

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

BARLOW

PARISH MAGAZINE



AUGUST 2026

70p



2026

BARLOW WELL DRESSINGS

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, BARLOW

Flower Festival

Wed 12th to Tues 18th August

Church open 10am to 7pm DAILY

Theme: *'What's my Destination?'*

Blessing of the Wells Service

Wed 12th August at 6:30pm

St Lawrence Church

Refreshments

Served at Church daily from 1pm

(last orders 4:30pm)

www.barlow-church.org.uk

AUGUST 2026

All contributions for the AUGUST issue must be submitted by
Friday, 21st August 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

Cover Painting 'Carnival Day' by Garry Cooper

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. Joanne Brougham
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 - AUGUST

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

2ND JACKIE LUDBROOK (NEE DICKMAN) ---2020
3RD MADGE LONGDEN---1977
 WILLIS PICKERING---1981
4TH HORACE ROWE---1966
 ENA CROSBIE---2006
5TH BENJAMIN DOE---1976
6TH MARJORIE REDFERN---1994
*6TH MARY MARGERESON---2012
 DAVID WHITEHOUSE---1961
7TH JUNE R. HARDY---2001
9TH RUDOLFO R. ORLANDI---1985
 MICHAEL JOLLEY---1993
 JOYCE HARRISON---2013
 DAVID CRATCHLEY---2014
11TH ALICE WILSON---1972
 JOHN W. SAVAGE---1978
 ERNEST BARGH---1980
12TH ABIGAIL MARGERISON---1974
 MERVYN F. WRIGHT---1978
13TH ANN HALLATT---1975
 EDITH PICKERING---2002
 MIRIAM M BATTERHAM---2011
14TH MAY BRADBURY---1972
15TH CHARLES W. WALKER---2000
 LEWIS HARDWICK---2000
 ANTHONY PETER JAMES---2009

16TH PHYLLIS COLLIS---1982
 RAYMOND HASLAM---1988
17TH DOROTHY J. D'SILVA---1993
 RITA PAYNE---2023
*18TH HERBERT HALLAM---2009
 BESSIE SILCOCK---2022
19TH SYLVIA V. BARRETT---2005
 *AMY DORIS ASKILL---2014
 *VERA HOLE---2014
20TH CLIFFORD BOWN---1973
 STANLEY LEDGER---2002
21ST SYBIL E. NEEDHAM---1997
22ND HENRY HASLAM---1986
23RD FRED A. HOPKINSON---1968
 MARIE H. SHEMWELL---1994
24TH FLORENCE A. HILL---1978
25TH ARTHUR STOCK---1999
 MICHAEL J. AIZELWOOD---2002
26TH DOROTHY CALVERT---1983
27TH WILLIAM HANDCOCK---1965
 COLIN MILLINGTON---2024
28TH AUDREY NEWBOLD---2013
29TH MAVIS NUTTALL---1993
 ADRIAN DENNY---2024
30TH MURIEL J WATSON---2009
 RUBY GRACE LEE---2016
31ST WILLIAM SOUTH---1992



FROM CHURCH REGISTERS: AUGUST 2026 UPDATE

Baptisms

18th July --- Jack Twigg

Funerals

None

Marriages

4th July --- Charlotte Ann Mitchell & Richard Charles Smith

BARLOW CHURCH (ST. LAWRENCE)



Dear Friends,

The prospect of the partial solar eclipse - around 90% - coinciding with the Blessing of the Wells and Procession this year has created both a challenge and an opportunity! I wonder if there has ever been such an alignment before, of an eclipse and the blessing of the wells?

The combination has created a chance to vary things a little without the risk of setting any precedent, as the next time there will be anything like a 90% eclipse again will be 3rd September 2081. So, as we want to be able to see as much of it as we can (through protective glasses of course), we're planning on holding the wells service outside the main church door this year, weather permitting, before blessing the Main Well at 7pm. By

then, according to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, the eclipse will be nearly at its maximum, so walking from there down the road towards the Fair in the half-light will certainly be an unusual experience.

Many readers will, I suspect, remember the total eclipse back in August 1999.

At the time my parents still lived in rural Devon, so we went to stay with them for our summer break, which happily coincided. On the day we went up to a high point on Dartmoor and heard the birds fall quiet as the darkness rolled towards us from Bodmin Moor and Cornwall. It was really eerie as the light failed, but just as we'd begun to adjust, the light started to return again and it was as if nothing had ever been amiss. No wonder that in past times people were mystified by such phenomena and attributed them to divine intervention.

Even for us today, an eclipse is a source of wonder and delight. It is something completely and utterly outside of our control, in the same way that the ordering of planets, the stars and the vastness of the universe beyond just 'is'. Still scientists are exploring and discovering more about it all of the time. For me, there's something about these words of psalm 8 which express humanity's sense of awe and wonder at such vastness.

*When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

Psalm 8.3-5

And yet, as Christians we do believe that we are of value in God's sight - each and every one of us. So the bringing together of this community around the well dressings and carnival is a time to celebrate the gift of community and one another - even if we will be celebrating this year, for part of the time, in almost darkness.

Have a wonderful Carnival Week!

Revd Sarah

CHURCH NEWS

(ST. LAWRENCE)



Dear Friends,

School is out and carnival month is here!!

It was a great pleasure to host the school leavers' assembly in Church just before the end of term. We wish the very best to everyone when they go to join their new schools in September.

We are very much looking forward to our flower festival once again. If you can please help by donating any amount towards the cost of the flowers we would be very grateful. Sue and Helen always design such imaginative and beautiful displays which of course entail a cost for the flowers. A card will be displayed in Church with your dedication in thanks.

Well Dressings & Well Blessing Parade

If you would like to get involved with the Main Well, (across from Hackney House), especially with puddling the clay (the best bit in my opinion!), building the frame and throwing the clay onto said frame, please contact Julie. And of course, it all has to be taken down afterwards. For this part

of the process you do require a certain level of physical fitness and it is great fun to be part of the team.

Because of the eclipse, the 6.30pm church service of celebration will be a bit different (and slightly shorter) for this year and, weather permitting, will take place in the churchyard. The blessing of the Main Well (opposite the Hackney House cafe and the Peacock) will take place at 7pm, followed by the procession through the village. The sun should be due to come back out again by the time we reach the maypole, just right for the dancers.

To increase the safety of the people walking the route, we have arranged a full road closure from 6.45pm until around 8.15pm this year, as opposed to our usual partial road closure. We would like to thank the carnival committee for their help with organising this.

Cake Appeal

As usual, Church will be open to serve refreshments from 1pm to 4.30pm during the flower festival and we appeal to the fabulous bakers in the area for any donations of home-baked scones and cakes; people tend to enjoy the cake as much as the flowers!

If anyone would like to help with sitting in church and welcoming visitors, or helping with refreshments, please contact Julie.

Afternoon of Music & Fun.

Don't forget to get your tickets for an afternoon of music and fun activities for all the family on Monday 31st August, from midday until 6pm, in the beautiful surroundings of Barlow Woodseats Hall (See page 12). Ticket numbers are limited, so don't miss out.

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

Myeloma, also known as multiple myeloma, is a blood cancer arising from plasma cells. At any one time there are over 35,000 people living with myeloma in the UK. It accounts for 15 per cent of blood cancers, and two per cent of all cancers.

Some of you may have personal experience of myeloma, or may know nothing about it at all. Not that many years ago, a diagnosis was very bad news, however, as with many cancers, due to research and advancements in treatment, many people are living with myeloma rather than dying from it these days.

On the day, "Responsibly Sauced" 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.

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

Heritage Opening Days

This year for the first time we plan to take part in Heritage Open Days, which is an annual event run by the National Trust. Please look up www.heritageopendays.org.uk for more information.

The theme is “Everyday Histories” and we intend to put on an exhibition of local history in the Church. Therefore, we would be very interested to hear from anyone who has any stories, photographs or anything at all of interest about Barlow and the people who make up that history.

The dates will be Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September; we are keen to start collating the information as soon as possible, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with your stories.

Church Opening

Church is 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 do our best to avoid this.

Regular services

Sunday 2nd August: 11am service

Sunday 9th August: 8am Mass & 11am Family Service

Wednesday 12th August: 7am Well Dressers' Mass

Wednesday 12th August: 6.30pm Well Blessing Service, followed by parade

Sunday 16th August: 11am service

Sunday 23rd August: 11am service

Sunday 30th August: 11am service

Upcoming Events

Well blessing parade: Wednesday 12th August 2026 7pm

Well dressings & flower festival: Wednesday 12th – Tuesday 18th August 2026 **(see page 2)**

Event at Barlow Woodseats Hall: Monday 31st August 2026 **(page 12)**

Heritage Open Days: Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September 2026

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Sunday 11th October 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.

Here's looking forward to an exciting August.

With very best wishes, Julie.



A decorative border made of various stylized flowers, leaves, and butterflies, framing the entire page.

BARLOW CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL 2026

Would you like to donate towards the cost of a flower arrangement?

Helen and Sue will be working their magic again this year to create a spectacular array of interesting and imaginative floral arrangements in our beautiful historic church.

Wells Week and the Flower Festival are an important part of our fundraising calendar and we really appreciate the help we receive from both businesses and individuals who support this event.

The costs associated with the Flower Festival are significant and, as in previous years, we are asking for donations towards the cost of the flowers. We are not suggesting a specific donation amount this year and donations of any amount will be very welcome.

The theme this year is 'What's my Destination' and the Flower Festival will run from 12th to 18th August 2026.

If you would like to help, please contact;

Julie (Churchwarden) on 07799 639566 or

Janet (Treasurer) on 01246 206964



SUMMER FUN DAY

**St Lawrence Church present
an afternoon of music & fun at
BARLOW WOODSEATS HALL**

**MONDAY 31
AUGUST
12 – 6pm**

**Live music from
“Responsibly Sauced”**

Storytelling with

“Hatchlings Storytelling”

Stalls & garden games

Food & drinks available to buy

Advance Tickets:

Adult: £10

Child (3 & over): £5

**Family (2 adults & 2
children): £25**

**Infants under 3:
FREE**

In aid of:

Myeloma UK &

**St Lawrence
Church, Barlow**



For more information & to buy tickets, contact:

Julie West: 07799 639566

PARISH COUNCIL



CHAIR – Cllr J Brougham 0114 289 1411

VICE-CHAIR – Cllr P Taylor 0114 2890949 / 07753 662 619

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

COUNCILLORS:

Cllr I Herrmann 07870 489016

Cllr S Marshall 0114 2890596

Cllr V Noble 07801 092261

Cllr J Siddall 01246 206964

Cllr W Twigg 07814 667362

1 Vacancy

PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATION

- 26/00508/CATPO – Notification of intention to fell x1 weeping ash tree located to the rear of farm house with Barlow Conservation Area at Hall Farm, Hackney Lane, Barlow

RESOLVED no comments

PLANNING DECISIONS

No planning decisions

ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

No other planning matters

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING

No further planning applications circulated.

LOCAL PLAN

Local Plan Meeting Notes – 11 June 2026 (1pm to 2pm)

1. Attendance

- **Emma Smith** – Parish Clerk
- **Cllr Noble** – Parish Councillor
- **Cllr Pam Jones** - NEDDC
- **Cllr William Jones** - NEDDC
- **David Thompson** – NEDDC Officer

2. Updates from NEDDC

Green Belt Review

- The Green Belt review will be completed in June 2026.
- Findings will inform site allocations and constraints in the emerging Local Plan.

Consultation Feedback

- The Regulation 18 consultation closed in April 2026.
- NEDDC Officers are currently reviewing and categorising all comments received.

Next Evidence Work

NEDDC will now be examining:

- Infrastructure capacity
- Public Rights of Way impacts
- Flood risk assessments for potential development sites
- Responses from statutory consultees, including water companies

3. Housing Requirement & Independent Study

- An independent study is underway to determine whether 12,000 homes are genuinely required in the district.
- The study is based on data and assumptions provided by NEDDC Officers.
- Findings will be presented to NEDDC Cabinet in August 2026.

4. Regulation 19 and Plan Progression

- The Regulation 19 consultation is scheduled for September 2026, based on the draft Local Plan approved by Council.
- After consultation, the Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Inspector Hearings

- Hearings are expected to take place around March 2027.
- Parish Councils may register to speak on relevant site allocations.
- Members of the public cannot speak at these hearings.

5. Planning Policy Updates

- The Housing Needs Assessment is already being used to support new planning applications.
- Additional policies will be developed to ensure a balanced housing mix on future development sites.

6. Statutory Consultees

- Severn Trent Water has provided a response regarding the potential development sites.
- A response from Yorkshire Water is still awaited.
- Sustainable drainage options are being explored to reduce reliance on large attenuation ponds on major sites.

7. Local Government Reorganisation

- Existing Local Plans that are adopted before reorganisation will remain in force.
- However, they will be reviewed within five years as part of preparing a larger combined Local Plan for the new authority structure.

The clerk is currently arranging a meeting with Cllr Pam Jones (District Councillor) to start the process of gathering information for the Council's response to the Reg 19 scheduled for September.

ROAD CLOSURE

5th August – 7th August, Valley Road
(To facilitate new power connections)

QUIZ NIGHTS

No August quiz nights planned to date.

XTREME WHEELS

Free sessions!



Xtreme Wheels will be holding the following events in Dronfield throughout the summer holidays why not stop by its FREE minimum age is 9years old.

They will be in Dronfield - Sindelfingen Park on the following days,

Thur 13th Aug - 1pm to 3pm

Thur 20th Aug - 1pm to 3pm

Thur 27th Aug - 1pm to 3pm

Thur 3rd Sept - 1pm to 3pm

[#Xtremewheels](#) [#ASBbuster](#) [#Summerholidays](#) [#Freeactivity](#)

BARLOW PRE-SCHOOL



Dear Friends,

What an exciting summer term we have had. Our community colour run was a huge success and a lovely day. The children (and adults) thoroughly enjoyed getting covered in powder paint! Burgers, drinks and games were also enjoyed. Johnny Ray supplied the drinks for the bar and Richard Needham let us use his field for the car park. Thank you to everyone that attended and everyone that helped out, you really are a great community. We are forever grateful to the Barlow carnival committee for loaning us their new gazebo and for putting it up in the 30-degree heat and also to St Lawrence Church for the cakes and running our coffee and cake stall. Lots of local businesses donated to our raffle, including Hackney House, The Peacock at Barlow, Barlow Lakeside Café, The Barn Beauty, Willow Cottage, Barlow Honey, Tots and Pots and many more. We raised over £2000 which will go towards buying new ipads.



Sports Day was lots of fun. We ran an obstacle course and some races which were very exciting! Of course, we also had a Mummies and Daddies' race, with some very competitive parents!

Our leavers' party took place on Wednesday 22nd July. The committee kindly providing a bouncy castle and slide and parents were invited to come back for the leavers' service. This is always a lovely, but sad day, as we say goodbye to lots of our children, but wish them all well on the next part of their school journey.

We have moved our forest school site, due to a fallen tree, so would like to say a big thank you to James Hill for letting us move onto his woodland area and for always letting our parents park in the fishing lakes car park. We really appreciate it!

Some of our vegetables have grown in time for us to enjoy, so we made some very healthy salads using our home-grown lettuce and radishes.

We are looking forward to the carnival. Please look out for our toy story float!

We wish you all a lovely summer!

Jo

BARLOW CofE SCHOOL

FOBS

FOBS' plans for summer are in full swing, including the school float for the Carnival parade, and an out-of-this-world entry into the scarecrow competition. Watch out for it!

The school year ended on a fun note, with a summer disco and bowling for the Year 6 leavers. We are sad to say goodbye to them as they embark on the next stage of their adventure, but look forward to welcoming a new group of Reception children in September.

Over the summer, the children will be taking part in a "£26 for 2026" challenge, aiming to raise £26 by swimming lengths, running laps, reading books, selling crafts, sponsored silences and more. Please support them if you can, and have a wonderful summer!

Rebecca Hill

CARNIVAL

Hello!

Barlow Carnival is Back!

If you thought August in Barlow was going to be quiet, think again! Barlow Carnival returns from 12th – 16th August, bringing five days of tradition, entertainment and family fun. With something happening every day, it's set to be another fantastic week for the whole community.

Before long, the bunting will be flying, the fairground will be arriving and Carnival Week will be underway!

The celebrations begin on Wednesday 12th August, as scarecrows will start appearing throughout the village. Whether you're creating one to be in with a chance of winning, or taking on the challenge of finding them all, it's a great way to kick off the festivities. The Well Dressings and Flower Festival will also be unveiled, followed by the traditional Blessing of the Wells and procession through the village.

J Whiting & Son Fun Fair will be open from 6.30pm Wednesday to Friday, and from 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday.

One of Carnival Week's most popular evenings returns on Thursday 13th August with our ever-popular Bingo and Quiz Night in the Carnival Marquee. Eyes down for bingo at 6.30pm, followed by the quiz at 8pm. Bring your friends and put your knowledge to the test!

On Friday 14th August, enjoy a magical evening under the stars at our open-air screening of Disney's spectacular live-action adaptation of The Lion King. Tickets are available now at £25 per family, £10 per adult and £7 per child from www.barlowcarnival.co.uk.

Then comes Saturday, Carnival Day, the highlight of the week. We're hoping for one of our biggest parades in recent years, so if you're planning to enter a float, make sure you've registered. The parade sets off at 1pm from Springfield Road, led by Loxley Silver Band, with a fantastic procession of colourful floats making its way through the village.

Once the parade reaches the Carnival Field, there's a packed programme of entertainment for all ages. Enjoy delicious food and drink, browse the stalls and watch an incredible Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast. Arena attractions include Owl Adventures' Birds of Prey Display, the Dog and Pony Show, children's favourite Kimmo, and hilarious performances from Team Bgee and Elton Wrong.

The celebrations continue into the evening with Rock the Carnival, featuring live music from Take the Seven and Atomic. It's the perfect way

to round off Carnival Day. If you're staying for Rock the Carnival, you'll need a separate ticket to remain on the field after 6.30pm. Tickets are available now at www.barlowcarnival.co.uk.

Think it's all over? Not quite!

Sunday is another action-packed day, featuring the ever-popular Dog Show (because every dog deserves its moment in the spotlight!), our hilarious Old Skool Sports Day in aid of Ashgate Hospice, live entertainment, street food, craft stalls and plenty more family fun throughout the day.

Whether you're coming for the parade, the live music, the food, or simply to catch up with friends and neighbours over an ice cream (or something stronger from the bar), Barlow Carnival promises another unforgettable weekend. We can't wait to welcome you - and here's hoping the sunshine will join us too!

How You Can Help

Behind every parade, performance, stall and strand of bunting is a dedicated team of volunteers working hard to make Carnival Week happen. If you can spare a little time, we'd love your help.

We're looking for volunteers to:

- Marshal the parade.
- Help in the Carnival Café.
- Run a stall during the weekend.
- Deliver leaflets around the village.

Want to help out? Then please get in touch at info@barlowcarnival.co.uk, call Terry on 07860 758037, or James on 07895 760607

On Monday 10th August, our volunteers will be visiting homes around the village collecting donations for the Bottle Tombola. If you have a bottle to spare, this is one of the simplest and most appreciated ways to support the Carnival.

You can also help by buying your tickets in advance. Purchasing tickets early for the **Open-Air Cinema** and **Rock the Carnival** via www.barlowcarnival.co.uk helps reduce queues on the day. Carnival Day tickets are also available from local pubs, cafés and members of the Carnival Committee.

We're doing everything we can to provide as much parking as possible, but we'd really appreciate residents moving parked vehicles off the roads where they can. The main road through the village will be closed from 12.45pm until 2.45pm for the parade, while Springfield Road will close from 12 noon for parade assembly. Residents of Springfield Road are kindly asked to move vehicles by 11am to allow floats to assemble safely.

Most importantly, get involved! Whether it's making a scarecrow, playing bingo, dressing up, decorating your house, entering the parade or simply cheering everyone on and dropping a few pounds into a collection bucket, every bit of support helps. Carnival Week is all about celebrating everything that makes Barlow such a special place - and the people who make it such a wonderful community.

James

CARNIVAL



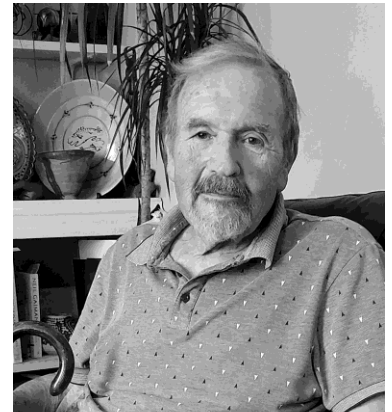
BARLOW PEOPLE

Garry Cooper

The follow-up:

After Garry emailed me to say that he was responsible for the little book of 'Familiar Landscapes' (full of sketches of local scenes), I arranged to meet him to find out a little more about his life, his Art and his poetry. It turned out to be a fascinating conversation.

He's a Derbyshire lad, born and raised in the early 1940s on a council estate in Chesterfield, by his working class family. By the time he was ready for Junior School, his dad became very ill with tuberculosis, caused by war-time service in the navy and he moved to live with his beloved grandparents who raised him from then on.



He passed the 11+ examination and went to the local boys' grammar school. The 'masters' wore black gowns and mortar boards and the pupils wore blazers with a bright badge, grey trousers, school tie and black lace-up shoes, topped by a cap, doffed whenever one met any of the masters. He was taught proper English, which meant eliminating the dropped aitches, the glottal stops and the 'thees' and 'thars' of Derbyshire. He learned, for example, that 'butter' should be pronounced as 'batter' and 'batter' as 'better'.

He was required to learn some Latin and came to love playing cricket, which he became quite good at. He describes himself as 'a good opening bowler, a close fielder and a nuisance batsman' in those days, progressing to play in the Bassetlaw and Derbyshire leagues after leaving school.

He credits his English master (a German gentleman) with teaching him any writing skills he has, both poetry and prose. His Art master encouraged his love of Art. It was the Art teacher who arranged an interview for him to become a draughtsman at a local firm, when Garry had to leave school at the age of 16, due to a lack of financial backing. At the interview he was asked to draw a bicycle. Garry says he was never any good at drawing straight lines...

He later found out that academically he ended up in the top 5% highest achieving students in the school at that time. Unfortunately there was no career guidance in those days. You just had to look in the newspaper for advertised vacancies. This is how he eventually ended up as office boy, or 'junior clerk' with the National Coal Board, at the Avenue Coking Plant, Wingerworth, now flattened, sanitised, landscaped and turned into a new housing development. His first salary was 16 shillings per week. He also worked at Grassmoor and Holmwood coke ovens (now a nature reserve). Always keen to broaden his knowledge, he went on day release to a technical college to study economics and comparative government. Leaving the NCB employment he started a job at a local firm, but got sacked after asking for a pay rise, so he ended up selling Betterware brushes door-to-door for a while to get by. He wasn't very good at it.

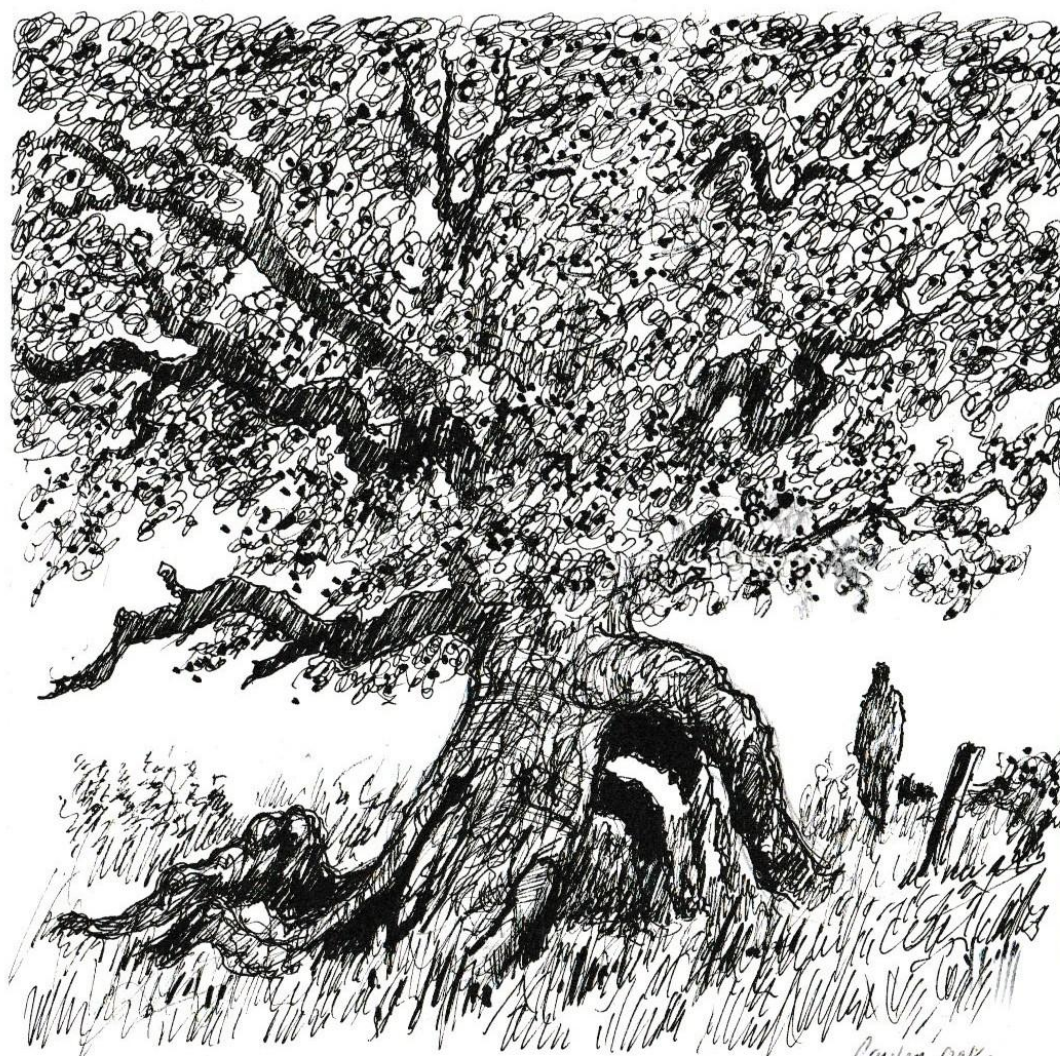
His next job was with the local water board. He also got married and they lived in rented accommodation with gas lighting, no hot water and no bath, other than a tin tub hanging on the wall. The lavatory was 20 yards across the yard. Water in those days cost 3 shillings and 3 pence for 1000 gallons! The couple saved for years for a deposit for a house and eventually managed to get onto the housing ladder. Unfortunately the marriage ended in divorce and he gave the house to his wife, because she loved it so much.

In 1968 he got a job in education which started what he describes as his 'career'. In the early 70s he became a 'staffing officer' (what we would now call HR) and as such he was responsible for the hiring and early retirement of teaching staff. Sadly he developed arthritis and cataracts in both eyes. He needed a magnifying glass to read and when he couldn't do his work anymore he left the job at the age of 50 on health grounds. Having a keen interest in the past, history, archaeology and other cultures he also became an antiques dealer for a while. Fortunately, his eyesight was restored by our NHS.

After finding his lifetime soulmate, Fran, he got married for the second time and moved to Barlow into a 170-year old two-up two-down terraced cottage. Living in Barlow and owning a succession of two border collies, Garry roamed the countryside on our doorstep and honed two skills: Sketching and writing poetry. He estimates that he clocked up approximately 40 thousand miles (!) walking with his dogs, especially his beloved first collie 'Bucket' and he has produced hundreds of incredibly skilful pencil and pen-and-ink sketches of local countryside scenes. He

has also tried his hand at painting, sometimes in a faux naïve style. The painting on the front cover of this magazine is by Garry Cooper. It is entitled 'Carnival Day'. But drawing is not the only activity he got up to in the countryside around Barlow, he also wrote lots of poems. Many of them describe observations of local flora and fauna, some of them rhyme and some don't and some of the longer ones are about slightly more obscure subject matter. They are sometimes serious, sometimes witty and some are really funny.

You will be pleased to learn that he intends to publish an anthology of selected poems, illustrated with a few of his sketches, in the very near future, so please watch out for that. It has been a real privilege to get to know Garry and I can't wait for the publication of his book. In a play on words on his previous booklet 'Familiar Landscapes' (the find in the book exchange which caused the original mystery), the new book will be called 'Unfamiliar Mindscapes' and it will allow us glimpses into a creative and unconventional brain, the mischievous mind of Garry Cooper. IH



YOUNG FARMERS

The Young Farmers will resume their meetings in September.



BOOKS

A popular daily newspaper recently asked a small number of well-known 'ambassadors for the National Year of Reading' which was the first 'adult' book that they really loved that left a lasting impression.

The titles given in the answers were these:

To Kill a Mocking Bird - by Harper Lee
The Murder at the Vicarage - by Agatha Christie
Treasure Island by - R L Stevenson
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer - by Mark Twain
Brighton Rock - by Graham Green
The Far Pavilions - by M M Kaye
Flowers in the Attic - by V C Andrews
The House on the Strand - by Daphne du Maurier

How many of these classics can you claim to have read?

Which was your first grown-up book that left a lasting impression on you and how old were you?

SOLAR ECLIPSE

On **12 August 2026**, the UK will experience a deep partial solar eclipse, with around 87–96% of the Sun covered depending on location; London sees about 90% coverage at ~7:11 pm BST, while Cornwall reaches roughly 95%.

In an extraordinary coincidence, two of the biggest celestial events of 2026 will happen within hours of each other.

First, millions of people across Britain will see one of the deepest solar eclipses visible from the UK in decades.

Then, after darkness falls, the sky will light up again as the Perseid meteor shower reaches its annual peak, producing dozens of shooting stars every hour.

For many people, it will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to witness both events on the same day.

The afternoon will begin with a dramatic eclipse.

The total solar eclipse will cross Greenland, Iceland and northern Spain, where lucky observers will see the Moon completely block the Sun for more than two minutes.

The UK will sit just outside the narrow path of totality, but will still enjoy an exceptional partial solar eclipse.

Around 90% of the Sun will be covered across much of Britain, creating an eerie twilight effect during the early evening.

In London, the eclipse will begin at approximately 6.17pm, reach its maximum shortly after 7.13pm, and finish around 8.06pm, with around 91% of the Sun obscured.

Cities including Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast are also expected to experience more than 90% coverage.

As the Sun sets while still partially eclipsed, many people will witness the unusual sight of the Moon appearing to take a giant bite out of the setting Sun.

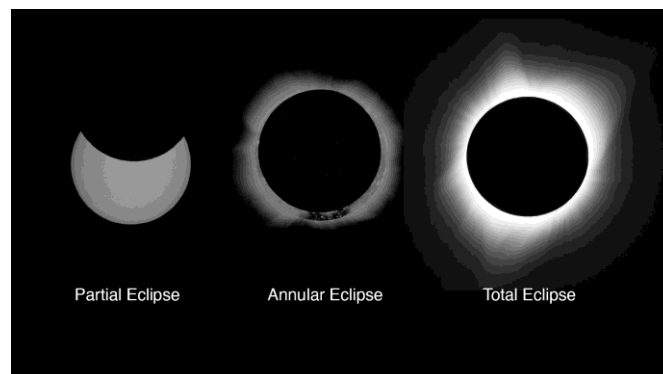
<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/26268491.solar-eclipse-perseids-combine-uk-skies-august-2026/>

POETRY CORNER

When the Sun Forgot Its Name

(By Anonymous)

The sky folds in on itself,
a slow closing of some ancient book,
its pages inked with molten gold
now dimmed to charcoal whispers.
Birdsong falters mid-note,
as if the air has swallowed its own breath.
Shadows grow long and strange,
bending like reeds in unseen water.
The Moon, a patient thief,
slides across the burning coin,
stealing light not for greed
but for the hush it brings.
In that brief, impossible dusk,
faces turn upward—
eyes wide as if seeing
the first dawn, or the last.
And when the Sun returns,
it feels less like a star
and more like a promise
we had almost forgotten to keep.



PUZZLE PAGES

Anagrams - Animals

1. PAROLED
2. NINE PUG
3. ORCHIST
4. KEN YOM
5. ERIN REED
6. CORNISH ROE
7. SHORE
8. HELP NATE
9. COCO RAN
10. LOAF MING

Leopard
Penguin
Ostrich
Monkey
Reindeer
Rhinoceros
Horse
Elephant
Raccoon
Flamingo

Anagrams - Places

1. AFRICA LION
2. MEG RYAN
3. CAN REF
4. LEND NAG
5. A SLEW
6. EARING TAN
7. REGALIA
8. HANGED LABS
9. HUG RYAN
10. NOB LANE

California
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France
England
Wales
Argentina
Algeria
Bangladesh
Hungary
Lebanon

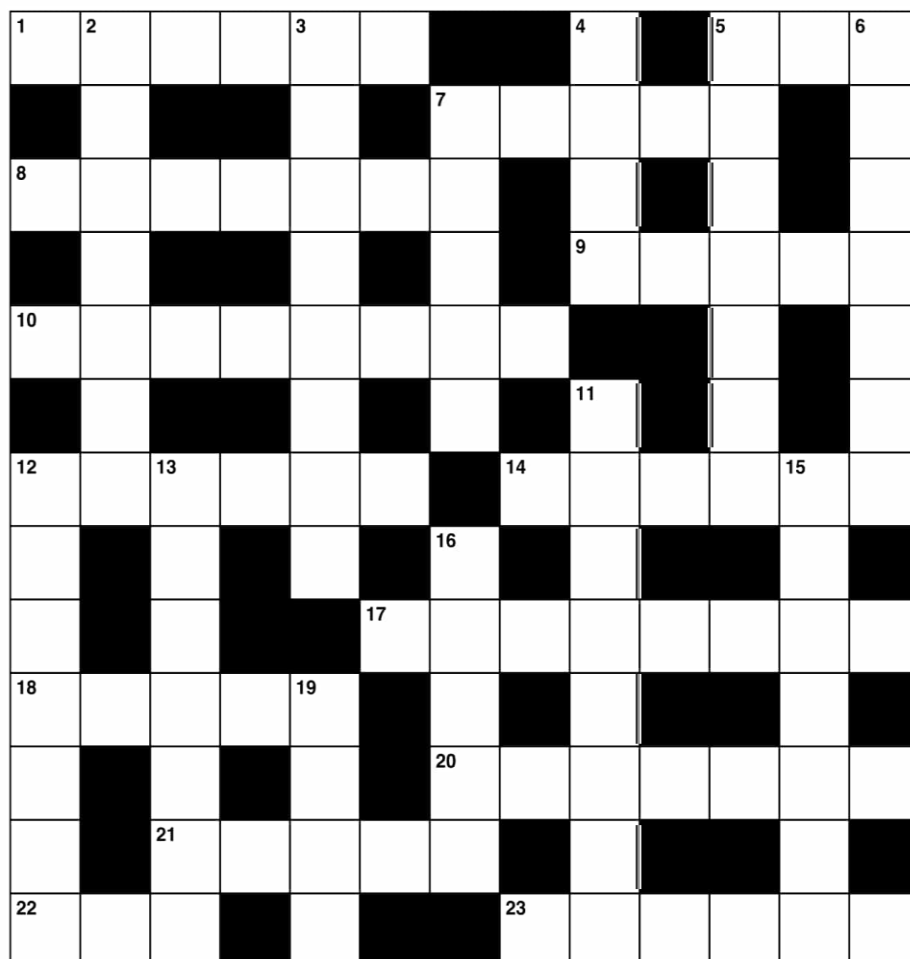
Across

- 1 - Spring back (6)
- 5 - Work of creativity (3)
- 7 - Noble gas (5)
- 8 - Forgive (7)
- 9 - Arms and legs (5)
- 10 - Forms of payment (8)
- 12 - Farmer (6)
- 14 - Tall structures (6)
- 17 - Moan (8)
- 18 - Connective tissue (5)
- 20 - Robbers at sea (7)
- 21 - Unpleasant giants (5)
- 22 - Male offspring (3)
- 23 - Chooses (6)

Down

- 2 - Space shuttle (7)
- 3 - Educational institutions (8)
- 4 - Hero (4)
- 5 - Excite (7)
- 6 - Thin papers (7)
- 7 - Dares (anag) (5)
- 11 - Bodily (8)
- 12 - Chats (7)
- 13 - Belief (7)
- 15 - Clothing (7)
- 16 - Great successes (5)
- 19 - Thin cable (4)

Crossword Puzzles



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From 3.30pm until 5.30pm

For more information contact: Angela Wilkinson mobile number 07890 815537

Sue Hinde mobile number 07885 763905

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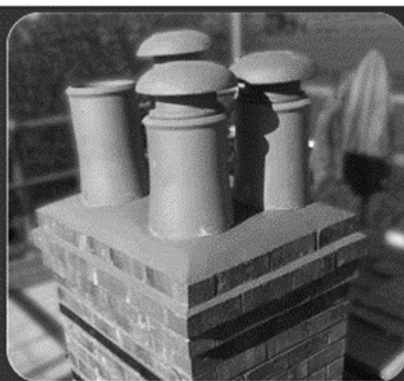
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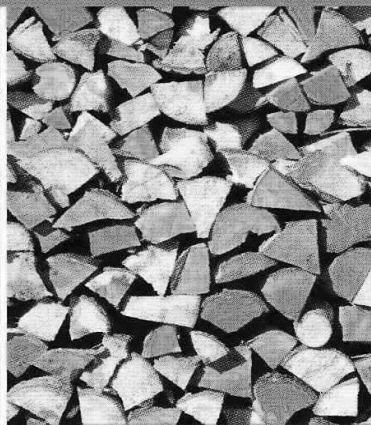
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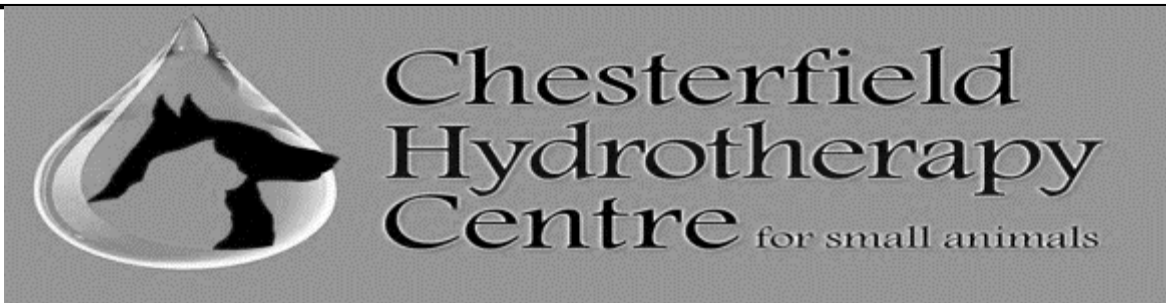
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