

# February

Winter walks and starlit nights, Good books and cozy hours, lime for friends, and heartfelt sharing, Dreams of springtime flowers. Although it may be short on days, Each February brings he simple little gifts we count Among life's precious things.

### **Barlow Parish Magazine 2024**

Thank you to all our supporters and advertisers - we do hope you enjoy reading and contributing to this magazine and thank you for your continued support.

This is the first edition for this year which means that annual subscriptions and advertisement fees for 2024 are now due.

#### Subscribers –

We have held the price of the magazine at 70p for an individual copy or £7 for an annual subscription. You will have received an envelope with this magazine which gives details of how to pay (which can be by cash, cheque or bank transfer) and we would politely ask that you make the payment by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

If you are paying by cash or cheque, please don't forget to put your own name and address on the envelope with the payment. If you are paying by bank transfer, please use your name and 'Magazine' as a reference.

#### Advertisers –

We do appreciate your contribution to the magazine and hope that you will continue to advertise with us throughout 2024, and invoices will be sent out shortly. The charge for placing an advert has remained unchanged for many years, and we ask for your understanding as we have taken the decision to increase the charge for this year. Please see page 27 for our new prices.

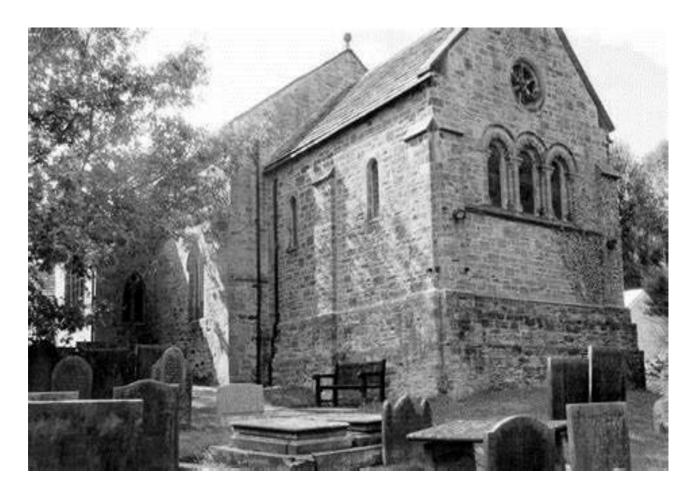
Thanks again, and a Happy New Year,

Janet (Treasurer).

All contributions for the MARCH issue must be submitted by <u>Friday, February 16th 2024, 5pm</u> to ensure inclusion. Please send your articles and interesting photographs of the local area to: <u>ingoherrmann17@gmail.com</u>

Title page photo by DEAN LINDSAY. Photos on pages 46 and 48 by JULIE PARRY.

# WHO'S WHO AT CHURCH ST LAWRENCE BARLOW



#### Vicar

Revd. Sarah Colver 07975 689403 25 Oldridge Close Holme Hall priest@barlowchurch.org.uk.

#### **Church Warden**

Mrs. Julie West 07799 639566 14 Little Brind Road Newbold julie@barlowchurch.org.uk

#### Church Warden

Mr. Peter Gouldthorpe 01246 550152 26 Bentham Rd. Chesterfield peter@barlowchurch.org.uk

#### **Parochial Council Officers**

Secretary: Mr. Peter Gouldthorpe, 01246 550152 Treasurer: Mrs. Janet Siddall, 01246 206964 Organist: To be confirmed. Magazine Editor: Mr. Ingo Herrmann, ingoherrmann17@gmail.com Magazine Distribution: Mrs. Joy Layton, 01246 272096

# WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE



#### **Parish Council**

Chair – Mrs. Irene Hall Parish Clerk / RFO – Mrs. Emma Smith Email: <u>info@barlowvillage.co.uk</u> Mobile: 07841 529122 Available during office hours Mon-Fri, unless in case of an emergency.

#### NEDDC - Cllr. Pam Jones

Barlow Church of England School Headteacher - Penny Watkin	0114 2890413
Barlow Pre-School Manager – Jo Staley Chairperson – Joel Botham	07719 991389
Barlow Singers Karen Cook	07759 375312
<b>Young Farmers</b> Chair – William Outram Secretary – Clare Wood	07872 806456 07858 579877
<b>Carnival Committee</b> Chairperson – Terry Allison info@barlowcarnival.co.uk	07860 758037

# YEAR'S MIND - FEBRUARY

#### From the church registers

\* Denotes date of funeral or ashes burial

2<sup>ND</sup> FRANCES MILLINGTON---1971 MARGARET SIDDALL---1969 3<sup>RD</sup> GLYNNE SIDDALL---1969 SYDNEY D. BINKS---2009 4<sup>TH</sup> CLAUDE W. HANDFORD (priest) '73 JAMES H. NEEDHAM---1994 ANTHONY J NAVIN---2022 5<sup>TH</sup> ALFRED STEVENSON---1963 HARRY MILLINGTON---1968 **ARTHUR SHAWCROFT---1985 IVAN L. TAGG---1989** THOMAS HALLETT---1995 ANTHONY NUNN---2023 **6<sup>TH</sup> DAVID E. KING---2009 7<sup>TH</sup> GERTRUDE BIGGIN---1966** IDA WILSON---1990 **ANNE TEW---1991** 8<sup>TH</sup> FRED WASS---1996 ALEXANDER E FAWSON---1999 LEONARD SIMM---2002 9<sup>TH</sup> SYBIL M. STEVENSON---2005 BARBARA WALKER---2021 10<sup>TH</sup> PERCY HASLAM----1994 **ELIZABETH DAVIES---1997** 11<sup>TH</sup> PAMELA ELIZABETH SPRY---2018 12<sup>TH</sup> TREVOR GLAVES---1979 **13<sup>TH</sup> JAMES WALKER---2003** JACK GILLYATT---2017 14<sup>TH</sup> ERNEST NEEDHAM----1999 JOHN GEOFFREY WRIGHT 2008 15<sup>TH</sup> WILLIAM SHAWCROFT---1982 TREVOR COCKING---2023. 16<sup>TH</sup> GLADYS GRETTON---1978 ALLAN PATMAN---1985 FRANCIS W. BEMBRIDGE---1987 CATHERINE M. VIRTUE---1989 ALBERT IBBOTSON---1995 **17<sup>TH</sup> GEORGE A. WARD---1980** \*ENA KATHLEEN SHAWCROFT 2016 \*JAMES SHAWCROFT---2016

**18<sup>TH</sup> EMILY GODFREY---?** ETHEL W. BOOKER---1988 GEORGE E. WARDLEY---1994 MAURICE LOMAS---2002 \*BRENDA MARY PICKERING---2014 19<sup>TH</sup> ELIZABETH WILSON---1978 COLIN EATSON---1986 **ERNEST HASLAM---1994** 20<sup>TH</sup> HETTIE SLATER---1965 JOYCE M CRATCHLEY---2020 ELSIE COLEY---1993 CHRISTOPHER J. PARKIN---2003 **DESMOND HARDY---2012** 21<sup>ST</sup> FREDERICK NEEDHAM---1972 NORAH REDMAN---1973 HUGH WILLIAMS---1973 IVY EATSON ---1974 **BRENDA BRAMMER---1993** ANNIE LISTER---2009 22<sup>ND</sup> \*ANNIE MARPLES---1990 DORA SKINNER---2009 23<sup>RD</sup> FLORENCE HICKS---1990 VICTOR BEMBRIDGE---1999 24<sup>TH</sup> JOSEPH SHELDON---1965 MARION BOSTON---1966 JOHN HOWARD---1968 JOHN PENDLETON---1971 **GERALD SHREWSBURY---1989** 25<sup>TH</sup> RICHARD HANWELL---1984 STANLEY TEW---1992 **KATHLEEN MATTHEW---1979** JANE BARGH---2018 26<sup>TH</sup> OLIVE CARTER---1987 ETHEL LAYTON---1994 27<sup>th</sup> JEFFREY SYDDALL---2022 **28<sup>TH</sup> WILLIAM E. PICKERING---1997 GILBERT WOODALL---1976** MAUREEN VERA LISTER---2017 **29<sup>TH</sup> MARJORIE WHITEHOUSE---1968** 

### FROM CHURCH REGISTERS: FEBRUARY 2024

There are no Funerals, Baptisms or Weddings to report this month.

### BARLOW CHURCH (ST. LAWRENCE)



#### **Dear Friends**,

The season of Lent starts earlier this year as Easter Day falls on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Ash Wednesday will be on 14<sup>th</sup> February which is, of course, also St Valentine's Day. Over time, Valentine's Day has become a day to celebrate human love and loving relationships: for Christians, Ash Wednesday is a day when the vision is wider, as we reflect on every aspect of our lives in the light of God's grace and mercy.

During the special Ash Wednesday service, the priest invites members of the congregation to come forward to have the sign of the cross marked in ash on their foreheads (The ash comes from previous years' palm crosses, mixed with olive oil). As individuals are marked, the priest says "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return", a simple gesture and phrase that carry great depth of meaning as we remember our human frailty and mortality. This year there will be an Ash Wednesday evening service at Barlow at 7.30pm, and everyone is welcome.

The Ash Wednesday service is serious in intent, no doubt, but it is also liberating and acts as a prelude to the season. For Lent is an opportunity to spend time stripping away the 'extras' of life – decluttering perhaps – and refocusing on what is most important. During this time some people might like to take up a new habit or hobby whilst others choose to give up something instead, as a form of self-discipline. Within the group of churches, we will be running Lent groups to explore aspects of our faith and community life – again as something positive, for the purpose of Lenten practice is not to promote gloom or despair, but rather to bring more clarity and focus into our lives.

Lent also ties in, of course, with the coming of spring. As the weeks go by and we move towards Easter, the days lengthen and the first spring flowers appear – but that is for the future. During the first weeks of Lent, I hope that we will all be able to take some time and space to slow down, attend to the beauty of the natural world around us, and learn to appreciate more fully that which is of most value in our lives.

Rev'd Sarah

#### Lent

#### by Jean M. Watt

Lent is a tree without blossom, without leaf, Barer than blackthorn in its winter sleep, All unadorned. Unlike Christmas which decrees The setting-up, the dressing-up of trees, Lent is a taking down, a stripping bare, A starkness after all has been withdrawn Of surplus and superfluous, Leaving no hiding-place, only an emptiness Between black branches, a most precious space Before the leaf, before the time of flowers; Lest we should see only the leaf, the flower, Lest we should miss the stars.





#### Dear Friends,

We hope 2024 is going well for you so far. Here at Church we are looking forward to a very busy year, but more of that to follow.

First a few 'thank yous', particularly to everyone who took part in our first Christmas Tree Festival, either by bringing a tree or by visiting us. It was such a lovely event to run and the feedback we received was that everyone who participated or visited really enjoyed it. Thanks to the Carnival Committee, Parish Council, Barlow School, Barlow Pre-School, Young Farmers, Jake & Emily Eville, Charlie & Frankie Village, Charlotte from Unthank Meats, Joanne Bell of Tropic, the Church craft group, Old Brampton WI, Old Brampton Church, The Tickled Trout, Helen Shaw and family, Clarence and Jo Shaw, Barlow Singers and our own congregation and churchyard team who all displayed trees.

Thank you to school & pre-school for bringing all the children; it was a pleasure to have them visit and see their smiling faces and hear their singing. If you would like to take part in our second ever Christmas Tree Festival in 2024, you can register your interest now by contacting Julie.

Following hot on the heels of the Tree Festival was "A Bit of a Christmas Do". Everyone had a great meal and a fun time, both volunteers and guests alike and we look forward to doing it all again this December. The various Christmas services were beautiful; the school Christingle gave us a packed house with so many parents and supporters of the children attending we had to squeeze people in. It was wonderful.

Reverend Gill led a very fun-filled and inclusive nativity on Christmas Eve, with many children and families taking part for the first time. Also it was lovely to see many new faces at Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day service. However, in rather sadder news, we learnt of the death of George Hill who was Barlow born and bred and laid the Royal British Legion wreath at our Remembrance service for many years. He had been unable to take part in the 2023 service due to ill health and he sadly passed away a short time later. His funeral was held on the 14th December.

#### Open Gardens 2024

By now each household in Barlow should have received an invitation to a social evening on Friday 9th February to find out more about Open Gardens and meet other like-minded gardeners. It is also an opportunity for our long-standing supporters to get to know each other better, as it has been fed back to us that not everyone knows the other people taking part and they would like to be able to make contact with others who are opening their gardens. If by any chance you missed your invitation it is duplicated in this magazine on page 12. The invitation is open to anyone who might be interested in participating in Open Gardens: meet at the Village Hall, Friday 9th February from 7-9pm.

#### **Upcoming Events**

We are planning a packed programme of events for 2024, and we hope you will be able to join us for some of them.

Lent Breakfasts: 14th , 21st , 28th February, 6th , 13th , 20th March 2024, 9.30-11.30am. Held in Church.

Open Gardens: Sunday 7th July 2024

Well Blessing parade: Wednesday 14th August 2024

Flower Festival & Well Dressings: 14th - 20th August 2024

Harvest Supper: Sunday 13th October 2024

Christmas Tree Festival: dates to be confirmed.

"A Bit of a Christmas Do": Saturday 7th December 2024

Carol Concert: Tuesday 17th December 2024

Also look out for details of additional events to be held throughout the year.

#### Regular services

Sunday 4th February - 11am service

Sunday 11th February - 8am service and 11am family service

Wednesday 14th February - 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service

Sunday 18th February - Lent 1 - 11am service

Sunday 25th February - Lent 2 - 11am service

Thank you for all your support in 2023 and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Pete & Julie

#### St Lawrence Church supports Baby Basics

For Mothering Sunday on March 10th, the congregation at Church will support the Baby Basics charity by collecting items to fill a Moses basket with things for a newborn baby. We have supported this charity before and have been amazed at the response from our members and from people in Barlow. We would be grateful for donations of any newborn clothing, (babygrows, vests, cardigans, hats, mittens, sleeping suits, bibs etc.) which are in really good condition, or new, and packs of baby wipes, nappies, soap etc. We cannot include talc, cotton wool buds, dummies, nappy cream or baby food. For mothers we can include a toilet bag and toiletries and towels. We are planning to bring a baby basket into church on Mothering Sunday, so in February please look out for bargains in the sales, or hunt out baby things you have saved but no longer require. If you have anything useful, please contact one of our congregation living in the village and they will bring your items to church. Midwives in Sheffield started this charity, providing a starter pack for mothers who could not afford to prepare for a baby and now - with a base in Chesterfield - the charity serves a wide area of Derbyshire. Please help them if you can. You may like to send a donation instead of baby items, and again, we will be so very grateful to receive your helpful contributions.

Jenny Windle at St Lawrence Church



#### ST LAWRENCE CHURCH BARLOW



#### OPEN GARDENS: SUNDAY 7th JULY 2024

Dear resident of Barlow,

Many of you have opened your gardens in previous years and we want to let you know that we really appreciate your past support and hope that you may feel able to participate once again in 2024.

Many of you will not have thought about taking part, or may have discounted it, as you perhaps think your garden is not big enough or "good" enough.

We would like to invite anyone, whether you have a small garden, wild garden, or indeed no garden, but perhaps tubs, window boxes or hanging baskets to take part in OG 24.

Therefore we are extending an invitation, to all who would like to take part on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and also to anyone who is interested in finding out more, to a social gathering at Barlow Village Hall on:

#### FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 7-9pm

Refreshments will be available and there will be opportunities to talk to those who have participated before and meet and establish links with other gardeners.

Please contact Julie West on 07799 639566 if you would like more information or would like to be involved but are unable to make it on the  $9^{th}$ .

# LENT BREAKFASTS

Breakfasts are being served at church during Lent. The price is £6.50 for bacon, sausage, egg, tomato and mushrooms with tea or coffee and served with toast or on a bap.

They will be served in Church between 9.30am and 11.30am on the following dates;

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>



Come along and bring your friends for a leisurely and delicious start to your day.

# PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR – Clir I Hall 0114 289 9361 VICE-CHAIR – Clir I Herrmann 0114 289 9106 CLERK / RFO – Emma Smith 07841 529122 info@barlowvillage.co.uk COUNCILLORS: Clir J Brougham 0114 289 1411 Clir T Cribley 07722 006846. Clir N Ibbotson 07967 005069 Clir S Marshall 0114 2890596 Clir S Marshall 01246 206964 Clir P Taylor 0114 2890949 / 07753 662 619

#### Planning Matters

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

• 23/01088/FL – Retrospective application for the retention of a modified existing field access from Barlow Lees Lane to land associated with Barlow Lees Farm (Revised scheme of 23/00399/FL) at Barlow Lees Farm, Barlow Lees Lane

**RESOLVED** no comments.

#### PLANNING DECISIONS

- 23/00672/FL Re-submission of previously approved 19/00235/FL, proposed erection of 4 bedroomed detached house and garage and creation of new vehicular access at 43A Valley Road, Barlow – Conditionally approved/PD removed 23 November 2023
- NED 23/00683/FL Retrospective application for the retention of a cabin, septic tank and concrete hardstanding (Major Development) at White Oak Farm, Grange Lane, Barlow Refused 12 December 2023
- NED 23/00840/FLH Removal of existing roofs and rear dormer, increased ridge and eaves height to create additional habitable space with front, side and rear extensions (revised scheme of 22/00181/FLH) at the Bungalow, Wilkin Hill, Barlow – Conditionally approved 20 November 2023.

 NED 23/00898/FLH – Proposed partial demolition of garage and rear extension, construction of proposed single storey side and rear extension and conversion of loft including rear dormer window (Re-submission of previously facing 22/01228/FLH) at 2 Valley Rise. Barlow approved - Conditionally approved 20 December 2023 **RESOLVED** noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS No other planning matters circulated.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING No planning applications received.

#### **History Collection**

This is another reminder that the extensive Barlow History Collection compiled by Gina Clarke and her husband Adrian is now looked after by the Parish Council. It can be accessed for viewing, or to borrow items from it, by contacting Cllr Herrmann for booking an appointment.

#### **Barlow Nature Club**

Barlow Parish Council are pleased to act as sponsor to Emma Woods' Nature Club venture. It is a free family event with nature-themed games and craft activities. The current plan is to run it 4 times a year, to coincide with the seasons. The last one took place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January and was well attended. Here is Emma's report of the event:

"I just wanted to say thank you for letting us use the Village Hall for the Nature Club. We had 19 children plus parents (I think we totalled nearly 40 people in total!!) and it was a great success. It was really helpful to have the hall as a base as it was quite a chilly day. People enjoyed having the playground nearby too...Thanks again, Emma."

Watch out for the next Nature Club which will be Spring-themed.

#### **Newspapers**

We have had a request from Barlow residents to express our thanks to Sally and Tony, who delivered our newspapers reliably, come rain or shine, for years. The service was much appreciated by many. It remains to be seen if the new company can come up to the same standard!

# BARLOW RED BARROWS Goodbye Wing Commander!

The evening of Saturday 18th November 2023 saw the hosting of Barlow Red Barrows ninth Annual Dinner at Barlow Village Hall. The hall is now equipped with excellent catering ovens, a large bain marie and commercial dishwasher. Seating sixty people, it offers a fantastic venue for charity or other fund-raising events. It certainly beats cramming that many people into a kitchen, as we did for our first dinner.

The occasion was also a fond farewell to the founder and driving force behind the Barrows, Wing Commander David Johnston. Back in 2014 whilst enjoying a holiday in the Lake District David saw nine elderly people pushing red wheelbarrows around at a country show. Returning from his holiday he gathered together the daftest eight people he could find, arranged for them to be equipped with a red wheelbarrow and blue tights each and entered a walking float for Barlow Carnival. With the aid of much alcohol it seemed to the rather befuddled minds of the Barrowers that the crowd had laughed a great deal, whether it was with them or at them they didn't mind.

At the end of that year our first annual dinner was organised, for which the Barrowers washed, peeled, prepared and cooked using local produce and suppliers. At the end of the year - without really meaning to do it - the Barrowers had a surplus of three hundred pounds. The decision was taken to buy a child's laptop for a Dronfield child suffering from leukaemia and being treated at Sheffield's Weston Park Hospital. This was the first charitable donation from the Red Barrows. The Barrowers were hooked, the daftness now had a real purpose. The following year they supported CLIC Sargent, a charity who look after the families of children undergoing leukaemia treatment. Coming into contact with charities and doing something to support causes of this nature is nothing short of humbling.

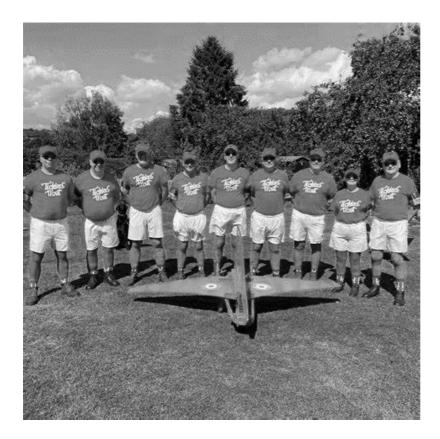
Under David's eagle eye the fund-raising has gone from strength to strength, with a total of over £80,000 having been donated to a range of fantastic local and national charities. The Barrowers have since performed

at Chatsworth and at many of the leading agricultural shows in the region. At this year's annual dinner a cheque for £7000 was donated to McMillan Cancer Support. A speech from a local McMillan representative made everyone acutely aware of the vital role of their work, also giving the assurance that this money would be used in our region. With the inclusion of a raffle and auction the evening also added a further £2150 to the charitable funds of the Barrowers.

Despite David leaving us to begin further fund-raising work for other charitable organisations, Barlow Red Barrows will continue. If you feel you have some time which you would like to spend with a team of - in the main - rather eccentric and wacky men and women and like the idea of wearing blue tights in public whilst pushing a red wheelbarrow around a field, please don't hesitate to get in touch! Failing that we will hopefully see you again at the excellent Barlow Carnival which will take place again this summer.

PS: The Dronfield boy mentioned earlier recovered from his illness; he is progressing well.

**Richard Brougham** 







# **BARLOW PRE-SCHOOL**



Little Bird, little bird, flap your wings.

Open your beak and sweetly sing.

Little bird, little bird fly to your nest.

Now it is time to take a rest.

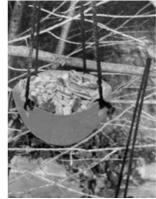
Dear Friends,

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a happy new year! How can it be February already?

This term we welcomed several new families to Pre-School, who have all settled really well and we are now almost at full capacity.

We have been busy finding out all about Winter this term. We really enjoyed the big garden birdwatch in January. We made a bird station so the birds could visit, as well as bird feeders, bird baths and owl shaped biscuits. These were yummy! We spotted lots of different birds in our garden too.







To make our role play area a little more homely and realistic, we are on the lookout for some objects. We need a working table lamp, a tea set (cups, saucers, teapot and milk jug), real cutlery, any unwanted wicker or rattan baskets, hats and scarves, kettle, wooden bowls and weighing scales. Any donations gratefully received.

Jo

# **BARLOW CofE SCHOOL**

#### Latest news

We are now well into the spring term and our children are well into the swing of working after the excitement of the Christmas services, performances and parties. We have welcomed some new children and said goodbye to some who have moved to a different area.

#### Flooding

Thank you to all those who raised awareness of the playground flooding after Christmas. This was due to a substantial muddy run-off from the fields at the back in the heavy rain. Unfortunately, we did get some mud and water into one of the classrooms, necessitating a substantial cleanup operation and a dehumidifier running for a couple of weeks. Luckily, the children were still able to return as normal with no impact on their learning.

#### Outside area

We would like to thank Helen Coulson and her family as well as the rest of the FOBS team for continuing to work on our outside area. We have new wooden planters in situ outside with some evergreen arrangements which really brighten up the front of the school in this wintry weather. We are planning to put further planting at the back of the school as it starts to get warmer. We are also looking ahead to fundraising for further improvements to the playground.

#### Little Wandle

We have recently joined an English Hub to support us with our phonics work in school. This came with access to a substantial amount of funding which we have invested in new books and a new phonics scheme called Little Wandle. It is lovely to have access to attractive new books which are really engaging the children. The teachers and teaching assistants have all done additional training to support them with their delivery of the materials. It is very different to our previous phonics scheme with a slightly different teaching order but we are really happy with the pupils' progress so far. The English Hub will also be supporting us with access to their expert staff.

#### **Sporting Activities**

The SHAPE team from Chesterfield School Sports Partnership have been working with us as normal. They have been in to do sporting activities with all the classes including a wonderful 'Move with Max' story with the Reception children, where the children turned into astronauts, then had to fuel their rockets before exploring planets. The only equipment used was cones, hoops and balls but all the children were fully immersed in the story and enjoyed the physical challenges along the way. Meanwhile, Emerald class and Sapphire class have taken part in a dodgeball festival involving lots of different activities alongside other schools from the area. 12 of our Y5 and 6 children took part in the schools' bouldering competition at the climbing works. This was a qualifying round and we are hoping we have done well enough to be invited back to the final in March.





#### Seasonal Walk

We took part in our second seasonal walk with Amethyst class at the beginning of December and were lucky enough to see lots of stunning ice and frost formations. The photos below were taken by the trout ponds where there was thick ice.





Penny (Headteacher)

# YOUNG FARMERS

Hello from Barlow Young Farmers!

Young Farmers resumed meetings in January after their Christmas break starting with a rehearsal to pick a team and then attend the annual Public Speaking Competition which was hosted by Ashover YFC which Barlow brilliantly won, securing their place in the next round at County level! Huge 'well done' to all the team!! Other Meetings in January have also included Ice Skating in Sheffield and a guest speaker from the Willow Trust explaining the work they do within the rural community.

In February we look forward to welcoming the Young Farmers County Roadshow and hosting the annual Barlow Young Farmers Dinner & Dance. As always, new members will be very welcome.

Rosie

# CARNIVAL

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you had a peaceful Christmas and New Year with loved ones.

Looking back, it seems like a long time since our popular Christmas Fair at the end of November and the amazing turnout for Carols Around the Christmas Tree and Illuminated Tractor Parade. We very much hope you enjoyed both these events.

At the time of writing it is just 211 days until Carnival Day! As the old year has passed and the new one begins we look ahead to what is set to become yet another fantastic year with lots of events and activities planned in the village.

Plans for Carnival will ramp up in the coming weeks and months and we look forward to sharing these plans with you at a later date. In the meantime however here are some dates for your diary:

#### Monday 27th May – Carnival Car Boot Sale

Have a clear out and help raise some money for your Carnival this August.

#### Friday 12th July – Barlow Not Quite 10k

The popular run returns this July and entry will open soon.

#### Saturday 17th August – Carnival Day

The highlight of the year! Not to be missed.



# HOLMESFIELD SCOUTING Update

### Will Scouting ever return to Holmesfield?

It is with great sadness that we must make you all aware we have had to give up on the dream of building on the land behind St. Swithin's Church.

This project has been the focal point for a small number of dedicated supporters of 3rd Holmesfield Scout Group over the last six years and it now seems inevitable that scouting may never return to the village of Holmesfield. The discussion with Holmesfield Parish Council and Chapel Lands Trust to build a fully functional, future proof design for young people to safely enjoy all the benefits that scouting can bring to their personal development started at the end of 2017. The anticipated costs at this point were around £250,000. Just over three years later we had gained planning permission, and as we moved into the functional design and build planning it became obvious the costs were going to be substantially greater than originally expected. In fact, the costs have now tripled, and we are now looking at over £750,000 to complete the build. Effort was then directed to obtaining large amounts of funds through grants and large-scale organisations, although we had a very generous backer for the project the gap was insurmountable with the most we could hope to secure from these grants being around £300,000. The solicitor costs were continuing to increase and having spent a considerable amount of scouting money already we have decided to cut our losses and 3rd Holmesfield Scout Group will continue to operate from the district site at Wreakes Lane for the foreseeable future. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to those who have generously supported us in our endeavour to bring Scouting back to Holmesfield.

If you have any questions or would like further details, please contact us at <u>thirdholmesfieldscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Jane Jakins

# **POETRY CORNER**

Waiting in the Wings	by Emile Pinet
Sunlight waves in between Twigs of skeletal trees. And a web of shadows dances With each feisty breeze.	
A silver sky shimmers Like cheap carnival glass. And yet, this fickle sun's Too weak for blades of grass.	
Snow accumulates On branches that almost break. And bow low to the ground with the weight of each flake.	
Sugar maple sap waits, Not even one sweet drip. And snowmen aren't melting, Frozen in winter's grip.	
Coring's not on stage quite yet	

Spring's not on stage quite yet, She's waiting in the wings But I can almost smell the flowers that she brings.

#### February

by Michael Field

Gay lucidity, Not yet sunshine, in the air; Tingling secrets hidden everywhere, Each at watch for each; Sap within the hillside beech, Not a leaf to see.

# **PUZZLE PAGE**

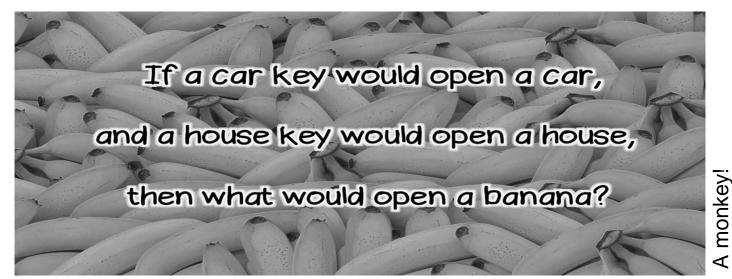
A riddle is a statement or question or phrase having a double or veiled meaning, put forth as a puzzle to be solved.

How about trying to solve some good old-fashioned riddles?

- 1. What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on?
- 2. How can you make SIX into an odd number?
- 3. I have branches yet I have no leaves, no trunk, no fruit. What am I?
- 4. How many bananas can you eat when your stomach is empty?
- 5. What belongs to you but other people use it more than you?
- 6. I never was but always will be. No one ever saw me but everyone knows I exist. I give people the motivation to better themselves every day. What am I?
- 7. What runs, but never walks. Murmurs, but never talks. Has a bed, but never sleeps. And has a mouth, but never eats?
- 8. I'm light as a feather, but not even the strongest girl can hold me for more than 5 minutes. What am I?
- 9. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have nobody, but come alive with wind. What am I?
- 10. What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?

#### Answers:

A coat of paint / Get rid of the S and you're left with 9 in Roman numerals / A bank / Only one. Your stomach isn't empty anymore after one / Your name / Tomorrow / A river / Breath / An echo / The letter R



### WORDS OF THE YEAR as determined by the Oxford English Dictionary

In the year 2004 the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) introduced their 'Word of the Year' nomination. Since then it has become an annual announcement. The word selected should be one that has come to prominence that year and has been used widely in the media and by the general public. Here is a list of the chosen words for every year since then.

2004: Chav (a young person displaying anti-social behaviour)

- 2005: Sudoku
- 2006: Bovvered (catchphrase from the Catherine Tate show)
- 2007: Carbon Footprint
- 2008: Credit Crunch
- 2009: Simples (catchphrase from car insurance advert featuring a meerkat)
- 2010: Big Society (David Cameron's flagship policy)
- 2011: Squeezed Middle (Ed Miliband's riposte)
- 2012: Omnishambles (a term coined for the TV serie The Thick of It, but used by Miliband to describe the Coalition's 2012 budget)
- 2013: Selfie
- 2014: Vape
- 2015: The laughing emoji (not a word at all)
- 2016: Post-Truth (to describe circumstances where objective facts are less influential than appeals to emotion, such as with Brexit and Denald Trump)

Donald Trump)

- 2017: Youthquake
- 2018: Toxic Masculinity (in the wake of the #MeToo movement)
- 2019: Climate Emergency

2020: ---

2021: Vax (!)

2022: Goblin Mode (unapologetically self-indulgent behaviour)

2023: Rizz (short for Charisma)

What will it be for 2024?



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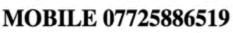


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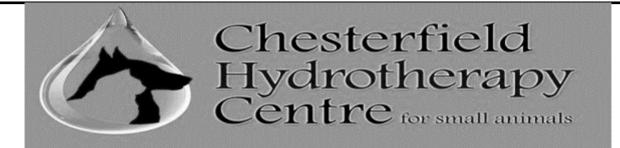
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