

Barston News Sheet

October 2024

Issue 102

Don't Forget: The dazzlingly glamorous Barston Annual **Black Tie Charity Ball** is soon approaching at the West Midlands Golf Course.

For more information call **Carol Mulingani** on 07762 263210

barston^{✦✦}
9th November 2024

Barston Association Black Tie Charity Ball[✦]



Parish Council

Greetings, Barston Residents!

As winter approaches, it's nearly time to light the fires and turn up the heating. We've had quite a few events recently, with the Solihull Half Marathon being a standout highlight. It was a spectacular event, and I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped manage the Water Station. Your efforts were especially appreciated given the unexpected heat.

On a more challenging note, our ongoing discussions with the Airport continue to hit a wall, as our requests have been largely ignored. This has been a source of great frustration for us all, and we'll cover this issue in more detail later in the newsletter.

On the positive side, Guy Atkinson remains steadfast in his campaign to lower the speed limit through our village. While Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) has been elusive in responding to our requests, Guy is working tirelessly on our behalf, and we owe him a big thanks for his perseverance.

We've also raised concerns about the lack of grass cutting this year. Out of the expected 8 cuts during the season, we only received 6, when they should occur every 13 days. A formal complaint has been lodged with SMBC to address this.

In other news, SMBC will be implementing an emergency weight limit on the bridge at the bottom of Barston in the coming week. The axle limit will be reduced from 7 tonnes to a maximum of 3 tonnes due to the aging structure of the bridge, which is over 125 years old and in need of replacement. While this necessary work is in progress, please be aware that the bridge will eventually need to be fully demolished and rebuilt. We will share further details

as soon as they become available.

And yes, it's that time of year again! Mark your calendars for the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On, which is pencilled in for December 7th. Also, don't forget about our annual Christmas Lights Competition! It's always a joy to see Barston glowing brightly during the festive season.

Best Regards,

Jeremy Emmett (Chairman)

Editor's Note

Many thanks to those of you who have shared your views in person, or electronically by email or text, on how you would like to see the News Sheet develop in scope and content.

Common themes emerging from your feedback are around strengthening the focus on people that live or have lived in the village, social and recreational activities within the community, and more engagement with local businesses.

In this and future issues, with your support, I will be developing the News Sheet in that direction. In the meanwhile, you can reach me regarding this or any other topic relating to the News Sheet using the contact details on the back page. Thank you!

Tony Burton

The Barston News Sheet is paid for by the Parish Council and printed by Midland Business Equipment, Knowle.

Airport News

It may well be that you believe an appeal to the Solihull MBC Planning Department, Ward Councillors or even your local MP will not make any difference, **but we in Barston should be aware that we have one last chance to attempt to stop a major increase in Night Noise from aircraft.**

Birmingham Airport Ltd (BAL) issued a press release, "*Proposed Changes to Night Flying Policy*", on Monday 23 September. The press release and a number of Q&A's are on the Airport website and, thanks to Les Grey, there is a link on the Community WhatsApp. Subsequently, thanks to Franco Exposito, we know that an associated Planning Application is now live on the SMBC website ref: PL/2024/01917/M106.

By the airport's own admission, if the changes are approved, it will amount to around 7,600 flights night time flights per year (an average of 21 per night) by 2026/27.

The consultation period for the proposal ends on the 24th October. Barston Parish Council has requested a delay to the Planners decision and each of the Ward Councillors have also been lobbied, but without success to date, as previously mentioned by Jez Emmett (front page).

The delay requested is to enable consideration of results from the Portable Noise Monitor, which was positioned for a month (June/July) in the centre of the village. This can then be compared to a similar study carried out in 2018.

Among many issues of concern:

1. Proposed 30+% increase in night movements. This is against a reduction from 5% of ATM's to 4%, which is a condition of the current Section 106 resulting from the Planning Permission for runway extension in 2009. BAL say this is no longer relevant, if so why did they agree it then?
2. BAL state that the 'average' number of night flights will increase to 21. They forget to mention that this is a skewed average to suit them. Based on this year over two thirds of all night flights will be in the 4 summer months, could easily be over 40 per night!
3. BAL also state that planes are quieter than they were, they also state that there has been a 12% reduction in people affected. Statistically maybe but at the airport noise monitor in Eastcote Lane, planes consistently exceed 80dBA. WHO state that 73dBA is damaging to health (they have also mentioned over 55dBA being an issue). As far as I can tell the Airport has failed to even consider this, other than to ignore requests for comment and refer to CAA rules, which are also biased and based on skewed data!
4. They mention mitigation. The Sound Insulation Scheme has been tweaked but does not apply in Eastcote Lane, or any part of Barston Parish,

despite many instances of un-healthy noise levels.

If you share my concerns: please make your voice heard by lobbying the SMBC Planning Department, SMBC Ward Councillors (their email addresses and mobile numbers are on the SMBC website), our local MPs or directly to BAL via their website: <https://corporate.birminghamairport.co.uk/community-and-environment/aircraft-noise/>

David Elliott

Barston Association

Thank you to all that contributed to and supported the Fete this year. Special thanks to those that responded to our call for extra help clearing the field after the event. We knocked 3hrs off the time it took last year and we are so grateful for that! The Fete raised well over £9,000 which all goes towards our Charitable Fund. A great event that really showcased our village spirit and endeavour.



Villagers Enjoying the Barston Fete 2024

As usual, we will be awarding cheques to our chosen recipients in February. If you wish to nominate a charity or worthy cause close to your heart, please get in touch asap. You can email me on pete.sumner@btinternet.com or call me on 07870 483505. Thanks!

Pete Sumner

Barston & Hampton W.I.

Our August meeting was held over lunch out at our local Bull's Head, and a lovely meal was enjoyed with great service from the staff. Thank you!

Once again the WI ran the Produce Stall at the Fete. Thank you to all those who supplied cakes and produce to sell, and those who helped out on the day, Annmarie Elliott, Angie Oldbury and Steven Toy. We could not have done it without you!

An amazing total of £286.29 was added to the Barston Association fundraising pot!

September saw the hotly contested Annual Produce Show. The winners were as follows:

Begonia: 1st Margaret Groves, 2nd Mary Daymond, 3rd Anne Oughton

Flowers: 1st Sue Hill, 2nd Hilary Crosby, 3rd Mary Daymond

Cookery: 1st Sue Hill, 2nd Tracy Pearson 3rd Hilary Crosby

Craft: 1st Margaret Groves, 2nd Sue Hill 3rd Hilary Crosby

Vegetables: 1st Hilary Crosby

Flowers Overall: 1st Mary Daymond, joint 2nd Sue Hill & Margaret Groves

Overall Winner was Sue Hill with Hilary Crosby a close reserve and Margaret Groves honourable mention.

Well done all!

Our next meeting in October will be a talk by the Rev Kathy Lloyd Roberts, past Master at St Mary the Virgin, Temple Balsall 'How I became a vicar'. November is Christmas Flowers by Sarah Wood, and December our Annual Christmas Party, this year in St Swithin's House.

Barston and Hampton WI normally meet in the Memorial Institute at 2.15pm on the second Wednesday of the month. All ladies are welcome.

For details, please contact:

Tracy Pearson 07977 430733,
Annmarie Elliott 0167544 2177 or
Debbie Kirkham 01676 532233

Debbie Kirkham

Cyber-Attack Foiled!

I was working at my desk one sunny morning in August (yes, there were one or two!) when an email popped up on my screen from a Barston villager. The email asked me to confirm receipt, which I did by return. Next minute, a second email, this time more wordy, came back. It was asking me to buy a £250 eGift card from Amazon for a young lady suffering with liver cancer!

My suspicions aroused, I started to look for clues as to what might be going on. Then I noticed that the date stamp on the email was 1hr into the future, so guessed that this email may have actually come from someone in Europe and that my fellow villager's email account had been hacked. I tested the water by asking what they were doing in Europe (the reply came back with the date stamp corrected to UK time).

By now I was pretty convinced that this was indeed a cyber-attack known as "phishing". Once I drove around and spoke directly to the person involved, it was confirmed that this was the case. The email that

I had received had been sent to around 150 people, many in Barston Village. Fortunately, as far as we could ascertain, everyone in the village who received the email was quick enough to recognise it as a scam and no gift vouchers were ever bought. Well done Barston!!

We seem to have survived unscathed this time, but if you feel you need it, a good place to start for information and advice on cybersecurity measures you can take to protect yourself and your family from cyber-attacks can be found at:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families>

Murder She Wrote

Barston's very own **Gillian Jones** has had a *Red Brick Mystery* series recently published by Sharpe Books on both Amazon Kindle and paperback formats. The three books are called ***Murder in Her First Degree***, ***Murder By The Book*** and ***Dying To Get To The Truth***. The series is set in the 1930s at different red brick universities under the pseudonym **Lizzie Bentham**. There are spies, murders, ballroom dancing, secret passages, hidden treasures, exploding marrows and night time chases through a fun fair.

Learn more by visiting <https://lizziebentham.com>



Barston's Gillian Jones (alias Lizzie Bentham).

Many congratulations on the publication of 3 novels in Amazon Kindle and paperback (by Sharpe books)

Barston U3A

Our regular Programme of lectures and presentations take place at Barston Memorial Institute at 02:30pm on the second Tuesday of each Month, the aim being to provide interesting talks on as wider variety of subjects as possible. We are a small friendly group of approx. 50 members and would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Our next talks are:

8th Oct *Blue Plaque for Suffragette Sisters*, S Leach
12th Nov *Death and Judgement: The Medieval Wall*

Paintings in the Guild Chapel, Stratford upon Avon,
Pamela Devine

Recent talks and visits

In August Tim Bridges gave an interesting talk the history of and architectural styles of Local Churches.

Towards the end of August a visit was arranged to the Botanical gardens in Birmingham

In early September approximately 25 members visited Chavenage House, Tetbury, Gloucestershire where they were made extremely welcome by members of the family, who gave a guided tour and then an extremely nice lunch.

At our September meeting Harry Stanton gave an interesting talk on Medical Detection Dogs and explained how the charity was formed, and how the dogs were trained to detect odour of human disease with the aim of early detection and developing faster and more efficient diagnosis.

19th Sep: Late summer lunch at the Drum and Monkey which was enjoyed by a good number of members.

24th Sep: A small number of members took advantage of a small window of fine weather and enjoyed an afternoon of Adventure golf at Four ashes Golf centre.

27th Sep: A ramble around Barston with lunch at the Bull's Head pub afterwards.

Groups

The Book Reading, Table Tennis, Stem, Mah-jong, Rambling and scrabble groups have met on a regular basis and are open to new members.

Future events

20th Oct: Screening of Alice in Wonderland by the royal ballet at Cineworld, Touchwood Solihull

22nd Oct: Bodenham Arboretum

6th Nov: Visit to Maxstoke Castle

If any of the above interests you or if you would like to have more information about any aspect of

Barston U3A Contact **Keith Fraser** 01564 777262

St. Swithin's News

As I type we are preparing to celebrate the harvest with decorations of food and flowers in the church and a special service on Sunday (Sep 29th). It is a special time in our rural community and we do think of the difficult times that our farmers have had in this year of unpredictable weather and pray for better times ahead. The food will be taken afterwards to Seeds of Hope in Kingshurst, where it is cooked to provide meals for folk in that area. They are always most appreciative of our help.

Remembrance Sunday: Is on the 10th November this year. We shall be remembering those who gave their lives during the two World Wars. It is a very moving service, particularly as the names of the Barston men are read out and a wreath is laid at 11 o'clock. We hope to show photographs of the men and tell a little bit about their lives here in the village.



Services continue to be held fortnightly at Eastcote Park (9th and 23rd October and 6th and 27th November at 11.15) and we are grateful to those who organise them. It is great to see some residents at our Sunday services too.

The Filling Station in Knowle (for all Christians) will be on Monday 7th October at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Andy Piggott, a former vicar in Dorridge.

The Christmas Fayre: this year will be on Saturday 16th November – entry £3 - do come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine (or tea/ coffee!) with a mince pie and browse the many and varied stalls – jewelry (made by Emma – remember her from St Swithin's Weekend?), cakes, preserves and pickles (made by Libby and Richard), bric-a-brac, cards, bears, jigsaws, tombola....

Hobby House and Tea Club: Dates 10:00-12:00, then 2:00-4:00 – on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, that is 1st and 15th October, then 5th and 19th November. Everyone welcome.

Big Breakfasts: Do come along and enjoy a Big Breakfast on Saturdays the 5th October, the 2nd November and the 7th December, 8.30 till 11 – cost £8 (£4 for children) for all you can eat.

Mary Daymond

Next Issue...

The next Issue of the Barston New Sheet will be in December 2024.

Don't forget to contact me with any thoughts on new regular items you would like to see, or have any one-off news items of interest to the local community, please contact me on 07850-338189 (phone, text or WhatsApp) or email me at dr.tony.burton@gmail.com. Thank you!

Tony Burton