



TUNNEL TOP NEWSLETTER

Keeping Barnton Informed - Please take me **I'M FREE**

WHERE'S THE SALT WHEN WE NEED IT?



February 2010

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BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

has vacancies for **TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Have you got what it takes and a few hours each month to serve your community?

Meetings are held on Monday evenings. No experience is necessary, just a good sense of community spirit.

Please contact The Clerk to the Parish Council by telephone on **01606 76468** or by e-mail at crgarton@aol.com for further details

Richard Flood, Area Highways Manager, Cheshire West and Chester Council has issued the following statement regarding the recent problems experienced on our roads:

SALT CELL', the central government operation to ration rock-salt supplies to the country's highway authorities, is still in force and we have had to reduce rock-salt use by around 50%. Rationing is likely to continue for the rest of this season and, as you will be aware, this has meant not filling salt bins and not gritting our secondary routes.

Regarding the salt bins, we have taken hundreds of complaints because of them not being filled. Alongside this has been the widespread misuse of the bins, with residents taking the salt from the bins for their own drives, and even vans and trucks turning up as soon as they have been refilled to steal the salt for reselling!



The bins will be refilled with a sand / salt blend that has proven effective in dealing with localised areas such as footways and pedestrianised areas. There are 131 bins to fill in the Northwich / Winsford areas, however, priority will be given to the more hilly areas of Frodsham and Helsby.

The salt bins are not for private use but are there to treat the highway and footways at the side.

Please telephone **0300 123 7036** with any complaints or enquiries or use the fault-reporting section on our website - <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/cheshirecc.interactivemapping.web.internet/Default.aspx>

The website also has a section detailing our winter maintenance schedules.

cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Not everyone enjoyed the snow as much as these children at Barnton Community Primary School - especially if you had to drive on our untreated roads!

Next full Parish Council meetings - 26th April and 17th May

YOUTH CLUB HAS CONTINUED over the winter with a three week break at Christmas. Our planned Talent/Fashion Show/Christmas Fair will now be a spring event to raise funds for the club. Money will be matched up to £750 £for£ by Barclays so the more we raise, the more we get. We will be sending a note out to parents in the next few weeks.

We have had a Pool Table given to us to replace the old one that has served us well for over 5 years - it has been recycled to one of our members and I believe is now in their front room. Many thanks to Mel & Simon Walker of Sound Technique at the old Post Office. It was fun moving them in the snow!

We are now planning our activities for the year and the Carnival is high on the agenda. Tracy and Ange are consulting the children about the theme and how we bring it to life. I am sure there will be loads to do and if anyone would like to help with costumes/scenery etc. please let us know.

We also have a desperate need for storage for our Carnival items, last year we had to hire a container in Winnington to keep stuff for a few weeks because storage is so limited at the Memorial Hall so any offers welcome.

We are hoping to take the children to PGL again this year for an adventure holiday, probably in the October Half Term break and will be sending details out soon.

We will continue to look for somewhere more suitable for a Youth Club, with safe outside space for our children to play, rather than a car park, lots of space and somewhere that we can make more welcoming for teenagers so they have somewhere to go and I'm currently in talks with CWaC to see if they can help us.

I'll keep you posted.

Angela Robinson



PURCHASE OF LAND FOR ALLOTMENTS

Barnton Parish Council have been a Burial Authority since 1898 when the Parish Council purchased land in Hayes Drive to use as a Cemetery. However the current consecrated land being used for Burials is rapidly being used up and although there is land adjacent to the Cemetery being used as allotments it is unlikely that the Parish Council would obtain Planning Permission for a Change of Use as there is a presumption against such a loss in current Planning Regulations. To make matters worse we also have a long waiting list for allotments.

One of the very few Statutory Duties that a Parish Council has, is to provide allotments, and to try and remedy the situation the Parish Council is currently negotiating to buy a strip of land adjoining Barnton Cricket Club to relocate the existing allotments in Hayes Drive, which would have to go to make way for an extension to the Cemetery.



The Parish Council expects to accommodate 30 separate allotments on the plot of land which is being purchased. At present on the Hayes Drive site we provide 17 allotments but there are 19 people on the waiting list.

In addition the area of land being purchased by the the Parish Council will enable us to provide Barnton Cricket Club with a plot of about 65 metres square on which they propose to create a nursery ground for junior cricketers. The Cricket Club would also have joint use of the car parking facilities that would have to be provided by the Parish Council as part of the project.

The Parish Council has provisionally agreed to purchase the whole of the site and to lease the portion required for the nursery ground to the Cricket Club for a minimum of 30 years. providing we can negotiate a purchase price with the owner and we are able to obtain planning approval and to borrow the necessary funds.

Roy Garton, Clerk to the Parish Council

NEWS FROM BARTON LIBRARY

Information, Inspiration, Imagination

Books, CDs, DVDs, free computer access, story times and much more available at your local library. Come and visit to see what the library has to offer.



WE HOPE YOU ALL HAD a wonderful Christmas and New Year. As many of you may know by now, Pat left Barton Library in November to work at Weaverham Library and our new Senior Library Assistant, Kate Mason, started at Barton in December. Kate has worked at Little Sutton Library before and everyone wishes her well as she gets to grips with her new job at Barton Library. If you haven't already met Kate, please call in to say hello.

We had a very successful evening with local author Geoff Buchan on 2nd December. Geoff launched his new book at the library and gave a wonderful talk about it. Huge thanks to Geoff for a great evening and thanks to everyone for coming along, we hope you enjoyed it.

As I wrote in the last issue of Tunnel Top, we are hoping to set up a Friends Group for the library. If you're interested in helping out with events, fundraising for the library, volunteering as an IT Buddy, forming a reading group, or simply coming to the library for a chat, we would love to hear from you. Thanks to all of you who have already expressed an interest; Kate is planning to set up a meeting soon, and will contact you when she has arranged a date. For those of you interested, please pop into the library and speak to Kate.

We have storytime every Thursday in the library from 3.45pm - 4.15pm and all children are welcome. Storytime is a great opportunity for children to visit the library, interact with other children, get to know the staff, listen to some fun stories and sing songs. If you need anymore information, please speak to a member of staff.

Finally, this will be my last article as visiting librarian for Barton, as I will now be helping with Weaverham Library. I've really enjoyed my time at Barton, so thanks to everyone who has made it so enjoyable. I will especially miss the boys from Rosebank School, who I see regularly for storytime. They're a great class and we've had a lot of fun over the last couple of years. Rachel Donlan will be taking over from me and is really looking forward to working at Barton Library.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Eleanor Moss (librarian)

Opening hours:	Monday	2pm - 7pm
	Tuesday	Closed
	Wednesday	2pm - 7pm
	Thursday & Friday	2pm - 5.30pm
	Saturday	10am - 1pm

Telephone and Fax: 01606 77343

email: barnton.library@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Website address:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/libraries

A few words from our PCSO - Diana Wiggins

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO wish every one a Happy New Year, even though we are already into February, hopefully we will start to feel a bit warmer soon.

There has been a lot of partnership work going on in Barton recently. I have been working closely with Weaverhale Housing Trust, in relation to feedback that we receive from local residents in the community. We strive to make Barton a nice place to live.

It has come to light that there has been two reported incidents relating to two pointer dogs running loose at the back of Blackcroft Avenue / Tunnel Top. These dogs have caused injury to both other dogs and we need to find the owner. Anyone with information please contact 0845 458 0000, residents have stated that they are afraid to walk their dogs in the area as they fear it may happen to them or their dog. Dogs roaming free will not be tolerated and all incidents will be reported to the local Dog Warden or the RSPCA.

I would just to thank Tracey Laura and Jenny for carrying on with the Golden Oldies club, which is held on Thursday afternoons in Barton Primary School. There they play Bingo and a few other games. This has proved to be a great success, anyone wishing to get out for a few hours can do so by attending, this is run from 1.30pm- 3pm.

There will be posters around the village shortly to let residents know when there will be Police Surgeries, these are for anyone wanting to raise any issue they may have. The next Police Surgery will be 25th February at Barton Primary school.

All residents can either contact me or PC Sue Doughtie with any issues they may have by contacting us on either

0845 458 0000 or 0845 458 6392



MID CHESHIRE COLLEGE

is running a 5 week

Painting Using a Variety of Media
course

at **Barnton Memorial Hall**

Mondays from 10am - 12 noon
22nd February - 22nd March
At a cost of £32

For further details contact Janet Dewison,
Community Education -
Tel: 01606 720527

Email: jdewison@midchesh.ac.uk

BARNTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWS

Fun in the Snow

Our pupils made the most of the recent snowfall, having great fun in the deepest snow many of them had ever seen.

They excelled themselves in the 'Snowman Competition', with creative entries based on familiar stories, such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and one group even created a 'Loch Ness Monster' complete with spikes!

The snow was also used to inspire the children's work, with creative writing, poetry and role play areas in Reception all based around the weather.



Year 1 and 2 Residential to Beeston

In December, all three classes of Year One and Two children at Barnton Community Primary School went on a 1-night Residential to Beeston Outdoor Education Centre for a 'Winter Wonderland' experience!

Whilst there, the children went for walks into the forest to search for 'Elf dens' and on 'bear hunts'. They collected pine cones and dried leaves to use for craft activities back at the centre. Everyone took part in a variety of Christmas and winter-themed activities, such as making snowman pictures, decorating winter bags, winter writing tasks, model-making and some exciting baking opportunities!

All the children (and adults!) had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. The behaviour was impeccable and the children were a real credit to their teachers and to the school.

Reception intake for September

We still have a few places available in our Reception class for September. You are very welcome to visit school and see the exciting opportunities available to our pupils. Please call our school office to arrange a visit on 01606 74784.

Reception Class

The reception children have been looking at animals that hibernate. We looked at what their 'beds' look like. We decided they were cosy and warm, so the children decided to create their own dens using the large construction blocks.

The children made it so it could fit 3 of them in and so it was comfortable enough for them to hibernate in.

Family Learning Quality Mark

We are very proud to have been awarded the 'Family Learning Quality Mark' in recognition of the many opportunities we provide for our Parents and Carers to learn and develop their own skills in school.

Margaret Pettit, in her role as 'Family Support Worker' has worked extremely hard to ensure that our families are provided with a variety of courses in Maths, Literacy, Cookery, Parenting Skills, ICT amongst others and many of our parents have gained useful qualifications in these areas.

BARNTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 6 Residential visit to The Conway Centre, Menai

Our Year six pupils went on their exciting residential visit to The Conway Centre at Menai. The theme of the week was 'Teamwork' and they had lots of opportunities to put their skills into practice as they tackled demanding activities such as canoeing on the Menai Straits, Gorge Walking, Mountain Walking, a Low Ropes Course, Zip Wire and Nightline.

As well as teamwork, they learnt about independence, looking after themselves and each other throughout the week. We are always extremely proud of our pupils and the way they represent our school on visits and our Year 6's were no exception.



From Temperate to Tropical



This half-term Year 3 and 4 are learning about different types of forests in their topic 'From Temperate to Tropical'.



They have delved into the depths of the Amazon through books and the Internet to discover the wild and wonderful creatures that live there. The children have also studied the climates and delivered weather forecasts to the class.

They are very excited about their forthcoming residential trip to Delamere. It will be an excellent opportunity to compare British forests with the tropical forests they have researched in school.

The classes will spend a busy few days exploring the forest and learning about the wildlife of Delamere. They will also be creating beautiful landscape paintings and building shelters.



ROSEBANK SCHOOL

Christmas

Although Christmas seems a long time ago now, the children at Rosebank enjoyed all the festivities. The Key Stage 2 children took part in a Carol Service at the Methodist Church. The younger children enjoyed performing a "Wiggly Nativity" in our school hall. In January we all enjoyed the snow - making snowmen and playing outside.



African Drumming

This term we have started to learn about African Drumming with our visiting teacher, Gareth. We have a great time banging the drums - sometimes it gets really loud! We are learning to copy rhythms and how to hold a beat, and we use different sized drums and shakers to achieve different sounds.



Haiti Earthquake fundraising

On 28th January we had a fundraising day to support the Haiti Earthquake Appeal. In our classes we talked about the earthquake and what had happened to the people in Haiti and the sort of things they needed money for. All the children and staff wore something red and made a donation. We collected lots of money and sent it off to the Appeal Fund.



WATERSIDE ASSETS TEAM

WE HAVE BEEN working on funding opportunities in relation to some of the Parish Plan goals and these have now been submitted. We have also been in contact with British Waterways about the path surface along the canal at several points. Finally if people have comments, complaints or concerns about the footpath, litter, safety or other issues along side the canal or river the contact details for British Waterways are:

www.britishwaterways.com/contact-us

Report from Dave Harazny - our local Bird man

Last year was a very good one for a lot of birds breeding wise, with lots of young birds about. The nest boxes down at Saltersfords Locks did very well, with some 88 chicks being reared with 74 of them being closed rung. We also had a county first with two female Blue Tits sharing one small box and one male resulting in twenty eggs being laid and eighteen chicks fledging.

The winter migrants are now here. If you get the chance just stand at your back door when the weathers calm and listen. You can sometimes hear the 'peep peep' calls of Redwings flying over in the dark of night, coming in from the far north and north-east of Europe. Other birds that come in are Fieldfares from Scandinavia and Russia, Waxwings from the forests of northern Russia and did you know that we get Black Birds coming from as far away as Poland, so please keep your feeds filled up and spare a thought for our feathered friends.



I would like to say thanks to British Waterways for giving us permission to carry out ringing of birds on their land. All of this is vital to the British Trust for Ornithology, as it gives them information on how long a bird lives for and how far it travels. If you do find a dead bird and it's wearing a ring on it's leg it should be reported to the B.T.O. or a B.T.O. member such as myself.

**The B.T.O can be contacted
via their website: www.bto.org
by email: info@bto.org
or telephone: 01842 750050**

If you enjoyed reading this issue of Tunnel Top please pass it on to a friend

You can leave
information for the
Northwich Community
Action Team on

0845 458 6392

This is an answer phone

Or email:

[Northwich.cat@
cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Northwich.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

**BARNTON
VILLAGE
WEBSITE:**

www.barntonvillage.org.uk



TUNNEL TOP
NEWSLETTER

Keeping Barnton
Informed

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Contact us by e-mail:
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www.barntonvillage.org.uk

Or leave a message at:
The Library,
Townfield Lane,
Barnton



Barnton Cricket Club Juniors



Barnton Cricket club junior teams have been very fortunate to obtain sponsorship for the forthcoming season. Viridor have kindly agreed to sponsor the U11 team and Barnton Travel have agreed to sponsor the U13 team. This is fantastic for the junior section who will benefit from the extra revenue by means of having new kit and coaching equipment.

We hope to start a girls' U15 team this year which will further strengthen the junior section of the club.

We have two new coaches this year - Steve Brewer who will assist with the U9s and Pete Johnson who returns to the club's coaching staff.

Dates for the junior nets have yet to be confirmed. Parents should check the website - www.barntoncc.co.uk which will be updated as soon as dates and venue are confirmed. Or telephone Simon Hancock on 07754971296 for more information.

www.barntoncc.co.uk

