



# Barwick-in-Elmet and Scholes Parish Council

## Newsletter

May 2020

### Message from the editor

With the May Day celebrations cancelled, we enter the month still under lockdown conditions. There are some signs of slight easing of the strictures – but we're still not sure what these may comprise. This edition of the newsletter is a shortened version, posted with the intention of updating readers about events and actions in the Parish Council and generally in Scholes, Barwick and Potterton.

Residents of the Parish have adhered to the government's advice and we are doing our bit to slow down the spread of Coronavirus. Our actions are notable by their civility, their excellent manners and compliance what we've been asked to do – this is as evidenced at the shops in the villages where orderly queues demonstrate the respect for social distancing.

The impact of the lockdown affects everything in our daily lives. We've all identified our essential activities and we've reduced our journeys and our journey times, our number of shopping trips – and sadly we've also been forced to curtail our normal leisure activities, but on a positive note we've the chance to enjoy our fabulous surroundings.

The Parish Council has adhered to the Government's guide lines. We've established a method of meeting using video-conference facilities and have continued to meet using this powerful way of working. We've adapted our rules and our standing orders to benefit from the use of video technology.

We held our Annual Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May. This was the first of the normal Parish Council meetings to be held using the video link where members of the public attended (by joining the video link after making a prior request to the clerk). The technology provided a robust means of communication and we were able to elect the Chair and Vice Chair and offer members of the public a chance to comment and ask questions.

The outcome of the election was:

Chair: Councillor Phil Maude;

Vice-Chair: Councillor Claire Hassell

### Message from the Chair

#### New Chairman for Parish Council – Councillor Phil Maude

At the Council meeting on Monday night I was elected as the new Chair of the Parish Council. This was a very humbling experience for me, and I am proud to serve the residents of Barwick and Scholes which I aim to do to the best of my ability. The meeting was very different to our usual meetings as it was our first "virtual" meeting with members of the public also joining in the discussions for the open forum.

These are difficult times for everyone, and the Parish Council is always willing to assist all those people or bodies who need our help. We can be contacted through our Clerk whose contact details are set out in the contacts table at the back of this newsletter. I am succeeding Councillor Claire Hassell as Chair. Claire, as many of you will know, has been Chair for a number of years and is our longest serving Parish Councillor. She has lots of experience and has worked tirelessly for the Parish. Claire will be a very hard act to follow.

Thank you, Claire, for all your work over the years. Fortunately for me Claire was elected as Vice Chair for the coming year and so I can turn to her for help and guidance when necessary.

Councillor Stella Walsh has stood down as Vice Chair, a role she has occupied with aplomb for a number of years. Many residents in Scholes will know Stella, her excellence in her role and her willingness to offer help and advice on all manner of things in the village. The Peace Flame near the Church was a project close to Stella's heart and I would also like to thank her for the hard work she has put in for the Parish Council, often behind the scenes over the last few years.

The Editor has suggested that residents may want to know a little bit about the new Chair. I have lived in Scholes for nearly 40 years and raised my family here. I am a solicitor by profession specialising in planning and compulsory purchase law and spent a number of years working in local government for Leeds City Council. I was Chair of Governors at Scholes Primary School during the 1980s and an active member of the school PTA. More recently I have joined Barwick Historical Society which I find very interesting and on Thursday evenings I join our local band of bell ringers at Barwick Church for a spot of practice.

I am aware that many challenges lie ahead and the biggest and most important is to overcome this virus and find out what the "new normal" will look like and adapt our way of life to meet it. The Parish Council continues to function as a focal point for ideas and opinions within the community. We will be looking to improve facilities within the villages and to make sure the views of the community are presented to those who govern us clearly and effectively. Take care and stay safe.

## **Community Groups – support for residents by residents**

The following three articles are intended to provide support information to readers.

### **Your Scholes**

When the coronavirus first hit and the lock-down loomed it was clear that some people would need help. People who under normal circumstances were perfectly capable of doing their own shopping, collecting prescriptions and other necessities would suddenly be unable to leave their own homes for fear of catching the virus.

At this point a group of people from Scholes got together and formed Your Scholes to respond to whatever help was needed. The first couple of weeks were pretty manic with meetings every night lasting an hour and a half each, but by the end of a fortnight we had a good handle on what we could and couldn't do and were starting to reach out into the village with Facebook posts and flyers offering help and asking for volunteers.

In the last month and a half 20 people have asked for help and 50 people have signed up to volunteer.

Many of the people who have asked for help are presently able to cope but, as one lady said to me 'It's just such a relief to know that if my neighbour who normally does my shopping were for some reason unable to do it, then one of your volunteers is at the end of the phone.'

And being at the end of a phone is just as important a role as doing the shopping or collecting prescriptions. As the lock-down continues for many in our community some will suffer from loneliness and isolation. If you just feel the need for a regular phone call from a friendly fellow Scholesian, please call us on the number below and we'll sort something out for you.

At the same time some people have needed more than just reassurance, and it has been heartening to see our volunteers actively helping people who would otherwise struggle with many tasks they would under normal circumstances take for granted.

If you need help, or if you would like to volunteer, please get in touch. We are here to help.

### **Your Scholes Committee:**

Rev. Andy Nicholson, Chair of Your Scholes.

Matthew Hick, Secretary of Your Scholes

Jon Bliss, Rev. Becki Stennet, Karen Dales, Julie Walker, Trish Grant

Contact details: 00132892437 / 07512314312

Website: <https://your-scholes.co.uk/>

## Barwick Cares

Barwick Cares is an informal group that links volunteers and local agencies with those in needs, especially the elderly and those at risk of the Coronavirus. Barwick Cares is working closely with NET (Neighbourhood Elders Team, 'Your Scholes' and local agencies). It has 55 fantastic volunteers and, so far, it has helped 15 households with check-in phone-calls, shopping, food parcel deliveries and referrals to other agencies.

For help with shopping, picking up prescriptions or a friendly phone-call either use the form <https://forms.gle/WWNo7dgMAknkfvV8> or call Leslye 0113 281 2488. Clare 07886 372851 or Revd Bob 0113 260 7721. You can also email. [barwickcares@gmail.com](mailto:barwickcares@gmail.com)

To volunteer: <https://forms.gle/daPst2ct67vjngF58>

## The Ancient Parish of Barwick in Elmet Trust

If you are facing any financial emergencies due to the crisis, then perhaps The Ancient Parish of Barwick in Elmet Trust can help.

The Trust is an independent body whose object is the relief of financial hardship. It was founded in 1996, an amalgamation of two schemes of 1918 which comprised 7 local charities founded in the C16th and C17th.

If you think the Trust can be of assistance to you, the Trustees would be pleased to hear from you.

Application forms for grants can be obtained from Alan Stanley, Chair of the Trust or from Sylvia Snowdon, Clerk to the Trust. All applications remain confidential.

The Trust does not promise to pay off your mortgage! But can perhaps help you out of a present difficulty.

Alan Stanley 07739184781 0113 281 2769 [alan.stanley8@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.stanley8@btinternet.com)

Sylvia Snowdon [p@pandssnowdon1.plus.com](mailto:p@pandssnowdon1.plus.com)

## VE Day tribute and commemoration



On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May we have the opportunity to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the entire Second World War generation, from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces to evacuees and those who served on the home front. As we face some of the most challenging times since the end of the Second World War, now more than ever it is important to unite in recognition of service to the nation, just as communities did 75 years ago.

The British Legion believes that there are many parallels between the struggles of the Second World War and what we are going through today. We look to our Second World War generation to learn from their experiences, and we continue our work to protect them from the threat we currently face.

With members of the public unable to attend VE Day 75 events, in addition to the suggested schedule shown on the left, The Royal British Legion is playing a central role in the delivery of a range of remote activity, including:



- **2 minutes silence at 11.00am and a live VE Day 75 livestream** at 11.15am;
- National moments of Remembrance and thanksgiving, including a Two Minute Silence;
- A **UK-wide singalong** to Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again at 9pm
- A **VE Day learning pack** for children aged 7-14 years;
- An evening of memories and music in partnership with the BBC from 8pm on BBC One.

### **Two Minute Silence**

At 11am, the British Legion is encouraging people across all generations and communities to take part in a national moment of Remembrance and pause for a Two Minute Silence to honour the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation, and to reflect on the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on so many lives across the world.

There is no right or wrong way to take part in the Silence, some may wish to stand at their windows, step outside their homes while remaining distanced from others, watch the broadcast on television, or simply sit in a quiet moment of reflection.

**Whilst VE Day marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still involved in bitter fighting in the Far East.**

We remember the contribution of all Allied Forces, including forces from across the Commonwealth, without who the liberation of Europe and Japan would not have been possible.

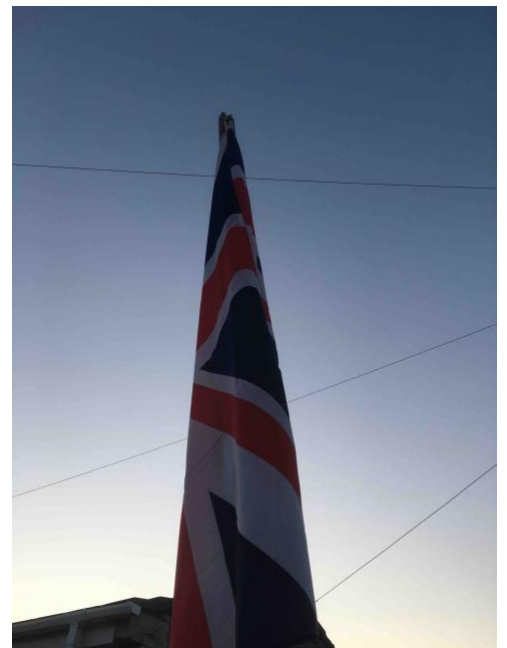
The Second World War had a profound impact on communities across the UK and the Commonwealth which continued long after the war came to an end. The challenges of leaving, longing for and returning home were experienced by many people at the time and are still faced by Service families today.

The Royal British Legion will commemorate **VJ Day** on Saturday 15 August. We are developing our plans in line with the latest Government guidance and will announce our programme in due course. All details will be communicated to those who have already registered and updated on our website and social channels.

### **VE 75 Day images from the Parish – Scholes , Barwick and Potterton**











## More perspectives in dealing with the impact of Coronavirus

Get up, work, eat, sleep, repeat. Is this a lockdown routine or did we do this before the lockdown? As you read this, almost 50% of the world's population is under some form of lockdown, and humanity appears to be confronted with new challenges – lockdown isn't easy for everyone.

How do we work our way through this challenge? One way is to do something that makes us smile, for example make a list comprising things that we want to do when all of this is over.

Look forward to it with a smile. When we smile, we produce endorphins; their effect is a feeling of happiness.

Stay at home, stay safe. Keep smiling, keep washing hands and remember we're all in this together.

There is a tangible sense of community spirit and support for one another. It's noticeable how we are looking out for each other and generally we've showed how civilised we are. There is a good feeling from helping others and this is an innate sense that many of us, if not all of us, possesses. Helping others is a sign of civilisation. Years ago the anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilisation in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about clay pots, tools for hunting, grinding stones or religious artefacts. But no. Mead said that the first evidence of civilisation was a 15,000-year old fractured femur found in an archaeological site. A femur is the longest bone in the human body and links the hip to the knee. In societies without the benefits of modern medicine it takes about six weeks of rest for a fractured femur to heal. This particular bone had been broken and had healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom if an animal breaks its leg it dies. With a broken leg you cannot run from danger, you cannot drink or hunt or scavenge for food. An animal wounded in this way is meat for predators. No creature survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal – you are eaten first.

A femur that has been broken and then healed is evidence that another person has taken time to stay with the fallen, has bound up the wound and has tended through to recovery. This healed femur indicates that someone has helped a fellow human being rather than abandoning them to save their own lives.

That legacy is alive and kicking and exemplified by our superb NHS. A strong NHS is a sign of how civilised we are. Each Thursday evening at eight o'clock we enjoy the magic moment and clap our carers. No doubt we clap with gratitude whilst in awe of just how civilised we have become – we know that poorly people are in good hands. Our applause might be for ourselves too. Thursday evenings at eight provides us with a chance to see our neighbours, to see if they're ok, and to share a smile with them. Charged with

endorphins we can go back inside our homes and reflect that we have the capacity to be even more creative and smart and even better at looking after ourselves as well as each other.

With gyms and sports facilities closed through this period it is vital that we stay healthy and as active as we possibly can be. The air is fresh right now so breathe it in and absorb some of the sun's rays and its inherent vitamin D. But you should be careful not to burn in the sun, so take care to cover up or protect your skin with sunscreen before your skin starts to turn red or burn.

It's not the role of this newsletter to provide advice on medical matters, but the following link provides useful information.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

This provides up to date information about what to do in this lockdown

## **Respect, Protect and enjoy the villages and the local environment**

During the restrictions being advised by the Government it is nice to see so many people walking in the villages and surrounding areas. We are lucky that there are so many nice areas easily accessible. BUT please ensure that you remain on marked paths and do NOT let children and dogs wander over fields. In our Parish we are lucky that there are so many marked paths and plenty of places to walk, however please respect the work our farmers are doing. Later in the year we will be grateful for the food they are growing; they do not want it trampled on. You don't have automatic access to **walk** across **agricultural** or other private **land**, even if you think doing so wouldn't cause any damage.

Please close any gates that you may use.

Reminder litter bins are now closed. Take your litter and your dog poop home with you. Do not leave it in fields or on paths.

## **Leeds Festival – Barwick and Scholes Community Fund**

In light of the current circumstances we, at the Barwick & Scholes Community Fund have taken the decision to extend the deadline for festival ticket applications to 10pm on Sunday 31st May. The ballot will then be drawn within 10 days and successful applicants notified after this date.

If you have made an application but would now prefer to be withdrawn from the ballot, please email [tickets@bandscf.org.uk](mailto:tickets@bandscf.org.uk) so we can arrange this.

We hope that the festival will be able to go ahead as planned but will update the Facebook page and website should we hear otherwise.

Best wishes, Sally Daly, Barwick & Scholes Community Fund

## **Parish Council update**

### **Parish Council's finances - Auditor's report**

As with all bodies that handle public money, every Parish Council is subject to audit.

The level of audit varies depending on the size of the parish. For us there are three tiers of audit, namely our own internal checks, checks carried out by an Internal Auditor and those carried out by an External Auditor. The term "Internal Auditor" is misleading as this person comes from outside the parish. The Parish Council can choose the Internal Auditor, but the External Auditor is a government appointment.

Once a year, the Parish Council has to complete an annual return known as an Annual Governance and Accountability Return ("AGAR"). This is checked by the Internal Auditor and then sent to the External Auditor.

The main purpose of these checks is to ensure the Parish Council has in place appropriate internal controls.

Below is a page from our AGAR for the year just ended.

The figures have been checked and verified by the Internal Auditor and go to the External Auditor who, under normal circumstances has to complete their audit by 30<sup>th</sup> September, but this deadline has been extended in 2020 due to restrictions caused by the pandemic.

### BARWICK IN ELMET AND SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

|                                                                                     | Year ending                         |                    | Notes and guidance                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     | 31 March 2019<br>£                  | 31 March 2020<br>£ |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1. Balances brought forward                                                         | 78,265                              | 80,299             | Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.                                                              |
| 2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies                                                  | 37,148                              | 37,148             | Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.                                                                                 |
| 3. (+) Total other receipts                                                         | 30,313                              | 39,115             | Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.                                                                   |
| 4. (-) Staff costs                                                                  | 12,141                              | 13,207             | Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments. |
| 5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments                                             | 0.00                                | 0.00               | Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).                                                                                      |
| 6. (-) All other payments                                                           | 53,286                              | 29,536             | Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).                                                                      |
| 7. (=) Balances carried forward                                                     | 80,299                              | 113,819            | Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).                                                                                                                       |
| 8. Total value of cash and short term investments                                   | 80,299                              | 113,819            | The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>                                              |
| 9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets                         | 124,817                             | 83,986             | The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.                                                                      |
| 10. Total borrowings                                                                | 0.00                                | 0.00               | The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).                                                                                                        |
| 11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable) | Yes                                 | No                 | The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.                                                                                       |
|                                                                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                    | N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.                                                                                                              |

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2020 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability | I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

## Vacancies in Barwick Ward and the Scholes Ward

Your Parish Council is still assessing the most appropriate way to interview candidates. As a result, it is unlikely that anyone will be appointed until the July 2020 Parish Council meeting.

### Parish Council contact information

Clerk to Parish Council:

Keith Langley

[www.barwickandscholespc.org](http://www.barwickandscholespc.org)

Telephone: 0113 393 5861

email: [clerk154@btinternet.com](mailto:clerk154@btinternet.com)

**Parish Council Surgery:** Surgeries are cancelled until the lockdown is lifted.



**The Planning Committee:** Meetings have been postponed due to the lockdown. These may be reinstated via video link – this is still to be determined by your Parish Council. The Parish Council is still submitting comments to Leeds City Council via the Clerk's delegated authority. Details of the planning applications can be found on the website and village notice boards.

**Parish Council Accounts:** Community Grants information and full Parish Council accounts are available to view online. Copies are also available upon request to the Clerk of the Parish Council.

## The Parish Councillors, working for you.

| Barwick Ward    |                           | Scholes Ward             |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Glyn Davies     | glynatpc@gmail.com        | Paul Remmer              | paulremmerbspc@gmail.com              |
| Joanne Austin   | joaustinp@gmail.com       | Karen Dales              | karen.dalesparishcouncil@talktalk.net |
| Howard Bedford  | howard@howardbedford.com  | Graham Slater            | GrahamSlater@mpcsl.com                |
| Jacqueline Ward | jwardpc3@gmail.com        | Stella Walsh             | stellawalshparishcouncil@gmail.com    |
| Vacant          |                           | Vacant                   |                                       |
| Claire Hassell  | eclairehassell@live.co.uk | <b>Chair:</b> Phil Maude | philm.bspc@gmail.com                  |



Note: All information provided in this newsletter was accurate as at 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020