

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

BARLOW

PARISH MAGAZINE

POLITE NOTICE
• LIMITED PARKING
2 HOURS ONLY
Free Parking Is Available
at BARLOW VILLAGE HALL

MAY 2026

70p



MAY 2026

All contributions for the JUNE issue
must be submitted by
Friday, 22nd May 2026, 5pm
to ensure inclusion.

Please send your articles and interesting photographs
of the local area to: ingoherrmann17@gmail.com
All photos by Roger Barrett

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

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, 07876 721798

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Parish Council

Chair – Mrs. Irene Hall
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 - MAY

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

1ST DOROTHY M. EVANS---1998
MARGARET A. ROBINSON---2022

2ND CY JOBLING---2001

3RD ROSE GUNN---1976

4TH ERIC G. WOODALL---2004
BRIAN HIND--2020

5TH HORACE COREY---1983

6TH CHARLES K. MITSON---1980
HORACE N NOBLE---2020
KATHLEEN JOAN LUMB---2010
SARAH JOLLEY---2011

7TH FRANK NOVIS---?
JEFFREY G. HASLAM---1996

8TH BARRIE HOLLIS---1993
EDWARD STEVENSON---2010

9TH CHARLES H. PIDCOCK---1981
JOHN PICKERING---1981
ALBERT E. EATSON---1997

10TH MARGARET M. HALL---1993
*CAROL ROYSTON---2017

11TH * ADA HICKS---1990
CONSTANCE WILSON---1999
HOMER JOLLEY---2002
OLIVE MATCHETT---2015

12TH JOSEPH R. SHELDON---1979
ELIZABETH JAKEMAN---1999

13TH PETER BOOKER---2010
MONA PEARSON---2010
BETTY KUZNIARZ---2012

14TH JOHN MILTON---1975
HILDA R. BRADBURY---1972
DORA B. HARRISON---1992

15TH GARY BIRCHALL---2009
* CYNTHIA 'BETTY' DAVIS---2009
* EUNICE McGUINNESS---2013
JAMES HARRY BLANKSBY---2013

16TH DORIS SMITH---1973
WINIFRED WILTON---1987

17TH ELIZABETH NEALE---1982
JOHN BOTHAM---1991
JOHN FROOME---2018

18TH ANNIE PIDCOCK---1993
BRENDA SLINN---2025

19TH ROSA SHAWCROFT---1984
*REG WIDDOWSON---2017
RICHARD R POWELL---2018

20TH WILFRED HASLAM---1971
JEFFREY B. MATCHETT---2000

21ST HANNAH WALKER---1991
JOHN N. HOPKINSON---1993
JOHN T. BLAKEMORE---1997
FRED BROWN---1998
JOHN STEPHEN BETTS--2021

22ND HENRY BOWLER---1964
PATRICIA SIMPSON---2008
CARL PETER BOWN---2021

23RD JEFFREY LAYTON---1978
MURIEL HOLMES---2013

24th MICHAEL GRAHAM---2010
REGINALD A DODD---2017
LINDA J HADFIELD--2020

25TH RAYMOND JONES---2007

26TH ARTHUR COCKING---1979
MINNIE BOOKER---1979

27TH JOHN E. RAINFORD---1993
BARBARA JOLLEY---1999
LINDA MILNER---2009

JOYCE HERRINGSHAW
STANLEY CARSON--2020

28TH HANNAH SLACK---1964
JESSIE WHITE---1968
NELLIE ROWE---1971

ROBERT J. BAINBRIDGE---1994
MILLIE POWELL---1999
GEORGE A. BRADBURY---1999

29TH WALLACE BLOOR---1976
GRAHAM FRIEND (Priest)---1998
JOHN HALLAM---2011

30TH EMILY NEEDHAM---1979
MICHAEL FISH---1994
KATHLEEN M. COWAN---1994

BRENDA CHAMBERS---2002
KEVIN SMITH---2015
BETTY TAYLOR---2015

DENNIS ROY POOLE---2016

31ST TOM LOWE---1966
LUDVIK KUZNIARZ---1978

SYLVIA MAY NEEDHAM---2008

BARLOW CHURCH

(ST. LAWRENCE)

FROM CHURCH REGISTERS: MAY 2026 UPDATE

Baptisms

None

Funerals

27th March --- Alice May Walker --- Ashes burial

11th April --- Fr Benedict Mark Crowther-Alwyn --- Burial

Marriages

None

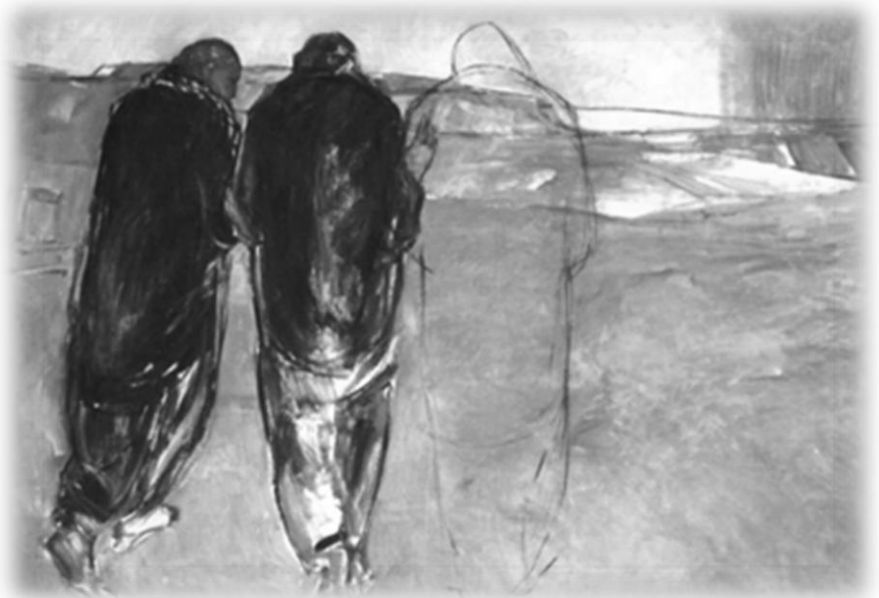
Dear Friends,

The beginning of May is definitely my favourite time of the year, with the local woods full of birdsong and colour - bluebells, wild garlic and fresh green beech leaves – and the spring lambs skipping around in the fields. There's still a bit of a chill in the air some mornings, but it's getting warmer and summer is just around the corner. This is a time of hope and promise.

In the Christian tradition, the overall sentiment is the same as we are celebrating the Easter Season, several weeks during which we remember the stories of events surrounding Jesus' resurrection and the impact they had on his followers.

The picture accompanying this article is of a famous story, the encounter on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus first goes unrecognised as he joins a group of his erstwhile followers on the road. He listens attentively as they tell a sad tale of disappointment and dashed hopes: 'But we had hoped', they say – hoped that Jesus as the Messiah would be the one to overturn the old order, but whom they have seen crucified. It is only later when he breaks bread in their home that they recognise him, but then he vanishes. This post-resurrection appearance can remind us of how,

during times of stress, grief or shock, Jesus is always there, travelling unseen beside us and often ministering to us through the kindness of other people. And it also reminds us that whatever we might think we understand about God, there is always so much more to learn.



The Road to Emmaus (1992) by
Janet Brooks Gerloff (1947-2008)

Those early stories of the first followers of Jesus still inspire curiosity in many people today – so we're about to start a new group for people who wish to find out more about the Christian faith. The group will be called Emmaus, because it is all about travelling together, learning from one another and drawing closer to Jesus along the way. Some people will come along because they're interested in being baptised or confirmed and others maybe just to find out more: some folks will be churchgoers, others new to faith or just wanting to ask questions - but all are welcome.

Our first meeting will be on the evening of Tuesday 19th May, so please get in touch if you'd like to find out more: priest@barlow-church.org.uk. But I'll leave you with a poem which, for me, sums up the mystery of both the Emmaus Road encounter and of the living God, the source and ground of our being.

Rvd. Sarah

ESSENTIALLY EMMAUS

We live with Scriptural truths without understanding.

Dimly aware of struggling, groping,
until the stranger – Christ – opens our eyes and vanishes.

This is the paradox of faith: the clearer our vision,

the deeper the mystery of God.



CHURCH NEWS

(ST. LAWRENCE)

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Easter services; it was so lovely to see so many people in Church. We really enjoyed welcoming school and pre-school for their Easter celebrations: the little ones in their Easter bonnets were a sight to behold. Rev. Gill did such a wonderful job with all her hard work to bring together all the activities and services and thanks to those who gave her a helping hand.

An update for you from Lent breakfasts. The marvellous sum of £1,539 was raised, which has been split between Church and Northern General Cardiac Services. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this great total.

We are looking forward to a lovely spring and summer of activities and although we won't be having Open Gardens this year, we still have the flower festival, well dressings and a new event for this summer (see below). We also have several weddings this year, which we are very much looking forward to.

Sue and Helen have announced the theme for the flower festival as "*What's My Destination?*" Visitors tell us this is one of the most popular flower festivals in the county and people come considerable distances to see it. Look out for more information in the June magazine.

Pet Blessing Service

On Sunday May the 10th at 11am we will be holding a pet blessing service in the village hall car park (see page 10). All sizes and shapes of pets are welcome, from horses to hamsters. Everyone is welcome to bring along their beloved pet for a special blessing from Rev. Sarah.

Afternoon of music & fun.

We are excited to bring you news of a new event for this year in the form of an afternoon of music and fun activities for all the family. It will be held on Monday 31st August, from midday until 6pm, in the beautiful surroundings of Barlow Woodseats Hall.

We will be raising funds to support the work of Myeloma UK & towards the ongoing upkeep of St Lawrence Church.

The main attraction will be High Peak 4-piece blues & rock band "Responsibly Sauced". They will take us on a musical stroll through the decades, with songs from Chuck Berry, The Kinks, Beatles, Rolling Stones, Tom Petty and many others. Dancing and singing along is encouraged, but not compulsory.

Anyone who attended our harvest supper last October will know what fabulous entertainment the band are.



We are very grateful to Nick & Christina at Barlow Woodseats Hall for hosting this event and making available the bar and pizza van. In addition there will be family activities and games in the lovely garden setting.

Look out for more details and how to get your tickets in the June magazine.

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 will bring you news of Open Gardens 2027 in due course. Thank you for your understanding."

Church Opening

Church opening returns to summer hours from Friday 1st May and will be open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am until 4pm.

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

Regular services

Sunday 3rd May: 11am service

Sunday 10th May: 8am Mass & 11am pet blessing service

at the Village Hall (See page 10)

Sunday 17th May: 11am service

Sunday 24th May: 11am service

Sunday 31st May: 11am service

St Lawrence Church Barlow



Blessing of the Animals Service

Sunday 10th May 2026
at 11am

in

Barlow Village Hall Car Park

by kind permission of Barlow Parish Council



Please keep your dogs on their leads and animals in their carriers.
Thankyou.

N.B There will be an 8am said Mass in church that morning but no 11am service

Upcoming Events

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

Music event at Barlow Woodseats Hall: Monday 31st 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 volunteer their help at any of the above events, please contact Julie - details at the front of the magazine. Thank you.

Hopefully you are enjoying this lovely spring weather as much as we are.

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

- 26/00241/FL – Sections 73 to vary condition 2 pursuant to planning application 25/00452/FL to allow revised plans at Barlow Croft, Barlow Lees Lane, Barlow
RESOLVED no comments
- 25/00249/CATPO – Notification of intention to fell pear tree within Barlow Conservation area at Church House, Main Road, Barlow
RESOLVED no comments

PLANNING DECISIONS

- 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 Rumbings Farm, Far Lane, Barlow – Conditionally approved 6th March 2026
RESOLVED noted

ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

NEDDC Planners' correspondence regarding 18 Commonsides
RESOLVED noted
Awaiting planners' correspondence regarding Far Lane
RESOLVED clerk to chase this matter with NEDDC.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING

No further planning applications circulated.

Vacancy

The vacancy on the Parish Council can now be filled by co-option. Anyone interested in applying for the position should contact our clerk Emma for the details.

Dog Waste

Reminders to 'Clean It Up' have been stencilled onto the pavement between the Village Hall and School by NEDDC. Please let us know if there are any other problem areas in Barlow.

Speedwatch

No speed watch sessions held. The team of volunteers is very small and we would like some more residents to come forward for training.

Pinfold Plaque

An informative plaque is to be installed in front of the Pinfold monument.

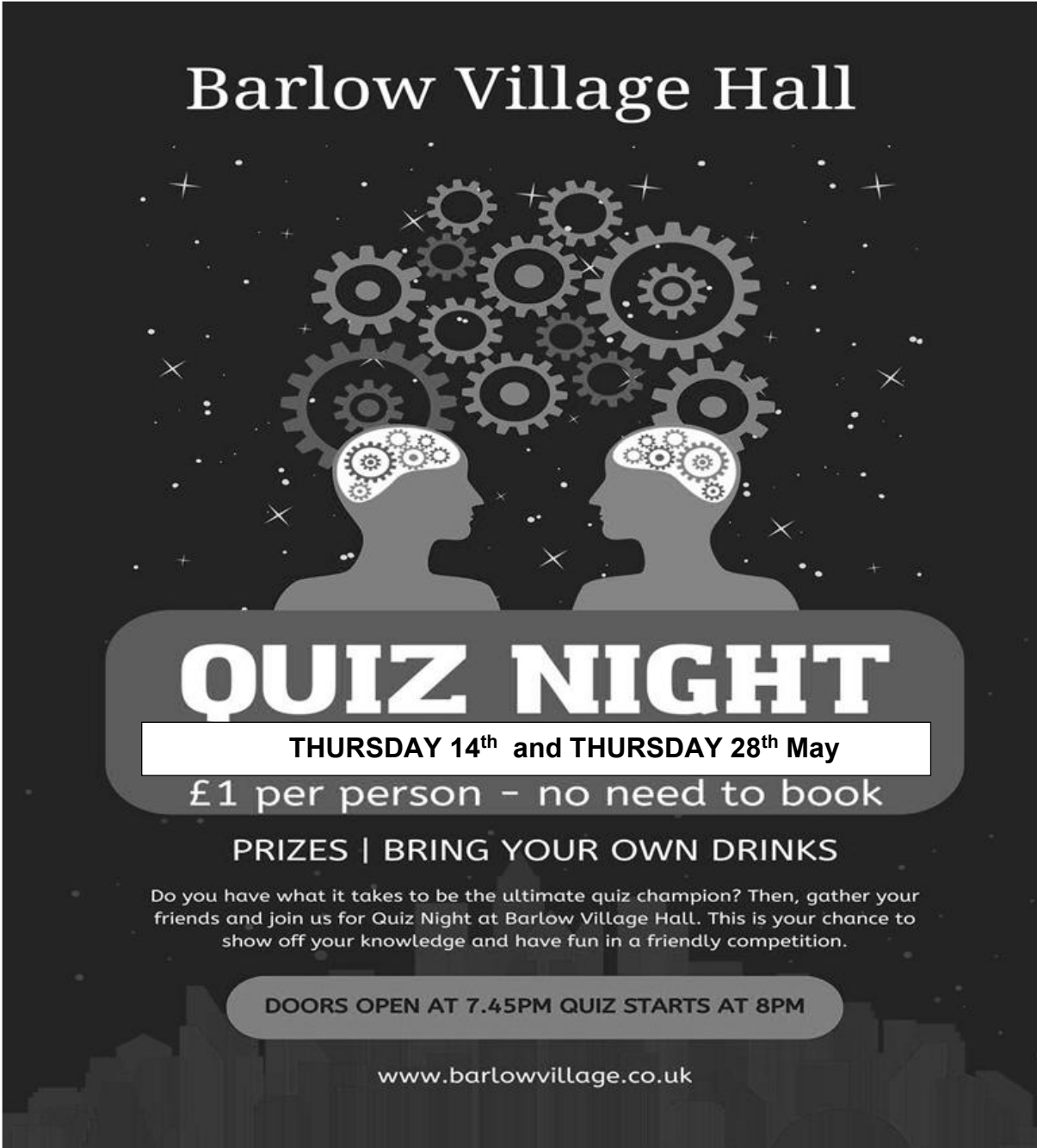
Millstone Placement

The millstone unearthed during a recent exercise in metal detecting on the field has been engraved and positioned on the grassy area outside the Village Hall under the tree.

Village Hall Improvements

The purchase of replacement chairs and the installation of some more soundboards has been approved. The hall users have noticed an improvement to the acoustics already.

May Quiz Nights



Barlow Village Hall

QUIZ NIGHT

THURSDAY 14th and THURSDAY 28th May

£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

POLICE EVENTS


STREET meets

Your local
**Safer
Neighbourhood
team**
will be here

Bike Marking Crime prevention
Sat 9th May 2pm to 3.30pm

Bring your pushbike to Dronfield Sports Centre and register the bike free with Bike register and also pick up a bike lock

 [derbyshireconstabulary](https://www.facebook.com/derbyshireconstabulary) |  [@DerbysPolice](https://twitter.com/DerbysPolice) | www.derbyshire.police.uk

 101 non-emergency, in an emergency always call 999

Street Meets A4 04 25



| Making Derbyshire Safer Together

Great chance to come and talk to your local team officers about any issues affecting you or your local area:

Millcross Lane
Village Hall Car Park Barlow
THURSDAY 28th MAY 2026
6pm to 7pm (by popular request)

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

THE CONSULTATION HAS NOW CLOSED!

Barlow Parish Council and Emma Woods have tried to make sure that every resident of Barlow had the means and the necessary information to submit their comments on the proposals for new housing developments by the deadline of Thursday 30th April. The Parish Council's detailed response has been published on the Barlow Parish Council website.

Here is an abbreviated message from Emma, who organised and coordinated residents' meetings at The Village Hall:

"Hello,

Thank you to everyone who joined the meeting on Tuesday 21st and contributed their concerns about the impact of the proposed developments in Barlow through the NEDDC Local Plan. Over 50 people came to the meeting which really shows the strength of feeling towards these local development sites.

...

*Looking at the next steps for the consultation, **the Local Council will publish the Local Plan in September 2026 with another public consultation running in September/October 2026.** Between now and then we can continue to meet, get in touch with local Councillors, MPs and media to raise awareness of the plans. Please get in touch if you think another meeting over the Summer would be helpful.*

Please let me know if you've got any questions or if you hear anything else which would be useful to discuss at future meetings.

I'll keep you posted if I hear anything,"

Emma Woods <woods.ejm@gmail.com>

BARLOW PRE-SCHOOL



Dear Friends,

Springtime means we have had our annual visit to Needham's farm to see the baby lambs! It was lovely to see so many healthy lambs and the children (and staff) loved having a cuddle! Thank you to Richard and family for allowing us to visit again.

Once again this year we participated in the Bags2School scheme. We asked people to bring along any unwanted clothing, paired-up shoes, hats, belts, bags, soft toys, bedding, curtains and towels – the heavier the bags the better. Money earned depended on the total weight of the collected items. Thank you to everyone who donated any of the above items. The bags were collected from the Village Hall on Friday, 24th April.

Talking about donations: Does anyone have any vegetable or fruit plants that they would be willing to donate to us please? We are preparing our raised beds, ready for planting. We would especially like any herb plants to use in our outdoor kitchen.

Our community family colour run is taking place on Saturday 27th June, at the village hall. This will be a full festival style afternoon with colour runs, music, stalls, bouncy castle and lots more. Details to follow. Everyone is welcome, young and old. Pop it in your diary now!

Our aim is to be a more sustainable setting by 2027. Thank you to one of our parents who has donated some money to enable us to buy a garden shed with a living roof. This will be a great addition to our outdoor area and help us along our journey to sustainability.

Jo

FOBS

FRIENDS OF BARLOW SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

With the warmer weather, the FOBS team's thoughts are turning to Carnival! The first stages of planning are underway for the school float and the scarecrow competition, with lots of exciting ideas for the day. If you'd like to get involved, or are interested in helping with sponsorship, let a member of the team know.

This summer we're also introducing another fun family event, and we'll be sharing the details soon. Watch this space!

Please remember you can sign up to support us on #easyfundraising, to raise money at no cost to you when you shop for clothes, groceries, takeaways, insurance, holidays, or anything else you buy online. The app is available on the Google Play and Apple app stores.

A big thank you to Steph Hills, who donated £100 to FOBS from her spring wreath-making class. If you're interested in future classes, you can reach her at stephsocials@icloud.com.

Roll on, summer!

FOBS



Please come along on 17th May and support the Barlow youngsters taking to the stage for a production of *Oliver With a Twist*. Musical fun, based loosely on the original, but with new characters, new songs, and no violence – plus some of the original songs from *Oliver!* that are too good to leave out.

Peak Youth are a drama and singing group based at Whittington Moor Methodist Church Hall, who perform a pantomime at Christmas and at least one musical during the year. Past productions have included *Bugsy Malone*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Annie*.

Tickets are £6 – available on the door, or from Mike Spriggs on 7484169003, or at mikespriggs7a@gmail.com. Any profits will go to support a children's charity in Ukraine, where resources are still desperately needed. A good deed, and a great afternoon's entertainment!

WHITTINGTON MOOR METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Peak Youth

Present

STORY BY EMILY MARTIN SONGS BY MATTHEW CROSSEY

OLIVER
WITH A
TWIST

SUNDAY 17TH MAY
2:30PM & 5:30PM

TICKETS £6.00 - AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR
OR FROM
MIKE SPRIGGS

07484169003 OR MIKESPRIGGS7A@GMAIL.COM

CHARLES DICKENS

YOUNG FARMERS



May Round-Up

Barlow Young Farmers Club have enjoyed another busy and varied month, with something for everyone to get involved in.

The month began with an interesting and informative visit to Barlow Hounds Kennels, where members had the opportunity to learn more about the day-to-day running of the kennels and the care of the hounds. It was a fascinating evening and a great chance to see a different side of rural life.

We also held our annual Easter Quiz, which proved to be a fun and well-attended social event. Members put their knowledge to the test across a range of rounds, with plenty of laughs along the way.

A First Aid Training session was another highlight of the month, giving members valuable practical skills and confidence to deal with emergency situations. This was an extremely worthwhile session and one that will benefit members both on and off the farm. Thank you to the Parish Council for organising this for the club.

We were also pleased to welcome a speaker from Ashgate Hospice, who delivered a thoughtful and informative talk about the important work they do in the community. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the hospice and the support they provide to individuals and families.

To round off the month, members took part in a Field Day, where they proudly represented the club in the Tug of War competition. There was plenty of team spirit on display and everyone gave it their all in what was a very enjoyable day.

As always, it's been a fantastic month for Barlow YFC, and we look forward to another busy few weeks ahead.

Meetings are Tuesdays at 8pm in the Village Hall, Please search Barlow YFC on Facebook and Instagram. New members are always welcome!

Will Twigg — Barlow Young Farmers

CARNIVAL

IT'S BACK... and it's still not quite 10k!

The legendary **Barlow Carnival Not Quite 10k** is officially
ON SALE NOW!

Fancy a Friday evening run through the beautiful Derbyshire
countryside? Expect:

Scenic views

A few “character-building” hills (you’ll thank us later... maybe)

A friendly, slightly breathless atmosphere

And of course... the iconic chip butty at the finish line

Friday 10th July

7:00pm Start

Barlow Village Hall

Be quick though – this one sells out every year!

Whether you’re chasing a PB or just the butty, we’d love to see you
there!

Sign up now: www.barlowcarnival.co.uk/the-barlow-not-quite-10k



FAMILY SNAPSHOT – PART TWO

In last month's issue, the massed ranks of the Baldry family had made it as far as Lea Bridge, on their annual pilgrimage to Barlow Carnival from Snape Hill, in Dronfield. Following a picnic and paddle, we headed up Smeltinghouse Lane. Steep-sided banks filled with lush summer growth on either side, red shale underfoot, with a centreline of grass running all the way up. The surprise and wonder of seeing an actual funfair at the top, complete with ghost train, big wheel and dodgem cars, was almost like a second Christmas morning. Our young eyes could not believe it! Rides were only a few pennies (a little later, a few pence) back in the dim and distant. Ditto the hot dogs, burgers and enormous clouds of candy floss.

The dodgems were our favourites. British fairgrounds have a peculiar knack of being somehow deeply traditional on the one hand, and, on the other, keenly fashionable – after a fashion. The dodgem cars, therefore, were modelled on popular styles of the time. I remember them being a bit like the original Fiat 500, with 'bus driver' steering wheels. Not a great deal of dodging took place, as I recall. More a series of increasingly bogus collisions.

Much like the fascination surrounding the Apollo moon landings of the time, the allure of the fair, unlikely as it seems, eventually wore off. This always seemed to coincide with the next attraction – the carnival parade. Our traditional vantage point was the 'bench on the corner' outside Chris and Hilary Holmes' place at the top of Furnace Lane. In memory, the floats travelled past us from left to right, as though on their way from the Peacock. Can this be correct? I know now that the parade has always assembled on Springfield Road, so it could only have set off from the opposite direction. It wasn't a mirage, I know that for sure, because each and every year we were soaked through to the skin with water, sprayed with gusto and accuracy from what seemed like every float!

Could we pause here to acknowledge how much Chris and Hilary have contributed to the life of our village? Their willingness to lend the use of their horse field for the carnival and other events, as well as the provision of the allotments, are just two acts among many to have enriched the lives of literally thousands of people over many decades.

Memories of the recreation ground itself from the family expedition days

are scant, so let's fast forward a few years to the early 1980s. It's hard to believe now, but every Friday night, Barlow played host to not one, but two top-notch cultural events. Firstly, there was Frank White and his band playing upstairs in what was then the New Inn. Secondly, and even better, were the discos in the village hall. Large groups of youths would trudge over from Dronfield, drawn by the promise of, as a member of our party once famously put it, 'good birds, great sounds, sound ale'. (Please forgive the non-PC terminology, it was a long time ago).

Sticking with the 80s, my identical twin brother Martin (top left in the photo) took part every year in the Barlow Carnival Five-a-Side Football Competition. Nineteen eighty-nine was particularly memorable. His team, Green Dragon FC, won the whole thing, ending up with the trophy and a commemorative tankard. Also a few bruises, as this was also the year of the legendary 'Battle of Barlow'. This broke out, according to Martin, after his patience had finally snapped. Having tolerated a whole series of wreckless and painful 'tackles' from a less skilled opponent, Martin abandoned play temporarily to go and give him (I've adjusted the wording) a 'spirited kick up the derrière'. A pitch invasion followed swiftly, involving much pushing and shoving, harsh words and fisticuffs. It's possible the thriving business in the beer tent that afternoon was a factor in proceedings.



Let's rejoin the family a decade or so earlier, heading for Crow Hole on their way home after a busy and hugely enjoyable day. We'd have visited the wells, of course and probably dropped in at the fair for a second time as the light faded. In the cool air, we turned onto Dobbin Lane, following it as far as the shortcut up the old track onto Barlow Lees Lane. By now, young legs were tiring and Dronfield began to feel as distant as the moon.

It always seemed to happen the same way. Every few minutes, a car on its way back from Barlow would pull over and a few of us would be squeezed into the back seat. Presently, the entire family would have been whisked back home in a Morris Traveller or Austin A40. These would have been people from our estate on Snape Hill, who thought kindly of Dad, the friendly and reliable postman. Or appreciative neighbours who enjoyed hearing Mum singing in the kitchen, on their way to the shop next door. These were great times and great people. I meet their echo from time to time in the good people of Barlow. Our beloved village. Like Dronfield of yore, not quite Shangri-La all the time, but pretty close.

Peter Baldry



SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

May 2026 in the UK features public holidays, cultural observances, and awareness days, including Early May Bank Holiday, VE Day, and Mental Health Awareness Week.

Key Public Holidays

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

A public holiday celebrating workers and springtime, often marked with parades and community events.

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026

Traditionally a day for family outings, festivals and local fairs.

Notable Awareness and Cultural Days

VE Day (Victory in Europe Day): Friday 8th May 2026

Commemorates the end of World War II in Europe, with ceremonies, parades and remembrance events.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: Friday 8th May 2026

Recognises humanitarian work and volunteer efforts across the UK.

Mental Health Awareness Week:

Typically observed in mid-May. Focuses on promoting mental health awareness, education and support.

National Vegetarian Week:

Usually in mid-May, celebrating plant-based diets and sustainable food choices.

International Day of Families: Sunday 17th May 2026

Highlights the importance of families and social cohesion.

National Smile Month:

Runs through May and June, promoting oral health and hygiene awareness.

BARLOW - OLD PHOTOS



Barlow School 1910
In the middle the Headmaster Mr. Rea.
2 boys bottom right; William Powell and Jack Booker



Barlow School pupils 1904

POETRY CORNER

The following poem was submitted by local resident Sheila Marshall:

Bess of Hardwick - How did she do it?

Hardwick Hall: more glass than wall,
One thousand, four hundred and eighty panes of glass,
That's not bad going for a Derbyshire lass.
Built to rival any royal residence in the land,
Exotic, expensive - all very grand.
And there on the parapet for all to see,
The E's and S's of the Countess of Shrewsbury,
Her declared affluence and modernity.

How did she do it? I wish I knew,
The first property developer in a land of few.
She left a building to decipher, with messages hidden,
Four husbands died suddenly when bidden,
Fate seemingly having finished with 'em.
And when the last husband met his end
She went to London to spend, spend, spend.
Nowadays, this is all the trend.

How did she compete with Elizabeth I?
At times she must have feared the worst.
She arranged for her daughter to marry a Stuart.
That was the moment she nearly blew it.
She kept her coffers under the bed
And also managed to keep her head.
She was the second richest woman in England,
She is a relative of our Prince William.



BRIAN BILSTON

The Last Bee

After the last bee
had buzzed its last buzz,
the birds and the butterflies
did what they could.
But soon the fields lay bare,
few flowers were left,
nature was broken,
and the planet bereft.



A. HARRIS

The Stepping Stones

-A. Harris

The banks are made of golden sand
and all around is green.
The river gurgles, crystal clear,
its waters, bright and clean.
We
 wobble
 on the
 stepping stones.

There's panic to your grin.
But flailing arms and giggles
keep us safe from falling in.



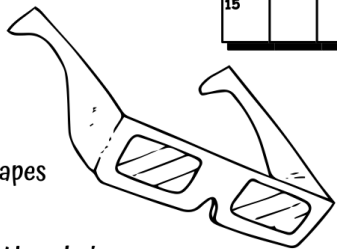
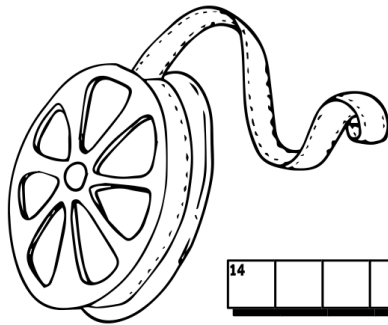
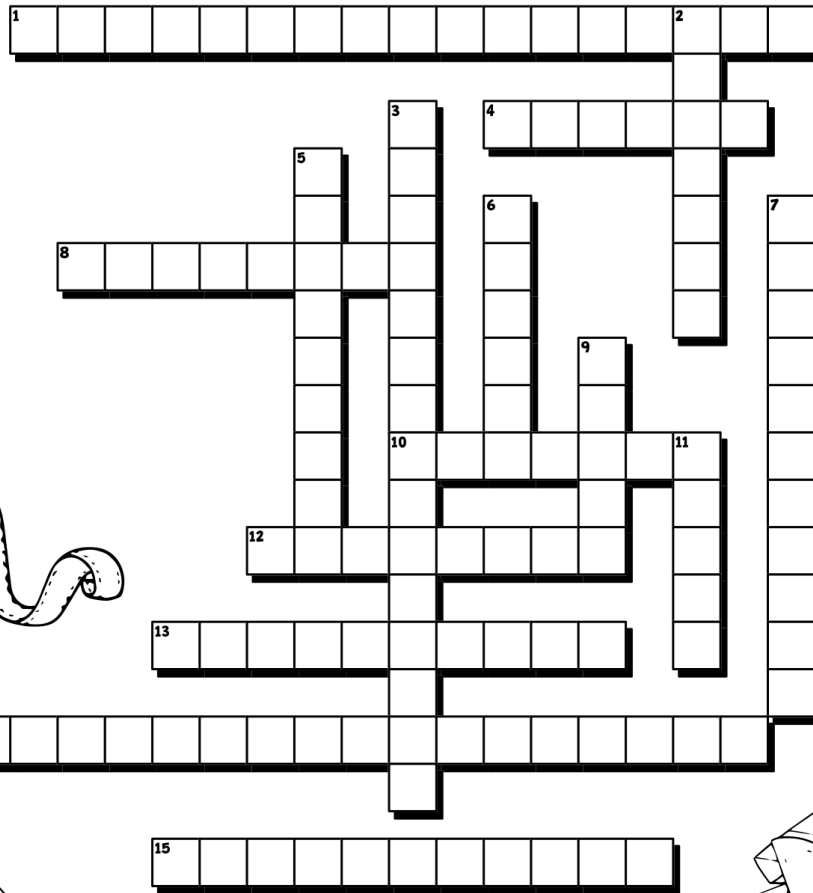
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SWEETIE QUIZ

1. Wobbly Infants
2. Where Refined People Live
3. 100% Precious
4. 9, 10, 11...
5. Fallen Fruits
6. Carrier for Dairy Produce
7. Mother's Local
8. All Sorts of Girls
9. Royal Herbs
10. Belly Dancers Perhaps?
11. Alcoholic Teeth
12. Speak Quietly
13. Edible Fasteners
14. Aromatic Spheres
15. People from a Mediterranean Island
16. Feline Gear
17. The Occult
18. Corks for Mouths
19. A Galaxy
20. Punishment for Nuts
21. Half Time in America
22. A Big Red One
23. Little Richard's Favourite
24. 10 Pin Bowling
25. Part of an Electric Plug
26. Pirates' Loot
27. Tartan Granite
28. Clever Chocolates
29. Petals and Prickles
30. Antarctic Birds

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Double Decker
Tutti Frutti
Skittles
Fuse
Bounty
Edinburgh Rock
Smarties
Roses
Penguins

Disney Movies Crossword



Across

1. "Be our guests"
4. He was raised by apes
8. Buzz Lightyear
10. Has EXTREMELY long hair
12. "Second star to the right and on til morning"
13. Leaves her glass slipper on the steps at midnight
14. She just wants to be where the people are
15. "Oh I just can't wait to be king"

Down

2. His best friend is a monkey named Abu
3. Romance between two dogs
5. She has seven dwarfs as her best friends
6. "The cold never bothered me anyway"
7. "Just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down"
9. Takes her dad's place to be a warrior and to bring honor to her family
11. An elephant that can fly

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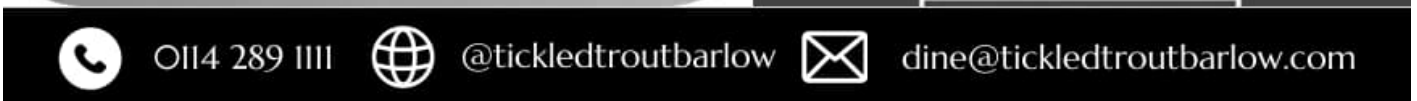


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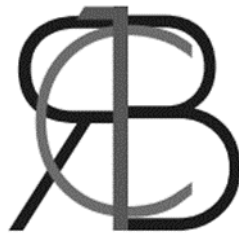
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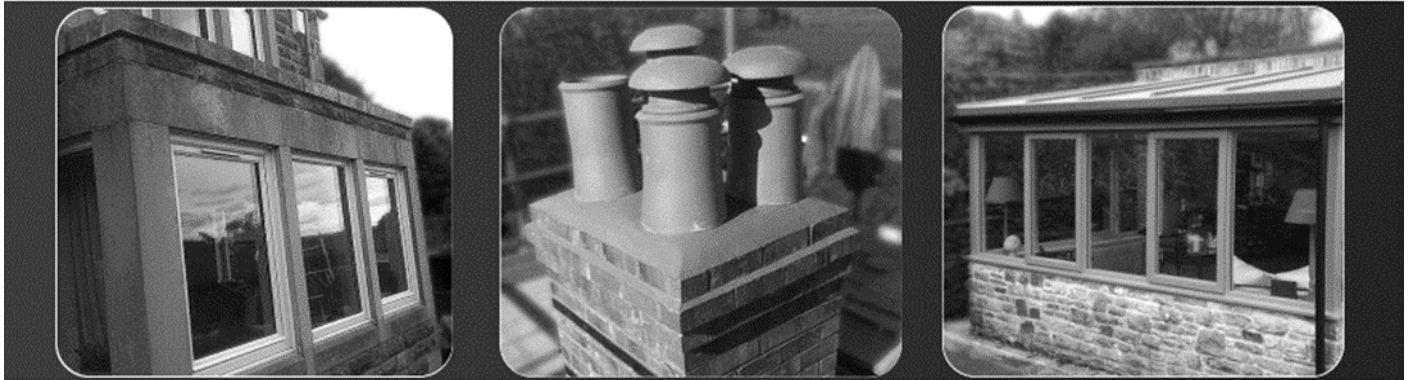
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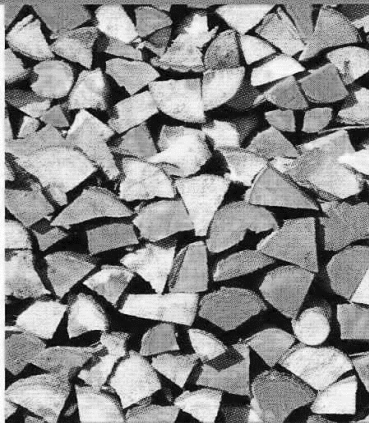
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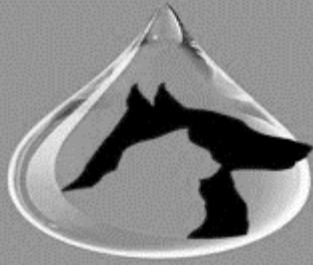
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