Thank You

As Christmas approaches and 2024 draws to a close we would like to say thank you to everyone who volunteers their time in some capacity to make our village so special.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community, working tirelessly behind the scenes: The Community Group, The Womblers, The Warm Space group, Warm Welcome Wednesdays, The Village Hall Committee, The Speedwatch Group, The Strollers and Striders, The Voluntary Transport Scheme, The Wassail Committee and Joe Poultney whose green fingers keep our village blooming all year round.

This year, St John's Church celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Beyond being a place of worship, our village churches serve as vital community hubs, hosting a wide range of events and activities that bring people together. These events are made possible thanks to the dedication of many local volunteers, whose selfless efforts contribute to the well-being and spirit of our community.

There are too may volunteers for us to thank individually, many who we're not aware of too. We thank you all for making our village a community.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Parish Council News

Downs Car Park issues: Barlaston has long been known for its beauty, recently confirmed by our ranking as #18 in the Sunday Times' list of the 20 best secret villages to live in. but it seems that we *really* are on the map (or two apps, to be more precise) of overnight camping spots. This would explain why we have seen many overnight visitors on the carpark in recent months. The Clerk has now successfully removed us from those and our local PCSO Megan Rogers has advised us to put signage in place to deter future overnight visitors.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a concern on the car park after dark, and we urge residents to report any incidents to the Police via 101. If you witness any criminal activity, call 999.

Remedial works: You may have noticed that our benches are now looking like new. Our grounds contractor, Buxus Green, have begun their annual maintenance around the village now that the grass-growing season is over. The Parish Council is currently inspecting all village assets, with plans to start a programme of renewal and repair in the New Year.

Play areas: Both the Multi-Use Games Area at Barlaston Park and the Wild Play Area on the Village Green undergo annual inspections by RoSPA. We are pleased to report that the necessary remedial works have now been completed.

New memorial bench: We are grateful to soon receive a new memorial bench, kindly donated by the estate of the late Lindsay Willis. This bench will replace the one that was lost near the old library on the village green.

Sakura Cherry Tree Project: The Parish Council will be taking receipt of several free cherry trees from this project that seeks to strengthen links between the UK and Japan.

Grant Applications: The Parish Council were pleased to give support in the form of a grant to both Barlaston and Wedgwood Cricket Club and the annual Wassail.

Parking: The Parish Council have been consulted on the proposal for a ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ zone at the junction of Park Drive and Tittensor Road. We gave our support to these plans and would like to see similar measures considered for other areas of the village where inconsiderate parking is an issue.

Planning your driving retirement: The County Council’s Road Safety Officer has introduced a new initiative aimed at mature road users. Barlaston has been invited to participate in a pilot of a two-hour workshop on planning for driving retirement. We will provide further details when they become available.