

Signpost



Issue 70 - March 2022

Langar cum Barnstone Parish Newsletter



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

The latest from your Parish Council

Precept for 2022 - 2023

At its meeting in January, the Parish Council formally ratified the sum of £42,158 as its required budget (the 'precept') to provide parish services for the coming year. As ever, the guiding principles used in our discussions were those of trying to maintain support for the amenities and activities that contribute to our strong community spirit, whilst being aware of the need for financial restraint.

This budget requirement represents an increase of 6.7% on the previous year, and this increase is driven almost entirely by increased salary costs for our staff and for those employed by our external contractors following increases in the national minimum wage levels.

Barnstone Bus Shelter

The Parish Council has been in discussion with Nottinghamshire County Council about an upgrade to the Works Lane bus shelter in Barnstone. Our request for a wooden shelter like those elsewhere in Langar and Barnstone was not supported, but a refurbishment of the existing shelter and the fitting of a seat has been approved.

COVID-19 Memorial Bench

The Parish Council has secured funds from Rushcliffe Borough Council (thank you!) for the purchase of a bench as a memorial to the hardships suffered by our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bench will be sited on the Works Lane playing field in Barnstone.

Planters in Children's Play Area

The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge the efforts of many in the community in completing the redevelopment of the children's play area with the purchase of two planters, and a donation of bulbs to fill them.

Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree outside the Village Hall drew several positive responses from residents and the Parish Council wishes to thank Derek Harwood of Limes Farm for donating the tree. It is hoped that this Christmas tree display will become an annual feature, with a similar display somewhere in Langar.

Greening the Parish

The Parish Council has received trees from the Rushcliffe Borough Council tree scheme, and they have been planted in the play area, the playing field and at Langar airfield memorial.

Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council currently comprises seven members, with a wide range of ages, interests, skills and experience. At present, there are vacancies for two additional councillors. If you are interested in finding out more and feel you can offer something to the community, please get in touch.

For any matters relating to items mentioned here, or to raise any other issue with the Parish Council, please contact Sharon Ellis, our Parish Clerk, in the first instance (07984075016)

langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com)

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

Langar-cum-Barnstone Village Hall

(Registered Charity, No. 522237)

We Can Do This!

Our efforts to raise funds for the re-build of the Village Hall are continuing and we now have only £50,000 still to find before we can start work. At the same time, the clock is ticking towards the time when we must decide on whether to take up the Public Works Loan mentioned in previous reports to Signpost.

So, in a final push to reach our target we have launched our 'We Can Do This!' campaign. Donations from individuals and the wider community are welcome, and all support will be recorded for perpetuity within the Village Hall records.

If you would like to give your support, you can donate (anonymously if desired) in the following ways:



Through our JustGiving appeal which can be accessed at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/langar-cum-barnstone-village-hall> or by scanning the QR-code:



By online banking, cheque or cash. Please contact our Parish Clerk for 'How

Can we do this? YES, WE CAN!

Please direct any queries about our fundraising efforts in the first instance to the Parish Clerk (E: langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com or T: 07984075016).

Langar cum Barnstone

Corporate Sole Trustee of Langar-cum-Barnstone Village Hall

1st Barnstone Brownies

It's been a whole year since we decided to meet again after lock down, somehow by 'Zooming' together. Now we have settled back into face-to-face meetings and we are thriving. Our numbers have steadied at 19. We're still looking for at least one Adult Leader to join our team, but our Young Leaders are doing an excellent job. We have just welcomed Ellie who is doing her Duke of Edinburgh Award with us.

We are proud to announce that Eliza gained her 'Bronze Award' before she left us in January and Katelyn is very close to

getting hers. Three new Brownies have made their Promise.

A special evening was held for Thinking Day in February when we played games from the 5 World Centres and did activities including food tasting, rangoli patterns, clay work and paper craftall going home with a tattoo and a bindi!

Before Easter we will be honing up our First Aid and First Response skills and after Easter we're hoping to do the charity badge by having a visit from 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'.

Fundraising is high on our agenda, as we now have no reserve funds, and we hope to hold another Brownie Open Evening to resurrect the famous 'Ice Cream Stall'.

We would also like to play some part in a village event for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.....let's get everyone involved.

..... Still looking for HELP!!!!?!

The Owls and the Brownies



Crime Figures for Langar cum Barnstone

02/11/2021	Criminal damage on Works Lane, hare coursing damaging crops
04/11/2021	Theft from motor Main Road Barnstone, number plates from van stolen
05/12/2021	Theft from Langar Industrial Estate, metal fence cut to compound trailers and quantity of steel stolen
21/01/2022	Assault fight at Unicorn PH
23/01/2022	Theft from Limes Farm Langar, tyres stolen from farmyard



Belvoir Archers have been shooting outside during the wet, windy, and cold winter months.

Unfortunately, the weather did not permit the tournament on Boxing Day (also known as the Moose Shoot) so it was rearranged for 22 January. It was a bright clear and surprisingly warm day, and we had an amazing tournament. Congratulations to Peter Beckett who won the Moose trophy.



Our members shot in the Nottinghamshire County Championship at the start of February 2022.

Congratulations to Paige Jones who retained her Compound Ladies title.

The club is now able to provide crossbow shooting with Bryan Haynes and Tony Drabble, both qualified Crossbow Instructors. During the winter months we have had much success on the UK and World Arenas, with Bryan Haynes achieving 5th Place in the World Rankings, Tony Drabble shooting a new World Record in the Target Crossbow classification and Sue Haynes being ranked 2nd Lady Target Crossbow rankings in the UK.

We suspended Archery in the Village Hall over the Christmas period, but are now shooting there on a Tuesday

Photo of Bryan, Sue and Tony with their crossbows, and club friends Nigel and Kelly Lane



evening and alternative Saturdays with coaching taking place on the Saturdays.

We will be running a 'Have a Go' on the morning of 13 May as part of the Archery GB Start Archery Week, so if you fancy trying your hand at archery, contact us to book a place

coaching@belvoirarchers.co.uk.

We will be running an archery beginners' course in Late May/June. For the first time the club will be able to offer students the chance to have a go on a compound as well as Crossbow, thanks to a donation to the club and our head coach Bryan becoming affiliated to coach on crossbows.

The Club is also expecting to put on several tournaments this year. The first of which is a World Record Status Crossbow shoot on 15 May 2022, when we expect to have the World Ranked Number 1 shooting with us. Other shoots will be going on in June, July, August and September, so if you want to see an archery tournament in operation, just pop along and watch.

If you are interested in trying archery or wish to have a go, please contact us it is very addictive. More information can be found on our web page www.belvoirarchers.co.uk



Little People Playgroup Barnstone Village Hall




Second Friday of every month
9.45am - 11am

A friendly local playgroup, suitable for babies and pre-school children. Join us each month for a different theme.

Tea, coffee and sugary treats provided.

£2.50 per family

Search 'Barnstone Little People Playgroup' on Facebook for dates, and more information.

 Find us on
Facebook

Nottingham athletes bring home the gold from British Skydiving Championships

A team of skydivers from Nottinghamshire is celebrating winning the title of British Indoor Skydiving Champions this weekend, following a close battle with the reigning national champions at the event in Basingstoke.

Chimera, which comprises four members from the Vale of Belvoir area, is now the highest ranked indoor skydiving team in the country and is therefore invited to represent Team GB at the upcoming World Cup of Indoor Skydiving, to be held in Belgium in April. Laura Hampton (Bingham), Sarah



Ashworth (Harby), James Woods (Harby) and Will Cooke (Langar) have been competing together for the past seven years, though travel restrictions in recent years have impacted the team's training plans and reduced the amount of time they have been able to spend with their coach, Niklas Hemlin, who resides in the USA.

In spite of this, the team put in an impressive performance at the competition, beating the reigning British champions NFTO and new team Meraki to the top spot.

Speaking of the competition, Laura Hampton, who has the position of Outside Centre in Chimera, said: "Winning the gold medal was really a dream come true! Ours is a sport that requires a huge amount of dedication and we've all been working hard to improve our own skills and our skills as a team for years. To be able to say we're the British champions is amazing."

Chimera trains regularly at Nottinghamshire Skydiving Centre [Skydive Langar](#), where over 33,000 skydives were completed in 2021 - in spite of the centre being closed for part of the year through lockdown. Skydive Langar sponsors Chimera and Operations Manager Josh Carratt said: "We're very proud of Chimera and so pleased to see their hard work pay off in this way. As well as training at Langar, the team also provides coaching to jumpers, from those learning formation skydiving skills from scratch, to other teams, to larger skydiving groups. We've got an exciting calendar of events lined up for 2022 and it's awesome that some of those are being led by the British champions."

Skydive Langar is a skydiving centre of excellence situated in the Vale of Belvoir in Nottinghamshire. Skydive Langar caters for all levels of skydiving experience, from tandem skydives for first timers, to learn-to-skydive courses to skydiving for experienced jumpers and training teams.

Skydive Langar was founded in 1977. More information can be found at www.skydivelangar.co.uk. for more information, contact laura.hampton@skydivelangar.co.uk.

Please Pick Up After Your Pet



Recently we have noticed a vast increase in the amount of dog mess in our two villages, particularly around the telephone box area in Barnstone. Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and to other pets.

Therefore, it is important to immediately clean up after your dog. Please take a bag with you to pick up waste and dispose of it properly – there are plenty of dog waste bins in the areas and it is an offence not to do so.

Please note that the football field on Works Lane is a no dog area, so please don't allow your dogs to foul the grass there.

By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beauty of our villages but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community.

Please help to make the place cleaner and safer for everyone.

THANK YOU

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LOGISTICS**



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- DELIVERIES
- COMMERCIAL
- COLLECTIONS
- LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE

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December 2021 meant our usual closure between Christmas and the New Year.

January 2022 – Our AGM had to be held on Zoom due to Covid again this year. As it has affected a few members it was decided at the AGM that we would keep the doors closed to members until 1 February 2022.

What a joy, a great turnout for our first get together of the year, I think we were all happy to see our Art friends healthy and delighted that we can get together again. The second meeting was just as full and chatty as the first, but now down to business!

Whilst last year we had three of our members give workshops - bonsai, acrylics and watercolours - we haven't had any guest demonstrators since before lock down.

As we had to cancel the last one at the beginning of the pandemic, I think we would all love someone to come and give us a workshop. So to that end, as I have a list of various contacts, I set about making a point of getting hold of those who can give us an afternoon of learning.

Tony Player has moved to Louth, but he has said that he plans a trip to Bingham to visit friends and will tie in with that for a workshop. He has also invited us to go along to a gallery in Alford, where he holds classes, as a bus trip. An idea to talk about at Group and make it a day out, but that will be during Summer.

The next was the very first Guest we had, Peter Millward, showing us how to do Chinese Brush Painting. Peter says he would love to come and give us another workshop and we have arranged to have that on Tuesday 22 March between 2pm and 5pm.

So, we have a good start to the year, but, we are still looking for new members. You don't have to be an established artist. You don't have to be able to paint or draw, but willing to try, and then learn from our members, they are all willing to spur you on. We have a lacemaker, a glass sculptor and photographers. Our Chair does embroidery and another member does weaving.

So for an afternoon of relaxation, a cuppa and a biscuit, come along and see what we are all about.

Enquiries: GILLIAN CLARKE 01949748288, or
philigansgc@gmail.com.

Annual Subs £1, Session fees £2,
no show no pay!



Tarmac Barnstone Cement Works continues to thrive and be as busy as ever and no doubt, storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin will keep us busy as we work hard to pack out the materials for customers and to replace and fix blown away fences. The storms have been an anxious time for the UK, as we prepared and waited to see what havoc they would wreak across our little island and the damage has been significant and widespread.

Here at Barnstone, we took many measures to keep our staff, visitors and neighbours safe and thankfully, we were left unscathed. We moved staff out of areas in close vicinity to trees, we allowed only walking floor and 8 wheel tippers to deliver sand and, of course, all work on silo tops or anywhere else at height was suspended until we had safer conditions. The safety of our people and local community will always be the most important focal point for Tarmac Barnstone.

As the storms have highlighted, Postcrete will forever be our mainstay, continuing to present a large proportion of our business, but we are excited to be looking at packing a number of new products over the coming months, cementing (pun intended!) our place in the business as an innovative and forward thinking plant. We look forward to sharing updates in the coming Signpost articles as we get underway with our new ventures.

Whilst the country begins to tentatively peel away the layers of COVID-19

restrictions that we have now lived with for so many months, Tarmac as a company continues to remain cautious and vigilant, with staff and visitors continuing to monitor temperatures upon arrival at site, socially distance, wear masks and undertake lateral flow tests where necessary and appropriate.

At Barnstone we continue to follow these guidelines and as many other people will be doing, will be waiting with bated breath to see what the end of all restrictions will bring – we hope for a vastly more protected and therefore resilient population, better protected from COVID-19.

With winter slowly lifting and brighter, warmer, sunny climes (hopefully!) approaching, we will be beginning to push ahead with our plans to improve the Woodland Walkway bordering the plant. A visit from the company who will be undertaking some of this work for us is imminent and will allow us to put a plan in place to get the ball rolling again.

Finally, as a plant our local community and our relationship with you is very important to us. We continue to take our duties as a responsible neighbour to you very seriously, please don't hesitate to contact us directly here at the plant if you have any queries or concerns. We always welcome your feedback.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe few months moving forward into spring and summer 2022.

Walking in Nottinghamshire

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Nottinghamshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/notts has hundreds of walks to download and print, free; it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much

walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Nottinghamshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

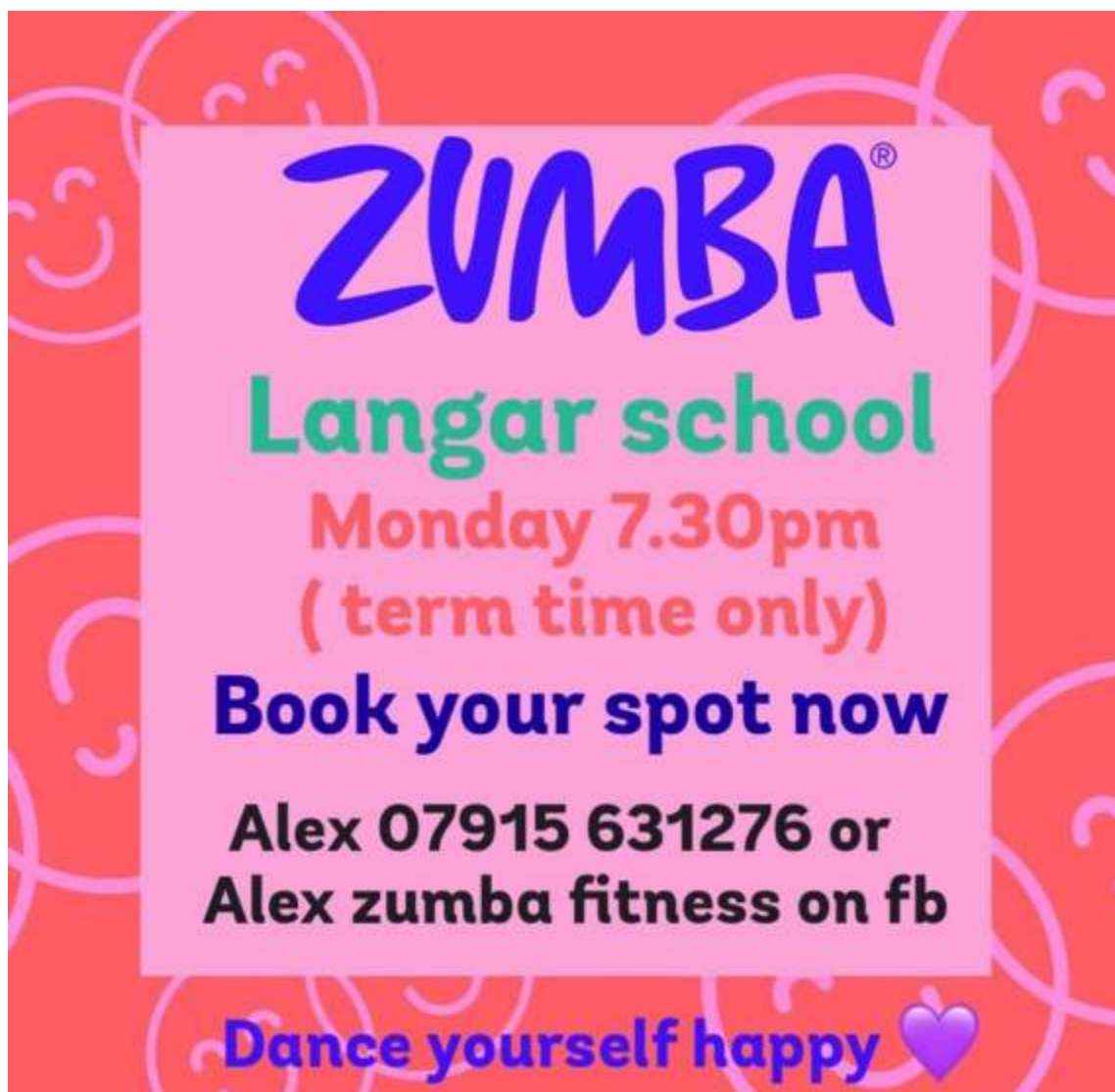
With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk





If you have any concerns on the following did you know they can all be reported on-line at the NCC Highways Reporting hub using the link below?:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/highways-hub>

This will then generate an enquiry on their system and will be forwarded directly to the relevant Officer.

- Potholes
- Faulty streetlights
- Grass cutting schedules
- Problematic trees & hedges
- Road or pavement concerns
- Street signs
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- Road markings
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- Highways obstruction

Plus many more services available.....

For emergencies please phone: 0300 500 80 80

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LOGISTICS

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£10 DEPOSIT PER BAG
(payable on delivery)

The deposit will be fully credited to the final charge for each bag on collection

NO TIME LIMITS APPLY

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WYSALL WATERCOLOUR GROUP PRESENT

WYSALL ART FAIR

*Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May
Wysall Village Hall – NG12 5QS
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

ADMISSION FREE!

*ORIGINAL PAINTINGS & ARTWORKS
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*Stand out from the crowd ...
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for your home or office*

**** LIVE MUSIC ****

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SERVED ALL DAY*

Sponsored by Wysall & Thorpe-in-the-Glebe Parish Council

VALE VENTURES PRESENTS

BARNSTONE VILLAGE HALL - JUNE 4TH 2022

7.30 TILL LATE. DINER INCLUDED. TICKETS £20



**AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
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e: grab@smkltd.co.uk www.smkltd.co.uk

Be Safe – Be Seen – Be Green

For anyone walking, cycling or driving between Langar and Barnstone, negotiating the junction with Musters Road can be very precarious and we know that having to cross it in its current

state is enough to put people off, for example, walking to Langar Primary School from Barnstone.

We have approached the Parish Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council and both are keen to make this junction safer for all. In order to drive this forward, it would be really helpful if you could complete a very short questionnaire so that we can show how big an impact making the crossing safer will have for our two villages.



We know that the road surface is also a problem, particularly if you are trying to cross with a pushchair for example, but we hope that this is going to be dealt with in the next few weeks.

Please see below for the address to complete the questionnaire.

If you do not have access to the Internet please contact Lucy 07974145392.

<https://forms.office.com/r/nnQ2sUwhu2>

Many thanks in advance

Lucy Paine



The Vale Market Café

Saturday 9th April 2022

Barnstone Village Hall 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Eat and drink with friends & neighbours

Browse the stalls & purchase locally made or sourced produce and exchange books

Forthcoming dates 14th May & 11th June 2022

Post Office times:

Barnstone Village Hall

Tuesdays 11.00-12.30



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Gran Fondo (76 miles) and Piccolo Fondo (28 miles)
Cycle Sportives around the Vale of Belvoir

**VELO**
BELVOIR

Sunday 8th
May 2022

www.velobelvoir.com

All proceeds to Dove Cottage Day Hospice and
Cropwell Bishop Friends of School

**BELVOIR SEEDS**
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SPECIALISTS IN CUSTOM BIKE BUILDS, BIKE FIT AND SERVICING

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KEITH WILLIS ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

The event, called Vélo Belvoir, will take place on 8th May and there are 2 routes, to cater for seasoned cyclists and also families with older children. We are hoping for this to become an annual event and we are raising funds for the Dove Cottage Day Hospice and Cropwell Bishop Primary School.



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the QR code so you can see
our online brochure



Langar Church of England Primary School

Being a school governor is a wonderful way to serve and influence the community that you live in. A governing body is made up of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds who contribute to the strategic leadership of the school. Our governing body currently consists of two governors representative of the church, three governors representative of the parent community, one governor representative of the school staff and one governor chosen for their skill set, plus the head teacher. We have a vacancy for a Local Authority governor, a role that is appointed by the Local Authority.

Following Mark Ebb's departure at the end of his seventeen years of service as a governor, we are looking to recruit someone to join our governing body working closely with the Head teacher and staff as we continue to raise standards and support the strategic direction of Langar Church of England Primary School.

You do not have to be an expert in the world of education in order to become a governor; most importantly, you must be able to commit your time as a volunteer to a role that is both challenging and rewarding. You should be motivated and have a willingness to learn new skills and a strong desire to improve the education of young people in our area.

As a Governor you will serve a four-year term of office. You will be required to attend meetings throughout your term of office, contribute to discussions, read up on relevant issues and offer challenge and support to the head teacher. Full governing body meetings are held once a term along with two further committee meetings which focus on Finance and Pupil, Personnel and Strategic matters. Full governing body meetings generally take place between 6.00 and 8.00pm on weekday evenings and are currently undertaken via Zoom and committee meetings are at 6.00pm and held in school. Governors are also required to attend additional meetings when needed or carry out visits during the school day.

We pride ourselves on the close-knit nature of our school, the caring Christian atmosphere and firm focus on learning. Further information about our school and governance structure, can be found on the school website (Governors | Langar C of E Primary School).

If you are interested and would like to find out a little more about becoming a governor, please do not hesitate to contact our chair of Governors,

Helen Baxter
hbaxter@langar.notts.sch.uk

or the head teacher Emily Brown
head@langar.notts.sch.uk

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Mrs E J Brown Head Teacher





A BIG THANK YOU

For the PLASTIC TOPS

- ❖ Sept 2018 – Oct 2019 4 Tonne
- ❖ Jan-December 2020 4.74 Tonne
- ❖ Feb -Nov 2021 6.5 Tonne
- ❖ Feb 2022 1.5 Tonne

All money received will be gift aided to
Dove Cottage Day Hospice

Registered Charity Number- 1057941

For more information please contact
d.williams514@btinternet.com

Thank You

Inside A Langar-Barnstone Business

Wildflower Farm (Naturescape)

During our recent visits to deliver the Signpost magazine to all the homes and businesses around the Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council region it was interesting to see just how many different businesses are operating in the area.

It was thought that it might be of interest to understand just what goes on in the various businesses.



We decided to visit some of the companies to gain an insight and publish the information in the Signpost Magazine which is handed out to every household and business in the area.

If your business would like to have a similar article done for it then please contact, cllrpulfordlbpc@gmail.com or cllrcrosbylbpc@gmail.com.

As part of this new series of articles for the Signpost magazine, discovering what goes on in the businesses around Langar and Barnstone parish council area, I visited the Wildflower Farm on Coach Gap Lane to meet with Brian Scarborough. The business is owned by Brian and Liz Scarborough and their sons Mark and Tom.

Mark joined the business in 1986 and Tom joined in 2009 making it a complete family business. Tom and Mark are very active in the business and helping it to grow.

The History Behind the Company

In 1978 whilst working at Boots in Nottingham Brian and his wife Liz were walking in the countryside around the area and they both noticed how the number of wild flowers, which used to be seen all over in the farmers fields and hedgerows, were slowly disappearing.

Brian and Liz then took it upon themselves to try to gather seeds from wild flowers that were still remaining.

They took them home to their house in the area and placed the seeds in their airing cupboard to dry.

Once dried out they then proceeded to place them in various seed packets and they were so successful at gathering large quantities they placed an advertisement in the press to try to sell some of the seed packets.

Very soon they were spotted by a company in Boston Lincolnshire called Johnsons Seeds who were supplying seeds to growers and gardeners all over the country for flowers and vegetables but didn't have a wild flower range.

Brian and Liz agreed to work together with Johnsons to develop a wildflower range, with Johnsons offering an insight into packaging and delivery.

This gave Brian the confidence to leave



Boots and further develop the wildflower business.

They purchased a 5 acre plot near Whatton and proceeded to plant hundreds of wildflower plants on their land with a view to collecting the seeds and packaging them and then either selling direct through or through advertisements.

The local garden open day in Whatton coincided with the wild flowers being in full bloom so a lot of local people visited their



fields and were very impressed thus helping the business grow.

The work was all manual and very time consuming however, and they had too many seeds for the airing cupboard so they purchased a drying shed on the land to help.

In 1987 whilst looking to expand a 44-acre plot came up on Coach Gap Lane came up for sale so they took a gamble and purchased the land.

The new land was in a pretty sorry state with concrete all over the place and really overgrown everywhere. Brian remembered that he used to visit the area with his father when he was young as it was the home of the Canadian Air Force in the war and was quite surprised to be purchasing the area when he was much older.



The Current Site

It took Brian and his family 4 years to develop the Coach Gap Lane site, clearing the land and developing the fields, propagating their own seeds and then planting them to grow and develop,

They built a small café on site offering tea and cakes to the people who were visiting for education into wild flowers, as there was an increase in demand.

They made sales through advertising in garden journals and hand packed seeds and sent them by post to their customers.

They planted hundreds more varieties whilst still supplying the ones everyone demanded such as various types of Poppies, Cornflowers, Cowslips etc.

The major changes that have taken place over the years have had a massive impact on their business.

For example -

(The national drive for rewilding and the planning of green spaces around new housing developments)

1 The changes in people's understanding of the environment in their areas and the need to create better environments for wildlife such as the birds and bees and customers wanting to have more natural surroundings.

2 The massive growth of online purchasing where customers can view their requirements and order and pay for them online and have them delivered to their doors.

3 The last two years of COVID have meant that a lot of customers were at home and wanted to improve their gardens and surroundings.

The Company now

The company now employs 40 people in their various areas and they have extended their land by another 76 acres.

They have a number of large wildflower polytunnels for drying out the seeds and planting of wildflower plug plants, which many of you will have walked or driven past and wondered what they were for.

The biggest change is the way the seeds are harvested, sorted, cleaned, mixed and bagged by some very clever machinery which can separate all different shapes, sizes and species automatically.

Brian said that when schoolchildren come for educational visits he gives them each a handful of seeds of various types and they are amazed that they can then get them back in their hands all separated and different.

The volumes of seeds available was amazing to see with huge one-ton bags which are supplied around the country to Local Authorities and Motorway contractors. These can be supplied as special mixes for road sides, around water etc. and as varieties that help to slow down the growth of grass reducing the amount of grass cutting requirements.



Smaller bags are available for golf courses and farmers, down to individual plug plants and individual seed packets which are sold online to anyone who orders them.

The Café has been further developed to be open all day 6 days a week selling a full range of cooked meals, cakes and drinks which sits alongside the wildflower shop selling a range of seeds and plants for all areas and there's always an expert who can be called upon to give growing advice.

The Wildflower park is a huge area where you can visit at any time to walk with your children, family or animals and view all the plants and wildlife which are around and there's even a small play area for the children.

Going Forward

To extend their season the company is now growing a range of popular bulbs such as crocuses, snowdrops, blue bells etc. as well as special hedgerow plants to help continue the wild flower environmentally friendly approach.

In Conclusion

You will see from the pictures that I found it amazing that such large and adventurous and forward thinking company, which thinks a great lot about the environment and employs so many staff was operating on our doorstep

I think it is a great place to visit for a walk view the plants or just have a coffee and something to eat, whilst the children play.



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Sunday 15th May



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Spring update from the fields around Langar cum Barnstone Parish

We are now entering one of my favourite times of year in the parish as the cows and calves are turned out back to grass and the lambs start appearing in our pastures.

This year, spring is feeling long overdue and brings with it a renewed sense of enthusiasm for the great outdoors. Take time over the coming months to enjoy the fantastic walks and scenery the parish has to offer.

You may have noticed recently that a lot of the field hedges have been cut; this is a job generally reserved for late winter when birds have finished foraging berries left on the hedgerows such as Sloes, Privet and Hawthorn. Legally there is a cut-off date for landowners cutting hedgerows who claim subsidy or are signed up to various environmental schemes which is the end of February. The hedge-cutting season is then closed until September to allow nesting birds the chance to hatch chicks and be safely out the way ready for the open season again.

The winter crops have grown very well this year thanks to a drier than average winter. The clay-based soils that surround the parish are very moisture retentive so a dry winter makes the plants work harder to put roots down; this has benefits later in the summer if it turns dry then the crops have better access to water and therefore nutrients allowing them to yield better (in theory!).

Spring crops will start to be sown as soon as the fields are dry enough to support the weight of a tractor without making wheel ruts. The first crops to be sown will be the cereals which are mainly barley and wheat, although some spring oats are grown locally too. Field beans which are very similar to broad beans you grow in the garden will then be planted; these may be more popular with farmers in the parish this year as the price of nitrogen fertiliser has tripled in a year on the back of the rise in gas prices (most nitrogen fertiliser is made using natural gas) and field beans don't require nitrogen so make for a good economic option.

Some sugar beet is grown locally too and this can be sown from February onwards; the varieties nowadays have been bred to have better cold tolerance and so can be sown a lot earlier than in decades gone by.

Finally the last crop to be sown of any great area will be maize which is used for Anaerobic Digestion (think biological electricity production) or silaged for cattle feed. Maize is a tropical crop and very frost sensitive so is sown from late March through to April on.

Whilst the clay soils are good for producing combinable crops (anything that can go through a combine harvester) they are not easy to cultivate as you'll perhaps be aware from your gardens and so we don't see the variation of cropping like you would in the Lincolnshire Fens where all manner of veg, potatoes, cut flowers and other niche crops can be successfully grown.

I wish you all a fantastic spring.
Cllr James Barlow



Barnstone Bowls Club 2022 Season



Lessons will be underway in April or early May, between those pesky showers.

As I write this the days are beginning to lengthen a bit but the wind and rain is howling round outside and, if I'm honest, bowling seems a long way off. On the other hand, the snowdrops are out, daffodils are beginning to flower and we've even got a few tulips showing buds. Spring is on the way and so are those beautiful summer days spent peacefully playing bowls with friends. COVID is now all behind us, or so Boris tells us.

We will be holding a pre-season meeting on 23 March in the Clubhouse. It's only a short meeting to update members on the fixture list and, for those who don't use on-line banking, to pay annual subscriptions. It's also an opportunity for anyone who wants to know what we're all about to come and meet us. I can promise a warm welcome without any pressure.

The 2022 season gets off to a start at the end of April with a visit from Hickling Women's Institute for a fun evening of bowling. They came in September and had so much fun they couldn't wait to return. There will also be a very informal bowls drive for members and potential members wanting a try before the first Nottinghamshire Saturday League match on 30 April.

We have already had 'expressions of interest' from two local people and four from Aslockton so with hopefully one or two Hickling WI adding to our numbers it is a good time for others to join in.

Barnstone Bowls Club is extremely honoured to have been invited to provide the President for the League of Country Bowling Clubs for 2022. So, in addition to our annual Gala Day on 7 August, this season we will be playing host to several representative matches and the Finals Day of the League competitions when all the knock-out competition finalists will be competing for trophies. Hopefully there will be a few Barnstone bowlers amongst them.

The social side of the Club has kicked in over winter. We went to Shanklin in October although unfortunately some of us, including yours truly, contracted the dreaded Delta version of COVID from that trip. This coming October we are going to Weymouth for a long weekend. Everyone is welcome. We've also had enormous fun running ballroom and sequence dance classes on Thursday evenings in Barnstone Village Hall. This will start again next September but, again, non-members have been made very welcome. Add to that a quiz night and fish and chip supper plus a planned walk with nosh and we haven't totally hibernated over winter.

The next Tribute Night is on 18 March with Take That and Frankie Valli although this edition of Signpost may not be published before that date. However, I am very pleased to report that we anticipate that the event will take the total raised for MacMillan to over £45,000.

Steve Wrate (tel 861353)



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We Can Do This!

The final push is on to raise the last £50,000 to re-build the Village Hall and we are now launching our **'We Can Do This!'** campaign. Donations from individuals and the wider community are welcome and all support will be recorded in perpetuity within the village hall records.

If you would like to give your support, you can donate (anonymously if desired) in the following ways:

➡ Through our JustGiving appeal at
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/langar-cum-barnstone-village-hall>

or by scanning the QR-code:



➡ For payments by online banking, cheque or cash, please contact our Parish Clerk for 'How To' details

E: langarbarnstoneclerk@gmail.com

T: 07984 075016