

Ten Years of Transformation

A decade of community action, partnership and pride

On March 1 2016, a group of Barton residents gathered at the Wilderspin School Museum with a shared concern: Baysgarth Park had become sad, neglected and under-used.

Anti-social behaviour, vandalised toilets and a general sense of decline had taken hold. That evening, the Friends of Baysgarth Park was born – a volunteer group determined to turn things around.

Within a year the group became formally constituted, working closely with North Lincolnshire Council to set priorities and develop a long-term plan. What followed has been nothing short of remarkable.

2016-2018: Laying the Foundations

Early improvements focused on safety, accessibility and restoring pride. New signage appeared, and the group partnered with the Samaritans to create the Chad Varah Memorial Garden, planted in January 2018 with "20 varieties of roses as well as shrubs and perennials to provide all-year-round colour".

A new park keeper post was established, dramatically reducing anti-social behaviour and improving



day-to-day maintenance. In 2018, Baysgarth Park achieved Green Flag status for the first time – a milestone that would be repeated year after year.

2017-2020: Paths, Planting and a Park Reborn

Accessibility became a major focus. In 2017, a new perimeter path was installed around the northern park, followed by the southern extension in 2020. As one update put it, "Baysgarth Park is a fantastic asset for Barton... the new paths will allow those with more restricted mobility or with



pushchairs to take full advantage of the whole park".

Volunteers planted thousands of bulbs, new trees, and improved borders – including roses named after the late Barton novelist Ted Lewis. The Redoubt Copse, originally planted in 2016 to commemorate the loss of 17 Barton men on October 13, 1915, when the charge was made on the Hohenzollen Redoubt, near Loos France, became a cherished memorial space, later supported by community crowdfunding to replace vandalised or damaged trees.

2021-2022: A New Name and New Ambitions

In December 2021, recognising the growing scope of its work, the group became Friends of Barton Parks, expanding its mission to all five parks in the town.

2022 saw major developments:

- The Green Gym opened, funded by Able UK, offering free outdoor fitness equipment for all ages. "The verdict of the young testers – it is brilliant!!"
- A water-refill station – the first in North Lincolnshire – was installed to reduce single-use plastic.
- New entrances, link paths and accessibility improvements were completed across the park network.

2023-2025: Expanding the Vision Across Barton

With Baysgarth Park thriving, attention turned to the wider network of community parks. Five-year development plans were drawn up, and in 2024 the group committed to a full transformation of Dam Road Park,

which had suffered from vandalism and neglect.

The turnaround has been extraordinary:

- A new play area, paths and swings
- CCTV installation
- Hedge and tree planting with Humber Forest
- A new growing area, raised beds and wildflower strips
- Noticeboard and ongoing landscaping

As one report noted, "It has been a real team effort with contributions from local authority officers and volunteers from the Friends group".

The project has been supported by a wide range of funders including NLC, the FCC Communities Foundation, Keigar Homes, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Tesco, Co-op, Barton Town Council and local residents.

2024-2026: Looking Ahead – and Back with Pride

Ten years on, the Friends of Barton Parks remains as energetic as ever. The next major project is the renovation of the Baysgarth Play Park, continuing the group's commitment to creating safe, vibrant spaces for local families.

Across the decade, the group has:

- Secured repeated Green Flag Awards, including in 2025 for the first time a second award for the Bridge View Park
- Installed miles of accessible paths
- Created memorial gardens, wildflower areas and new planting schemes
- Delivered new gym equipment, play areas, entrances and signage
- Supported performances, events and community volunteering
- Raised significant funding from grants, businesses and residents
- Built a strong, trusted partnership with North Lincolnshire Council

What began as a response to vandalism and decline has become one of Barton's most successful community movements – a model of what volunteers, determination and collaboration can achieve.

The next ten years look just as exciting.

Cllr Paul Vickers
Chair Friends of Barton Parks

Barton Business Backs Baysgarth Park

Baysgarth Park has received a welcome boost from the local business community, thanks to the generous support of Alan Croissant, of Barton Building Supplies.

Alan reached out to Friends of Barton Parks earlier this year to offer help towards ongoing improvements in the park – an offer the group warmly embraced.

In February, Alan visited Baysgarth Park to see the progress for himself. During the visit he was thanked by Cllr Paul Vickers, Chair of Friends of Barton Parks, who expressed the group's appreciation for the company's commitment to the town's green spaces.

Alan's donation will directly support two major community projects:

- The new playpark, currently under development and eagerly anticipated by local families.
- The Baysgarth Park Tree Trail, set to launch this spring, celebrating the park's natural heritage and encouraging outdoor learning.



This contribution reflects the growing partnership between Barton's businesses and its community organisations. Support like this strengthens the town's shared ambition to enhance public spaces, create opportunities for residents, and protect the park for future generations.

It is fantastic to see Barton businesses stepping forward to champion local projects, and Friends of Barton Parks extends its heartfelt thanks to Barton Building Supplies for helping make these improvements possible.

Cllr Paul Vickers
Chair Friends of Barton Parks.





Barton Upon Humber Town Council Meetings

All meetings are held within the Assembly Rooms on Queen Street. Members of the public are welcome at all meetings and the council welcomes attendance. There are many different meetings covering a wide range of council services and projects. There is a designated time prior to the meeting commencing for members of the public to be able to address the councillors and the opportunity is there to remain at the meeting and listen to the councillors debate and decisions.

Barton Upon Humber Town Council forthcoming Committee Meeting dates

March 2026			
Planning	Monday, March 30	6pm	
April 2026			
Annual Town Meeting	Thursday, April 9	6pm	
Planning	Monday, April 13	6pm	
Full Council	Monday, April 13	7pm	
May 2026			
Planning	Monday, May 11	6pm	
Annual Town Council Meeting	Monday, May 11	7pm	

Barton Upon Humber Town Council Office opening hours 10am to 1pm

Barton Upon Humber Town Council office endeavours to open Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm however if the office is closed, the Council staff can be contacted via telephone or by email. Telephone. 01652 633598 or 07983154787 Email. info@bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk

Please keep up to date with meetings, town information, events and activities via our Town Council Website page:

www.bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BartonTownCouncil

Barton Upon Humber Town Council Members

If you think that they can help you with anything then please contact one of your Town Councillors: All email addresses are cllrname@bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk

- L Bennet [I]** 19 Queen Street Tel: 07792-775101
cllrizbennet@bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk
 - A.L. Chapman [C]** 29 Lower Meadows Tel: 07900-517424
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 - J Evison [C]** The Assembly Rooms Tel: 01652-633598
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cllrmiawatson@bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk
- C = Conservative. G = Green. I = Independent. L = Labour.**
Members serving on North Lincolnshire Council
Cllrs C Patterson, P Vickers, K Vickers.

You can also write to the Town Clerk at:
Council Office, Assembly Rooms, Queen Street, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 5QP
Tel. 01652 633598 Email info@bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk
Website www.bartontowncouncil.org.uk

Disclaimer: All information was correct at the time of going to print 5 March 2026. The Deadline for the May 2026 issue of the Bartonian is 5pm Tuesday 21 April 2026

Meet the new Town Clerk



My name is Vicky, and it is a great privilege to introduce myself as the newly appointed Town Clerk for Barton Upon Humber Town Council.

I am truly honored to take on this role and to serve both the Council and the residents of Barton Upon Humber

I have spent the last eight years working as a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for various parish councils in the surrounding areas and now feel ready for a new challenge in working for an active town council.

I look forward to working closely with the members of the Council to support informed decision making and to help deliver positive outcomes for our community.

I am equally committed to being accessible and responsive to residents, local organisations, ensuring the Council remains open, approachable, and community focused

I am excited to begin this new chapter and to contribute to the continued success of Barton Upon Humber.

Vicky Haines, Barton Upon Humber Council Town Clerk

Barton Upon Humber

Annual Town Meeting 2026

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday April 9th at 6pm at the Assembly Rooms, Queen Street.

This is the Annual Town meeting and not a Council meeting and all residents of the town are very welcome.

It is hoped to have exhibitions and representation of Community Groups that have received Grant funding from Barton Upon Humber Town Council in the current financial year as well as updates regarding the Assembly Rooms renovations and upgrades.

There will be the usual updates from the past year from all the Committee Chairmen and time for questions from the audience.

An invitation to a free exhibition at Barton Evangelical Church:

HOLY WEEK: An Exhibition of Art Work Retelling the Easter Story

What does Easter mean to you? Do you have questions about the true meaning of Easter? Does it matter if Jesus died and rose again?

Barton Evangelical Church will be open on Tuesday 31st March from 10am to 7pm for you to view art work retelling the Easter Story where you may find the answers to some of your questions.

This is an opportunity to view and read text, explaining what is being portrayed in the art work, connecting it with the relevant passage in the Bible.

There is no entrance fee for this exhibition so please pop in to view, read and take away any helpful information.

Everyone is welcome.

Ursula Vickerton
Secretary of Barton Churches Together

Dog Fouling in Barton

In most public places it is an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to fail to clean up after it when it fouls. The offence carries a maximum fine of £1,000.

Dog mess will be cleared from hard surfaces only by North Lincolnshire Council and it aims to remove it within five working days from being reported.

You can report an issue with dog fouling online, using North Lincolnshire Council's dedicated form, or contact them by phone on 01724 297000

North Lincolnshire Council will empty all bins at least once a week and it also assesses reports of damaged bins that need replacing within five working days.

Barton Churches Together

The Barton Churches Together committee met recently to plan future shared activities in Barton and it was agreed to share various Lent lunches and Bible Study on Wednesdays at Trinity Methodists and a Workshop at St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday, March 21 from 10 am.

During Holy Week on Monday March 30, the final week of Lent, there will be Ecumenical Stations of the Cross from 6.30pm at St Mary's Church led by Rev Kathy Colwell, our Barton Churches Together Chair.

At 11 am on Good Friday morning (April 3), there will be the opportunity to share a simple service of Stations of the Cross at St Augustine Webster Church.

These complement the many public Christian services and other activities at St Augustine Webster, The Salvation Army, St Mary's and Trinity Church week in and week out.

Ursula Vickerton
Secretary of Barton Churches Together

Creating the Bartonian

Articles and information are submitted by the public.
Editorial team: Neil King, Liz Bennet and Jane Tuplin. **Tourism articles** Tash Back
Page 2 Vicky Haines, Barton Town Clerk, **Advertising** Carol Clark, Deputy Town Clerk
Distribution co-ordination Cllr Neil Jacques **Design** Lee Collins of CD Design **Printed by** Sharmans Ltd

Nature and water set for revival in Barton – residents invited to shape the plans

Rewet, Rewild, Reconnect



Residents in Barton upon Humber are being invited to help shape an ambitious new project to bring nature, water and wildlife back into the heart of the town.

The proposed "Rewet, Rewild, Reconnect" project will focus on restoring ponds, streams and riverside habitats to boost biodiversity, strengthen flood resilience and create more opportunities for people to enjoy and connect with their local environment.

Cllr Neil Poole, deputy leader and cabinet member for highways and flooding, said: "If we are going to invest time and seek external funding, it has to be because residents want it and can see the benefit.

"Projects like this improve wildlife habitats, strengthen natural flood management and create opportunities for families, schools and volunteers to get involved locally. It must be shaped by the community."

The project will:

- Revive ponds and wetland areas
- Create richer habitats for birds, insects and native species
- Slow and manage surface water naturally
- Provide volunteering, education and heritage activities for local people
- Make green spaces more accessible and enjoyable.

Before anything moves forward, North Lincolnshire Council wants to hear directly from residents.

The Council will explore applying for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help deliver the project. Any future steps would be subject to formal approval.

This is your chance to help shape the future of Barton's natural spaces – rewetting, rewilding and reconnecting the town for generations to come.

Cllr Paul Vickers says "This is an exciting opportunity we are hoping residents will engage with the consultation and take a few minutes to share their views. The questionnaire will be available on North Lincs Council's website."

www.northlincs.gov.uk/currentconsultations

It's Been a "Fab" 10 Years!

This year marks a milestone as Friends At Barton (FAB) celebrates 10 incredible years of bringing magical, must-see shows to The Joseph Wright Hall on Barton's Queen Street.

Since bursting onto the scene in 2016, the group has packed out the hall time and time again with sold-out favourites including A Christmas Carol, The Snow Queen, Alice in Wonderland, Pinocchio, Mother Goose and the recent production of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In that time there were a few years of no shows due to both Covid lockdowns and the Director Paul Tate being away performing elsewhere.

Paul tells us a little bit about why he started FAB.

"As many of you know, my early years in Barton consisted of performing in most shows around the town that were put on by County School, Barton Drama Club, Baysgarth School, BADAOS etc and all of this helped decide my career path. In 2024 I celebrated 40 years of being a professional Actor and Director with work that has taken me all over the UK, playing some of the most gorgeous theatres that we are lucky enough to have left.

Having moved away to live in London in 1986, I now find myself living back in Barton. The line in The Wizard of Oz springs to mind..."There's no place like Home". When BADAOS first folded, a few friends asked if I would help put on shows so that they could still enjoy their hobby. It was after the concert we did up at the old Baysgarth School in celebration of the life of former headteacher Ray Smithson, that afterwards in the bar (as you do), I got talking to Shan Hewson who used to be Costume Supervisor for BADAOS and at the time she was a volunteer at Wilderspin.

She mentioned the upstairs in the old Salvation Army building next door would make a great theatre. I had been in there many years ago as a child when I went to see friends crowned the May Queen but hadn't been upstairs since then. I went and did a reccy and the rest, as they say, is history!

I founded Friends At Barton with a single but powerful mission: to produce high-quality local amateur theatre whilst raising money for both local and national charities. Thanks to the amazing, loyal audiences, the group has raised thousands of pounds

along the way. It also gives me a chance to design and paint the scenery. Something that calms me down."

That first show was A Christmas Carol - perfect choice for the Victorian building.

Paul adds: "Although the earlier shows were more traditional, they certainly had the odd Panto feel but we didn't start doing full-on Pantos until Pinocchio. As this will be the 10th Anniversary of FAB, I thought it would be great to return to that Charles Dickens classic but this time turn it into the pantomime BAH,HUMBUG! An all-out, laugh-a-minute panto packed with comedy, chaos, sparkle and seasonal cheer. "Oddly enough, Dickens was a great fan of panto, seeing it as a vital, joyful mirror of life. He often praised the spectacle and comedy of the genre, even writing a passionate defence of it in his 1837 essay, The Pantomime of Life. He was also a friend of Samuel Wilderspin! Six degrees of separation! He believed in the importance of entertainment for the public and saw pantomime as an essential part of the Christmas Season.

"I am honoured that Barton has embraced us with our shows, and in a small way, it's my way of giving something back to the town that I owe so much. I can't thank the audiences enough and the wonderful cast and crew members who without them,



there would be no show. I must admit though, that I'm worn out before I even start on my professional pantos the week after FABs! That's why I have to do ours mid-November before I do the professional ones."

So, Scrooge is back! This promises to be yet another side-splitting, song-filled Christmas cracker of a pantomime for the whole family. Expect ghosts, giggles, and a whole lot of festive chaos! Expect outrageous comedy, toe-tapping tunes, boing, cheering and plenty of chances to shout "He's Behind YOU!".

Tickets will be on sale in the autumn.

Oh, yes they will!!!

Barton Area Food Bank

The Barton Area Food Bank began 2026 with almost as much demand as December including Christmas and has been kept busy ever since.

Thanks to the kindness of all its donors, the Food Bank has been able to meet the demand and have also implemented several changes to help it cope.

In January, once there were sufficient small green fruit and vegetable boxes kindly given by Lidl, volunteers were able to use these for making up parcels. Clients are now bringing their own bags and transfer food from the boxes, which then go back to the store to be refilled, saving our use of plastic bags. It is working very well, plus there is now a box for any unwanted or surplus items which clients can leave.

Then in February, the first bulk buy from Tesco was ordered. This is just an order for two weeks supply of food and toiletries which will hopefully increase to a four week order depending on space in the Food Bank's store. Several cars collect from the store, transport and stack, thereby saving a lot of time and effort for just one or two people as was done previously.

This year is going to be a very challenging year for the Food Bank. All the time, committee members are looking for ways to enable us to maintain their standard of service, so we are thankful to all our donors,



to those who give items in our in-store collection boxes and those who donate financially on a regular basis and to the various stores, companies, organisations and individuals.

Nevertheless, we repeat please do not struggle, just contact the Food Bank on 07526 472683 or by email bartonareafoodbank@gmail.com

A History of Ray Smithson's Renowned Barton Musical Productions

Encore!

Encore!, will be the feature exhibition in The Ted Lewis Visitor Centre when it reopens for walk-in visits on April 5.

Ray Smithson was a particularly respected teacher, initially at Barton Grammar School, known for supervising pupils including Ted Lewis on foreign trips. He later featured in the novelist's debut novel.

But Mr Smithson, who went on to become the first headteacher of Baysgarth School, also had a lifelong love of musical theatre and for many years produced and skilfully directed sell-out performances in Barton and district. These quickly became, and remained, regular and go-to features in the lives of many children and adults alike, enduring from 1966 until he retired in 1985.

Mr Smithson's family has now allowed The Ted Lewis Centre unique and generous access to his archive, which contains many pictorial and other records of Barton's musical heritage. Accordingly, the museum has been able to mount an entertaining, wide-ranging display from the 18 productions staged by Mr Smithson which were performed on stage at both Bereton Secondary Modern and Baysgarth Schools.

Were you part of any of these? If so, the exhibits will be of particular interest while to others there will be a unique opportunity to peep into Barton's heritage that marks the town's enduring support for the arts.



The Wizard of Oz was staged in 1979 and leading roles were taken by Sarah Field as Dorothy, Paul Tate as the Scarecrow and Andrew Lawson as the Tin Man. Photo: David Lee Photography Ltd.

The Centre will be open every Sunday between 11am and 3pm from April 5 and individual appointments can also be arranged by calling 07803504794 or via the website:

www.tedlewiscentre.com

Entrance is free of charge but as a Registered Charity the Centre appreciates voluntary donations.

News from Water's Edge

It certainly has been a very long, cold and grey winter full of stormy and unpredictable weather with everyone at the Water's Edge Visitor Centre and Country Park ready for the arrival of Spring that will hopefully bringing with it some sunshine, warmth and the prospect of more time spent outdoors.

If the approach of Spring has fired up your creativity, then there is plenty of opportunities to learn a new skill at workshops including woodcarving, acrylic painting and willow weaving.

The Centre will also be welcoming Suzie from Leafy Lane Pottery where she will be leading a Fairyhouse Workshop. The Easter holidays are also full of activities to keep little ones occupied with a variety of drop-in craft sessions, a science workshop with Lab Rascals and an Easter trail around the park.

Local painter Eileen Rounce will be

holding an exhibition here on April 4 and 5 to showcase her wonderful watercolour artworks.

On April 26 the Centre is holding its very first De-Stash day, the idea being people can have a bit of a tidy up of their craft stash and sell it on to others who may find it useful - the perfect opportunity to pass on all those spare craft materials and ensure they are reused.

The Spring Craft Fair is taking place on May 2 and 3, showcasing an array of local makers who will be attending with a great range of handmade goods on display.

Later the same month, on May 24, there will be the return of the Classic Car Show, hosted by Ermine Street Classic Car Club. Fingers crossed for sunny weather.

As always, full details for all events and activities can be found at the Facebook page for Water's Edge Visitor Centre & Country Park, by calling the Visitors' Centre on 01652 631500 or by calling into the Visitors' Centre in person.

LENT & EASTER WITH BARTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

Wednesdays until April 1

Lent Lunches at 12.30pm

Bible Study & Discussion 1.15pm

Trinity Methodist Church (please call Sue on 07894 420074 to book)

Saturday March 21 10am -12.30pm

A Quiet Workshop for Lent

St Mary's Parish Church Hall with Canon D. Rowett

Monday March 30 6.30pm

Stations of the Cross with a Difference

St Mary's Parish Church

Thursday April 2 7pm

Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

St Mary's Parish Church

7pm Mass & Adoration

St Augustine Webster Church

Good Friday

10.15am Worship for Good Friday at Trinity Methodist Church followed by walk to St Augustine's for 11am

Stations of the Cross

2pm Good Friday Liturgy

St Mary's Parish Church

Easter Sunday

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist

6pm Choral Evensong

St Mary's Parish Church

Easter Sunday Worship

St Augustine Webster RC Church 9am

Trinity Methodist Church 10am

The Salvation Army 10.30am

Everyone is welcome at any of these events and services, no matter what your faith tradition or denomination or your spiritual journey so far.

Wish to know more? Please contact the Revd Kathy Colwell, Convener of Barton Churches Together - 07731 940 535

St Augustine Webster RC Church

St Augustine Webster on Whitecross Street has a special emphasis on preparation, adoration and prayers during Lent.

Some people give up certain foods or drinks or seek to take something extra on for Lent (this year from February 18 until Easter Sunday on April 5).

The Church's Sunday Masses will be at 9 am generally followed by tea or coffee and time to catch up.

The Maundy Thursday service on April 2 will be at 7pm and the following day, Good Friday, the Church will host a shared service at 11 am focused on the Stations of the Cross.

There will be an Easter Sunday Mass at 9 am.

Parish Phone Number 01652 652221

Goxhill & Barrow Scout Group

At the time of writing this newsletter the Group is just starting the spring half term holidays.

Since the last newsletter the Group has been busy organising the interior of the Scout Hut. Still in the process of redecorating (paint is really expensive, and there is a large area to redecorate) so it is being done in bits and bobs when funding allows to purchase the paint.

Thanks to a funding grant from North Lincolnshire Council, new LED lights have been fitted throughout the hut and with floodlights fitted outside so the outside spaces can be used at night. The final landscaping of the car parking area has also been completed and new paths have been laid around the hut.

Here is a snapshot of what the Group's young people have been doing:

- Beavers have been working on their Communicator and Cooks badges.
- Cubs will be working on their camping skills this term, learning all about the skills needed to have a safe and enjoyable camp.
- Scouts have been working towards their Navigator badge.
- Explorers have taken part in a District pancake competition, celebrated Chinese New Year, and been working on their life skills.

The Group is always looking for new volunteers to join its Leader Team and an Assistant Leader is urgently needed to help run the Scouts Section (10 to 14 year olds) on a Tuesday evening between 6pm and 8.45 pm. Particularly welcome would be some younger adults to join the group to help out.

More leaders would help the Group deliver scouting to more young people. Please contact Andy Oliver via email: andyoliver789@outlook.com if you can help out.

Plot 47 Growers

Over recent years the Allotment Society has made many improvements to the site for the benefit of present and future plot holders with funding from North Lincolnshire Council - new communal shed, borehole and water storage system around the site, and most recently the Kazuba waterless toilet.

Its latest exciting and innovative project in the planning stages is to devote one entire plot, number 47 hence the name, to a wider community use. The aim is to create a Plot 47 Growing Team to grow vegetable and flower plants for use on the plots or in gardens. We have teamed up with the Living Later Life Well project based at Trinity Methodist Church to encourage those interested in growing to get involved along with existing and retired plot holders. Don't start pulling on your wellies just yet though! It could be this time next year before the whole scheme is up and ready to go.

Plot 47 itself will be transformed to have a quiet garden area with seating and wildlife friendly planting

and features, with a large communal polytunnel to the rear of the plot as the main focus of the growing activity through the year. Raised beds will also be built to enable plants to be grown outside at the appropriate times.

We need planning permission and, of course, funding before it can happen, but we are keen to get a group together now who can help inform the detailed design and start doing some of the work once we get planning approval.

If you are interested, please come along to the next Coffee Morning on 16 April at 10am at Trinity Methodist Church Lecture Hall or contact Jo Marwood on 07821 900623.

Of course, the facility is not just for the use of the older community. We are getting increasing interest from schools and young people wanting to visit the plots so this can be designed into the detail of how Plot 47 works.

That is for the future, but back to the present and the rain in January and early February has hampered much late winter work. Hopefully the coming weeks will see the return of some sunshine, and we can start planting and sowing. Most will have seed potatoes chitting by now ready to be planted. Shallots and onion sets can go in, as can broad beans, early peas and carrots. As ever despite what the books tell us, let the weather and soil condition be your guide as what to plant when.

News from Barton Community Band South Bank Players

Barton Community Band had a very busy end to 2025 with lots of bookings to play carols, as well as our own concert at St Mary's Church.

The band also ran a "Fuelled" session just before Christmas (or band camp as it's become known), which was a great event for a group of young people - several of whom keep coming back time and again.

Since then band members have been practicing hard for the North of England Brass Band contest which will be held in Durham on March 22. Wish us luck!

Once that contest is over the band will be gearing up for summer performances, and bookings are coming in for it to play in Barton and beyond.

There will also be more Fuelled sessions over the Easter holidays. We don't just play music, we do crafts,

games, physical activities - and we eat lots! If you are interested in your children attending band camp, do get in touch.

There has been a brass band in Barton for more than 150 years. If you would like to become part of this long-standing tradition, then the band would love to hear from you. There are several vacancies in the Community Band, and new players are always welcome. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Corn Exchange in the Market Place.

The training band is a mixture of adults and children, learners, and lapsed players who are regaining their confidence. There are instruments to loan, and tuition is available, so do get in touch if you fancy giving it a go! The training band meets on Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm, again at the Corn Exchange.

Contact secretary, bartoncommunityband@gmail.com for more information, or to enquire about booking the band for your event.

There are a few numbers available for the band's fundraising 100 Club draw. There is a draw every month to win £50 and £20 (which is doubled for the Christmas draw). Numbers cost £2 per month and can be bought from our treasurer by emailing treasurer.bartoncommunityband@gmail.com You've got to be in it to win it!

Towards the end of 2025 the South Bank Players performed a 1980's themed Murder Mystery, (written by member Jeanine Guy), at the Nelthorpe Arms in South Ferriby, Ulceby Church, and Goxhill WI.

The performances went down very well, with many audience members getting into the spirit and dressing up accordingly! If you fancy booking us to perform a "whodunnit" for your group, then do get in touch.

We are about to start working on a new script (written by another member, Liz Drury), which is called "Murder on the Farm", so get your wellies ready! We are hoping to perform this one at Thornton Abbey Maize Maze in the summer, as well as other locations too.

Two new members joined the group for its latest Murder Mystery and there is always room for a few more,



Tuesday 14 April 10.30am -12.30pm

Dam Road Park

Planting up the raised beds with spring colour and edible crops.

Thursday 16 April 10.30am-12.30pm

Baysgarth House

A fun planting session to continue preparing the gardens for the growing season.

These sessions are open, friendly, and perfect for little ones who enjoy being outdoors, learning new skills, and helping to make Barton's green spaces flourish



If you fancy having your own plot or half plot, now is the time to act. We have no waiting list and one vacant half plot so first come first served!

The sooner you are on the list, the sooner you will get a plot. Please get in touch.

Neil Jacques secretarybartonallotments@hotmail.com

South Bank Players

Towards the end of 2025 the South Bank Players performed a 1980's themed Murder Mystery, (written by member Jeanine Guy), at the Nelthorpe Arms in South Ferriby, Ulceby Church, and Goxhill WI.

The performances went down very well, with many audience members getting into the spirit and dressing up accordingly! If you fancy booking us to perform a "whodunnit" for your group, then do get in touch.

We are about to start working on a new script (written by another member, Liz Drury), which is called "Murder on the Farm", so get your wellies ready! We are hoping to perform this one at Thornton Abbey Maize Maze in the summer, as well as other locations too.

Two new members joined the group for its latest Murder Mystery and there is always room for a few more,

so if you fancy joining the Players either as an actor or to help out in other ways, please send an email to admin@sbplayers.co.uk or text 07879 777267

There is one final Ghost Walk this season on Friday, March 27. Tickets are £5 per person and can be booked at www.sbplayers.co.uk. The walk starts from Baysgarth House Museum at 7.30pm. Wrap up warm and wear suitable footwear. The new season will begin, as always, on Halloween. This is always a popular walk so we recommend you book early for this one. Tickets will remain at £5 for all.



A little update.....

Following rumours that we had been bought out, we would like to confirm that we have not, (it is Eyesite Opticians also on High Street which has now become Scrivens).

We are happily independent giving us the widest choice of lenses and frames to best suit each prescription, style and budget. We have been part of Barton since 1969 and continue to look forward to giving the best possible eye care for the community.

Since last year Ralph Worfolk has been working fewer days in practice having reached retirement age. Fortunately he is very enthusiastic about optometry and still enjoys providing us with some extra clinic cover. Ralph says he has been humbled and touched by so many people passing over their kind words and wishing him a happy retirement. He is very grateful to all our clients and colleagues who have given him the privilege of a thoroughly enjoyable career.

Dr Lisa Skaff and David Wyndham have their regular clinics in practice. They have over 60 years experience between them with interests in Glaucoma, identifying and managing eye diseases and the fitting of gas permeable contact lenses.

Emily Hallam has now been with us 3 years. She has a passion for all contact lenses and is always at the forefront of new developments in materials and design including some of the newer Multifocal options and Myopia Management.

Of course Chris Green, our Dispensing Optician, continues to be our lens and frame expert. He leads a fantastic team to provide you with the best eyewear.

If you have any worries with vision or need any advice with your eye care, or just want a new look, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Barton Practice, 16 High St, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 5PD, 01652 632315

Immingham Practice, 2 Kennedy Way, Immingham, DN40 2AE, 01469 572702

Winterton Practice, 1 High St, Winterton, DN15 9PU, 01724 733754

At the Heart of Barton:

The Pubs Keeping a Town Connected

In a time when pubs across Britain are fighting to survive rising costs and changing habits, Barton Upon Humber's locals are proving that a pub is far more than a place to buy a pint. It's a meeting point, a refuge, a stage for friendships, and—if you ask the people who run them — **a cornerstone of community life.**

Across the country, energy bills, wages, business rates and taxes have climbed sharply, while the cost of living crisis has made nights out a rarer treat. Many pubs have closed their doors for good, especially in small towns.

Despite these difficulties, pubs remain an important part of local life. Many landlords are adapting by offering food, events, live music and family-friendly spaces, helping pubs stay relevant as social hubs rather than just places to drink. Well-run and community-supported pubs are often proving more resilient, showing that demand still exists when the offer is right.

In Barton, two longstanding establishments continue to show how pubs can adapt, endure, and even thrive when they stay rooted in the people they serve.

The Corn Exchange Club: A Quiet Constant Since 1888

Alvin Chapman knows the history of the Corn Exchange Club like it's part of his own family story. And in a way, it is. The building itself dates back to 1851, but its life as a social club began in 1888, when the Constitutional Club opened in the upper rooms. By 1895, it was officially registered as part of the Association of Conservative Clubs—"and it's still run by a committee today," Alvin notes with pride.

The club has always been a place for games, conversation, and companionship. Chess, darts, snooker, pool, dominoes—if it can be played indoors, someone in Barton is probably playing it at the Corn Exchange. "A friendly and quiet place to come meet friends, hold meetings, enjoy a game," Alvin says, summing it up with the ease of someone who has watched generations pass through its doors.

And those generations are changing. The club recently updated its constitution to welcome 16 and 17-year-olds, as well as nonpolitical members. Younger faces are appearing alongside the regulars, keeping the club's traditions alive while nudging it gently into the future.

Community groups rely on the space too. Barton's Community Band, Barton Camera Club, the Allotment Society, the Lions, the Junior Football Club, and the Barton and Ferry Conservative Association all gather there. It's a quiet engine of civic life—steady, dependable, and always ready with a bar person whose "ear you can chew off," as Alvin puts it.

But even this longstanding institution isn't immune to modern pressures. Rising costs, energy bills, and the challenge of maintaining an old building all weigh heavily. "People



think it's easy," Alvin laughs. "Just keeping the water out at times has been problematic." Yet he remains optimistic. If Barton's pubs and clubs work together, he believes, they can weather whatever comes next.

The White Swan: A 17th-Century Pub With a 21st-Century Heart

A short walk away, the White Swan tells a different—but equally spirited—story. First recorded in the 1660s, it's one of Barton's oldest pubs, but under Lisa's stewardship it has become something more: a bustling community hub with a modern sense of purpose.

"Running a pub like this isn't a job—it's a lifestyle," she says. And it shows. The Swan sponsors the cricket and rugby clubs, raises money for the Tilly Community Canal Boat, donates raffle prizes to local causes, and hosts everything from book clubs to the RAOB to the Friends of the Barton Line. Staff even support a kids' rugby club. If there's a group in Barton looking for a home, chances are the Swan has opened its doors to them.

The pub's atmosphere is part of its charm. "People come for the ambience and our real ales," Lisa says, "but it's the people that make the pub special." That warmth extends to those who might otherwise spend their days alone. The Swan famously opens on Christmas Day—not for profit, but to make sure no one in Barton has to spend the holiday in isolation.

Like every pub, the Swan faces challenges. Costs are rising, and people have more entertainment options at home than ever. But Lisa believes the answer isn't to compete with the sofa—it's to offer something the sofa never can. "If pubs can develop their role and meet customers' wider needs, I think they will prosper."

The George Inn: Centuries at the Centre

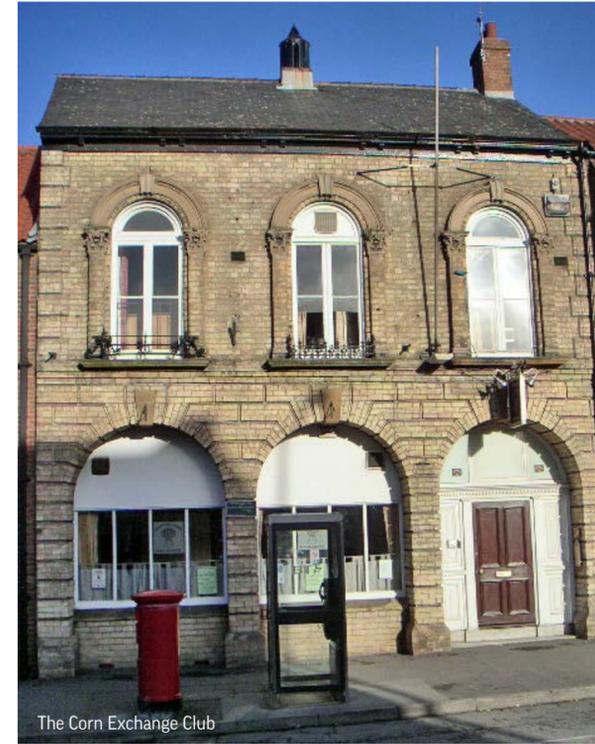
Few buildings in Barton hold as many shared memories as the The George Inn. Dating back to the 17th century and originally used as a coaching inn, it has stood at the heart of the town for centuries.

For its current landlord, taking the helm is just a brief chapter in The George's long history—but one that has had "a huge, positive impact" personally. "My tenure here is minuscule in the total lifespan of The George," he reflects, "but it's had a huge impact on my life."

Its central location means almost everyone passing through Barton sees it. "A lot of Barton has a memory of The George," he says. A first date. A wedding reception. A first drink. A parent who worked there in the '70s. "We all have a memory of the place."

The clientele is strikingly diverse. Over-70s gather at lunchtime for a natter. Quiz nights draw in teams of all ages. A recently launched poker league and pool league attract a wide mix of genders and generations. Families come in for late lunches on Saturdays, couples enjoy relaxed meals in the restaurant, friends meet before heading out for the evening. All under one roof.

The George actively embeds itself in the community. It donates regularly to local groups and charities and hosts the local Stroke Association lunch once a month, giving stroke survivors and their partners the chance to socialise together. The pub is also a venue for weddings, birthdays, wakes, anniversaries and work gatherings alike—marking life's biggest milestones. It has previously hosted monthly lunches alongside Age UK, bringing elderly and vulnerable residents together for food and companionship.



The Corn Exchange Club

Although that initiative ended after Covid due to funding cuts, the desire to restart it remains.

With more than 30 staff employed, The George is one of the largest independent employers in the town centre. It works with local suppliers for stock, printing, signage, cleaning and trade work—keeping customer spending circulating within the local economy.

Yet the financial pressures are stark. Energy bills exceed £60,000 per year. Rent has risen by nearly 25%. The National Minimum Wage has increased by nearly 70% over the past five years. National Insurance contributions have risen by an extra £20,000 annually in the last two years alone. VAT takes £1 out of every £6 spent with beer duty, machine games duty, business rates and corporation tax all following.

"The largest challenge in a nutshell is survival," he says.

Reducing costs can only go so far—particularly when quality is central to the offer. Increasing prices is often unavoidable. The most effective strategy, he believes, is to increase turnover and diversify—bringing more people through the doors.

There are misconceptions too. "The idea that you're the boss and can do what you want—that's the real misunderstanding," he says. "It's the unsociable hours take their toll. It's because I'm the owner that I have to do certain things." No two days are the same.

Despite the pressures, he is optimistic. During Covid, the town supported the pub's delivery service. When The George appeared on "4 in a Bed", the whole town rallied behind it. When he shared the harsh realities of hospitality on social media, customers responded with messages of support and visits. "As long as Barton keeps supporting us," he says, "we'll keep these doors open and ready to serve with a friendly welcome."

More Than Businesses—Barton's Beating Heart

Together, the Corn Exchange Club, the White Swan and The George Inn show what pubs truly represent. They are employers. They are event spaces. They are informal support networks. They are places to celebrate, to grieve, to compete, to laugh, to belong.

They are also under pressure—from rising costs, heavy taxation and changing social habits.

But in Barton-upon-Humber, there remains something powerful: a community that understands their value.

Because when pubs close, towns lose more than buildings. They lose living rooms. They lose shared history. They lose connection.

And in a world where loneliness is rising and shared spaces are disappearing, that connection matters more than ever.

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Baysgarth Park Parkrun: Community In Motion

Whether you're a seasoned sprinter or casual stroller, Baysgarth Park parkrun continues to be the heartbeat of Saturday mornings.

Since its launch on September 30 2023, we've seen a fantastic turnout of locals and "parkrun tourists" alike, all coming together to enjoy the beautiful 5km course through the grounds of the park. The energy lately has been nothing short of electric! Here's a quick look at what's been happening on the park paths.

Several community members have celebrated hitting their 25, 50 and 100 parkrun milestones as well as volunteer credits up to 250! Seeing those milestone t-shirts appearing on the start line is a testament to the dedication of the local runners.

With the crisp morning air we've seen many a course personal best, alongside the first official "pacer" event where some participants donated enough to cover the purchase of the parkrun's own pacer bibs. The first pacer event with new bibs at the end of January was a huge success and it is intended to hold these events every quarter on the last Saturday of the month. The next pacer event will be on Saturday April 25.

The high-viz heroes, the volunteers, are the backbone of every event. From the encouraging marshals to the meticulous timekeepers at the finish, it couldn't be done without them.

If you haven't joined Baysgarth Park parkrun yet, there's never been a better time to start. Remember, parkrun is not a race – it's a timed run, jog or walk.

When: Every Saturday at 9am

Where: Baysgarth Park, Barton-upon-Humber

Cost: Completely free! Just register once at parkrun.org.uk and bring along your scannable barcode if you'd like to receive a time.

Top Tip: Don't forget to join us at the Baysgarth Stables Café for a post-run coffee, or parkrun special breakfast. It's the perfect way to cool down and catch up with the parkrun community.

To keep the magic happening, the parkrun is always looking for volunteers. It's a great way to meet people and give back to the community without having to break a sweat!

If you can spare an hour on a Saturday morning, please get in touch via its Facebook page or email us at baysgarthpark@parkrun.com.



Barton Park Bowls Club

BOWLS IS FUN....and THATS OFFICIAL!!

In these winter months of wet, gloomy and dreary weather, we all need a lift! Especially so with the addition of the daily dose of despair and disappointment shared by the various news media. Well hope is at hand...BOWLS! A game for all ages (Barton Park currently has two 30 year olds, regularly playing in league competition).

The sport is enjoyed by both, male and female participants of any shape or size, with the added bonus of the enjoyment and fun of re-acquainting with old and meeting new members. All are made most welcome at the Barton Park Bowls Club.

Along with the competition, ensuing banter and laughter the gentle exercise and fresh air is good for us all and it's all set within the picturesque background of Baysgarth Park

Although some of our number play down at the Methodist Hall throughout the winter months and enjoy playing in the Short Mat Group, by February we all hanker for the warmer months and to be

out playing on that sacred square of turf we call 'the green' and the ensuing summer months of fun.

Regarding our piece of sacred turf, work is progressing well with replacing some of the timber surround boards. Before long and with the blessing of the British climate, preparations to the green will accelerate in readiness for a season's bowling. Thank you to the members that give of their time freely to assist with this work.

Barton Park Bowls Race Night is a big fun filled night, taking place on the night of April 24 at Barton Cricket Club. This heralds the start of a summer filled with events to mark the Club's centenary. To all the people of Barton, if you know of anyone, family or friend, who has played for the club in past days, we would love hear from you. Come down to the green and share your story over a cup of tea!

Remember playing bowls is fun!

Barton Brigg Road Bowls Club

With the 2026 outdoor bowling season almost upon us BBRBC is offering you the opportunity to try your hand at the game, either as a newcomer or to those who wish to rekindle their interest. Your first two RollUp sessions are completely FREE.

The season begins on Monday, April 13 (weather permitting). RollUp afternoons are held every Monday and Thursday. Arrive at 1:45pm, games start at 2pm. All you need is flatsoled shoes – we can take care of the rest. No experience required.

Bowls is easy to learn and great fun. Many of our members started by "just having a go" – and quickly discovered how enjoyable it is to play, and as a relaxed, supportive group you will find there is always someone on hand to

show you the ropes. At our club, members can play on the green any day of the week.

For those who like some competition in the mix, our teams play in three divisions in different leagues. Anyone - regardless of their ability - who wants to play in a match is welcomed and supported! Gratingly, the club celebrated many successes last season and hope to do even better this year.

Alongside regular play, the committee also organises social events, fun days, and opportunities to pick up new skills. So, if you fancy a game of bowls, come and join us. Come on your own or bring a friend. Either way, you'll find a warm welcome waiting for you and remember your first two Roll-Up sessions are FREE. Therefore, you've nothing to lose, but everything to gain.

Need more info? Email us at secretary, bartonbriggroadbowls@gmail.com

Barton Brigg Road Bowls Club invites you to try the friendly, accessible game of bowls when the 2026 outdoor season begins on Monday, April 13 (weather permitting). Your first two Roll-Up sessions are free. Roll-Ups run every Monday and Thursday at 2pm; arrive at 1:45pm. Just bring flatsoled shoes – all equipment can be provided.

Beginners and returning players are warmly welcomed, with members always on hand to help. The club offers casual play any day of the week, competitive league matches, internal competitions, and social events, too. All abilities welcome.

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LARGE INFLATABLES STALLS KIDS GAMES RAFFLES FOOD & DRINK

ALL FUNDS RAISED FROM STALL FEES AND RAFFLES WILL GO TO >>>

The Precision Cup is centered around a 5-a-side football tournament bringing together port-centric businesses across the region in support of mental health awareness week.

Following on from last year's event, we have moved to a new venue which means we have been able to add even more activities to support the event for those participating and watching. Some of the many things to enjoy on the day include around 20 stalls, food and drink vendors, large inflatables, and kids games, to name just a few!

We will be hosting a number of raffles on the day with some great prizes, and all the funds raised from them will be donated to our 2026 chosen charity, Mind Hull and East Yorkshire.

We welcome everyone to come along, enjoy the day with us, and help us raise as much as possible to support mental health and the local community.

The event takes place at Baysgarth School in Barton on Saturday 9th May 2026, running from 11am until 3pm.

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www.rns-ifa.co.uk



What's On: March - May 2026

Saturday March 7 and every Saturday after

Parkrun
Baysgarth Park 9am
Take part in a weekly parkrun event in the beautiful surroundings of Baysgarth Park.
Free

Saturday March 7

Barton Market
Market Place and Butchery 8.30am - 1.30pm
Shop a wide range of fresh food, gifts, accessories, and lots more.
Free

Wednesday March 11 and every Wednesday after

Coffee Morning
Community Room, Trinity Methodist Church 10.30am - 12pm
Our weekly Coffee Morning is a chance to meet new friends, enjoy a chat and a cuppa, followed by a game/quiz/guest speaker.
Free - Donations appreciated.

Wednesday March 11
Silver Singers Choir
Trinity Methodist Church 1pm - 2pm
Join our friendly, relaxed choir and enjoy singing a range of current and classic songs to music. No singing ability or experience required - bring a bottle of water and a sense of humour!
All Living Later Life Well sessions are for people aged 60+. For more information or to book your space, contact Jo on 07821 900623 or email jo.marwood.bartontrinity@outlook.com

Wednesday March 11

Lancasters, Lincolnshire and the International Bomber Command Centre
Joseph Wright Hall 7.30pm
A Barton Civic Society Talk. During his illustrated presentation Air Vice-Marshal Paul Robinson will outline Bomber Command's history and focus on its impact during the Second World War, highlighting the skill, achievements and heroism of its air and ground crews. He will show how important it is for Lincolnshire to host a fitting memorial to commemorate their sacrifice, recognise the suffering experienced and reconcile both sides of the conflict.
£4 for non-members

Sunday March 15

Daoirí Farrell
Ropery Hall 7.30pm
Dublin singer and bouzouki player Daoirí Farrell burst on to the international folk music scene with two prestigious BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2017 for Best Newcomer and Best Traditional Track, performing live at the awards ceremony at London's Royal Albert Hall. His breakthrough album, True Born Irishman, released the previous year, introduced him as a remarkable new voice in Irish traditional music.
£18/£20 OTD

Sunday March 15

Paper Posies on Mother's Day
Far Ings National Nature Reserve 11am - 3pm
This Mother's Day why not make a paper posie for mum? We will also be serving delicious cakes (whilst stocks last)!

Friday March 20

Henry Normal and Jan Brierton
Ropery Hall 7.30pm
Henry Normal and Dubliner Jan Brierton present an evening of poetry and laughs. Henry will be reading poems from his new book An Alphabet of Storms whilst Jan's poems reflect on being a wife, mother, daughter, sister and retired raver. Expect a highly engaging evening.
£20/£22 OTD

Thursday March 26

Fakespeare
Ropery Hall 7.30pm
A true story of literary fraud and family deceit in the 18th century - comic, tragic and scarily believable.
£14/£16 OTD

Wednesday March 25

Barton and District History Group talk with David Gibson "A History of RAF Scampton"
St Mary's Church Hall
For more information email bartonanddistricthistorygroup@hotmail.com

Friday March 27

Barton Ghost Walk
Baysgarth House 7.30pm
A spooky guided tour of historic Barton led by members of South Bank Players. Booking is recommended, tickets £5 are available from www.sbpayers.co.uk

Saturday April 4

Barton Market
Market Place and Butchery 8.30am - 1.30pm
Shop a wide range of fresh food, gifts, accessories, and lots more.
Free

Saturday April 11

Henry Normal and Jan Brierton
Ropery Hall 7.30pm
Henry Normal and Dubliner Jan Brierton present an evening of poetry and laughs. Henry will be reading poems from his new book An Alphabet of Storms whilst Jan's poems reflect on being a wife, mother, daughter, sister and retired raver. Expect a highly engaging evening.
£16/£18 OTD

Thursday April 16

Living Later Life Well and Barton Allotment Society
Trinity Methodist Church 10am
Come along to the Coffee Morning when there will be a short presentation about plans for this joint project, Plot 47. There will be refreshments and an opportunity to ask questions and help us shape this new project.

From Monday 13th April, 2026

Warm invitation to play outdoor bowls.
Barton Brigg Road Bowls Club, situated on Park Avenue, Barton. DN18 5DN 1:45pm to 4pm
Roll-Ups are held each Monday and Thursday afternoon during the season. For newcomers, the first two roll-up sessions are FREE. We can provide bowls, if required. Just bring flat-soled shoes. All ages and abilities are welcome.
Two sessions FREE for newcomers. £1.00 for members

Thursday April 16

Step Back in Time - Photo ID evening
Ropery Hall 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Join the Barton Volunteers Archive Group to help identify the people and places within a selection of photographs from the Barton upon Humber archives.
Free

Friday April 17

Archaeological Aerial Photography in Northern Lincolnshire
Joseph Wright Hall 7.30pm
A Barton Civic Society talk. Simon Tomson and Chris Belton are private fliers who fly in Lincolnshire recording archaeology from the air looking for new sites as well as recording the known heritage.
£4 for non-members

Friday April 24

Barton Park Bowls Club Annual Race Night hosted by Barton Cricket Club

Saturday April 25 and Sunday 27

The Ropewalk Print Fair
The Ropewalk 10am - 4pm
A weekend dedicated to celebrating all things print, with more than 30 printmakers selling affordable art.
Free

Sunday April 26

Snake Davis with Tom Darwod and Melissa Cook
Ropery Hall 7.30pm
With all due respect, most of Snake's guest players are greying and ageing with him. He is massively looking forward to having to keep up with these very talented youngsters, playing more modern material than usual.
£16/£18 OTD

Wednesday April 29

Barton and District History Group talk with Stuart Garfoot "Fertiliser Production in Barton upon Humber"
St Mary's Church Hall 7.30pm
Non-members £5
For more information please email bartonanddistricthistorygroup@gmail.com

Saturday May 2

Barton Market
Market Place and Butchery 8.30am - 1.30pm
Shop a wide range of fresh food, gifts, accessories, and lots more.
Free

Castledyke Primary School

Castledyke Primary School holds a Star of the Week assembly each week to celebrate its children and their achievements.



The certificates are awarded to children who have tried very hard at their work, listened very carefully to instructions, have been a very kind friend or for other positive learning. We are very proud of our Castledyke children and love to celebrate them and their achievements.

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Head of School



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Love your garden? Share it with the town!

Barton Open Gardens is looking for gardeners to open their gates and be part of a wonderful community weekend.

Sat 6 & Sun 7 June 2026 12-5pm
All proceeds support local charities.

To join in, email liz@the-ropewalk.co.uk



Picnic area at Far Ings Visitor Centre



Far Ings aerial view

You don't need to be a nature nerd to love Far Ings

Far Ings Nature Adventure



Large white on bluebell
Photo: Audrey Hunt

Friendly volunteers and staff make sure there are plenty of binoculars to hand, and recent sightings have included otters, kingfishers and birds of prey.

There is a great choice of walks straight from the door, whether you're looking for a short loop and boardwalk, hoping to find the resident highland cows, or heading into the heart of the reserve with its many paths, lakes and bird hides.

First-time visitors are always made welcome, and there are special opportunities for families to enjoy nature together with the Tadpole Trail, pond-dipping kits and explorer rucksacks available to hire.

The visitor centre has step-free access to both levels, a screen showing spectacular wildlife photography and trail cam footage from the reserve, and a shop selling nature-themed gifts, hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice cream.

There are even treats available for your four-legged friends, who can join you inside and enjoy direct access onto the Viking Way on the Humber Bank, but are not permitted on the nature reserve itself.

The visitor centre is open Wednesday to Sunday year-round. There is an additional car park and toilet



View from Far Ings Visitor Centre
Top local spot for armchair wildlife watching

facilities on the other side of the reserve, reached down Far Ings Road or on foot from further along the bank. Entry to Far Ings is free.

You might arrive for a quick coffee and find yourself staying an hour watching birds drifting past the windows and feeding or paddling below.

Family nature clubs in Barton-upon-Humber

Muddy boots, muddy knees, muddy smiles!

Nature Tots, Wildlife Watch and Junior Wardens all offer fun ways for families to bring children along to Far Ings National Nature Reserve to get to know our local wildlife, make crafts to take home, and even

experience hands-on conservation work.

New families are very welcome, and with a small fee for each session (no membership required) it's easy to come along. From birdwatching to storytelling, and bramble bashing to bug hotel-building, there's always something we can do outdoors! Find out more at lincstrust.org.uk and email the Far Ings team to arrange to come along: faringseducation@lincstrust.co.uk

Have you ever ventured into Far Ings Visitor Centre? If you've only seen it from the outside, you might be surprised! Pop up the stairs from the free car park, or over the walkway from the Humber Bank, and you'll find floor-to-ceiling glass, fresh coffee and a sofa you can sink into as you look out over the lake and nature reserve.



Junior Wardens



Bittern
Photo: Mark Willden



Marsh Harrier
Photo: Linda Hinchcliffe



Ayva with goatsbeard dandelion

Wednesday June 10, 7pm
Wednesday Evening Wanders: Wildflower identification
Join the Barton Area Group and warden Simon Wellock for a special evening exploration of Far Ings. Free. Find out more online, including meeting point.

Saturday April 11, 10am-3pm
Hide & Seek family festival at Far Ings

Don't miss the chance to discover the stunning wildlife at Far Ings during this special family festival. There will be an extra special welcome for first-time visitors, with the whole day geared up for complete beginners to wildlife watching. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust promises that any preconceptions will be shattered with a friendly welcome at every bird hide, free binoculars to borrow on fun guided walks, and lots of family activities.

There will be a Camouflaged Creatures trail to explore, along with several guided walks with the Far Ings warden and local wildlife enthusiasts keen to share their insider tips and favourite spots.

What's on at Far Ings

Come along to talks, walks, family activities and nature clubs. Here are just a few of the events coming up. Find full listings, all the details and booking information where needed at lincstrust.org.uk/events

Saturday April 18, 1.30pm-3pm

Spring poetry workshop
Join local poet Sam Bartle for a relaxed, nature-inspired session. £15 per person. Book online.

Friday May 1 (and the first Friday of every month), 10.30am-12.30pm

Far Ings Friday Wander
Join the brilliant Bearded Birders for a sociable stroll around the nature reserve. Free. Simply come along to the visitor centre by 10.30am.

Wednesday May 27, 1pm-3pm

Far Ings Family Fun: Wild gardens
Bees, butterflies and bugs need our help! Join us this half-term holiday to discover how we can make our gardens pollinator-friendly. £5 per child. Book online.



Kingfisher
Photo: Phil Marvell



Cygnets
Photo: Mark Willden

What makes Hide & Seek different?

- A friendly welcome at every bird hide – doors wide open
- Free binoculars to borrow on relaxed, easy-paced guided walks
- Activities designed for total beginners
- Led by people who love chatting. No lectures here!
- Perfect for families, grandparents with grandchildren, and anyone who's curious but not confident

The event is completely free and parking is always free at Far Ings
Bring a picnic and enjoy the surroundings
Just turn up on Saturday 11 April.

A Word from The Mayor

I take great pride in not only being the Mayor and a Councillor for Barton upon Humber but also the fact that I live here, I truly believe that it is a fantastic place to live and we have a lot of hard-working people and groups that work tirelessly to keep it that way.

The Town Council despite having a reduced number of councillors, has adapted to take on more and possibly has the biggest influence on Barton than it ever has, running several successful events as well as supporting others too.

This year has also seen the responsibility for the Assembly Rooms come back to the Town Council and work is underway in upgrading the building to make the best use of it for the community going forwards.

The Council has also seen a change in personnel this year with the Town Clerk leaving the role after seven years' service. We thank Tracey for all of the work that she put in to drive us forward over these years and would like to welcome Vicky who has recently joined us as the new Town Clerk.

We have also welcomed Abby into the team to support with events and marketing. I would like to thank all of the staff who are working hard in the Council office to keep this all running as well as fellow councillors who give up their time to attend meetings, make decisions and support events.

Finally I would like to extend a big thank you to all who volunteer in our town in any way shape or form working to make this such a fantastic place to live.

Clr Ben Troop Mayor 2025-2026



Annual Report 2025-26

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

Barton Town Council continues to serve the town with a range of services.

These include publishing the Bartonian which is delivered to more than 5,000 homes and businesses six times a year and we thank the army of volunteers who deliver the publication. There's also the established and successful monthly market.

The Assembly Rooms is now being managed by the Town Council, and a programme of refurbishment is planned. The building has already had replacement windows which have made a big difference and the Council intends to ensure the building remains a great asset to the community. The Town Council also runs the Youth Club which gives youngsters a place to meet and socialise safely.

ENVIRONMENT

It's wonderful to be able to start this report with the good news of victory at last in the Campaign to Protect Rural England Northern Lincolnshire's Best Kept Small Town category. This result is not only thanks to the planters the Town Council manages around the town, but also the planting by residents which was praised by the judges.

Indeed we scored top marks in the Community Planting Category which is another achievement we can all be proud of. We are not resting on our laurels though. New initiatives are being planned for this year, with more trees in the town centre planters, two extra three tier planters, six additional lamp post planters, additional wild flower verges as well as an "edible" planter in Whitecross street to augment the strawberries already there. The tomatoes and herbs in the Fleetgate planter have proved popular so will be repeated this spring.

PLANNING

The Planning Committee scrutinises every planning application for Barton upon Humber. Over the last year we have also looked at some of the larger applications for development in surrounding villages as these also impact on the services and infrastructure in Barton.

The committee has five members and meets every three weeks, all year round, which enables comments to be submitted to North Lincolnshire Council within the consultation period for each application. The number of applications on each agenda ranged from one to 10, and each one includes many documents and plans which need to be read carefully to be able to consider the application responsibly.

The applications range from large housing

COMMUNITY

The Community Committee is responsible for planning and organising the events that the Town Council run, overseeing the publication of the Bartonian and supporting other events and causes in the town through our grant application process.

We now have a well-established monthly market on the first Saturday of every month (excluding January) of which I feel we can be proud. It always seemed amiss to me that we were classed as a market town but had no market. This has grown recently with a good mix of regular stall holders and newcomers that are able to sell their goods in our town.

The Picnic in the Park falls on the first Sunday in August and last year's event saw perfect weather conditions and a great turnout. This will always be a free to enter event and all entertainment and races are also free to enter, making it as inclusive

Club which gives youngsters a place to meet and socialise safely.

We continue with projects around the town such as planters, lamp post baskets and wildflower verges to enhance the town's appearance. We have budgeted to fund popular events such as Picnic in the Park and the Christmas Festival as well as financial support being granted for other organisations to support events such as the Barton Carnival and the Barton Lions Beer Festival.

In addition we have contributed financially to the ongoing refurbishment of Baysgarth House and the replacement of play equipment in Baysgarth Park. Last year we held afternoon teas to mark

The committee has taken on two additional major projects over the last year. The first is trying to protect our public rights of way and in particular re-open the Stable Lane footpath from Far Ings to Dam Rd, which the Humber Bridge Board has blocked. We have 23 statements from residents which show that the footpath has been in regular use for a long time to support our case for reopening.

The second started this time last year when a local resident raised concerns about rainwater flooding. The Environment Committee held two meetings with the Flood Alleviation officers at North Lincolnshire Council over the summer and autumn which resulted in a funding bid being prepared for the Heritage Lottery Fund to work out ways of holding back water in spells of heavy rain. The public consultation on this has unfortunately been delayed, but we are delighted

the anniversaries of D Day and VE Day. All this requires careful budgeting and management of the Council's finances which involves constant work and monitoring by the councillors and staff involved.

I would like to thank the former Town Clerk who has worked hard to help us produce a balanced budget and welcome our new Town Clerk to the Council. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Council who have contributed many voluntary hours to help make Barton a great place to live in, to work in and to visit.

Clr Nigel Pinchbeck
Chair of Finance and General Purposes

that Barton was chosen as the North Lincolnshire pilot for this innovative approach.

We have also experienced frustrating delays in our ambition to improve the Town Bus service, litter bin provision, graffiti removal and refurbishment of the finger posts around the town.

We will continue working on all these initiatives and may have more to report at the Annual Town meeting. Finally, I should like to thank all committee members, including the non-council committee members, Colin Andrew and Mark Bannister for all their support, and the staff in the Town Council Office for their continued hard work.

Clr Neil Jacques
Chair, Environment Committee.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2025/26

£ Budget	Service Class	Description
71,868	Community	Bartonian, Markets, Town Events & Grant Awards
30,039	Environment	Grasscutting, Wildflower, Beds & Planters & all sustainable biodiversity projects
3,400	Public Building	Assembly Room running costs and improvements
156,696	Central Administration	Staff Cost, Town Council Office costs & all support costs
3,102	Civic Expenses	Mayor and Councillor expenses
291,452	Town precept	To meet the town's budgeting requirements

GRANTS AWARDED

• Barton Allotment Society	£200
• Barton Men in Sheds	£100
• Armed Forces Breakfast Club	£200
• VE/VJ Celebrations	£400
• Barton Tourism Partnership	£6,500
• Baysgarth House Museum	£8,100
• Barton Carnival	£2,500
• Goxhill & Barrow Scout Group	£1,908.85
• Humber and Wolds Rural Action Voluntary Car Scheme	£500.00
• Barton Bike Night	£1000.00
• Barton Lions - Bonfire Night	£1000.00
• Friends of Barton Line	£149.00
• Viking Way Café - Beacon Lighting	£100.00
• Barton Rotary Club - Over 60's Walking Festival	£100
• Baysgarth House Museum	£10,000

BUDGET PRECEPT 2025/2026

The Town Council will continue to enhance the level of service it provides during 2026/2027.

The Youth Club continues to operate successfully, and additional funding has been secured to ensure that this provision remains free of charge to all attendees

Works to repair and renovate the Assembly Room will continue into the forthcoming financial year. In addition, the council will sustain its programme of environmental initiatives, community events, and local projects.

In order to support these commitments, the precept has been increased. However, the council has utilised a proportion of its reserves to mitigate the overall impact on the local taxpayers. The precept for a band D property in the forthcoming year will be £76.54 (£1.47 per week). This represents an increase of £4.51 (6.26%) compared with the previous year, equivalent to £0.37 per month.

Where does the money come from?

- Annual precept
- Assembly Rooms hire facilities
- Markets
- Bartonian
- North Lincolnshire Council community grants
- Other external funding sources

Where does it go ?

- General administration running costs
- Town events to include Christmas decorations
- Grants awarded to local community groups and projects
- Environmental projects eg, wildflower verges and sustainable planting
- Assembly Rooms maintenance and improvements
- Devolution of assets within the town presently maintained by North Lincolnshire Council

Cost Free projects!

- Monthly Markets
- Bartonian
- Grass cutting and public rights of way maintenance
- Barton Youth Club
- Tree planting
- Wildlife mapping and biodiversity projects

YOUR COUNCILLORS AT A GLANCE



Councillor Liz Bennet
Clr Bennet is Vice-Chairman of the Community Committee and also a member of the Environment, F&GP and Planning Committees.



Councillor Carol Thornton
Clr Thornton is a member of the Environment and Planning Committees.



Councillor Alvin Chapman
Clr Chapman is a member of the Community and Environment Committees.



Councillor Ben Troop
Clr Troop is currently Barton's Mayor. Clr Troop is also the Chairman of the Community Committee and a member of the Personnel and F&GP Committees.



Councillor Jonathan Evison



Councillor Neil Turner



Councillor Neil Jacques
Clr Jacques is the Chairman of the Environment Committee and Personnel Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, and a member of the Community and F&GP Committees.



Councillor Keith Vickers
Clr Vickers is a member of the Planning Committee and is a Ward Councillor for North Lincolnshire Council.



Councillor Christine Patterson
Clr Patterson is currently Barton's Deputy Mayor. Clr Patterson is Vice-Chairman of the F&GP Committee, and also a member of the Personnel and Community Committees and is a Ward Councillor for North Lincolnshire Council.



Councillor Paul Vickers
Clr Vickers is a member of the F&GP Committee and is a Ward Councillor for North Lincolnshire Council.



Councillor Nigel Pinchbeck
Clr Pinchbeck is the Chairman of the Planning Committee and F&GP Committee, and a member of the Community and Environment Committees.



Councillor Amie Watson
Clr Watson is Vice-Chairman of the Environment Committee and a member of the Community Committee.

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF



Vicky Haines
TOWN CLERK



Carol Clark
DEPUTY CLERK



Fiona Chapman
ADMINISTRATOR



Wayne McWilliam
HANDYMAN



Alex Merrick Green
SENIOR YOUTH WORKER



Abby Symonds
YOUTH WORKER and MARKETING & EVENTS OFFICER



Chloe Fenton
YOUTH WORKER

COUNCILLORS MEETING ATTENDANCE 2024/2025

	Full Council					Planning Committee					Environment Committee	Community Committee	F&GP Committee		
	07.05.25	14.05.25	21.05.25	28.05.25	04.06.25	11.06.25	18.06.25	25.06.25	02.07.25	09.07.25					
L Bennet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Chapman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Evison	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N Jacques	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C Patterson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
N Pinchbeck	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C Thornton	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B Troop	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
N Turner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
K Vickers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P Vickers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Watson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

KEY: A - Apologies were given for the meeting X - Did not attend meeting N - Non Committee Member

INFORMATION	
A	Apologies were given for the meeting
X	Did not attend meeting
Mayor	Clr B Troop
Deputy Mayor	Clr C Patterson
Chair of Planning	Clr N Pinchbeck
Chair of Environment	Clr N Jacques
Chair of Community	Clr B Troop
Chair of Finance & General Purposes (F&GP)	Clr N Pinchbeck

NB. This information is correct as of 23rd February 2026



Link to the website page for more information www.bartonuponhumbertowncouncil.gov.uk/budget/

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50 - 54 Oswald Road, Scunthorpe,
North Lincolnshire, DN15 7PQ
Brigg - 01652 655111
The Poplars, Bridge Street, Brigg,
North Lincolnshire, DN20 8NQ



Humber bank tidal flood risk resilience project moves forwards

The Environment Agency is pressing on developing their scheme to reduce the risk of tidal flooding to communities along the south Humber bank.

Around 1300 properties within Barton-upon-Humber, Barrow Haven and New Holland should benefit once the proposed scheme raises and strengthens the existing defences. Many sections will see a new type of revetment to the seaward face, to reduce the risk of tidal erosion and overtopping, in areas where there is less natural protection, as well as improvements to the embankment crest and footpath.

Since 2021, the Environment Agency has been working to develop affordable solutions to reduce tidal flood risk to these communities and announced the outline designs in February 2024 during three community events. After these

events the scheme was refined, which culminated in the approval of the Outline Business Case in July last year. This gave the green light to the next funding, thus enabling the detailed design to commence over the winter, once new contracts were in place.

Although there have been funding challenges since early 2025, the project team has been able to work with their consultants to continue the programme of ecological surveys and a further round of ground investigations through Autumn 2025. All this vital information is being used to shape the detailed design, whilst understanding the key constraints during the construction

phase. However, the limited funding has reduced the pace of the original expected development. So now the Full Business Case (required to release the substantial funding for the construction) is now not expected until Summer 2027.



Aerial view of Water's Edge, Barton Haven and Far Ings

Rain, rain and yet more rain!

A brief look at last year's rainfall figures suggests that it started to rain in September and hasn't really stopped since!

Not quite true as we had nearly 2 weeks of no rain around Christmas and New Year, but there's no doubt we had an extremely wet autumn and winter. This followed on from an unusually dry and mild spring, which did wonders for fruit crops, from apples pears and plums to currants and strawberries.

Looking at the annual figures it was an average year, albeit a bit wetter than the average. It is probably a bit too soon to pick up the trend of wetter winters predicted by Climate Scientists from these figures, but the last few months seem to bear it out. Let's hope we get some better weather soon, so that we can enjoy the longer days of spring.

A welcome bit of rain in July helped swell the fruit for a bumper crop.

Neil Jacques.

Rainfall figures

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Avrge
Jan	38.5	78.75	83.25	24.75	30.75	55.5	125.5	45.5	54.75	30.5	28	45.75	95.75	25	49.75	32	50	21	32.25	98	18	39	61.25	73.75	51.55
Feb	48.25	23.75	38.25	50.25	46	61.5	22	57.75	64.75	68.25	16	31.5	47	36.75	50.25	71.5	31.5	19.5	110.75	77	84.25	10.75	91.5	26	49.38
March	26	18.75	29.5	25.75	58.5	29.75	63.5	26	35.25	5.75	18.5	54	38.75	30.25	73.25	35.25	56.5	68	15.25	21	36.75	85	43.75	17.25	38.01
April	25.75	39.75	79.5	47.75	41.75	7.25	53	15.75	22.5	11	129	4.25	18.75	15.5	34.25	212.5	76.75	20.5	4.75	2.5	8	55.25	62.5	12.5	33.74
May	61.75	48	30	31	93.5	86.75	18.75	57	7	16.25	108.5	45.5	121.5	71.75	35.5	68	33.75	29.5	8.5	81.5	42.25	43	51.5	24.25	48.12
June	82.75	91.25	76	43.75	10.5	255.5	62.25	13.25	40	50	40.7	55.5	73.75	46.75	102	94.5	13.25	66.25	87.5	44.75	31.25	28.25	37	29.5	64.27
July	101.75	48.75	85.5	53.75	51.5	67.75	81.25	90	12	36	83	25.25	55	63.75	42.5	78	24	42	63	74	18	116	64.75	61.5	59.96
Aug	54.75	6.75	115.25	68.5	108	20.75	55.25	56.75	61	67.25	48.5	24.25	95.25	75.75	70.25	71.5	43.75	36.25	78.25	35	24.25	46	16	20.5	54.16
Sept	31.25	36.5	34.5	36.5	65.5	28.75	92.5	22.5	71.25	22.75	47	21	14	20.5	46	47	49.5	116	32.75	60.75	57.25	101	93.25	101.75	52.07
Oct	132.75	40.25	107	69	68.25	29	67.5	56.5	27.75	46.5	52.75	81	76	41.5	63	27.75	47.5	139.75	102	91.75	105.25	128	64	66	72.11
Nov	111.5	55.25	31.25	42.25	46.25	45.5	57.75	80.75	82.25	17	113.75	35	73.5	63	86	50	73.25	173.25	16.75	27.75	88.5	68.5	42.75	169	68.78
Dec	129.75	51.5	21	30	57.25	48.5	63.25	72.5	32.5	54.75	113.5	28.25	41.25	64.25	32.5	48	78	55	80	59.25	69.75	116.25	89.5	101	64.06
Total	844.75	539.25	731	523.25	677.75	736.5	762.5	594.25	511	426	805.5	451.25	750.5	554.75	685.25	644.75	577.75	787	631.75	673.25	583.5	837	717.75	703.00	684.75

With thanks to Geoff Bryant who recorded the daily rainfall figures from 2002 until May 2021.

Figures in millimetres

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other funding contributions to make the delivery certainty even greater from late 2027/28 onwards.

Stay up to date with the latest news

The Environment Agency is committed to providing local resident's and business's progress updates. So, if you would like to hear more and receive notifications when further information is available then please see the project's website via Engagement HQ <https://engage.environmentagency.gov.uk/engagement-hq/>

If you have any questions, please contact the project team through the project mailbox: BartontoNewHollandFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Alternatively, the project team is supporting the 'Lincolnshire flooding resilience and mental wellbeing roadshow' on March 12 at The Ropewalk, Barton-upon-Humber from 2pm to 7pm. Flooding Roadshows taking place across Lincolnshire - Lincolnshire County Council Please go along and have a chat with the project's representatives.

Mark Adams - 23/02/26



The Barton and District History Group will start its 2026 programme of events on Wednesday March 25 and the first presentation will be by David Gibson with "a History of R.A.F. Scampton".

David "Dave" Gibson is a former Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) flying instructor, CAA flight examiner, and amateur aviation historian and is well-known in the aviation community, particularly in Northern Lincolnshire, for his expertise and instructional career.

The following month, on April 29, Stuart Garfoot will present "Fertiliser Production in Barton upon Humber". Stuart is well respected in the area for his talented abilities in the field of "Canal Art". He is also known for his passion for local history and is a regular contributor to local historical societies.

On May 27 Richard Clark will be talking about "Humberside Landscapes." Apart from his presentations to local history groups about his landscape studies, Richard has published several articles and books. There is one in particular that deserves a mention. "BARTON BILIOGRAPHY" published in 2015, which focuses on Local Studies and is a comprehensive listing of all published material relating to Barton on Humber from 1812 to the present day.

We now have **Heritage 7** available at the price of **£4.75**. Copies are available at the **Ropewalk, Water's Edge and The Ted Lewis Centre**.

The articles in the 70 page issue of **Heritage 7** are:-

- Confessions of a Barton Delivery Boy.
- Origins of the Pelham Family.
- Recollections of Barton upon Humber Maltkilns.
- The Navvies of the Barton Branch Line.
- A Potted History of Bonby.
- Barton High Street Remembered.

For any additional information, please contact Bartonanddistricthistorygroup@hotmail.com.

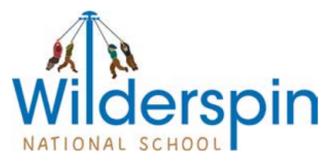
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Humber Stories: Waterside Childhood Memories



As part of the Humber Museums Partnership's "Humber Stories" project, volunteers from the Wilderspin School Museum will embark on a short project over the summer to share childhood memories of growing up on Waterside, described by the late Ron Newton as his "childhood playground".

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Waterside was an almost self-sufficient, close-knit community with its own shops, chapel, and school. Its industries included the manufacturing of bricks and tiles, ropes, chemicals and boats. There were malt kilns, a whiting mill and a gas works.



(Wilderspin School Museum Archive /B. Peeps Collection)

The Museum volunteers are particularly keen to share memories of St. Chad's School which opened in 1904. This was the town's second Church School (the original one was the National & Infant School on Queen Street).

The Haven was still navigable at this time: "Before we left St. Chad's, a few of us achieved one ambition - to get to school by boat", former pupil R. (Jim) Clayton told us some time ago. "To do this ... you needed a good, bold leap to take you from the ship to shore when you finally drew level with the school."

Nora Thompson, a pupil in the 1940s, told us: "School days always began with a few minutes of prayer. The door in the wooden partition would swivel open and Mr. Kitching would stand there enabling pupils in both classrooms on either side to see and hear him."



(Wilderspin School Museum Archive /J. French)
St. Chad's School as seen from Waterside Road. The Boys' Entrance was on the left. The Girls' and Infants' Entrance was off St. Chad's Lane to the right.



(Wilderspin School Museum Archive /B. Peeps Collection)

The travels of Samuel Wilderspin, "father of infant education".

Travels & Travails

In 1825, Samuel Wilderspin undertook his first road-trip promoting infant schools in villages, towns and cities across the nation.

The 800-mile roundtrip set the pattern of things to come over the next 20 years. Based on his own accounts, this exhibition, curated by volunteers at the Wilderspin & National School Museum, highlights the challenges of lone travel across the British Isles just as the railway age was dawning.

It's a unique story of ambition and endurance; A "journey" which began in Spitalfields, London, in 1825, and ended at Barton upon Humber and Hull 20 years later.

Following its successful display in the Autumn, Museum volunteers are thrilled it is on show at the Hull History Centre between March 3 to March 26, on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm (Saturdays March 7 and 21, 9.30am to 12.30pm.) Admission is free.

Travels & Travails
The travels of Samuel Wilderspin
"father of infant education"

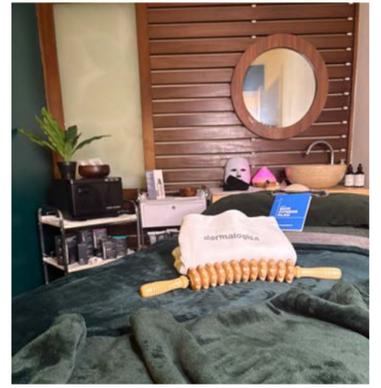
Hull History Centre
Worship Street, Hull, HU2 8BG



New Era for Barton Salon - The Beehive Opens Its Doors

Barton has a new sanctuary for relaxation, as the former CV Day Spa reopens under a fresh name and fresh look. Now known as The Beehive, the salon has been transformed into what owner Beatrice Duckitt proudly calls a "Sanctuary for Self-Care."

Beatrice, who has worked at the salon for several years, faced a tough decision last year - take the reins herself or see the beloved salon close its doors for good. Rising to the challenge, she rolled up her sleeves and got to work, transforming the space into a haven for pampering and wellbeing.



"My family and I started work on Boxing Day and didn't stop over the festive period," Beatrice said. "It was hard work, but it has paid off to see the salon coming together and looking exactly like the sanctuary I had envisioned. It's so rewarding to welcome our clients into this new space."

With a fresh coat of paint, stylish new interiors, and a calming atmosphere, The Beehive aims to provide a place for clients to unwind, relax, and treat themselves to a little self-care. But the transformation isn't over yet, further renovations are in the works to expand the salon's offering and introduce even more treatments and services in the near future.

Clients can expect a friendly welcome, a chance to unwind, and to enjoy the newly refreshed space.

Follow The Beehive on Facebook for updates and announcements.



Barton's Beech House Care Home

A fabulous year as Barton's Beech House Care Home celebrates "Best Improved" win under new leadership.

Last year was one of remarkable transformation and celebration at Beech House Care Home on Chapel Lane. At the end of 2025, staff and residents looked back on a standout 12 months defined by prestigious accolades, community praise, and a renewed reputation as a hub of compassion in the heart of the town.

Under the dedicated leadership of Home Manager Adam Janeway, who is soon to be leaving for pastures new, the home has gone from strength to strength, culminating in a festive season filled with exceptional news.

Award-Winning Success

The highlight of the year arrived last December, when Beech House was officially recognized for its rapid upward trajectory. On December 8, the home was announced as the winner of the "Best Improved Care Home of the Year 2025".

This accolade serves as a testament to the hard work of Adam and his care team, who have dedicated the last year to enhancing the living environment and ensuring every resident feels truly at home.

"This award belongs to our incredible staff," the management team noted. "Their dedication to creating a warm, family-oriented environment is what makes Beech House special. We don't just care for residents; we care about them."

A Reputation Built on Trust

While awards are wonderful, the voice of the community remains the most important measure of success. Over the last 12 months, the home has maintained a stellar reputation



on the leading review site carehome.co.uk, boasting an impressive Review Score of 9.6 out of 10 based on more than 60 reviews.

Families have been eager to share their gratitude, with recent testimonials painting a picture of a home filled with laughter and kindness.

"We cannot praise the staff at Beech House enough for their kindness, care, and support," wrote one relative in a recent 5-star review. "It is like a home from home. The activities are extremely well planned, and the staff go above and beyond."

Leadership with a Personal Touch

Since he took over the helm, Adam focussed on a philosophy that life in care should be an extension of a resident's previous lifestyle, not a reduction of it.

Located centrally in Barton, close to local shops and amenities, the home has spent the last year refining its "lifestyle" approach and 2025 saw



a vibrant calendar of events designed to keep residents active and connected—from high-spirited parties and professional entertainment to quiet, compassionate support for those living with dementia.

Looking Ahead to 2026

With a fresh "Best Improved" trophy in the cabinet and a stable, high-performing team led by Adam, Beech House enters 2026 with confidence. The Home continues to offer residential and dementia care, welcoming new residents into what is now officially one of the region's most celebrated care environments. Adam, as he leaves looking forward to a new adventure, wishes Beech House every success in the future as he leaves the home in a position to grow from strength to strength.

For more information or to arrange a visit:

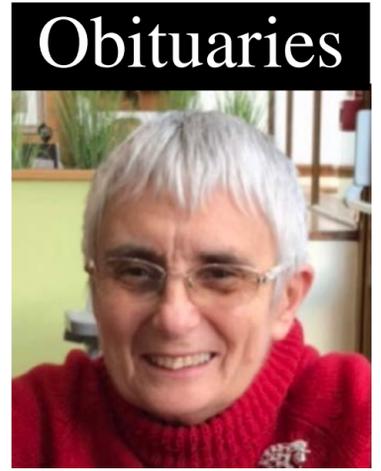
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Chapel Lane, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 5PJ

Phone: 01652 635049

www.carehome.co.uk/carehome.cfm/?searchazref/10004018BEEC

Facebook: Beech House Care Home - Barton



Obituaries

Christine Bellamy

June 20 1944 - October 23 2025

Born in Purley, Surrey, as the only child of Edgar and Pamela Ballham, Christine grew up in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, where she attended primary and secondary school.

Christine became a Sunday school teacher and trained as a junior school teacher at teacher training college in Wrexham. Following this she became a teacher at Brown Edge Primary School, near Stoke, where she met Edwin, who was also a teacher there.

Christine and Edwin were married in Stoke on March 28 1970. In 1973 their daughter, Ruth, was born and in 1975 moved to Barton-on-Humber when Edwin started a teaching position at Goxhill Primary School. In 1976 their son, Paul, was born. Christine took a break from teaching whilst Ruth and Paul were young, returning to teaching on supply at Henderson Avenue School in Scunthorpe in 1984, and also at Bowmandale and St Peter's in Barton. She was in her element when she joined Ulceby Primary School as their reception teacher, staying until she retired in 1996.

Christine and Edwin shared an interest in history, and family holidays always had a historical element, with visits to castles, Roman forts, and stately homes all over the UK. Christine's particular interest was Ancient Egyptian history, although she never imagined that she'd visit Egypt herself. However, in retirement she visited three times, developing an encyclopaedic knowledge of Egyptology, which she loved to share with everyone. Together they also visited America, cruised around the Caribbean, and visited historical sites in Jordan, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Athletics was a big part of Christine and Edwin's lives. Edwin joined Barton & District Athletics Club and started coaching athletes soon after moving to Barton. Christine also helped out wherever she could, coaching the Under 11s for many years. When officials were needed at meetings Christine stepped in to judge field events, before specialising as a track judge. She officiated at local athletics meetings, and also at many national and some international events, travelling with Edwin and sometimes with her close friend (and field judge) Diedre Clayton.

Christine was definitely a people person who is remembered for her warm and radiant smile. She really cared about people, made friends easily and stayed in touch with them for years - this included Japanese Scouts she had hosted after helping out at the Poacher Scout Camp, parents of children she had taught, and athletes she had coached.

She made lifelong friends through the Barton Methodist Church and was an active member of Trinity Friends. Christine was great with people of all ages. She volunteered at The Willows care home for 20 years, going in once a week to lead music and movement activities. Most of all she excelled as a grandmother and loved spending time with her two grandchildren, Paige and Jamie.

Sadly, Edwin passed away in December 2023, and then in early 2025 Christine was diagnosed with dementia. She passed away last October after a short illness, in the care of Holme Farm, in Elsham.

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Written Words Opportunities in Barton

The Moving Finger Writes, But Having Writ, Moves On

The Millwriters Creative Writing Group, Barton Muse Poetry Group and The Ropewalk all foster development of the written word.

Some participants are published writers, others come for experience or the joy of creating with words. **Anne Henderson** of Millwriters has contributed her latest flash fiction written on an appropriate theme for this time of year. Can you guess what that theme was?

New Beginnings by Anne Henderson

The advert had seemed harmless: Need an additional income, Ring us... and an impossibly long number followed

Jack noted the number. He'd reached his thirties and lost his way. There was no living to be made out of carpentry now.

He called the number.

The bloke sounded genuine. They'd gelled, and that's how he'd found himself that Friday, delivering this huge package to God only knew where.

He was struggling to remember what the wages were, but then he'd had a hard night that Thursday. Even his mates hadn't wanted to know him.

Now, this shapeless thing was weighing him down.

Sometimes it writhed and squirmed, and once he thought he heard it groaning.

But sometimes it was still, and then it felt lighter to bear.

And he did need the money.

Yet he seemed to think some sort of deal had been involved that had nothing to do with money, Jack suddenly felt scared. He wanted out. He'd just tell the bloke.

But the number he dialled wasn't recognized. Then he lost connection. Then his battery failed.

Jack felt he had no choice but to press on. He was tired, thirsty. And now there was a horrible smell coming from the package. Rotting flesh. Death. But it had to be delivered, and then everything would be OK. Jack remembered that much.

The day seemed an eternity. Jack felt his back breaking. He put the package down and thought he might poke a hole in it - feel inside.

He stuck a finger in. It felt disgustingly moist and putrid, and he thought, something's off.

Not Jack's fault, but still he felt the responsibility on his shoulders. He picked the package up and carried on his way.

A crowd approached him, jeering and spitting, and Jack sank to his knees under the weight of his enormous burden, and let the package go.

As it hit the ground it burst open.

The creatures inside were nameless and faceless. There were millions, and they ran, hiding their shame under any stone. They were hideously formed, beyond imagining. The smell was rank.

Jack closed his eyes. He could still smell them.

And see them!

Then they forced the ring of thorns onto his head and the blood ran freely down his face, blinding him.

He cursed his employer.

"Why have you done this to me?" he cried.

Then the Heavens opened and Jack looked up through his bleeding wounds and saw every human soul. And the answer came back, "You are dying for us, so that we who were dead can have new beginning in eternal life."

Then Jack bent his head and remembered.

Ordinary, everyday bloke that he was, he had been carrying the burden of the sins of Mankind through time and space.

Forever.

And he heard the voice of Mankind cry out in torment, "Help us, Lord." And He replied, "I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

And everything was OK.

In fact, it was all just as the bloke had promised.

Millwriters meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Ted Lewis Centre, Barton Muse Poetry Group meets on the last Sunday of the month at the Old Mill. Contact 07803504794 for details or www.the-ropewalk.co.uk for its events

Young Wives Club

There is one group in Barton which is oversubscribed and currently closed to members. Incredibly this group began in 1963 as a 'Young Wives Club' and now the youngest member is in their '50s and the oldest is 91. With around 80 members, it is first and foremost a meeting between friends.



Started by Mary Swaby, the wife of the then vicar the Rev John Swaby and Eileen Ross, the wife of the Church School headteacher Douglas Ross, it welcomed in members who were associated with the church. In the 1960s, the numbers of those who belonged and attended church was peaking, so Mrs Swaby had a number of potential members to recruit.

The group moved premises to Providence House, then the Methodist Church and finally to the Church Hall when it was built in the late 1970s. The after-club drinks also moved to the White Lion, what is now Best Wishes, followed by a bag of chips costing 3p. The young wives made the most of

There have been various events over the years including Harvest Suppers, which everyone pitches in with, childrens' parties, Beetle Drives and trips to Normanby Hall at Christmas. Each member gets a card or flowers on major birthdays and the group assembles the Christingles used each year at the Christmas service while



Mrs Swaby was very persuasive, strict and officious. She spotted newcomers to the town and asked them to join, an offer many felt unable to refuse! Opportunities for socialising were few, while pre-school existed, less than 2% of the under 5s attended, compared to 93% today. Around half of women worked and those who became mothers were often expected to leave their jobs when their first baby was born. For many, their home was a lonely workplace.

The Young Wives Club offered such women an opportunity to meet with other young wives and mothers. At first the group met at the now demolished St. Chad's, following up the meeting with drinks at the White Swan. Understandably very much linked to the church via Mrs Swaby, the women who joined had to be confirmed and attend church worship every Wednesday. If they divorced, they were asked to leave.

When Mary Speedy, the wife of the Rev Darryl Speedy, took over the group the importance of membership to the church lessened. She introduced plays such as a Mothers' Union's What Colour was The Cross, a play that challenged racism. The group performed at various locations, including at the Lincoln Cathedral with an Asian dance cultural play.

the opportunity to meet with friends, since there were few places to go out and the number of social events was limited.

When Elinor Cartwright took over the group, the nature of the group changed to include volunteering in the community. Mrs Cartwright volunteered the women to the local clinic and in 1968 when families from Bradford were forced to move temporarily following flooding, the members were sent to help them settle into premises on Waterside Road.

Two early members, Cathie Clapson and Wendy Clapson recall when the group was sent caroling in 1970. Wendy was pregnant so Cathie was tasked with looking after her. Street lighting had not yet made it to Pasture Road and unfortunately when Wendy moved out of the way for a car, she slipped down the bank! While this did not please Mrs Cartwright, their friendship endured, even after Wendy left briefly due to full time work, a move that led her to feeling more isolated from friends in the group.

eating seasonal mince pies. The group have had many happy times and recall making their own fun. A recent winner of the Easter Egg competitions was the imaginatively named Egg Sheeran.

Sixty three years after the Young Wives Club started, they still meet at the Church Hall, some members walk each Monday, and others attend a fortnightly singing group and knit and natter.

The group members continue to volunteer and donate to charity. They put their annual £30 membership fee towards speakers, who tend to charge more frequently than before, which can be expensive.

Most of the members are now older widows rather than young wives but the reason for their attendance remains the same - to have something to look forward to, to have a laugh and for companionship.

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Please note that meetings are by appointment only.

Counterfeit Bank Notes

There has been some reported use of "FAKE" bank notes being used recently. Please keep an eye on your money and report any fake notes that you find to the shop handing them over to you so they can report in the correct manner. Remember it is illegal to use any monies that you knowingly know to be fake to purchase goods.

Further information as to how to check Bank of England notes can be found at the following link(s)

- Key security features £20 note: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/polymer-20-pound-note
- Key security features £10 note: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/polymer-10-pound-note
- How to check all Bank of England polymer notes all denominations: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/counterfeit-banknotes/how-to-check-your-banknotes

Shop Thefts

Shop theft continues to be an issue in towns across the UK and there continues to be shop theft in the Barton area also. We will seek to gain Criminal Behaviour Orders against repeat offenders, banning them from targeted shops and we will work with Criminal Justice partners to gain convictions against repeat offenders. The NPT will also work with partners to disrupt identified repeat offenders. Barton NPT has also been recently conducting numerous retail visits advising on theft prevention.

Upcoming Events and meetings

Barton - Humber talking
Friday, March 20 5pm - 6pm,
Market Place Barton-upon-Humber

Barton - Patch Walk
Saturday, March 28 4pm - 5pm
Caistor Road Barton-upon-Humber

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- Do you know who's dealing drugs in Barton?
- Do you know where drug deals are taking place?
- Are there any cannabis grows in the Barton area?

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- Report in person at the front desk of Barton Police Station, or by phoning 101.
- Report anonymously via Crime Stoppers by ringing 0800 555 111, or on its website.
- You can pass information directly to the Barton Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) by taking part in a short 5-minute Humber Talking survey. Please copy this link into a web browser to access the survey: https://forms.office.com/e/BME3ig11BE

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