

# Signpost



**Issue 81 February 2025**  
**Your Local Community News**



This magazine is distributed free by your Parish Council to over 400 homes and businesses in the Langar and Barnstone Parish Council area. If you know anyone who would like to receive a copy via email or print please contact [langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com](mailto:langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com)

## **The Latest from your Parish Council**

Welcome to the first issue of the signpost magazine for 2025. The councillors wish all members of the local community a happy and prosperous 2025 and we thank Mr Harwood from Limes Farm, Langar for his generous donation of a Christmas tree for the Community Hall.

The Signpost magazine is published quarterly by the Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council and it is delivered to every house and business in Langar and Barnstone and also to Langar Airfield. It is produced quarterly and is delivered by parish councillors and employees. The magazine can also be sent out electronically.

If you would like to add anything to forthcoming issues of the magazine or if you feel we are missing some important information, then please contact the Parish Clerk and she will raise the issues at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council meets in the community hall on the second Thursday of every month at 19:30 and is attended whenever possible by all the Parish Councillors, the local Rushcliffe elected representatives and the Rushcliffe Police Beat Managers.

At the beginning of each meeting there is an opportunity for members of the public to raise any issue which they feel is important. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings to make a comment or just to listen to the proceedings.

In December we welcomed a new member to the Parish Council, Susie Warner from Langar. We still have one vacancy on the council if anyone wishes to give their support.

At the December meeting, the Parish Council formally ratified the sum of £48,902 as this is the precept for 2025/2026

The guiding principles used in our discussions are to discuss every aspect of expenditure in the previous year and to endeavour to keep the following year's costs as low as possible, whilst maintaining support for the amenities that are required for the Langar cum Barnstone Communities.

The new budget required an increase of 5.4%. This was brought about by increases out of our control, such as salary and labour costs, along with rises in insurances etc for the services we are required to provide.

### **Children's Play Area**

As many of you are aware and as reported in the last Signpost Magazine, the children's play area was damaged by vandalism making it unsafe. We have now placed a contract with a specialist firm to repair the damage and replace some of the damaged items at a cost of £5,140.

We are hoping that the work will be completed very soon and all the equipment will be in use again for the children. We again ask parents to be vigilant and report to the Parish Clerk or the police, any acts of vandalism in the future.

**Councillor John Crosby, Chair  
Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council**

# Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall Trustee

On 18 November 2024, the Annual General Meeting of the Community Hall Trustee took place. Several users of the hall and interested members of the community were present.

At the meeting the chair of the Parish Council and Trustee introduced the members of the Parish Council who also act as the trustee body of the new hall. He then gave a report on the first year's use of the hall and the special purchases which had been made for the hall since its official opening in January 2024.

It was stated that most of the regular users of the old hall had returned to use of the new hall. These included the Vale Market Café, Brownies, Vale Arts Group, Archers, Mary Mumford's Dance Group and Dave William's Singing Group.

The Vale Ventures organised some special events such as an Oktoberfest, a Frigth Night and a Magic Show.

The groups have fed back that they are really pleased with the new hall, especially the heating system and the extra space and the Mary Mumford dance group stated that it was the best dance floor they had ever used.

In addition, the hall has attracted several new users such as a Yoga Group which is very successful, meeting three days a week. Children's parties are becoming more popular especially as small bouncy castles can be used for their parties.

Special events are also being held, such as wedding anniversaries and parties, which have reported that the hall is an excellent facility for such events.

The new kitchen has catering and dining equipment which can serve up to 100 people and there are chairs and tables which can seat 100 people comfortably.

The extra meeting room is a useful addition to the building and small groups and businesses can hire the room separately from the main hall. This provides extra income and it is hoped that use of this area can be expanded to increase income.

Notice boards, inside and out, have been installed to inform visitors and passers by of events being held inside and locally.

The Brownies and the Vale Art Group have also been able to decorate the hall with some of their art work, improving the general look of the main hall.

## **Additional Services**

The Nottinghamshire Police Rushcliffe South Beat Managers, and the Rushcliffe Borough and Nottinghamshire County Councillors are now holding surgeries at the Vale Market Café.

These take place once a month on a Saturday morning; feel free to come along and chat to them and if you prefer privacy, your chat can be held in a private room.

## **Grants**

There are still several large additions that are required to support events and to enhance the use of the hall and the Parish Clerk has already successfully applied for grants to help with this and will continue to do so.

We have received a grant to install solar panels to the hall roof to assist in reducing the cost of the electricity.

A new stage with disabled access has been purchased, however it is not a permanent structure. Therefore a small charge has been introduced to ensure that it is installed correctly and safely for those who require it.

Unfortunately Open Reach refused to install a telephone line to the hall as it needed to cross the road and the hall was not high enough to run the cable across the road without installing extra equipment at considerable expense. However Belvoir Rail from Cotgrave purchased a new Starlink Broadband system for us and although more expensive than telephone line broadband, it has been found to be very good and well used by visitors.

### **Charges and Costs**

With the increase in costs for the new hall, it was decided by the Trustee to introduce a new charging system and contract for users of the hall which was discussed with all the users.

The hall is a charity and therefore cannot run at a loss and all projections for 2025 showed we would be making a loss. There were several questions at the meeting as some people thought the costs of hiring would prevent some of the users from continuing to use the facility.

In reviewing the new charges, the Trustee looked at charges at similar

venues in the area and we found our charges were very competitive with others around the region.

It was pointed out that any group would be able to apply for a grant from the Parish Council to help fund any event that was to benefit the local communities of Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council Area. In addition it was agreed to review the charges at the end of 2025 and adjust as necessary.

### **Going Forward**

The Trustee, the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk will work hard to find funding and new users of the hall.

You will see that already we have received a grant to run a Welcome Space event for local people to come along every Friday to use the hall to meet, chat and have warm drinks, cakes and soup.

You can read about this initiative in another article in this magazine and this is already proving to be very popular.

If anyone has any thoughts about further events which we could provide to increase the usage of the hall, please do get in touch. There are still a few gaps in the weekly programme that we would love to fill.

**Cllr John Crosby**

**Acceptance of advertising  
does not imply endorsements by  
Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council**

# Signpost

If you have an advertisement or an article which you would like to appear in the

Signpost Magazine, please contact our Parish Clerk for details: **Sharon Ellis**,

**Parish Clerk 07984 075016 or [langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com](mailto:langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for articles in 2025/26**

**Period covered by magazine**

**11 April 2025**

**May, June, July 2025**

**11 July 2025**

**August, September, October 2025**

**17 October 2025**

**November, December 2025/Jan 2026**



## **Saturday 8 February 2025**

Enjoy a cup of freshly brewed tea or coffee with a bacon, sausage or egg bap, or a slice of delicious homemade cake. Chat with neighbours and discover what is happening in your community

Exchange your books and browse the stalls

**Open the second Saturday of every Month**

**Future dates: 8<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> June**

Transport available if required

## 1<sup>st</sup> Barnstone Brownies

Our Brownie Unit meets in our beautiful new hall on Tuesday evenings, term time, between 6.00 – 7.30pm. We've had another action packed term!

In addition to learning life skills such as Home and Fire Safety, Brownies have worked towards their badges, including the Charity badge where we raised over £100 for the RNLI by doing a sponsored walk.

We also created artwork which was displayed in an exhibition and improved our map-reading skills by making compasses using magnets.



Sadly, just before Christmas, we had to say 'goodbye' to our lovely trio, Jess,

Scarlett and Harriet, all of whom achieved their Brownie Gold Awards! Girls, it has been a pleasure to have

you in Brownies, we wish you good luck for the future.

It's not all hard work at Brownies! We've managed to fit in several parties and a Sleepover at Elton Camp which included Grass Sledging!



The girls are seen below having their beds inspected at Elton.



For more information or to speak to the Brownie Leaders please contact either **Dot on 01949 860022** or **Claire on 01949 861181**

Adult volunteers are always welcome!

## Community Book Share



Our book-sharing scheme has got off to a great start. Amazingly there has been an almost 100% turnaround in books donated during the last three months. The sharing scheme has given us access to a refreshed and varied selection of great books to enjoy. Please be sure to take time to browse the book shelves whilst you are visiting the Community Hall. Purple sticker books are the latest onto the shelves. You can keep, pass on or just return your chosen books. Be inspired and enjoy the pleasure of reading.

**Shirley Crosby**

## Inside a Local Business



Belvoir Bakery, situated on a small industrial estate between Langar and Barnstone, is an artisan bakery, trading since 2015.

It is a family-run business, owned by Tracey and Rob Whellams. Tracey trained at Clarendon College Nottingham, and from there she entered a competition in London and won gold against chefs from top London hotels. Rob has years of sales experience in the mobile phone industry, which he brings to the bakery business.

“During lockdown we carried on working, bringing our fabulous produce to locals in the midlands who flocked to our stalls to stock up. Here we are on ITV News telling our story.



Belvoir Bakery bakes a fantastic variety of breads, cakes and pastries, including sourdoughs, croissants and scones.

The highly skilled, professionally trained bakers work through the night, Tuesday to Friday, to produce freshly baked products for our market stalls, very often arriving still warm.

During the day, a team of highly skilled Pastry chefs including Tracey and Rob's daughter Sienna (who you will also meet

on the stalls) bake brownies, tray bakes and cookies to name but a few.



Their first venture into local markets was to have a stall on Grantham Market. This idea was so successful that they now have 3 teams who visit Market Bosworth on Wednesdays, Bingham and Loughborough on Thursday, Stamford, Hinkley and Shepshed on Friday and Oakham, Loughborough and Grantham on Saturday. They also supply Harby Garage with fresh bread on a Saturday morning.

Included in the sales team is their son Jake and their son Tyler looks after the technical side of the business.



Sienna has very recently launched **Blossom Bakes** so that you can experience the joy of handcrafted baked goods delivered to your door as a gift. These are available for delivery across the UK and it is proving very popular. For more information please go to <https://blossombakes.co>



**Cllr John Crosby**



## **Rushcliffe South Police Radcliffe, Bingham, Cotgrave, Leake and Keyworth**

Happy New Year, and welcome to the latest Neighbourhood Policing report for Rushcliffe.

A very busy December in Rushcliffe and there are a lot of updates I'd like to mention, but first I wanted to express my sympathies for anyone impacted by the recent flooding, which I know has been a huge challenge for many in the Borough.

I'll start with a review of our previous quarterly Neighbourhood Priorities. Our previous quarter focused on theft and business crime in West Bridgford. Car cruising and road safety and acquisitive crime in East Leake.

I'm pleased to say that following some key arrests and hard work from the team, December saw a significant reduction in theft from shops (around 40% down month on month) so thanks to shop staff for reporting in a timely fashion and also the Neighbourhood Team for their hard work.

Our team has also been busy on the roads with dedicated operations to combat drink driving, as well as car cruising which have resulted in several arrests for driving under the influence, as well as car seizures from persistent car cruisers. East Leake has seen a

reduction in burglaries as a result of efforts there too.

In November and early December, across Nottinghamshire, and indeed in Rushcliffe, we saw pockets of offences relating to the theft of motor vehicles by keyless entry. Additional patrols were put on, and some long hours worked by the Operational Support Department (who you may have seen on the Interceptors programmes) which have significantly disrupted the group who were engaged in those offences. We have seen a very big reduction as a result of their efforts.

I'd still repeat the advice though, as an additional safeguard, to place keyless entry car fobs inside faraday pouches or boxes in your house, and consider the use of steering wheel locks to deter offenders.

Throughout December, additional Night Time Economy work has been undertaken in Rushcliffe's town centres. This has included licensing checks, as well as mobile and foot patrols in the busier areas. Thanks to those who spoke to the teams over Christmas and with a few exceptions, most licensed premises in Rushcliffe had no reason to call us in for support.

In December I was pleased to welcome Nottinghamshire PCC Gary Godden for a walk around Bridgford. Along with colleagues from Rushcliffe Borough Council and representatives of MP James Naish, we discussed issues impacting on the area.

Through those discussions, I've also continued to push for further resources and training to deal with rural crime, something which I want us to remain on



top of as we grow our Neighbourhood Policing Team in Rushcliffe.

We have several beat surgeries and engagement events coming up in the next few weeks, so please sign up for Notts Alerts to get direct notification of them, or check out our Facebook pages too. The Notts Alerts sign up can be found at [www.nottsalerts.co.uk](http://www.nottsalerts.co.uk) and our Facebook pages are West Bridgford Police, or Rushcliffe South Police.

In terms of priorities for the coming quarter (January to March 2025), having spoken to partner agencies and reviewed crime and intelligence reporting, I have decided that the priorities will be as follows:

- 1 – Drug Supply and Production
- 2 – ASB in West Bridgford
- 3 – Car Cruising and Road Safety

**Drug Supply and Production:** I have noted an increase in intelligence and reporting of suspicious behaviour relating to drugs, especially around the production of cannabis.

This information provides us with an opportunity to be proactive, and also to follow up on those who facilitate cannabis production through property letting. We will also focus drugs supply and importation, as well as the ASB surrounding drug use in public areas.

**ASB in West Bridgford:** We have reports of ASB around the town centre of

Bridgford, as well as on the park and surrounding areas. Therefore seeking to disrupt, dissuade and divert those involved will also be a priority this quarter.

**Car Cruising and Road Safety:** This is an area which I receive a great deal of correspondence about and I wish to retain our focus on combating the anti-social use of our road system in Rushcliffe, as well as working to prevent serious collisions, many of which have an enormous impact on those involved.

We will retain a visible presence and a proactive mindset when seeking to make our roads safer. I appreciate this is a continuation of last quarter, however with the dark nights, and poor road conditions impacted by the weather, it needs to remain as a priority for us.

There will be further information explaining what we're doing to combat the three priority areas on our website and on social media as operations take place in the coming weeks.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank PC Paul Sanders who, after several years working on the Neighbourhoods team in Rushcliffe, has moved on to pastures new. All the best in the future, Paul!

Thanks, and take care.

**Timothy Cuthbert**  
**Neighbourhood Policing Inspector**  
**Rushcliffe**

## Langar and Barnstone Floods



At the Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2025, the issue of local flooding and blocked roads was raised.

These occurred following the devastating downpour during the night of 5 January 2025. These floods caused the main roads out of Langar and some roads out of Barnstone to become blocked by flood water.

County Councillor Clarke suggested that the Parish Council take on the responsibility for appointing village flood wardens.

The wardens, when appointed, would undertake a three-hour training session and then the Parish Council would be given equipment to place cones and 'road closed' signs in the areas where the roads become impassible.

In addition, the wardens would be contacted when there was a warning of flooding in the area. The wardens would be in direct contact with Via who could urgently deliver sandbags and assistance when properties were under threat from water entering their properties.

The Parish Council agreed to take on the responsibility for appointing flood wardens and agreed to advertise for villagers to volunteer to be flood wardens.

Two of the Parish Councillors agreed to take responsibility for running the system, one for Barnstone and one for Langar.

It was thought that we would require a number of extra volunteers from each village and additionally we would need volunteers from Langar Woods as the road area near there was also closed.

Anyone interested in helping by becoming a volunteer should initially send an email to the Parish Clerk on [langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com](mailto:langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com) Or the Chair of the Parish Council on [cllrcrosbylbpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrcrosbylbpc@gmail.com) Or phone 07984 075016

We look forward to your help.

**Cllr John Crosby**

# Councillor's Newsletter

Looking forward to a bright new year. There will be some changes in all aspects of our lives with World Events, Climate Change and Local Government reorganisation, however I am still here representing your interests. If you have any concerns, contact me at [Cllr.tcombellack@rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.tcombellack@rushcliffe.gov.uk)

## Fly-Tip Action

The director of a Nottingham-based waste removal company has been fined and given community service for an



illegal fly-tip in otherwise unspoilt countryside in Rushcliffe. Rushcliffe Borough Council

(RBC) discovered the large tip in a rural layby in Willoughby on the Wolds - the waste came from a house renovation.

RBC issued a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice and the company director received a community service penalty for failing his legal responsibility under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

RBC's Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Cllr Rob Inglis said: "We take a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping and it's really important we deter these incidents from taking place by taking action whenever we can so we can protect public areas and keep them clean, safe and accessible to all residents.

"It's appalling behaviour and completely irresponsible for the company director to not come forward with the identity of the offender they hired for the job.

For further information please contact RBC or visit the Central Government's website on Waste Duty of Care.

## Flooding

This has been a high priority for all the Councillors - we have literally been up to our knees in water trying to help. RBC did a wonderful job of responding to immediate calls for help, but I am so sorry for the people who have been flooded - I have witnessed the devastation personally in my home village of Hickling and have been trying to secure some assistance grants.

We have to recognise that these weather conditions are set to prevail and I will continue lobbying the flood and water agencies - STWA, EA, NCC, TVIDB for urgent upgrades and maintenance.

However, we all must help by ensuring drains are clear of leaves, water is able to flow and that blocked gullies and broken pipe works are reported. If you are a riparian owner (have a ditch or stream alongside your property) it is your responsibility to make sure it is clear and able to carry water.

If you are aware of urgent maintenance work required to drain water, please report it to your Parish Councils and Local County & Borough Councillors. Cllr Richard Butler, Cllr John Cottee, Cllr Neil Clarke or myself.

## Waste Tip

A new waste tip is on the way at last! Nottinghamshire County Council has unveiled its next steps in overhauling the region's household waste recycling infrastructure.

Aiming to address the shortcomings of existing facilities, particularly in rapidly growing areas, the council is advancing plans to develop two new state-of-the-art recycling centres, one serving Rushcliffe at Gamston.

## RECYCLING – Just think

- Recycling just one tonne of paper, saves up to 17 trees from being cut down
- Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled over and over again. If only those glass jars could talk, where did they originate, what is their history?
- It only takes 5% of energy to recycle a drinks can compared to manufacturing a new one.

Just think how much energy you save by recycling

- The UK recycles just 45% of plastics. That means 55% of our plastic waste ends up in landfills, or indeed, the ocean.

What is that doing to the environment, wild life and our food chain?

## Last Minute News

Just heard that this year I have allocated £999.59 in community support funding covering, Pensioners' lunch, play equipment, warm, welcome space contribution, notice boards and more besides. Glad I could help.

**Cllr Tina Combella**

[Cllr.tcombella@Rushcliffe.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.tcombella@Rushcliffe.gov.uk)



## Granby, Barnstone and District

Our Branch raised a total of £3449.27 for the 2024 Poppy Appeal. This included receipts from the Poppy Appeal Supper Talk on the work of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall.

We wish to thank all the businesses, schools and shops who provided collection boxes for donations, and not forgetting all the generous individuals who also donated to this worthy cause.

The Remembrance Sunday Services were held at the 207 Squadron Memorial on Langar Airfield and All Saints' Church, Granby, where Helen Chester brought Harrison along to represent all the animals who also lost their lives in previous conflicts.



**Andrew Charlett**

# New Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall Welcome Space

On 6 December 2024, the newly commissioned Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall on Main Road Barnstone, opened its doors as a Welcome Space for all members of the community.



The idea is that anyone can come along, free of charge, to be welcomed to the new hall with its lovely warm space

and spend a couple of hours with other people or chat to friends.

There are card and games tables, jigsaws to do and take away or roll up for the next visit or a quiet area in which to read the newspapers and magazines which are provided, or complete the crosswords. You can use the Internet with the help of an assistant if needed for those who are unsure about computers.

The hall is open from 11am until 2pm, with tea, coffee, cakes, soup and rolls all provided by the community hall free of charge. We are grateful for those who have provided us with home-made soups, bread and cakes, particularly Belvoir Bakery and Sienna Blossom



Bakers who have provided us with some lovely cakes and bread.

The first three events went very well with numbers increasing each week. The event is funded by a grant obtained by the Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall Trustee from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Communities' Fund supported by the Parish Council and is to run until further notice.

Anyone, either on their own or with friends, including mothers and toddlers or young people can be assured of a warm welcome.

If necessary, transport can be arranged or there is a regular bus service which comes from Bingham, via the local villages, passing either way which stops outside the hall.

Please feel free to come along. Further information is available as follows:

The Parish Council Website or Facebook Page  
Langar Barnstone What's On in the Villages Facebook Page.  
The Langar cum Barnstone Community Page.

Or by contacting the Parish Clerk on [langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com](mailto:langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com)

**Cllr John Crosby**



# NEW

COME ALONG TO OUR

# WELCOME SPACE

AT THE COMMUNITY HALL

## Do you...

- Want to get out of the house?
- Fancy some company?

## Are you...

- Home alone?
- A home worker
- Stay-at-home parent?

## Join us for...

- Free Hot Food & Drinks
- Board & Card Games
- Jigsaws
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Computer Access & WIFI
- Company & a Catch-up

Langar and Barnstone Community Hall Trustee has secured funding from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Communities Fund to bring residents together at a weekly welcome space with support from the Parish Council.

**Every Friday**  
**11am - 2pm**

**Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall,  
Main Road, Barnstone**



### Langar to Barnstone

From the bus stop on Main Street, Langar  
**10:58, 11:58, 12:58**

### Barnstone to Langar

From the bus stop on Works Lane, Barnstone  
**12:35, 13:35**



**Free and  
Open to all**

**For more information**, or for help organising a lift please call The Parish Clerk on **07984 075016** or email [langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com](mailto:langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com)

# FORTHCOMING DATES



## January

Friday 3rd  
Friday 10th  
Friday 17th  
Friday 24th  
Friday 31st



## FEBRUARY

Friday 7th  
Friday 14th  
Friday 21st  
Friday 28th



## March

Friday 7th  
Friday 14th  
Friday 21st  
Friday 28th



BETTER  
TOGETHER



As 2024 draws to a close we look back and reflect on what the year held for us.

**January** we moved into the brand new, shiny, light and big - Langar cum Barnstone Community Hall.

**February** we started off with the official hall opening and every group using the hall came along to show what they use the hall for, including us of course, Vale Arts Group. We did ourselves proud by showing paintings, weaving, cross stitch, embroidery – basically something for everyone.

Also in **February**, Julie Powell came along and gave us a lesson on How to Draw a Face. Who knew just how complicated it could be! Measuring and dividing the paper into halves and quarters and eyes, ears, noses and mouths. Interesting how the basics come into forming the completed face. There were some goodies which came out of it and disasters too (mine!) A fascinating few hours and I am sure we will all be better facial artists than before.

One of the charities which runs from our villages is 'Good Grief Dear' support for people in need. They held an introductory event in the hall. Our group provided a good display by our artists, along with other supporters from around the area and a time was had with new members coming along.

The regular Tuesday afternoons have had a good attendance and this year has seen our numbers up to 27 members with new people coming to join us.

**July** saw our summer ART EXHIBITION and members produced a huge selection of their art for display and we had a good number of people visiting us. Everything from Abstract to

Conventional Paintings. Embroidery, Cross stitch and Patchwork too, we do cover quite a diverse quantity of art. We made £250 for The Salvation Army with monies raised from the sale of art, collection tins and the sale of refreshments. Well done all those first timers too. Bob Payne, one of our oldest members gave a painting demonstration – well done Picasso!

**September** – Harriet Morley's Owl appeared on the cover of Village Link magazine. My eyes lit up, someone who can show us something completely different, YES! So, she came and showed us how to do Dry and Wet Felting. A very interesting afternoon with a sheet of felt being made and then explanations of how to make sculptures with the felt. Most members were completely taken aback by Harriet's demonstration and wanted more.

**February 2025** sees us holding a Felting Course with Harriet spreading over two weeks.

Tuesday 17 December 2024, was our last group gathering before closing the doors on VALE ARTS GROUP for Christmas and the New Year.

**Our doors will open again on  
7 January 2025**

Vale Arts Group is happy to welcome new members and we are a friendly bunch, so if you want to come along – Please contact:

**GILLIAN CLARKE phone 01949748288  
or email philigansgc@gmail.com**



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e: [grab@smkltd.co.uk](mailto:grab@smkltd.co.uk)    [www.smkltd.co.uk](http://www.smkltd.co.uk)

## Vale Ventures: Our Story 2014 - 2024

In 2014, a £200 grant was accessed from the Parish Council to assist with setting up an enterprise to stage cultural and entertainment events for the residents of Langar and Barnstone, in order to further encourage community cohesion. This enterprise was to be called 'Vale Ventures' with the aim to offer the best quality events at the lowest price. As a non-profit organisation, we needed to cover the costs of our first event with any surplus revenue going towards the next event and so on.

**2014** - Our first event was **Bollywood Barnstone** - an Indian themed night. Tickets were only £8 for what was to be a memorable debut VV event. The hall was decorated with jewelled saris and fabulous peacock-themed artwork. There was live Indian dancing, with the opportunity to join in and learn a routine, an authentic Indian meal, henna hand painting and traditional costumes available to try. It marked a promising beginning for our new venture.



**2015 - Blarney Barnstone** was held in March of 2015 to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in style. Tickets were only £5 for an evening of dancing to local band 'Don't Tell Cate', who went down a storm!



We also staged our first pantomime as the Vale Players: **Jack and The Beanstalk**, which was fantastically received by audiences: *"The Panto was absolutely brilliant, we have such amazing local talent. Well done to Chris for writing such an hilarious script and all the performers who gave it their all. What did I say George...?"*



**2015** - Vale Ventures ran a **Table Top Sale**, where we managed to sell all the old crockery and bric a brac that had been hoarded in the hall's shed and raised £150 for the village hall. Then in December, the team endured the inclement weather for two nights of **carol singing** in the villages, raising money for the NHS Trust and to promote the next village pantomime.

**2016** - Vale Ventures had another busy year. February's **Burns Night Barnstone** consisted of all the Scottish traditions such as haggis, neeps, tatties and whisky. We were entertained by a piper, recitals of Robert Burns' work and barn-danced away to Charlie's Ant.

**Fright Night** was our Halloween themed event in October whereby a packed hall of witches, monsters and scary clowns danced the night away. Music, again, was provided by 'Don't Tell Cate'. The tickets were a bargain at only £5 with a licensed bar and nibbles.



**2017** - Our Pantomime in January was **Gingerella** which sold out three performances and raised £350 for Dove Cottage and £150 to buy Geocaching equipment for the Scouts.



entertained us for two and a half hours and a hot meal was provided in between sets. The show, itself, was absolutely full of audience participation. It was a real laugh with the ubiquitous swaying, slapping, clapping, singing and banging the tables along with beer and food and ambience.



**Photo bunting** was created to decorate Langar and Barnstone during the Village Festival to celebrate life and community in our two villages. Lots of locals enjoyed spotting themselves from years gone by during walks around the villages. At the end of the year, local children Daisy and Amelie organised a free **Children's Christmas Film** afternoon with the help of the Elves! We also donated £240 towards a lighting desk for the village hall.

**2019** - In March our pantomime, **Hansel and Gretel** was a total hoot.



**2018 - Good Wreath!** As part of the village festival that year, we provided free metal frames and asked locals to create a door wreath to give us an insight into their lives. Our fabulous community did not disappoint us with over 40 households decorating their doors!

Then, in June of that year, we held a **Murder Mystery** event with the cast made up of Vale Players. A delicious supper was provided by Andrew and Joan and a cast member, acting in role, sat alongside each table of six attendees.



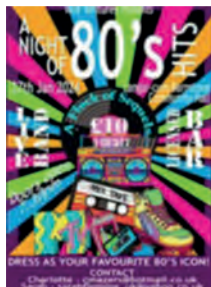
Our first **Oktoberfest** was held this year. Little did we know that this event was going to be one of our most successful ones. Karl's Brass, one of the best Ompah Bands in the country,

Chris described us as *"a barking team doing mad stuff and having a good old laugh"* with the aim of providing a fabulous night for the community. I know that I was typecast as a drunk old man –

which suited me very well! The event raised, after expenses, £300 for the Breast Institute at the Nottingham City Hospital.

**Oktoberfest:** After the success of the previous Oktoberfest, Karl's Bavarian Brass were invited back to Barnstone by popular demand in November 2019. We provided fab fun for all with live music, comedy, party spirit games, vibrant atmosphere, food and bar for just £15.

**2021-** After nearly a year of pandemic restrictions, we relished a return to provide entertainment for the people of Langar and Barnstone and booked the UK's premier party covers band: The Anthemics. **Fright Night** an amazing evening of impressive ghoulish costumes and everyone entering into 'the spirit'.



**Oktoberfest:** Karl's Bavarian Brass were invited to the new community hall to entertain us for a third time. Food again was Bavarian themed – special mention to Joan's delicious German apple cake.



**2024 -** The Vale Venture's **80's Night** marked the opening of the Langar Cum Barnstone Community Hall. Local band 'A flock of Sequels' made sure that the dance floor was always packed with 80's songs of yesteryear.

As always, there was a licensed bar but, this time, a variety of 80's snacks were available which ensured a donation of £100 was given to the Brownies thereafter. From the profits, £300 was donated to the new Community Hall.

I think that you will agree with me that Vale Ventures - a small group of dynamic, creative, fun (really fun), energetic people, really do know how to put on fabulous events. However, it all comes down to the villagers' appetite to attend them.

Despite providing amazing, themed nights with great entertainment, decor etc, raising over £2000 over the years for village causes, it has often been hard to sell tickets to local people. I've even taken to making scarecrows and enlisting my poor hubby to act in a recent advertising video!

Rising overheads would mean that the stress of ensuring that all fees are covered by any sales of tickets, along with reduced ticket sales has meant that we have now taken the difficult decision

to pass on the gauntlet to anyone else wishing to set up a new community entertainments group.

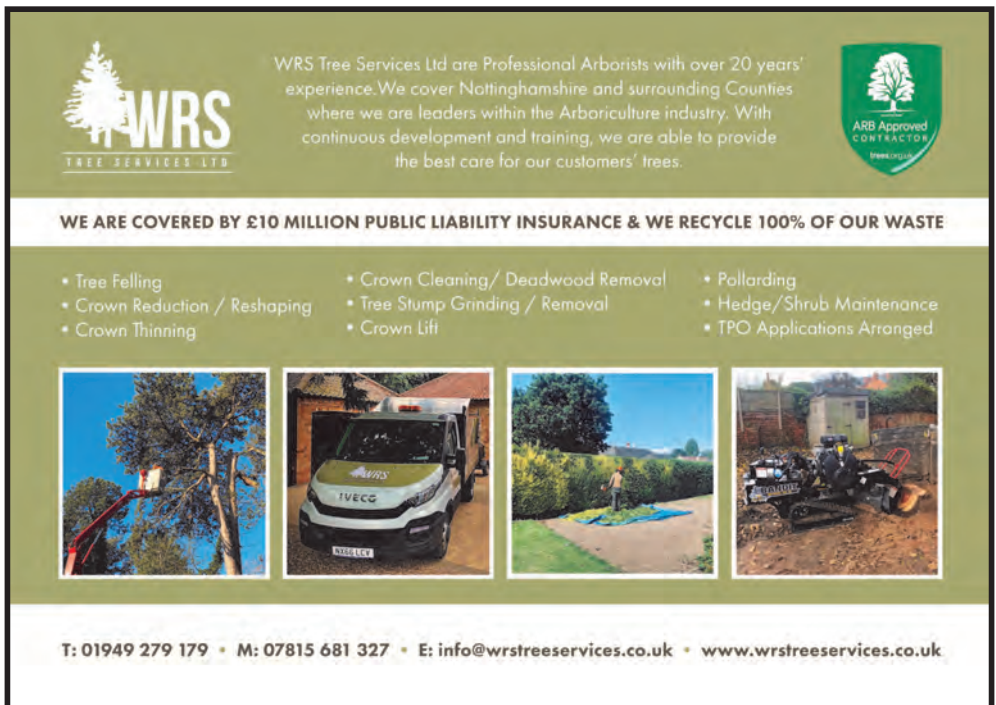
We plan to donate our remaining bank balance to the Community Hall Trustee Committee on the proviso that the money will be put towards any future new village entertainment venture.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the incredible Vale Ventures team who've been there since the beginning, for their unwavering support, hard work, community spirit and for all the laughs: Chris and Justina Harper, Charlotte and Luke Mazers, Tim Smith, Karen Seaton, David Sills and Julie Dowers.

Thank you to all those who have helped us to put on such great events in the past - more than 60 volunteers have generously given their time and creative talents over the years to help stage our events!


For those with 'a fun-loving' and 'up for it' community spirit who have been able to attend, THANK YOU! It's been a total blast!

**Sarah Fleming**



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## Langar Church of England Primary School

What a great start to the New Year!

Our children have been very much enjoying playing on the frosty playground and running around our all-weather running track.

A healthy body keeps a healthy mind but it's not all running around and playing at Langar C of E School, we have also been learning how to save lives!

Leon's Legacy is a local charity which seeks to place as many defibrillators (and the awareness needed to feel confident using them) in the public domain as possible.

The charity is run by Holly and Libby, two members of our NHS who are very passionate about their cause.

Recently, Libby came into school with a huge case of training dummies for the children to learn CPR with. The children learned how to give chest compressions and the importance of keeping the blood

pumping until help arrives. Everyone learned about defibrillators.

We have a working defibrillator in school which is registered with the National Defibrillator Circuit, so its location and availability is known to the emergency services.

**It is our mission to let the whole community know that there is a defibrillator here in school which can be accessed from 6:30am to 6:00pm, five days a week.**

**Please do spread that information - it could save someone's life.**

We currently have spaces in every classroom and would love to welcome new friends. If you have a child who is in need of high-quality education in a school where everyone knows their name then do not hesitate to get in touch.

I would be happy to offer you an extended tour of the school where you can meet the staff and see our children in action.

We think it has to be seen to be believed.

**Jamie Walker-Jones**  
**Headteacher**  
**01949 860 056**





# Singing Group

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday's** of every month  
e.g. **January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
Sessions run at **2.00-4.00p.m.** and  
**7.00-9.00p.m.**,

**Langar Barnstone Community Hall**

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(you don't even need to be able to sing!)

First session free then £3 per session.

For more information contact David Williams 01949 860843  
[d.williams514@btinternet.com](mailto:d.williams514@btinternet.com)



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with Sarah

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9.30-10.30am - Yoga

10.45-11.30am - Chair Yoga

Wednesday

6.00-7.00pm - Yoga

Sunday

9.30-10.30am - Yoga

## All levels welcome

£6.50 - Yoga, £5.00 - Chair Yoga

For more details:

Call Sarah on 07708 565114 or email:

[sarah\\_barrett66@mac.com](mailto:sarah_barrett66@mac.com)

Please bring a mat and blanket for relaxation



During the Summer plenty of archery has been taking place on the community field. We hosted several tournaments for our members and visitors, as well as two tournaments for the National Crossbow Federation.



On Boxing Day our Annual Shoot took place. Thirteen archers took part in the event on a very crisp and misty day. Surprisingly there was no wind on the field!

We held our first St Crispin's shoot on 26 October 2024. It was a bright crisp morning with seventeen Belvoir Archers taking part in the shoot. The shoot was scored using a handicap system, as we had all bow types shooting (compound bows, recurve, longbow, barebow and crossbows). The Battle of Agincourt took place on St Crispin's day in 1415 so to honour this our Chairman Bryan led the archers with three ends of Agincourt volley.



We are already making plans for the Tournaments for 2025.

If you are interested in trying archery or wish to have a go, please contact us - it is very addictive! We will be holding a Beginner' Course again next year as well as Taster Sessions.

Our next Beginners' Course will take place in Spring 2025.

More information can be found on our web page [www.belvoirarchers.co.uk](http://www.belvoirarchers.co.uk) or email us on [coaching@belvoirarchers.co.uk](mailto:coaching@belvoirarchers.co.uk)



We are shooting in the Community Hall on most Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as providing coaching sessions on alternative Saturdays. We are also shooting on the Community Field when we are not in the Hall.



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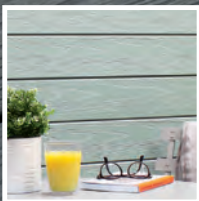
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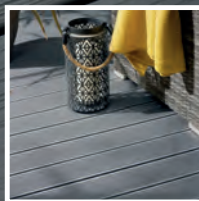
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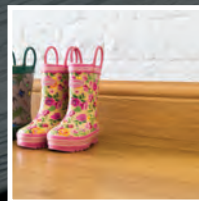
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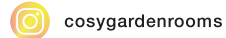




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