

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

BARLOW

PARISH MAGAZINE



APRIL 2026

70p



Parish Magazine Subscriptions 2026

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2026 subscription by the deadline of 31st March, we really appreciate your support.

If you have decided not to renew your subscription by 31st March there will be no further deliveries after this edition. We thank you for your support in the past and if you do wish to continue receiving the magazine going forward, please contact either Julie West (Churchwarden) or Joy Layton (Magazine Distribution) on the contact numbers at the beginning of this magazine.

Thank you.

The Magazine Team

Cover painting by Peter Baldry.

All photos by Roger Barrett.

APRIL 2026

All contributions for the APRIL issue
must be submitted by
Friday, 24th April 2026, 5pm
to ensure inclusion.

Please send your articles and interesting photographs
of the local area to: ingoherrmann17@gmail.com
Cover photo by Michael Hardy

WHO'S WHO AT CHURCH

Vicar

Revd. Sarah Colver
07975 689403
25 Oldridge Close
Holme Hall
priest@barlow-church.org.uk.

Churchwarden

Mrs. Julie West
07799 639566
julie@barlow-church.org.uk

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Treasurer: Mrs. Janet Siddall, 01246 206964
Organist: To be confirmed.
Magazine Editor: Mr. Ingo Herrmann, ingoherrmann17@gmail.com
Magazine Distribution: Mrs. Joy Layton, 07876 721798

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

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Parish Clerk / RFO – Mrs. Emma Smith
Email: info@barlowvillage.co.uk 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 07719 991389
Chairperson – Sarah Wells 07984 304874

Barlow Singers

Karen Cook 07759 375312

Young Farmers

Chair – Maddie Needham 07729 696013
Secretary – Harlie Blackwell 07879 434291

Carnival Committee

Chairperson – Terry Allison 07860 758037 info@barlowcarnival.co.uk

YEAR'S MIND - APRIL

From the church registers - * Denotes date of funeral or ashes burial

1ST ELLA WASS---1986

EVA BRAMWELL---1992

GINA CLARKE---2021

2ND LINDA BARGH---1966

JAMES W.H. MARPLES---1998

3RD MARY WILKINSON---1971

IDA SHEMWELL---1978

FRANK R. COBB---2001

4TH * ALBERT CALVERT---1990

BRIAN DRURY---2022

MARGARET ROWBOTTOM---2023

5TH ROSEMARY G. MILWARD---2005

EMILY TAGG---2023

JAMES R. LEE---2007

6TH IRENE HASLAM---2017

7TH JOSEPHINE ELSE---1971

BARRIE HOLLIS---1993

JAMES H. HILL---1996]

RITA WRAGG---2016

8TH MARY ARMSTRONG---2023

9TH DOUGLAS G. HERRINGSHAW---
2005

10TH FLORENCE WHITE---1971

ANN F. SOUTH---1997

HARRY HASLAM---2001

VINCENT NOBLE---2009

MIKE BLOXHAM---2023

*BERYL MORTON---2017

11TH *WALTER ALAN DICKMAN---
2013

12TH SAMUEL BURTON---1969

MARY SHOOTER---?

MONA HASLAM---1997

LILIAN P. NEEDHAM---1998

ANN PATMAN---2003

13TH EDITH MARGERRISON---1973

MARGARET STUBBINS---2008

MURIEL FLINT---2020

14TH PHYLLIS CARTER---1977

JOHN S. MARGERRISON---1995

15TH SARAH WOODWARD---1966

AUDREY HASLAM--2021

17TH PEGGY Y. THOMPSON---1998

*DARREN NAVIN---2023

18TH WILLIAM R. MIDDLETON---2003

*JUNE GRICE---2011

19TH BEATRICE WRIGHT---1972

IRIS WILSON---1995

20TH ANDREW J HURT---2012

21ST ERLE KINGSTON---1972

22ND FRANK PATILLA---1977

JOANNE WESTON---2012

JOHN R. BELLERBY---1998

NANCY E. COBB---2023

23RD ELIZA HOWARD---1966

POLLIE SIDDALL---1966

WINIFRED SMITH---1979

FRANK SLACK---1981

CLIFFORD UMNEY---1989

BARBARA E. STARKEY---2002

24TH HORACE SMALLEY---1964

25TH * EMILY M. TAYLOR---1990

WILLIAM HILL---1994

GAIL PEAT---2023

26TH HAROLD STEVENSON---1979

WALTER G. HALLATT---2004

GWEN SYDDALL---2025

27TH BILL DAVIS---1998

OLIVER JACQUES---2019

28TH FRED A BOWER---1965

29TH BRENDA POWELL---2013

PAMELA M WARD--2020

SIDNEY BEADBURY---2007

30TH IRENE KINGSTON---1990

EDNA E. McGUINNESS---2020

JANET WEST---2022

BARLOW CHURCH

(ST. LAWRENCE)

Dear Friends:

April 23rd, St. George's Day, a date to remember, but why?

St George's day is a major event in the Scouting calendar, as Saint George is the patron saint of Scouting, chosen by founder Lord Baden-Powell to represent courage and selflessness. Scouts typically celebrate on the nearest Sunday with parades, flag ceremonies and the renewal of their Promise. He is also patron saint of soldiers, farmers, and archers.

The flag of St. George, patron saint of England, with a red cross on a white background, is flown in St Lawrence churchyard, close to the war memorial. It is a symbol of the church's connection to its roots and its role in the community. A symbol of commitment, service, and patriotism.



Flags are often displayed to foster a sense of unity and national pride, especially during major sporting events, and although some have come to associate the flag of St. George with far-right movements, and indeed the recent flying of flags as a protest against immigration was most uncomfortable for many, churches often use the flag to represent inclusion, courage, and welcome.

But who was St George?

Saint George was born around the year 280AD in what is now Turkey. He rose through the ranks of the Roman army and became a personal guard to the Emperor Diocletian. George was sentenced to death for refusing to

recant his Christian faith and became one of the most venerated saints in Christianity. He was executed on April 23, 303AD and is buried in Lod in Israel.

But - as with many saints - there is a legend to accompany their life story, and legends vary according to the teller. This is the story according to St. George's church Camberwell, written from 11th Century records.



Tradition tells that a fierce dragon was causing panic in the city of Silene, Libya, at the time when George arrived there. In order to prevent the dragon from devastating the city, they gave two sheep each day to the dragon, but when the sheep were not enough, they were forced to sacrifice humans instead of the two sheep. The human to be sacrificed was elected by the city's own people and the king's daughter was chosen to be sacrificed, and no one was willing to take her place. George saved the girl by slaying the dragon with a lance. The king was so grateful that he offered him treasures as a reward for saving his daughter's life, but George refused it and instead he gave his reward to the poor. The people of the city were so amazed at what they had witnessed that they became Christians and were all baptised.

Those who know the tradition of St. Lawrence will spot the connection, both saints having high regard for the poor.

Such a prominent saint, George has been adopted by too many countries and regions of countries to name, but the list includes Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Palestine, Ethiopia, Portugal, Georgia and Catalonia, and the cross of St. George forms part of the national flags of at least 17 countries.

In Britain, St George has now come to represent traditional English chivalry and has inspired medals for bravery. In 1348, Edward III of England chose George as the patron saint of his Order of the Garter, and King George VI created the St George's Cross during the Second World War, the highest award a civilian can earn.

Image: St George's Church Camberwell

I wonder what you will be doing on St. George's Day. Not slaying a dragon for sure, but spare a thought for what it means to be chivalrous, brave, patriotic, committed to the community, or giving service to God and to others.

With my best wishes for April.

Revd. Gill, Associate Priest.

FROM CHURCH REGISTERS: APRIL 2026 UPDATE

Baptisms

8th March---Penelope Aoife Hawkins-McGurrin

Funerals

5th March---Shirley Stevenson --- Ashes burial

Marriages

None



CHURCH NEWS

(ST. LAWRENCE)

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter everyone!

As you receive this magazine, we will be entering our time of Easter celebration; Palm Sunday and the narration of the Passion is the last service in March, and our special Holy Week services then continue into the first week of April. You are all very welcome to come along to any of the services at this very poignant time of the church year; they are detailed below.

As we look back on March, Mothering Sunday was a beautiful day with a church full of children and daffodils inside and out and a fun interactive service from Reverend Gill. It was very touching to welcome visitors into Church on the Saturday who came to light a candle and write their beloved mother's or mother figure's name in the prayer book.

In the run up to Mothering Sunday, you will be aware we ran our collection for the Baby Basics charity. The response has been absolutely phenomenal, with a huge amount donated. Thank you to everyone who gave anything at all to this cause.

We have completed our Lent Breakfasts, which - as always - has been very enjoyable for helpers and eaters alike. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help and to all those who came to eat, we couldn't do it without you!

Open Gardens

I am afraid our social and fundraising committee have an announcement about Open Gardens.

"After careful consideration of all the circumstances surrounding Open Gardens, regrettably we have come to the conclusion to rest Barlow Open Gardens for 2026."

Therefore, Open Gardens will NOT go ahead on 5th July 2026.

We would like to thank all of our supporters over the past years and we will bring you news of Open Gardens 2027 in due course. Thank you for your understanding.

Church Opening

Church opening is due to return to summer hours from Friday 1st May and it will be open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am until 4pm. Until then it will continue to be open Mondays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm.

There are occasionally events happening on some of the open days when access may be restricted but we do our best to avoid this.

Holy Week and Easter Services

At Barlow Church unless specified.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April: 7.30pm service at Old Brampton Church

Good Friday 3rd April: 10am “Eggsplare Easter” activities for families

12 noon Stations of the Cross

1pm Reflections and music for Good Friday

2pm Liturgy for Good Friday

Holy Saturday 4th April: 8pm Easter Vigil with lighting of the Easter fire

Easter Day, Sunday 5th April: 11am Easter Day family mass followed by Easter egg hunt.

Regular services

Sunday 5th April: 11am Easter Day family service with Easter egg hunt

Sunday 12th April: 8am Mass & 11am service

Sunday 19th April: 11am service

Sunday 26th April: 11am service.

Upcoming Events

~~Open Gardens: Sunday 5th July 2026~~

Well dressings & flower festival: Wednesday 12th – Tuesday 18th August 2026

Harvest Supper: Sunday 11th October 2026

Christmas Tree Festival: Saturday 21st – 28th November 2026

“A Bit of a Christmas Do”: Saturday 5th December 2026 by invitation

Carol Concert: Wednesday 16th December 2026

If anyone would like to offer to volunteer to help at any of the above events, please contact Julie on the details at the front of the magazine. Thank you.

Once again, happy Easter to you all, spring is here at last.

With very best wishes, Julie.

PARISH COUNCIL



CHAIR – Cllr I Hall 0114 289 9361

VICE-CHAIR – Tba

CLERK / RFO – Emma Smith 07841 529122 info@barlowvillage.co.uk

COUNCILLORS:

Cllr J Brougham 0114 289 1411

Cllr I Herrmann 07870 489016

Cllr S Marshall 0114 2890596

Cllr J Siddall 01246 206964

Cllr P Taylor 0114 2890949 / 07753 662 619

Cllr W Twigg 07814 667362

Vacancy

Due to Cllr Lindsay stepping down we have a vacancy on the Parish Council. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Lindsay for his time on the Council and express our appreciation for his work and commitment.

Planning Matters

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

- 26/00053/LB – Listed Building application for the downstairs hall, stairs, first floor and landing and study (middle front room) to remove the plasterwork to the external walls and replace with lime plaster. Internal walls and red brick arches apply standard backing coat and like based skin coat with a plain finish, a clay based paint will be used over the new plasterwork. In the parlour remove the plasterwork and modern boarded panelling within the window recess of the eastern elevation, replace with lime plaster, the Parlour fireplace, remove the modern red brick fireplace (Listed Building) at Lees Hall Farm, Barlow Lees Lane, Barlow

RESOLVED no comments

- 25/00456/FLH – Proposed single storey extension to create entrance porch, utility room and dog room (Affecting the setting of a Listed Building) (Affecting Public Rights of Way) (Amended Plans) at Rumlings Farm, Far Lane, Barlow

RESOLVED Council understand that the main problem with the first application was that the proposed extension would not sit well with the nearby Listed Building. Council are happy with the amended plan to site it at the back of the house instead. Council have no concerns with the unofficially diverted FP18. However, in line with the Ramblers Association letter of 22 June 2025 Council think that it would be wise to formalise this decision, in order to avoid contentious issues in the future.

PLANNING DECISIONS

- 25/00993/FLH – Ground floor front extension at 5 Brookvale Close, Barlow – **Conditionally approved 4 February 2026**
- 25/00968/FL – Change of use of land for sitting of a shepherds hut for holiday accommodation including associated hardstanding and carpark provision (Private drainage system) at Elmtree Farm, Millcross Lane, Barlow – **Refused 23 January 2026**
RESOLVED noted

ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

No other planning matters.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING

No further planning applications circulated.

Defibrillator Training

We are lucky to have 3 defibrillators in Barlow now, at Hackney House, the Village Hall and at the Tickled Trout, but people often seem unsure about how to use them.

The British Heart Foundation now offers online defibrillator training, teaching CPR and AED use to help save lives in cardiac emergencies.

The BHF's **RevivR** is a **free** interactive online CPR and defibrillator training tool. It allows individuals or teams to learn essential life-saving skills in as little as 15 minutes, using a mobile device or tablet.

Key features include:

- **Recognising cardiac arrest** and responding confidently
- **Simulated 999 calls** to understand emergency procedures
- **CPR technique feedback** to perfect chest compressions
- **Defibrillator guidance**, incl. how to use an AED and locate the nearest device
- Access to **toolkits** with posters, leaflets, facilitator guides, and certificates for organizational promotion

For details and access visit

www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes

Dog Waste and Horse Manure

Notice to Residents and Visitors:

We have received several reports recently regarding dog waste being left around Barlow Village. Waste bins are provided throughout the parish, and we kindly ask all dog owners to use these bins or take it home. Please dispose of dog waste responsibly rather than leaving it in public areas.

We have also received reports of horse manure being left on pavements. Riders are asked to please be considerate of other footpath users and the wider community.

Your cooperation helps keep our village clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone. Thank you for your support.



Local Plan

Anyone who is concerned and would like to comment on the local plan should do so through the portal provided by NEDDC. There are a number of consultation events (see next 2 pages) where residents can talk with NEDDC representatives about the proposed sites who have more information than the Parish Council. Comments on the consultation material should be submitted by **Thursday 30th April 2026**. NEDDC are encouraging comments to be submitted online through their consultation portal wherever possible:

www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/localplan.

For those unable to provide comments online, please contact the Council on 01246 231111 to request a comments form to be emailed or posted to them. Unfortunately the Parish Council has no power concerning new developments. We are just another consultee, like everybody else.



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

North East Derbyshire New Local Plan

Consultation on the approach to the
location of development and refined
schedule of sites - March/April 2026

Get involved in the latest stage in the preparation of the Council's New Local Plan.

We are inviting comments on:

- Our proposed strategy approach for the location of future development in the district. (Which takes account of feedback from last summer's consultation on the Issues & Options and a range of evidence); and
- A refined list of sites that have passed through our screening processes and align with the proposed strategy.

NOTE: These are not the Council's preferred sites - further consideration is required, including findings of a Green Belt Review (currently underway), alongside feedback from this stage of consultation.

To view the consultation material:

- Come along to one of our consultation drop-in events taking place across the district;
- Visit the Council Office and libraries throughout the district during usual

opening hours; and/or

- Visit the Council's website.
www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/localplan
- Scan the QR code to visit our Local Plan Consultation page.



Please provide your comments online wherever possible.

If you cannot provide comments online please contact the Council on 01246 231111 to request a Local Plan response form.

However you choose to get involved, please provide your comments by the closing date of 30th April 2026.

North East Derbyshire
**New
 Local Plan**

Consultation on the approach to the location of development and refined schedule of sites - March/April 2026



**North East
 Derbyshire**
 District Council



Consultation drop-in events timetable

Location	Date	Time
Eckington Business Centre, Market St, Eckington, Sheffield S21 4JH.	Saturday 21st March	10.00am to 1.00pm
North East Derbyshire District Council, 2013 Mill Lane, Chesterfield S42 6NG. Meeting Room 1.	Monday 23rd March	1.00pm to 4.00pm
Stonebroom Community Centre, Quarry Lane, Stonebroom, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 6LJ.	Tuesday 24th March	4.00pm to 7.00pm
St Barnabas Centre, Pilsley Rd, Danesmoor, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9BU.	Wednesday 25th March	3.00pm to 6.00pm
North Wingfield Community Resource Centre, 67 Whiteleas Ave, North Wingfield, Chesterfield S42 5PW.	Thursday 26th March	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Dronfield Peel Centre, (Edward Lucas Hall) High St, Dronfield S18 1PY.	Saturday 28th March	10.00am to 1.00pm
Eckington Business Centre, Market St, Eckington, Sheffield S21 4JH.	Monday 13th April	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Killamarsh Parish Suite, Stanley St, Killamarsh, Sheffield S21 1EL.	Tuesday 14th April	4.00pm to 7.00pm
North East Derbyshire District Council, 2013 Mill Lane, Chesterfield S42 6NG. Meeting Room 1.	Wednesday 15th April	4.00pm to 7.00pm
Dronfield Civic Hall, Civic Centre, Dronfield S18 1PD.	Thursday 16th April	4.00pm to 7.00pm
St Barnabas Centre, Pilsley Rd, Danesmoor, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9BU.	Saturday 18th April	10.00am to 1.00pm

Access for All statement

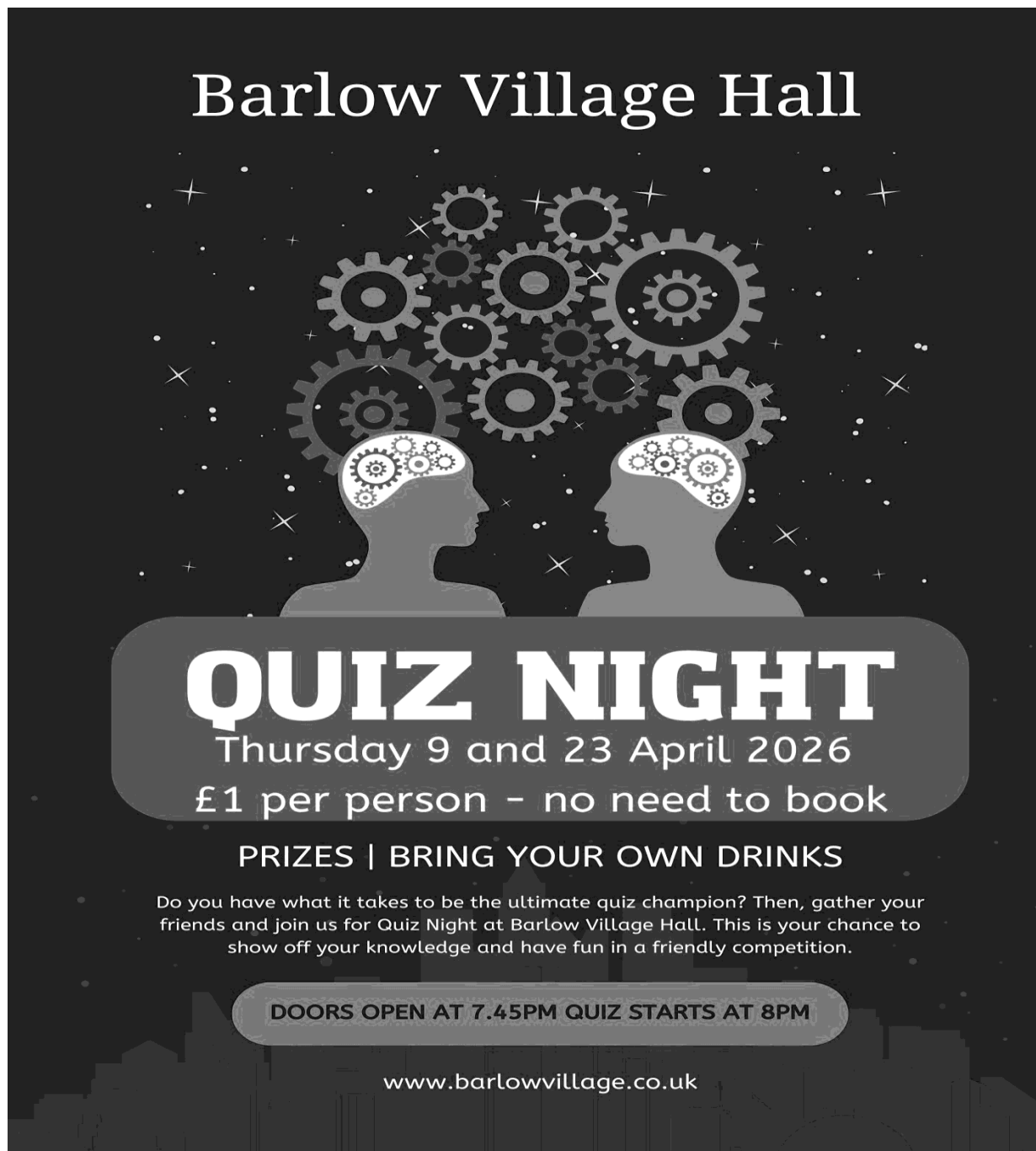
You can request this document or information in another format such as large print or language or contact us by:

- **Phone:** [01246 231111](tel:01246231111)
- **Email:** connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
- **Text:** [07800 00 24 25](tel:07800002425)
- **BSL Video Call:** a FREE, three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter.
- **Call with Relay UK** via textphone or app on [0800 500 888](tel:0800500888). FREE phone service for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking.
- **Visiting our offices at Wingerworth:** 2013 Mill Lane, [S42 6NG](tel:01246231111).



_March26

April Quiz Nights



Barlow Village Hall

QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 9 and 23 April 2026
£1 per person - no need to book

PRIZES | BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate quiz champion? Then, gather your friends and join us for Quiz Night at Barlow Village Hall. This is your chance to show off your knowledge and have fun in a friendly competition.

DOORS OPEN AT 7.45PM QUIZ STARTS AT 8PM

www.barlowvillage.co.uk

Update from your Police Inspector

“Hello, I’m Inspector Matthew Brown, and I am proud to serve as the Local Policing Inspector for North East Derbyshire and Bolsover, supporting the wide and diverse communities that make up our area.

My 17-year policing career across two forces has been consistently operational and front-facing, and I have previously worked within this locality. This experience has given me a strong understanding of our communities, their needs, and the challenges we face together.

I have recently returned to the area following a central secondment, where I supported work on the **Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee** and preparations for the **upcoming increase in Neighbourhood Police Officers across the country.**

This uplift will be felt in our communities imminently, and I am committed to ensuring these programmes are delivered effectively, with the public placed firmly at the centre of our priorities.

To see the current policing priorities for your area, as well as information on how and where you can meet your local policing team, please visit:

North East | Derbyshire Constabulary- [North East | Derbyshire Constabulary](#)

We also invite you to help shape future local priorities by completing the Community Voice survey:

Community Voice – Derbyshire Alert- [Community Voice - Derbyshire Alert](#)

Your feedback is invaluable and plays a key role in informing and renewing our neighbourhood policing priorities.

Throughout 2026, I look forward to keeping you updated on the work we are doing locally and how we are addressing the issues that matter most to you and your community.”

Planned community events for April 2026

Wed 1st 1-2.30pm Community Catch up – The Barn High Street Dronfield

Thur 2nd 1-2.30pm Bike Marking Dronfield Civic Centre Civic Centre Dronfield

Thur 2nd 12-10 6-7pm Barlow Street Meet Barlow Village Hall Millcross Lane

Sat 18th 8-5 10-11.30 Community Catch Up the Forge Church Street Dronfield

Sun 19th 8.30-12noon – Dronfield 10km

Sun 19th 2pm –4pm Sainsbury's CP Stall Sainsbury's Wreakes Lane Dronfield

Fri 24th 4-5pm Unstone Street Meet Ramshaw Road Unstone

Sun 26th 1-3pm Bike Marking Dronfield Civic Centre Civic Centre Dronfield

Mon 27th 5-6pm Holmesfield Street Meet Holmesfield Village Hall, Vicarage Close

Tues 28th 1-3pm Community Catch up Dronfield Sports Centre Civic Centre Dronfield

Many thanks,

PCSO 12853 Jonathan Flower

Dronfield SNT Police Community Support Officer
North East Section

BARLOW PRE-SCHOOL



Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived and we are very excited to have started planting seeds and beans, after reading Jack and the Beanstalk and Jasper's Beanstalk.

Our book themed stay-and-make session was very popular and enjoyed by all. We visited the Church for our Easter bonnet parade and to sing some Easter songs. The children all looked fabulous. Thank you to St Lawrence Church for letting us visit and to Joel Botham for talking to us about Easter.

Our committee members have an exciting fundraiser planned for Saturday 27th June! This year we are holding a community colour run! This will be a full festival style afternoon with colour runs, music, stalls, a bouncy castle and lots more. Details to follow, so watch out. Everyone is welcome, young and old. Pop the date in your diary now!

Our annual visit to Needham's farm is planned for 14th April. It is always so lovely to go and visit the baby lambs, it's one of the highlights of our year. Thank you to Richard and family for always making us so welcome on the farm.

Jo



BARLOW CofE SCHOOL



Service

Service is our value for this half term. This is also one of our five core values. Our children are fantastic and regularly show service to their teachers and classmates, putting others before themselves.

FOBS

Our fantastic FOBS team have been running their popular pop-up craft clubs. There is one event each half term and activities are normally linked into the season, including Valentine's Day and Easter this term. The children really enjoy the opportunity to spend time on their creative skills.

Spring Walk

Reception go on a seasonal walk each term to look at changes in the world around us. Our usual circular route takes us down to the trout ponds and round through the woods, then back up Keepers Lane. Unfortunately, the bridge was loose when Miss Vick did her recce for the walk, so we had a there-and-back walk down Keepers Lane and part-way through the woods. The children were very excited to see all the changes since last time, including the blossom emerging and all the crab apples that had fallen and rotted away on the ground.



World Book Day

For the second year running, children arrived wearing pyjamas and ready for an exciting day of book themed activities. Each class had a brand new book to read and everyone created some artwork linked to the books. The day finished with everyone enjoying a story read by Mrs Watkin with biscuits and juice to accompany it. A new event for this year was dressing a potato up as a book character. There were a huge variety of creations. The standard was exceptionally high and it was tricky to choose a winner for each class. The winners were all presented with a copy of the book their class had been sharing. A favourite part of the day for many children was sharing stories with children from other classes, with the older children paired with younger ones.



Sport

SHAPE have been in to do a Physical activities afternoon with Amethyst, Emerald and Sapphire classes. Jack kept the children going with lots of high energy games and fun. By the time you read this, Emerald class will have performed at the Winding Wheel with their Abba medley. The children have worked incredibly hard on this and had a lot of fun along the way.

Residential trips

We have two residential trips planned this year. Emerald class will be going on their annual trip to Lea Green to take part in a variety of adventurous activities including Low Ropes and the Climbing Wall. Meanwhile, Sapphire class will be venturing further afield. They will be going to York on the train and staying overnight in a hotel. As part of that, they will be visiting the Railway Museum, Jorvik and Dig.

Joining Barlow School

We still have a few places available for Reception for September 2026 and limited places in other year groups. If you know a child who was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, please encourage

their parents to get in touch and come and visit our fabulous village school. Mrs Gregory and Mrs Wells in the office can be contacted on 0114 289 0413 to book an appointment to look around either during the school day or afterwards.

FOBS

FRIENDS OF BARLOW SCHOOL

Hello,

We can't believe it's almost Easter and it looks like Spring has sprung! Tickets for the FOBS Easter raffle are available at £1 each through the Arbor app, or text Rachel Fordham on 07821 151626. There are three yummy chocolatey prizes to be won!

Would you like to get involved with FOBS? We have roles available for everything from Chairperson to ad-hoc half-an-hour helpers. There will be a meeting after the Easter holidays, with everyone welcome to come along and find out what's involved, or the super keen can speak to a member of FOBS in the meantime.

Finally, we are hoping to find a local craftsperson, woodworker or handyman hero to make a fundraising thermometer to give the community a real-time idea of how much money we have raised. Please let us know if you can help!

Enjoy the Spring weather!

Rebecca (on behalf of FOBS)



YOUNG FARMERS



April Round-Up

It's been a lively month for Barlow YFC, with plenty going on as we move towards the spring season.

A highlight this month was our visit to **Newbold Observatory**. Members enjoyed an eye-opening evening learning about the night sky, telescopes and the work being done there. Despite the chilly weather, spirits were high and we even managed to spot a few celestial sights through the cloud breaks.

With summer creeping closer, **Field Day preparations are well underway**. Teams have started organising events, sorting equipment, and getting everything lined up for what we hope will be a brilliant day for our club and the wider community. There's plenty to do, but we're tackling it with the usual YFC energy!

Finally, **Tug of War practice has resumed** and training sessions are in full swing. The team is shaping up nicely as we work on technique, strength and timing. New members are always welcome — so if you fancy giving it a try, come along and get stuck in!

Coming up next month we have a visit from an agronomist, Easter games and a quiz night, a visit and tour of the Crufts winning Barlow Hounds kennels and the YFC Olympics, complete with wellie wanging!

As always, if anyone would like to know more about Barlow YFC or join us for a meeting, you're very welcome. Here's to another busy and exciting month ahead!

Rosie Twigg — Barlow Young Farmers



FAMILY SNAPSHOT – PART ONE

I've included a snapshot from the family archive in this nostalgic piece, showing us walking down Barlow Lees Lane from Hill Top, one sunny August in the mid seventies. Taken with a humble Kodak Instamatic, it's just a small, fuzzy square. The view is immediately recognisable, unchanged as it is half a century later, but details are vague, the lines blurred.

Part of the Baldry family on their way to Barlow (Mid 70s).



In memory, however, that day and many more like it, live on in crystal clarity. We were, of course, on our way to Barlow on Carnival day, a ritual we had been following every summer since the late sixties. There were eight of us in all, including mum and dad. Three sisters, three brothers. Perfect symmetry.

The day began with mum preparing an enormous picnic, wrapped and packed in silver foil and Tupperware. A huge tartan flask was shoehorned into one of mum's shopping holdalls and we were off. Off up the hill in convoy, on foot, until we reached the little playing field at Hill Top. Pre-bypass, there was a simple fork in the road, more or less where the road bridge is now. Barlow one way, Cowley the other. We always turned left and were soon into what felt for us like the depths of the English countryside.

As kids, we were fascinated by the random stone blocks and steps, which seemed to be everywhere, but led nowhere. Dad, who fancied himself as a bit of a countryman, in some ways at least, put us in the picture. They were for horses and their riders - mystery solved. The main thing for me though, even at that young age, was the view. Field after field, all aglow, sweeping off to the right, while on the left, woodlands tumbled down the hill, layer after layer. The horizon seemed a hundred miles away – how could we ever reach it?

Before too long, we were at the northern end of what dad used to call 'Red Lane', or Gateland Lane, to give it its proper name. It would have taken us about forty minutes to get there from Hill Top (we were slow). I don't ever remember seeing a car pass us. Maybe just a tractor, or a couple of horse riders. Halfway along the lane, there was, and is, a heavy tubular metal gate, always closed back then. Having passed through it, we stood in awe at the monumental sight before us, a Derbyshire Ayers Rock. Who remembers the colossal pile of red shale in the corner of the field near the gate? It was there for at least a century after Barlow Lees Colliery, which stood on that very spot, had closed. You can still see it, if you look closely. It was used as a top dressing for the farm access track running up to Barlow Lees Hall, spread thickly along the route. An afterlife, of sorts.

A little further down Red Lane, the gradient fell and we were suddenly in a little ravine, a realm of giant oak tree roots and slate-like outcrops. And mud, all year round, or so it seemed. A second tubular steel gate hung in place between two ancient stone pillars. Unlike the other, this one cleared the ground fully and could therefore be used, repeatedly, as a makeshift gong, chiming loudly and proudly, until we were dragged away, so that the Baldry family were once again approaching Barlow.

Lee Bridge and its environs in the mid seventies was a magical place. Huge trees, left to grow after the mining ceased long before, had knitted their canopies together to form a heavy shade, through which crepuscular rays illuminated the babbling (there's no other word) waters of the brook, running beneath the honeyed stone of the bridge itself. The surface of the bridge, a continuation of the muddy path, was much lower then, which made the walls seem higher and more majestic. We always stood and stared for ages, upstream and downstream, watching the dippers ply their trade, the insects hovering above. Maybe, if we were lucky, the flash of a kingfisher. A million illuminated leaves, the pure, clean water gently passing through below us. We drank it all in.

After a paddle or swim, depending on height or preference, in the brook, we would gather on the grassy bank and enjoy a generous, varied and delicious picnic. Thanks mum. Afterwards, we would wander a little, and puzzle over what that strange building at the top of the slope might have been? Was it a miniature castle? Had all the windows been broken in a battle?

With the shadows on the day lengthening, all the paraphernalia of the picnic, including any litter, was collected up and we carried on our journey. We probably paused at the junction of Keepers Lane and Smeltinghouse Lane, where the grass triangle used to be. Keepers Cottage and its little barn stood to the right. 'That looks like a nice place', I used to think to myself. There was no question which direction we would be heading though, up Smeltinghouse Lane, dad's 'Gallopig Close'. In those days a red shale track, with grass growing up the middle. It was a long, steep trek. What would we find at the top?

Peter Baldry

BARLOW - OLD PHOTOS



BIRD BOXES

GreenThumb Tips & Tricks

Here's three golden rules when putting up a bird box:

Face the entrance east or northeast.

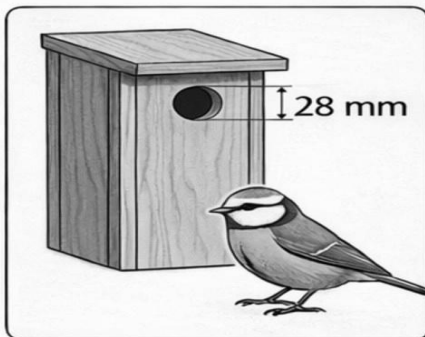
Never add a perch below the entrance.

Choose a precise hole of the right size for the species you wish to attract.

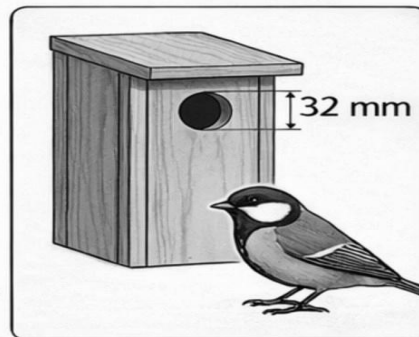
Smart placement, 3 to 4 metres high, with a wall backing and a tree nearby — that's how you invite the right birds into your garden.

GUIDE TO BIRD NESTING BOXES

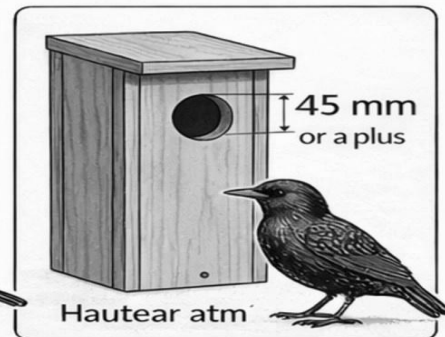
Select the right entrance size for each species



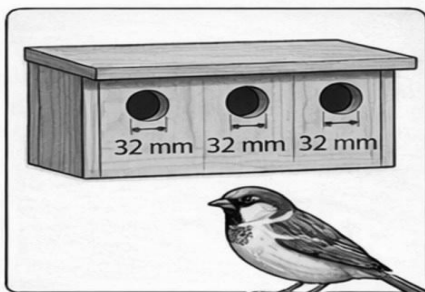
1 Blue Tit
• Blue Tit



2 Great Tit
• Great Tit



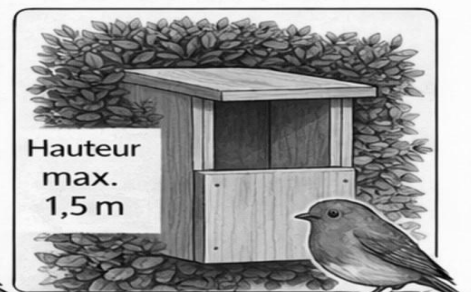
4 45 mm or larger
Starling



4 House Sparrow –
communal box



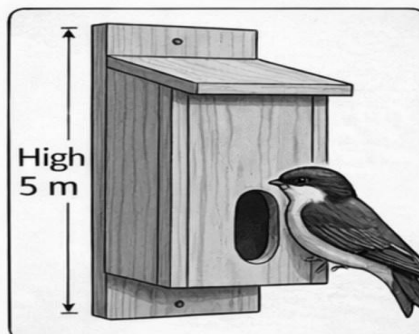
5 Robin –
semi-open box



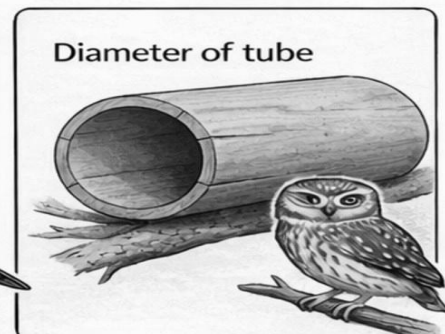
6 Robin
• max. 1,5m



7 Tree creeper –
triangular box



8 House Martin –
semi-oval box



9 Little Owl –
tube box

POETRY CORNER

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“Philip Larkin stands as one of the preeminent figures in post-war English poetry, renowned for his distinctive blend of scepticism, understated wit, and a penetrating insight into the human condition. His works reflect a characteristic blend of the ordinary and the profound, turning everyday observations into profound reflections on life, death, love, and the passage of time.”

From poetryverse.com

The Trees (1974)

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too.
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

Poem © From The Complete Poems of Philip Lark

Library Ode

New eyes each year
Find old books here,
And new books, too,
Old eyes renew;
So youth and age
Like ink and page
In this house join,
Minting new coin.

Spring

Green-shadowed people sit, or walk
in rings,
Their children finger the awakened
grass,
Calmly a cloud stands, calmly a bird
sings,
And, flashing like a dangled-looking
glass,
Sun lights the balls that bounce, the
dogs that bark,
The branch-arrested mist of leaf, and
me,
Threading my pursed-up way across
the park,
An indigestible sterility.

Spring, of all seasons most
gratuitous,
Is fold of untaught flower, is race of
water
Is earth's most multiple, excited
daughter;

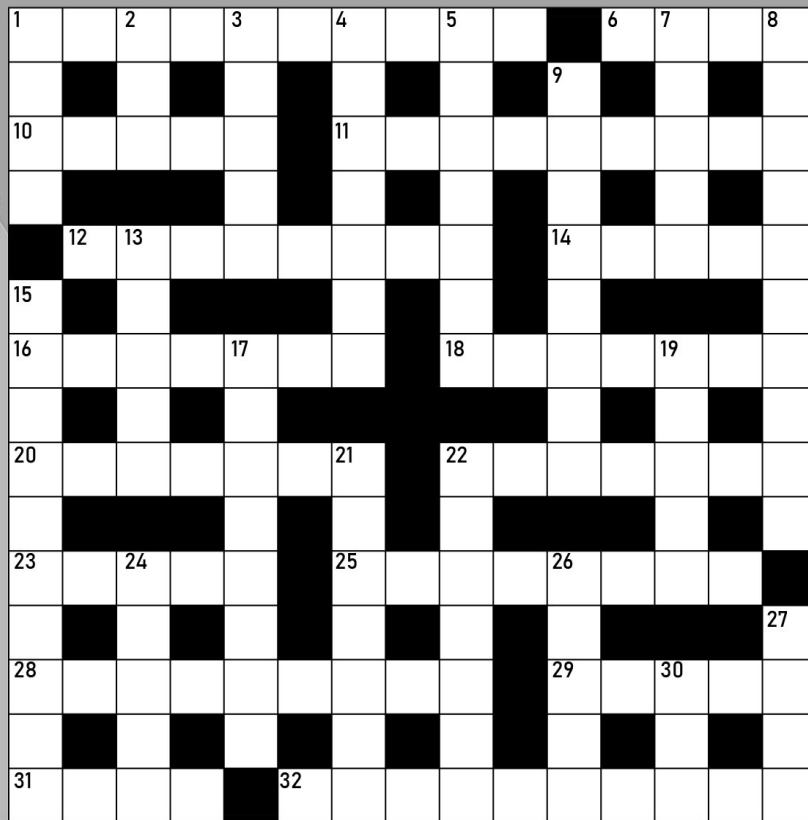
And those she has least use for see
her best,
Their paths grown craven and
circuitous,
Their visions mountain-clear, their
needs immodest.

PUZZLE PAGES

Match the LEAD VOCALISTS with their BACKING BANDS

Diana Ross	Comets
Buddy Holly	MGs
Cliff Richard	All Stars
Kid Creole	Animals
Bob Marley	Union Gap
Bruce Springsteen	Crickets
Gladys Knight	Mothers of Invention
Tom Petty	Pips
David Bowie	Attractions
Smokey Robinson	Shondelles
Martha Reeves	Spiders from Mars
Bill Haley	Vandellas
Booker T	Heartbreakers
Eric Burdon	Wings
Junior Walker	E-Street Band
John Mayall	Supremes
Gary Puckett	News
Huey Lewis	Shadows
Frank Zappa	Coconuts
Paul McCartney	Wailers
Elvis Costello	Pacemakers
Tommy James	Dominos
George Thorogood	Four Seasons
Derek	Medicine Show
Dr. Hook	Destroyers
Frankie Valli	Bluesbreakers
Gerry	Miracles

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Talkative person
- 6. Motorway off-ramp
- 10. Cathedral,... Dame
- 12. Ticketed
- 14. Japanese seaweed roll
- 16. Pieced with fork
- 18. Every evening
- 20. Annoyed
- 22. Nuclear process
- 23. Vanilla slice topping
- 25. Railway bridges
- 28. Take apart
- 29. Was gloomy
- 31. One-on-one fiht
- 32. Carry out (crime)

Down

- 1. Dollar division
- 2. Appropriate
- 3. Here,... & everywhere
- 4. Overrun (with disease)
- 5. Continually (2,3,2)
- 7. Bone photos (1-4)
- 8. Giving evidence
- 9. Delivers (goods)
- 13. In existence
- 15. Tolerant (4-6)
- 17. Weight unit
- 19. Discredit (reputation)
- 21. Dedicated admirer
- 22. Sudden outburst (5-2)
- 24. Agenda item
- 26. Unfulfilled
- 27. Rim
- 30. Ham & ... soup

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Sue Hinde mobile number 07885 763905

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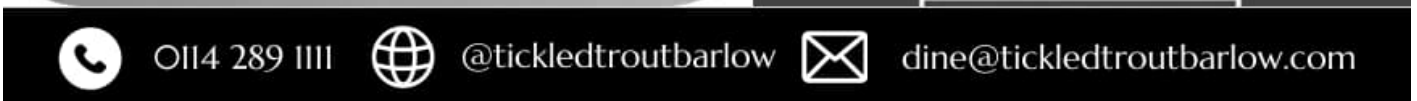


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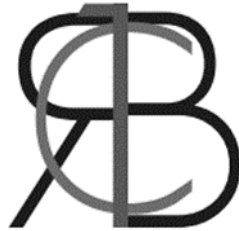
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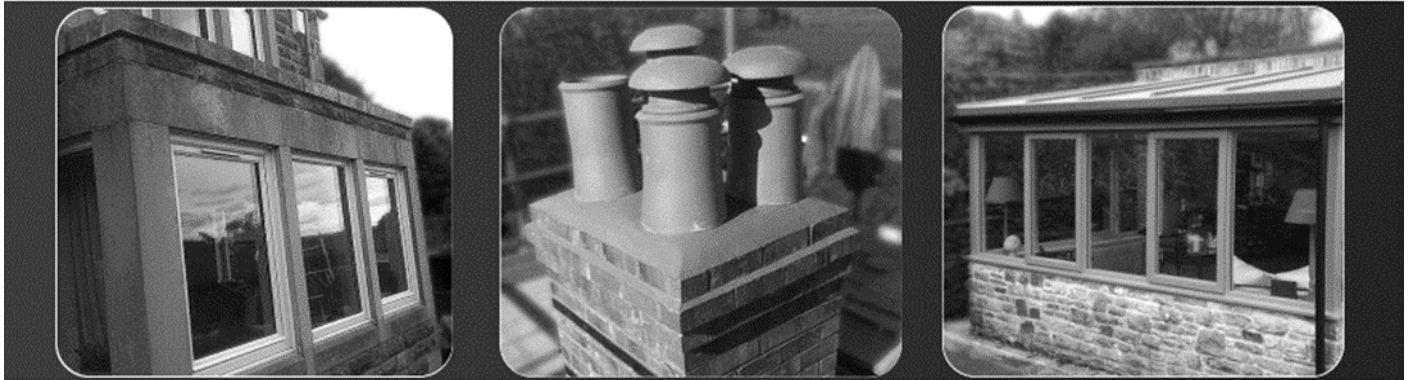
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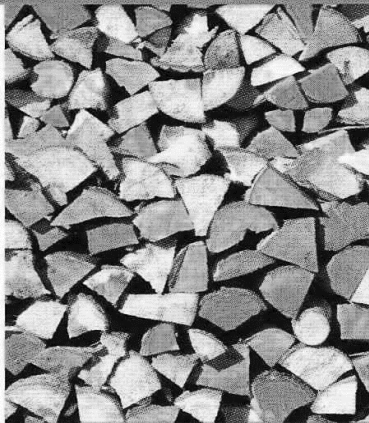
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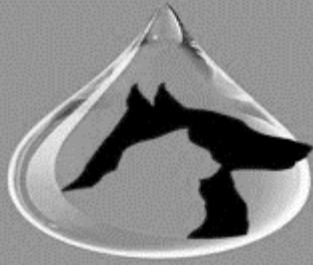
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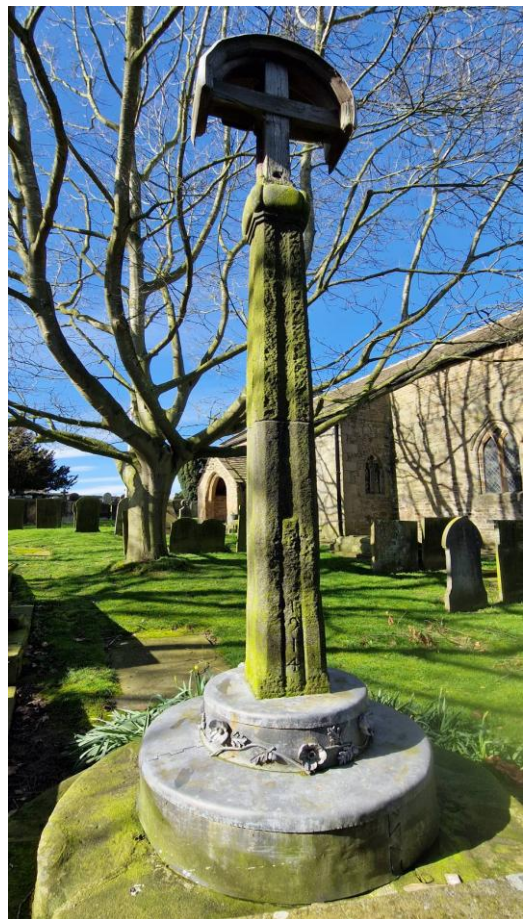
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