood' blue font.

How can you join in? You can see a Facebook page, without joining Facebook. It scares a lot of people because you have to make a personal page of yourself, but don't worry you can create a Page with nothing on it - no personal private details at all, not even a photograph of yourself, and you're not obliged to join anybody else's Page. You do have to provide your true name and email address. Alternatively, I can be contacted on phone 373556, or via email timcockin@yahoo.com and I am contemplating making paper copies - if this interests you get in touch.

Stoke City's triumphant return to the Potteries in 1972. Alighting the train at Barlaston. Photo courtesy of Rex Features.



... Princess Michael of Kent talking to Kathleen Hancock during her visit to Barlaston First School c1982.

I leave you with five questions I would dearly like answering:

- 1. The date when Orchard Place was opened?**
- 2. Where were the Garden Stores, c1990s?**
- 3. Does anyone have photographs of Rock House before it was demolished? or the Police House or Old Rd Stores, before they were converted into dwellings?**
- 4. Anything on the Barlaston Choral Society? c1949, or Barlaston Young Players? early 1960s, or Barlaston Youth Club (barred from any venue c1990)?**
- 5. The dates for headships of Miss R. Walker (c1963-75) and Mr F. Graham Jones (c1982-85) at Barlaston First School? Tim Cockin**

Barlaston Community Group & BKV

It is the time of year to report to residents on our progress with both the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition entry and the Barlaston Community Group.

Firstly I would like to make special mention of the work in all aspects of the running of the village by our parish clerk Neil Hemmings. He has not only organised additional planters, sponsored by David Wilson Homes, outside the village hall but also has managed to obtain extra benches. There are two new ones on the village green, others by the Downs carpark, railway crossing, Barlaston Park bus stop and Orchard Place shops. This is well above and beyond the call of duty and extends to his involvement with the community group (as a resident rather than a parish clerk) and daily litter picks along the canal and beyond with Ben his springer spaniel.

Another special mention made to Joe Poultney who looks after, plants out, waters and maintains the wonderful planters throughout the village. He also provides us with a wonderful floral display at the crossroads, at Orchard Place and Tittensor Road.

A mention too for the 'yarn bombers' who have provided us with the knitted bicycle at the station, the rainbow on the village green bench, and other knitted treats at Orchard Place and the bus

stop at Barlaston Park. This is the work of the Barlaston Herons WI and in particular, Sara Morris. Many thanks – they look superb and are a real talking point for visitors and residents alike.

The Barlaston Community Group has been very active this year with more members joining (It is totally informal) and helping with litter picks; 'The Wombles' keeping your village clean. They have put on two films at the village hall which have both been well supported and as a result more films are planned this year and next. If you have any particular ideas please let us know through our website or by telephoning Patrick on 01782 372878.

We are hoping for a commendation from the BKV committee, but the main purpose of our entry is to make our village a more pleasant place to live. I hope your visitors have paid you compliments as to how our village is presented to non-residents.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for our community groups and feel free to comment online or join in with our litter picks, which I am afraid are a never ending chore. Who are these people that throw cans, bottles and paper out of their car windows onto our streets and lanes?

If you do see any fly tipping or littering please help us by phoning Streetscene who will come to the rescue (01785 619000). We wish ourselves the best of luck for this years BKV!. *Patrick Linehan*

Plant Swap

Calling all plant lovers

Have you got a gap in your border? Do you fancy a bit of a change and want to introduce a new plant to your garden? Do you have surplus plants/seedlings/cuttings that you no longer need?

Barlaston Community Group are running a plant swap stall at the Barlaston Village Show and Fete on Saturday 5 September 2015 between 12 noon to 5.00 pm on the Barlaston Village Green, Longton Road, Barlaston. Please bring your potted and labelled spare plants along on the day to see what little gems you can swap them for and have a chat with the Barlaston Community group members about what is happening in the village at the same time.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Village Hall News

After many years of waiting, Barlaston Village Hall has a new kitchen.

The Trustees of the Village Hall approved the plans submitted by the Village Hall Management Committee in May and the project was completed at the end of July. It is felt that the new kitchen facilities will greatly enhance the attraction of the Hall as a whole and will increase the range of activities that take can place.

The Hall has also been externally redecorated and repairs have been made to the structure. The improvements have been funded by surpluses from the Hall's operations over the recent past.

The Village Hall remains extremely busy with a wide range of activities taking place each week, details of which can be seen on the Hall website.

There is a vacancy on the Village Hall Committee for someone to take up the Treasurer role. If anyone is interested in learning what is involved please contact Gareth Jones on 01782372349 to obtain details.

Pride in Your Patch

In February the Parish Council nominated Joe Poultney of Tittensor Road for an award in the Pride in your Patch competition organised by Stafford Borough Council. It was most pleasing to learn that Joe had won the top award in the individual category.



Joe lives on the corner of Meaford Road and Tittensor Road and the floral display that he arranges is a delight and raises the spirit of all who pass. In addition Joe stocks the many planters around the village and very importantly keeps the flowers in them watered throughout the spring/summer.

It is generally thought that Joe does greatly enhance the village chances in the Best Kept Village competition.

He is a true volunteer. His work is much appreciated. Thank you.

The Barlaston Plume of Feathers Bowling Club 2015

The Club enters its 89th recorded year with both encouragement from its continuing successes last season and sadness that our longest serving member Keith Banks, who played his first league match almost unbelievably in 1947, has passed away.

This success and sadness reflect the tradition of Crown Green bowling in our Club and village. Like Keith, folk of all ages and both sexes are afforded the opportunity to engage in a sport and social activity for most of their lives.

The Club has always provided for both first class competitive bowling in several leagues and also for social bowling, over the years alongside senior and junior County representatives, as many members have just enjoyed playing with friends socially.

A truly family sport and a Club where grandparents, parents, husbands and wives, brothers, sisters and offspring and friends all continue to play together.

Ironical that it was not until 1941 that ladies were first invited to become members that this new season sees their particular success, for only the second time in its history a lady, Jenny Shenton, was invited to be President. Our ladies have always been stalwart supporters and captains and we feature two teams in the Ladies League.

For the first time in its history our ladies

1st team were promoted last season to the Ladies League First Division and will provide matches featuring many of the areas top bowlers this season.

Reflecting the family side, our new Chairman, Clive Evans, follows in the footsteps of his grandfather a member and good bowler. Social and beginners bowling continues on Friday afternoons and the Clubs policy of reduced fees for both non members and social bowlers has proved successful.

Besides all this the Club, who were playing when the Plume of Feathers was still a Coach House on a different site, welcomes the current refurbishment and development and wishes the new landlords every success.

New members either experienced or novice bowlers are most welcome to join and spectators can enjoy sitting and watching matches perhaps supping a tincture, an ancient tradition the Club continues to provide in Barlaston. During the season we run two teams in several leagues which means generally three evening matches and three afternoon matches are on view each week.

**Enquiries can be made to Club Secretary
Ron Kelsall on 01782 644227**

Golden Jubilee Award

Each year since 2003 the Parish Council has nominated a Villager to receive to receive the Golden Jubilee Bowl for outstanding services to the community. This year's nominee is Mrs Chris Donohue of Meadow Road for her work with the Boys Brigade.

Chris has worked very hard to run the local brigade from the Methodist Chapel in Park Drive. Many young boys have learnt to enhance their life skills through involvement in the Brigade over a period of nearly twenty years.

Chris did not think that she would be able to carry on with her work beyond this year because of a lack of support so it is very good to learn that someone has volunteered to help her and the Barlaston Brigade will continue in being.

The presentation to Chris will take place at the Village Show on September 5th on the Village Green.



Thank You!

The parents of all the boys, past and present, of 2nd Company Boys Brigade would like to say a big thank you to Chris for all her constant hard work and enthusiasm.

As well as keeping the boys in check and entertained every Thursday evening, Chris braves the elements to take the boys on an annual weekend camp, she encourages them to succeed at the annual North Staffs Battalion Athletics competition at Northwood Stadium and cheers them on at the annual cross country event at Ford Green Hall. This award is so well-deserved. **Congratulations, Chris!**

(Left: Chris and the boys collect their awards at the 2014 Cross Country championship. Below: Chris with parents and boys at the 2014 camp at Wood Farm).



We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of *The Heron*. If you would like your club / community group featured in the next issue, contact the editor: Viv O'Dunne vivienodunne@gmail.com

Defibrillator Training Sessions



Martin Watson from West Midlands Ambulance Service demonstrates pad placement to the 22 attendees present.

I was lucky enough to see a last minute shout out for volunteers from Barlaston village to receive training on the use of the defib machines that are being installed throughout the village.. As an older mom of two I jumped at the chance, I had often seen the big boxes outside the Chemist and Village hall and felt a shiver, hoping I would never be in a situation where I would be required to use it... (although i would like to think i would not be one of the 4/5th that would walk on by either!!!).

I have to say that not only did we receive the training we also got a quick insight to some basic first aid which I desperately needed... The machines are no longer a daunting sight for me. They are simple to use and I can say without a shadow of doubt that if the situation arose I would be happy to get down and try to save a victim of cardiac arrest.

It was a very informative session, If you are given the opportunity for such training I would say grab it

with both hands, you could be the difference between life and death.

- Marie Wilson



More sessions are planned, look out for announcements on the village notice board and the Facebook page.

The World of Wedgwood

On 29 June 2012, plans to revitalise the 281 acre Wedgwood estate were publicly announced.

The comprehensive redevelopment masterplan included investment in state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities to underpin our commitment to UK manufacturing and support the future growth plans of the company. It also included new fit for purpose office facilities and an expanded and upgraded visitor experience to be known as 'the World of Wedgwood' – the perfect home for our iconic brand – to attract significantly more visitors to both Wedgwood and the city of Stoke-on-Trent.

Leap forward to July 2015 as we open our doors to the public, with an expected footfall of 175,000 plus visitors a year. Our visitors are invited to explore, taste and create at the ultimate Wedgwood experience which merges a unique creative heritage with a contemporary approach to expressive living. before enjoying a wide range of food and beverages from our various dining amenities.

Visitors can embark on a fascinating tour of the Wedgwood Factory and take time to explore the stunning Wedgwood Museum, home to one of the most important Industrial archives in the world

and unique record of over 250 years of British ceramic production. They may also choose to create their very own piece of Wedgwood in the Master Craft, Decorating and Design Studios before enjoying a wide range of food and beverages from our various dining amenities. Visitors looking to take a piece of Wedgwood home will be spoilt for choice as our concept store is the largest display of Wedgwood product anywhere in the world.



On the 9th July BBC Midlands Today shared Barlaston photographer Jon Kelso's beautiful photo of the early morning Barlaston canal on Twitter. Weather presenter Shefali Oza selected it as the weather photo of the day. We thought we'd share it too!