

The Heron

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October 2018

I am very pleased to introduce this latest Autumn 2018 edition of the Heron. The Heron was the brainchild of Peter Nichols, a former Parish Council Chairman, who unfortunately recently died. A tribute to Peter is contained elsewhere.

The publication of the Heron gives the Parish Council an opportunity to highlight matters that are thought to be of interest to the Village as a whole.

The powers of the Parish Council are quite limited but it can exert pressure on behalf of the residents and it is thought that the Council is being quite effective in this regard.

Most villagers seem to be very content with the changes that have occurred recently with the Health Centre arrangements; there has been a significant improvement/reduction in the incidence of dog fouling; and the speed watch team have made an impact throughout the village. Footpaths around the village are in reasonably good condition. Whilst there have been teething difficulties, the mowing contractors have generally done a good job.

However, a major matter of current concern remains the parking difficulties in Orchard Place. The area is owned by Stafford and Rural Homes and whilst they state that they are fully aware of the problem they are limited in their powers to control the situation.



Parish Council Chairman
Gareth Jones

Discussions are ongoing with SARH in an attempt to find a more acceptable resolution to the difficulties.

An underlying matter of concern is the savings that Staffordshire County Council are considering and the impact on the village, particularly in respect of Highways. The County Council undertakes grass cutting, gully clearance, pothole repair, tree and pavement maintenance. It would seem that there is an expectation from the County Council that Parish Councils will take responsibility for some or all of these activities, either by organising teams of volunteers or by increasing the precept.

The Village does benefit greatly from the voluntary activity of the Community Group with particular reference to litter picking and the care and attention given to the planters by an individual. The Parish Council is giving consideration to the appointment of lengthsman to undertake minor road maintenance work. If it is decided to proceed, this activity would be paid for out of existing resources.

Barlaston is a very pleasant place to live, property within the village is generally much sought after and the village currently presents itself well. It is thought that the majority of villagers would wish to maintain that position. In future this might only be achieved through the use of additional voluntary time or increases in precept. We need to debate these matters.

‘Lest we forget.’ This refrain from a Kipling poem written before the turn of the century, yet appropriate as a plea for remembrance of lives lost in the horrors of world war, is a cry which has haunted the souls of generations of compassionate humanity ever since, For us in Barlaston those lost lives are listed on pg. 2.



In the silence of remembering them each November, we hold them in our hearts and remember them and we give thanks, a powerful sense of *community-now* reaching back to courageous *community-then*, feeling the terror of what was required of those young men; the tears and the anguish of Mothers and Fathers, wives and lovers over those who died, those maimed, those scarred physically, mentally, emotionally.

Wishing to harness strong feeling in our village to make this hundredth anniversary of the Armistice very special, community leaders (our vicar, the Revd Canon Stewart Jones, our school Head Teacher, Mandy Clarey and our Borough Council & Parish Council Chair, Gareth Jones) looked at ways of working together to achieve this.

The children of Barlaston I have been preparing songs and poetry to perform in the

church (after the service on The Green) and artwork to go on display there.

The church / community group started with research on where each soldier, sailor or airman lived. Appeals to older Barlastonians for family-held memories proved very fruitful and the oral history has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of the process, fostering a sense of community-that-cares-about-its people-past, as we chat over coffee or lunch. Service booklets on the day will appreciate such contributions more fully.

The process of gathering more extensive information: online photos and transcripts of documents (birth/marriage/death certificates; censuses; bills; wills) has been fascinating and deeply involving and it has been a privilege to work alongside experienced researchers (thanks to Gill Brealey, Jenny Latham and local historian, Tim Cockin). Flight Sergeant David Nutt has been an invaluable source for military research as well as a salutary reminder that service-people today are *still* on active service. Findings will be on display at the Church on November 11th alongside the work of children and young people.

The Parish Council is planning to host an event of Remembrance at the Village Hall on Saturday 10th November between 14:30 & 18:00 Refreshments will be served, music of the time will be played and there will be readings of some of the poetry and prose. It is expected that demand for tickets will outstrip supply.

The Royal British Legion has called on the nation to unite in commemorating Remembrance Sunday 2018. Their call is to Whitehall, ours is to the War Memorial on the village green at 10:40 on November 11th. As there is no service in church beforehand there will be seating for the disabled/elderly/frail on the green.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them
(Laurence Binyon, 1914)

Merrilyn Coutouvidis



Barlaston's Roll of Honour

Peter Broughton Adderley
Harold Bricknell
Geoffrey Bullock
Percy Buxton
Henry Ellis
Cyril Stuart Embrey
James Hamilton Fleming
Thomas Holmes
Allan Stuart Hughes
Reginald Tavernor Johnson
Enoch Latham
Herbert Henry Lowe
William Richards
James Rushton
Joseph Snape
Felix Wedgwood
William Wilbraham
John Albert Winfield
John William Wright

Captain of industry & engineer;
butcher's assistant, building
contractor, boat-builder; farmer,
gardener, cowman, coachman.
They went out ... and did not
return.

Farewell to our old friend, Peter...

It was standing room only in the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist earlier in September when family and friends of our former Parish Council Chairman, Peter Nichols, gathered to pay their last respects.

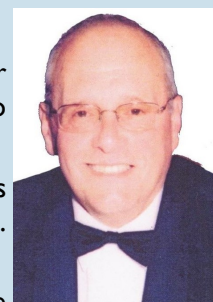
Peter served on the Parish Council and became Chairman, being remembered for his election which was taken to the High Court after hundreds of votes were lost in the count. He presented the Chairman's Gavel which is still used today at our meetings.

Amongst many other things, Peter was Chairman of our Scouts and Guides, President of the Boys Brigade, Church Sidesman, Chairman of the Mens' Society. He was the organiser of the first Village Fair in 1992 and awarded the Golden Jubilee Award for services to our community.

Peter was also well known for his love of sport, as both an observer and a player: league basketball, cricket and rugby union and latterly crown green bowls. He played principally at the Plume of Feathers Bowling Club where he held the offices of President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and was Captain of four successful teams.

Peter passed away on the 21st August, aged 81 years. Despite long-term health problems Peter, with the care and support of his loving wife, Janet, lived a full and active life. Peter felt that the more you put into something the more you got out, no more so than in Barlaston; he certainly did that, and we were very lucky to have him.

Cllr. Viv O'Dunne



Community Speedwatch

In May this year new parish councillor, David Norman, received great support from a team of a dozen local volunteers in forming a new Speedwatch Group. After initial training they've maintained 2 x 1-hour sessions weekly across a number of police-approved sites throughout the village. Hopefully, you've seen them "out and about" in their high-vis jackets!

As well as enjoying some social conversation in their small groups of 3, the roadside volunteers record the details of any vehicles travelling at 35mph or more – in a 30mph zone. These are shared with the Police who issue an "advisory" letter to those drivers. An "escalated" letter is issued for a 2nd occurrence. A 3rd is likely to result in a home visit by the Police.

Community Speedwatch, though, is not just about catching speeding vehicles. It's about taking an

interest in everyone's personal safety – young and old, whether on foot, on a bike or as a motorist.

A pedestrian hit at 30mph has a very significant 1 in 5 chance of being killed. This rises to a 1 in 3 chance if they are hit at 35mph.



IT'S 30 FOR A REASON

Statistics to 18th September showed 572 vehicles reported, of which 438 were at 40mph or more – the highest was 58mph! Interestingly, 20% of the total were from ST12 Postcode with a further 27% from adjoining ST3 and ST4. So, it's not just outsiders "racing through the village"!

By the end of the year it is hoped that the personal safety message will be reinforced by permanent Community Speedwatch Area signs at all entrances to the village. Illuminated Speed Indication Display signs are also being considered for a couple of specific hotspots.

If you would like to consider joining the team or are interested in more information then please contact David Norman on 07399 514688 or d.norman121@btinternet.com



Parish Council Awards

The 2018 recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Bowl will be Joe Poultney of Ash Grove. Joe is very well known in the village, eager to contribute despite his apparently irascible style.

Joe is the Caretaker of the Methodist Chapel. When he lived on the corner of Tittensor /Meaford Road he maintained his garden to a very high standard with wonderful floral displays. His garden was featured on several occasions in the local press. Since moving to Ash Grove he has transformed his new garden and made a walk along the canal towpath a more pleasant experience.

Joe has planted out and maintained the displays throughout the village; ensuring that the flowers survived the severe drought experienced this year. It can rightly be said that Joe, through his horticultural work, has added to village life.

The Parish Council commendation for work in the Community will go to Mrs Rose Kingsbury of Barlaston Park for her work in administering the revitalised Voluntary Passenger Transport scheme. The presentations will be made on Sunday 28th October. **Cllr. Gareth Jones**

Dog Fouling Free Campaign 2018



A successful Dog Fouling Free Campaign ran from December to June. The scheme was monitored by Stafford Borough Council (SBC). During this period the concentration was on the canal towpath from Wedgwood bridge to the bridge leading to Meaford Road.

Last December this walk was in a terrible state and many residents were complaining. However, with posters and new bins, by April we were 90% free from dog fouling as compared to the original survey. An amazing achievement by our proud dog owners. Unfortunately, the hot summer weather also bought many visitors who didn't fully appreciate our aim and the percentage has dropped a little to 87%. Still a remarkable achievement (the average is 37% free nationally) So we really did do well. Many thanks to all who helped to achieve this!

SBC have agreed to help us with one more 6-month monitoring period, this time at Barlaston Park (A Facebook poll saw the Park get 62% of votes with the Cricket Club getting 38%). SBC Enforcement officer, Saul Hocking, has agreed to attend later in the year to do an initial assessment of Barlaston Park. It is hoped that we can give some support to the Cricket Club to deal with their dog fouling problem, too.

If you suspect a culprit this can be reported, in confidence, to dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk

Cllr. Irene Moran



Environmental Volunteers Wanted!

Cllr Chris Hurst has been appointed to oversee Environmental Projects within Barlaston, he is currently working closely with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust looking at rejuvenating the Wildlife Area which lies on the opposite side of Station Road and adjacent to the entrance of the car park. An interesting feature here is the presence of five old pear trees which, along with the Damson in the hedge, suggests the previous existence of an old orchard or their proximity to one. This is a rare find today and valued for the associated invertebrate fauna, the Heathers and Lavender planted are good food sources for insects.

With some careful improvements it could improve its value for wildlife. The existing fruits, berries and seeds already attract some birds, but this could be widened further by the introduction of some wetland species like Guelder-rose and Bird Cherry which could be accommodated by a little thinning of the planted non-native Alders. Likewise, the ground flora here could be improved to attract dragonflies, damselflies, and other invertebrates by planting wet-loving, native wildflowers. The 'massed' Rowans could be judiciously thinned to allow trees to develop to maturity and further specimen fruit trees planted to increase the amount of spring blossom for foraging insects.

Chris recently worked with the school children enabling them to participate in the 'Open Gardens' event, since then they have received a donated green house and are eager to start growing plants ready for inclusion in the wildlife area, promoting the next generation of eco-warriors.

We have signed a new commitment to the Canal & River Trust to start work along the stretch of canal running through Barlaston. The first project will be to re-set the stone which has recently been disturbed, followed by hedge trimming and ground works to eradicate water logged holes over the winter.

Chris is looking for volunteers of all ages and abilities to take part in these projects which offers an exciting opportunity to get involved and meet new people. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Clerk on 01782 551250 or email barlastonparishclerk@gmail.com

Barlaston Community Group

have had another action packed year with more than 1,660 people following regular updates on Facebook.

The year started off with the Barlaston Film Night showing Paddington 2 which was a fantastic success. Our May film was The Greatest Showman, which was a full house with some people returning to see the film for the 5th & 6th time! July's showing of 'Finding your Feet' was absolutely brilliant.

The Pop-up Pie & Prosecco night was also great fun with a delicious 3-course supper served to a lively crowd of around 70 in the village hall - there was even some after-dinner impromptu dancing which planted the seed for our next event - a Burger & Boogie night! Look out for details on the website & Facebook page.

As the 14th & 15th July approached our VIGs (Very Important Gardeners!) were desperate for rain but the tropical temperatures continued. The weekend arrived and was still a HUGE success despite the many scorched lawns and crispy foliage! We had around 470 visitors over the weekend with a total of

£1,186.74 being raised for individual charities as well as £700 which was donated to the village hall.

The Barlaston Womblers are now a familiar sight around the village and (most!) people realise they are actually litter picking of their own free will and are not doing community service to avoid a custodial sentence...

There is nothing the Womblers like better than a 'theme' & so far this year we have supported the Great Plastic Pick up, the Great British National Spring Clean washing road signs, picking litter, tidying bus shelters etc. We had a MOMble (Womble combined with Mothers day) and recruited a few teenagers doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards, and a Pride for the Bride Womble

when we were joined by the vicar of St. John's Church Stewart Jones, who not only picked litter along the route to the church but conducted the marriage service the following day!

The Community Group is all about US – the residents of Barlaston, working together building relationships and spreading positivity and happiness throughout the village! Thank you to everyone for supporting our events. barlastoncommunitygroup.webs.com



Health Centre News

For those who are not already aware, on 6th August Brinsley Avenue Practice opened a branch surgery in Barlaston after Cumberland House (the previous practice) withdrew from the site.

We would like to start by thanking the residents of Barlaston for their support over the last few weeks whilst we have settled in at Barlaston. The practice has registered over 1150 patients, the majority of whom were registered in the first few weeks of opening. Without exception, everyone has made us feel so welcome and have been very patient with us whilst we have registered them. We have already received some lovely feedback about our clinical and administrative team, which is lovely to hear.

We would like to encourage everyone who has not already done so to register. There is no closure date for registration or a deadline. We had our new phone system installed a few weeks ago and, whilst there have been a few initial teething problems, things are starting to settle. The old number for Barlaston Health Centre no longer links to us and will direct

you to Cumberland House. **The main Practice number is 01782 657199.**

Our GP team is headed up by our Senior Partner Dr V H Hendley and our other GP Partner Dr M Webb. The rest of our GP team include Dr C Anderson, Dr D Bridgwood, Dr R Jolley and Dr M Mascarenhas. The nursing team is headed up by Sr. Dena Corden-LePetit who is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. The team comprises of Practice Nurses – Sr. Sarah Winstanley and Sr. Janey Pusey and Health Care Assistant – Angela Carter. The reception and administration team includes: Aimee, Debra, Claire, Chris, Georgia, Rachel and is overseen on a daily basis by Sue our reception supervisor. The overall Management of the practice is handled by Helen Derbyshire – Practice Business Manager.

We are planning to make improvements to the infrastructure at Barlaston Health Centre and this is being progressed.

We look forward to welcoming you to the practice.



Volunteers Car Scheme

The scheme operates for Barlaston and Barlaston Park residents only. The scheme provided 254 trips in the last financial year. So far this year, we have achieved 121 trips, 23 above this time last year. The scheme goes from strength to strength.

Our drivers take residents to doctors, dentists, opticians, hospital, even hair appointments and shopping. Some residents may be unable to drive for a short time after operations and find this service useful.

This year we would like to say a big thank you for the financial support from: The Methodist Hall Coffee Morning raffle, Barlaston Hall Yellow Book Open Garden weekend and Barlaston Afternoon WI. The scheme was thankful to receive a grant from the Silver

Fund obtained through Stafford Borough Council. These funds have allowed us to cover telephone costs, public liability insurance costs and print literature to promote what we do. We have a large marketing sign and even t-shirts.

Our drivers, treasurer, co-ordinator and chair meet regularly and have undergone training in first aid and carry a first aid kit in each car. We have 14 drivers who volunteer their time. The co-ordinator is the key operator to match passenger requests and drivers. Rose Kingsbury is our co-ordinator who keeps us on the move. The Parish Council continues to support the group and reports are given regularly.

To register as a driver or book your journey phone Scheme Co-ordinator, Rose Kingsbury, on 01782 373643

Cllr. Irene Moran

Barlaston Library Bus

The Library Bus visits Barlaston every other Tuesday. In April 2018 a Library Consultation took place which resulted in 4 Staffordshire libraries becoming community managed. We are delighted that Barlaston will retain its existing services until March 2019 when a smaller bus will replace the existing one.

We can influence the frequency of the visits by using the library bus. If you have not done so before, now is the time to register with our travelling Library. In

addition to loaning books, DVD's and audio-books, library membership gives access, free of charge, to online/downloadable books, a wide range of magazines and free access to ancestry.com

For the full list and how to register, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/librarybus> Cllr. Irene Moran

Travelling Library Timetable

9:30-13:30 Plume of Feathers/14:00-19:30 Village Hall
November: 13th & 27th. December: 11th (none Christmas week). January: 8th & 22nd. February: 5th &

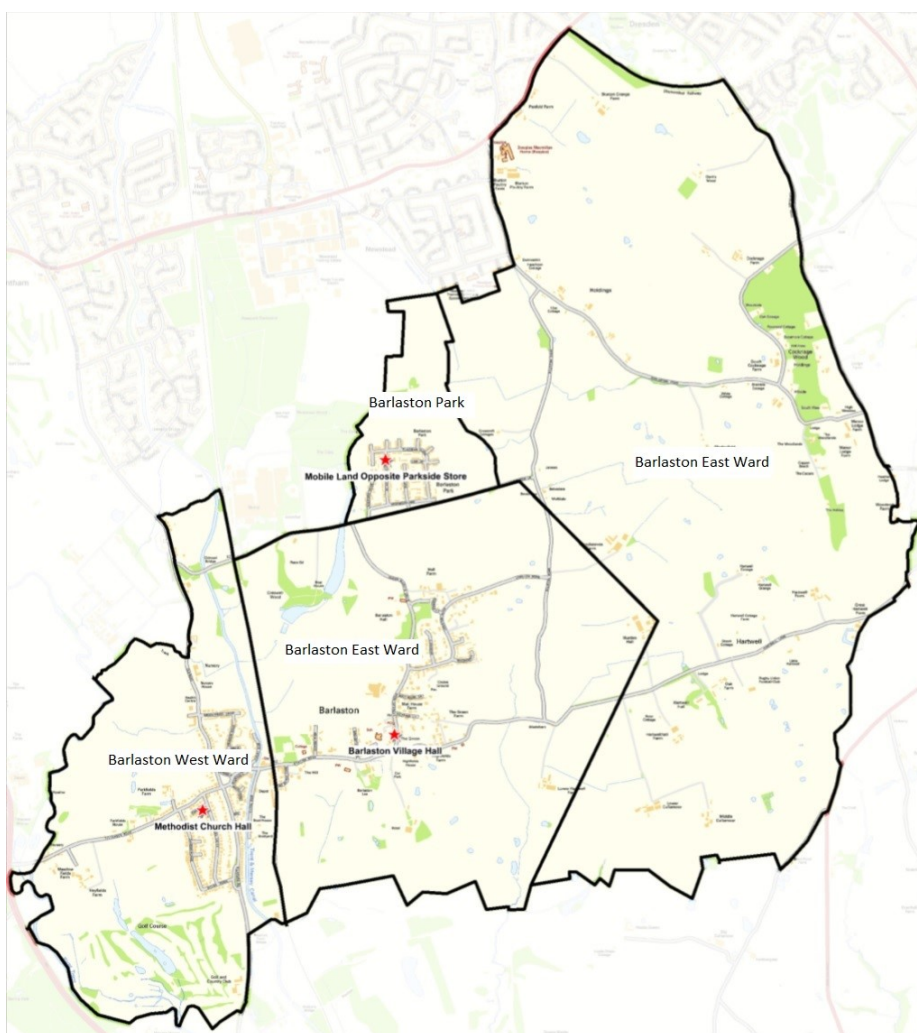
Barlaston Parish Council is made up of eleven elected members who serve the community for a period of four years. Meetings are held every month (with the exception of August) usually on the first Tuesday, in the Ruth Dickson Meeting Room at Barlaston Village Hall. We thought it would be useful to remind you who the councillors are in your area of the village and to give you an overview of their responsibilities. We represent you, so do get in touch!

Key items the Parish Council Are Responsible For:

- Planning applications
- Maintenance of assets
- The village green including trees
- The WWI War Memorial
- The MUGA (Multi-use Games Area)
- Various planters, benches and items around the village
- Undertaking grass cutting on behalf of the County Council
- The Village Hall as Sole Trustee
- Supporting key initiatives
- Managing residents' concerns
- Delivering a Neighbourhood Plan
- Promoting parish life

Key items the Parish Council Are Not Responsible For:

- Maintenance of roads including pot holes
- Footpath maintenance and street lighting
- The canal
- Flooding and surface water issues
- Clearing of gutters and gullies
- Tree maintenance
- Removal of fly tipping
- Maintenance of the cemetery
- Speeding, transport and mud on the roads
- Libraries
- Health services
- Land and assets owned by Stafford & Rural Homes



Neighbourhood Plan News

The draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation for Barlaston was completed and submitted to Stafford Borough Council (SBC) for the next phase of the process to be undertaken; this has also just been completed.

SBC will encompass responses to their consultation, which includes statutory consultees such as the Highway Authority, into the report ready to be submitted to an external examiner to ensure the plan conforms with the National Planning Policy Framework.

It is expected that this process will be complete in the New Year.



Gareth Jones: 2008 – present. (Chairman since 2011), Borough Councillor for Barlaston. Retired.

Ward: Barlaston West. Lives in Tittensor Road.

Contact: 07778 261 233

Deputy Chairman of the Governors of Newcastle and Stafford Further Education College and a Board Member of Stafford and Rural Homes. Member of St John the Baptist Parish Church, Chairman of the Barlaston Bowls and Lawn Tennis Club and Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. Governor of Barlaston First School.



Karen St Leger: Clerk and Returning Financial Officer (Jan 2017 – present)

Contact: barlastonparishclerk@gmail.com 01782 551250

Karen was appointed as Clerk & Returning Financial Officer to the Parish Council in January 2017; she says “Although I don’t live in the village, I am a regular visitor and I’m slowly getting to know the residents, local businesses and community groups. Ensuring residents get the best value for money whilst maintaining a beautiful environment is my main driver.” Karen has over 18 years’ experience of working in local government; we think that local government’s loss is most definitely Barlaston’s gain!



Paul Fisher: 1996 - present. (Vice-chairman). Chartered Surveyor.

Ward: Barlaston East. Has lived adjacent to the Village Green since 1972

Contact: pdf@pdfisher.co.uk 01782 454501

Paul is Parish Council Vice-chairman and has been Chairman of the Planning Committee for 12 years. Since localisation became a concept of central government, Paul, together with a team of councillors and villagers, have been working towards the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan for Barlaston which we hope will be implemented in early 2019.



Elaine Philpott: 1998 - present. (Former Chairman)

Ward: Barlaston West. Lives at Canalside. Lifelong resident.

Contact: ellyphil@hotmail.com 01782 372192

Member of the Parish Council Environment and Finance Committees. Elly attended Barlaston First School when it was housed in the former village library building on the green. Elly is a member of the Village Show Committee and regular bowler at The Plume of Feathers Bowling Club. Elly and her husband, Paul, have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren (who all keep her very busy!). Elly also enjoys walking and cruises.



David Norman: March 2018 – present. Retired from Commercial Banking.

Ward: Barlaston East. Cocknage resident for 18 years

Contact: d.norman121@btinternet.com 07399 514 688

A member of both the Neighbourhood Plan and Playing Fields Committees. David is Co-ordinator of the new Speedwatch Group which is already proving to be a great success. He is keen to use his experience and enthusiasm in helping the Council support the local community. David and Sally have 3 sons and have very recently become grandparents for the first time.



Irene Moran: October 2016 – present.

Ward: Barlaston West

Contact: morans@cazilhac.co.uk

Chair of the Barlaston Volunteers Car Scheme, Barlaston Community Group and Barlaston Afternoon WI.

In 2014 Irene received the Village Queen Elizabeth Award for maintaining a WI in Barlaston. She works with SBC on the Dog Fouling Free Campaign and her enthusiasm has been pivotal to the revival of the Volunteer Car Scheme. Irene’s latest project is to ensure we retain a library service in the village.

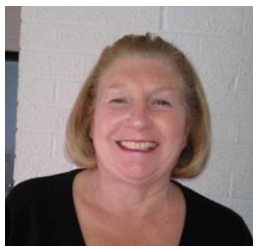


Ian Macmillan: 2013 - present. Retired Managing Director in the oil industry.

Ward: Barlaston West. Lived on Old Road for 30+ years.

Contact: macmillania@gmail.com

Ian is a member of the Speedwatch team and very keen on "enforcing" the speed limits in the village as well as the 7.5 tonne weight restriction! A member of the Neighbourhood Plan and Planning committees, Ian sees his mission to help to preserve a stable and safe village environment, community and lifestyle; maintaining Barlaston as a great place to live. He utilises his knowledge and experience to apply a pragmatic and measured approach to the issues affecting the Council and the village.

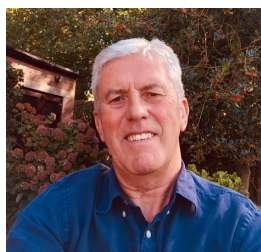


Sue Tudor: July 2017 - present. Retired. Former Magistrate (25 years)

Ward: Barlaston West.

Contact: sue.tudor@btinternet.com / Text to 07933 154 762

Sue brings with her 7 years experience from her former role as Parish Councillor in Stoke Climsland, Cornwall. Sue is a member of the Speedwatch team and sits on the Planning Committee; she is also Vice-President of the Barlaston Afternoon WI. Sue and her husband, Tony, have 2 daughters, 5 granddaughters, 5 great-grandsons & 2 rescue cats. In her spare time Sue enjoys walking, gardening, the WI and community events.



Steve Hall: 2011 - present. Retired

Ward: Barlaston Park. Lived at Barlaston Park for 21 years. .

Contact: 01782 373029

Steve is an active golfer and enjoys DIY, travel, his 9 grandchildren, and an interest in local affairs. He is on the Parish Planning Committee, where the steady stream of applications provides a chance for him to participate in the future development of the village. Steve and his wife of 46 years very much enjoy Barlaston, its "country style" environment with good village amenities, and the friendliness that is evident.

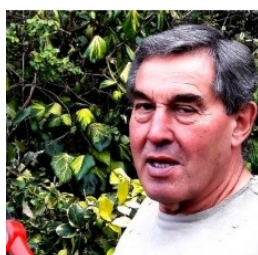


Viv O'Dunne: 2007 - present. Charity Director of Operation & Events

Ward: Barlaston West. Lives in Meadow Road. Lifelong resident.

Contact: vivienodunne@gmail.com 07944 239 623

Viv worked with the Heron's WI to install the village defibrillators, she was a CFR for 9 years, earning the Queens Diamond Jubilee medal for service in 2012 & a volunteer BHF HeartStart trainer. Currently a member of the Finance and Environment committees, the Village Show Committee, editor of the Heron and contributor to our social media. Viv is mum of three & grandma of two.



Chris Hurst: May 2018 - present. Semi-retired.

Ward: Barlaston East. Lived in the village for 16 years.

Contact: chrisjhurst47@gmail.com 07443 912 037

Living and working in the village and its environs with his wife Marilyn, Chris has come to know and associate with a great number of our community. Farming in Staffordshire for over 20 years, working in landscaping and environmentally friendly waste recycling for further 20 years. Chris is a member of the Environment Committee.

His main pastimes are his family, reading, music, industrial archaeology, village life and its promotion both socially and environmentally.



Dean Westwood: 2017 - present

Ward: Barlaston Park.

Contact: 07516 978 591

Dean is the Health & Safety Officer for the Village Hall. He is always available for a chat if you have an issue he can look to help with. On a day to day basis Dean has facilitated the removal of abandoned cars, made improvements to the play area and helps reunite lost dogs with their owners.

Dean is married with 4 children which keeps him more than busy!