

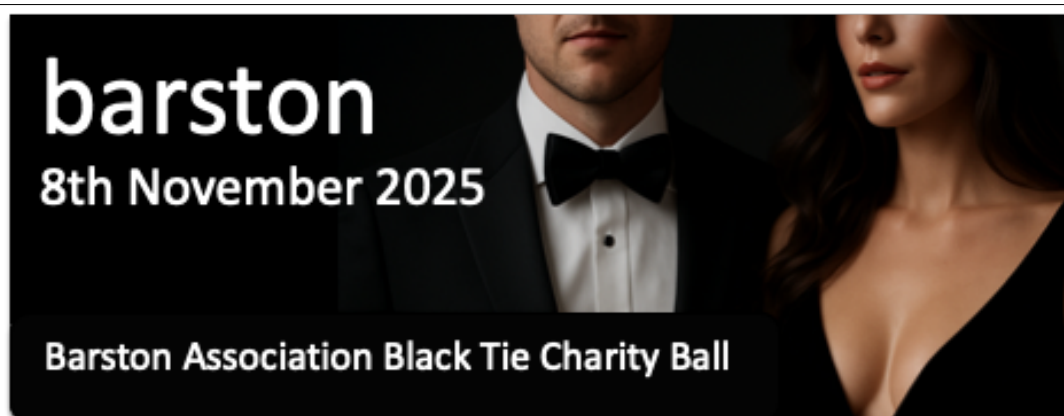
Barston News Sheet

October 2025

Issue 108

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



Parish Council

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the News Sheet!

Summer has now slipped away, and there's a definite touch of Autumn in the air.

The Barston Buccaneers made the most of the season, taking to the water for the Dragon Boat Race. With perfect conditions and plenty of team spirit, they powered their way to a fantastic second place, all while raising funds for Myton Hospice. A huge well done to everyone involved!

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to David Elliot for his outstanding work representing Barston on the ACC and for all his efforts with the Airport. David will be greatly missed, and he leaves some very large boots to fill! We wish both David and Ann-Marie every happiness as they settle into their new home.

Finally, a reminder that our next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th November at the earlier time of 7:00pm in the Institute. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend.

Jeremy Emmett (Chair, Barston Parish Council)

Barston Association

Thank you to all who were able to help support our fundraising efforts at this year's fete. We raised **well in excess of £8,000** for our charity pot, another fabulous return. Special thanks to **Daleswood Health** for sponsoring and the new team at the **Bull's Head** for hosting.

We look ahead now to the **Barston Black Tie Charity Ball**, to be held at the Lake at Barston on

Saturday, 8th November. Tickets are £50 and includes a welcome drink, 4 course meal and live band entertainment. It's a fun evening so please consider gathering your friends and coming along to support.

In December we will be accepting nominations for donation recipients. If you would like to nominate a local charity or good cause then please get in touch asap.

Pete Sumner (Chair)



Barston villagers prepare to open the bar at this Fete (left-to-right: Kevin Sumner, Ian Sharpe, Paul Maycock, Tony Burton and Harvey Mulingani)

Editor's Note

Seems to be an edition full of "Hello's" and "Goodbye's" this month. We welcome Kevin and Cameron as the new tenants of the Bull's Head (important news in the article on them). Sadly we also say goodbye to long-standing residents and active community members David and Ann-Marie Elliott. All the best for the future guys!

Tony Burton

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

Know Your Neighbours

As of Wednesday 10th September, **The Bull's Head** officially has new tenants. Yes, Kevin and Cameron have been in and around the village for a couple of months or so now and they both attended the *Barston Parish Council* meeting in July. However, they have only just signed a lease agreement under the **Landlord and Tenant Act**.

Kevin told me that it was really important to them that the lease agreement was formulated this way and not excluded from the Act as some can be. That is because it provides **security of tenure** – meaning that tenants have the on-going right to renew the lease unless the landlord (Heineken UK) can prove specific grounds for refusal.

Both Kevin and Cameron were clearly excited with this development and told me they are increasingly committed to both the pub and Barston Village. So I went to meet with them to find out more...

By his own admission, Kevin is the loud one and loves to talk, while Cameron is the backbone of the operation and manages many of the day-to-day aspects of managing the business. The pair met around 7 years ago, originally working together managing nightclubs. This experience seems to have provided an excellent grounding in turning around ailing pubs and bars.

In May 2023, a chance conversation led the pair to and team up as "troubleshooters", first at the *Pilot Pub* in Coventry and then the *Brickmakers Arms* in Balsall Common. This most recent turn-around generated significant increases in revenues, saw the number of employees rise from 3 to 25 and resulted in nominations for the Heineken awards 2026.

Our moto is "*Build it and they will come*", Kevin told me. Then he went on to outline some of the large-scale investments and changes they are planning to make while ensuring that **The Bull's Head** remains a traditional country pub...

"I'm so OCD in my attention to detail", joked Kevin. "There are some areas of this pub that I can barely bring myself to go into – so much has to change".

The changes were set to start the very next day after our meeting, with the outside decking being completely removed.

Then, crucially, **The Bull's Head** is set to **close for 3 weeks**, commencing **20th October** for a major refurbishment of the existing footprint. The works are so extensive that the pub car park will be closed to all uses apart from the construction work.

Please understand and support the guys during this time.

Beyond this 3 week make-over period, Kevin and Cameron have plans to develop the existing barn at the back of the pub into a restaurant, improve the

carpark (surface, bay demarcation, lighting and security), as well as level the field.

How great it would be for Barston if all this comes to fruition. I'm sure you join me in wishing the guys are as successful here as they appear to have been in Balsall Common!



To find out more, visit **The Bull's Head** website at <https://www.bullsheadatbarston.com>

Farming Life in Barston

As autumn arrives the local farmers will finish this year's harvest with the last crop to be collected in being Maize. They then start preparing the ground for planting next year's crops. Whilst the fields are empty, they will also take the opportunity to cut the hedges back.

To start preparing for next year's lambing season, sterile rams known as **Teaser Tups** will go in with the ewes to make them all come into season at the same time. Then the actual rams or **Tups** will be put in with the ewes and hopefully a nice compact lambing season will occur the following spring. The last of the current year's lambs will also be heading off to market as they reach their finished weight.

The autumn calving beef herds will also be busy now producing calves whilst some grass is still available for the mothers to produce milk.

September has sadly seen the dispersal sale of the Kirkblythe pedigree Holstein herd belonging to the Kirkham family. Set up in 1950 by Phil's grandfather James Kirkham, it originally had 20 mixed breed dairy cows, a state of the art two bucket milking machine, pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys. Milk was collected daily in churns to go to the Midland Counties Dairy in Birmingham.

Many village families have worked on the farm over the years including Walter Moody, Len Prentice and the Bayliss family. In 1976 Phil returned to the farm and took on the dairy herd and built it up to its final number of 900 head. Their son Simon will continue to farm at Blythe House but with beef cattle rather than a dairy herd. We wish them all the very best for the future.

This was the very last market to be held in Hampton in Arden. It had been in existence for 98 years.



Phil Kirkham (bottom left) with a newspaper at the age of 8 at Hampton in Arden Livestock market (23rd August 1966)

Barston & Hampton W.I.

Our August meeting was lunch out at the local Barston Lakes, and a lovely time was had by all who attended.

Also in August the WI once again manned the Produce Stall at the Annual Fete. Thanks to Margaret Sykes and Sue Bould for their help on the stall, and to all who supplied produce. We could not do anything without the generous support of those who donated fruit, vegetables and cakes.

September was the Annual Produce Show, a fierce competition for the trophies ensued with the final results being

Class 1 : Flowers arrangement in a flower pot

1.Sue Hill 2.Sue Bould 3.Hilary

Class 2 : Plant grown from a plug – Impatiens

1.Sue Hill 2.Detta 3.Mary

Class 3 : Cookery – Three small cakes

1.Sue Bould 2.Sue Hill 3.Hilary

Class 4 : Vegetables

1.Hilary 2.Mary

Class 5 : Craft

1.Margaret Groves. 2.Sue Hill

Overall: Sue Hill

Well done to all who entered, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by all who were there.

Our October meeting is our final talk from the inimitable Roy Smart. This talk will be about 'The last naval hero' and we look forward to another interesting and entertaining afternoon.

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 or
Debbie Kirkham 01676 532233

Debbie Kirkham

Barston U3A

Our regular Programme of lectures and presentations take place at Barston Memorial Institute at 2:30pm 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 and Events:

14th October: Hitting the Headlines as a Newspaper Editor, speaker *John Butterworth*

11th November: Albert, Worms and George, Don't do that, speaker *Jennifer Rigby*

9th December: Christmas Lunch

Recent Talks and Visits:

August: David Cheshire gave a fascinating talk on Bonsai trees and brought along examples of trees he had grown. David owns a nursery in Baginton where trees are on sale.

September: Nick Martin gave a talk illustrated with photos of animals, birds and insects he had taken in his garden. Nick has transformed his bland garden into a wildlife haven and has been rewarded with some amazing visitors.

Future Events Include:

30th October: Priory Theatre Kenilworth

Website:

Visit our website at <https://barston.u3asite.uk>

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

Barston U3A Contact **Jane Emmett** 07887 372818

David Read

Making Barston Lanes Safer

Hello everyone, I'm delighted to have recently joined the Parish Council, and I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for co-opting me. My focus will be on **improving road safety for all users** — walkers, cyclists, horse riders, farm vehicles, and drivers.

Thanks to Guy Atkinson's hard work, we now have a **30mph speed limit along Barston Lane and the approach to Eastcote Crossroads**. This is a big step forward for safety.

But challenges remain. Traffic has increased in recent years, especially with more delivery vans post-COVID, and Barston Lane has become a commuter route for HS2 staff. As a result, our priorities are to enforce the 30mph limit and calm traffic in high-risk areas with sympathetic signage that fits the rural character of our village.

I'll also be working with **Community Speedwatch** and learning from Meridan & Chadwick End to see what has worked for them.

Another key issue is **farm traffic**. Farming is part of our community, and large vehicles must use our roads. We need to make sure other road users are aware and prepared for this.

To help, I'm setting up a **volunteer group** to:

- Keep hedges trimmed so road signs are visible
- Take part in police speed checks
- Share road safety updates in Parish News

☞ If you'd like to join in, please get in touch or have a chat with me — your support would make a real difference.

Together, we can make Barston's roads safer for everyone.

Cllr Martin Cook

St. Swithin's News

Following on from the Harvest Festival, we are entering a quieter time for the church, as we prepare for Advent and then Christmas.

Before then there will be Remembrance Sunday on November 9th – always a poignant service as we remember the young men from this village who gave their lives during the two world wars. Thank you to all those who came and enjoyed a drink and cake at the Village Fete – it is always a delight to provide this service to visitors and to meet up with friends.

On the 22nd September we said goodbye to **Pat Lewis** who lived for very many years in Oak Lane, initially with her parents and her daughter Jean. She was a devout Christian and even did the 'Walk of 1,000 Men', an evangelistic event in Cornwall. She was a great knitter – the church will always think of her every Christmas and Easter as her models of the Nativity and the Last Supper are displayed. She was also a member of the W.I. and won many competitions for her knitting and flower arranging. About 10 years ago she moved to Devon; when her health deteriorated she moved to Jobs Close in Knowle where she passed away on the 18th July.

Coming up we have a big fund raiser for the Church, the House and Troop Aid – the **Christmas Fayre**. Do come along on **Saturday 29th November** from 10am till 1pm in the House. This is masterminded by Karen Scannell who puts in so much effort to ensure it all goes well! There will be a charge of £3 which gives you a cup of tea/ coffee or a glass of mulled wine plus a mince pie and access to all the fabulous stalls – cakes, preserves, tombola, Barston Bears, jewellery, bric-a-brac, Christmas gifts and cards and so on.

St Swithin's House is the venue for the bi-monthly **Hobby House** (10am-12noon) and **Tea Club** (2pm–4pm) on Tuesdays 7th and 21st October and 4th and 18th November.

The **Big Breakfasts** will be on Saturdays 4th October and 1st November from 8.30am till 11am.

In October, please bring along any good quality but unwanted clothing to give to **Clothing Coventry**. Amy Holt, a trustee of the House, is a big supporter of this charity which aims to remedy the clothing poverty that exists locally.

Mary Daymond

Barston Buccaneers

On Sunday, 21st September Barston fielded a team of intrepid "**Buccaneers**" in the **Warwickshire Dragon Boat Race**. A motley crew rocked up not knowing what to expect and having no training whatsoever.

As it happened, the team did incredibly well, winning every one of their qualifying heats, taking the Silver Medal position out of 20 teams and coming second to the Gold Medallists by only one second! It was a cracking day out, racing on a bend of the River Avon with a stunning view of Warwick Castle, most of it in bright Autumn sunshine. This year's event raised in **excess of £16,000** for **Birmingham Children's Hospital** and the **Hospice Movement**.



The **Barston Buccaneers** were Silver Medallists in the Warwickshire Dragon Boat Race 2025.



Barston Buccaneers qualifying race where the coxswain in the opposition boat took a tumble into the River Avon! :-))

