New Website Goes LIVE

Our new website is now live! Councillors have been issued official email addresses under the new domain, and the Clerk can now be contacted at **clerk@barlastonparishcouncil.gov.uk**.

Residents are encouraged to visit the site for council documents, updates, and the latest news. You can find us at: www.barlastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jubilee Award Winner Announced



We are delighted to announce that **Michala Black** will be awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Award for *Villager of the Year*.

If you've joined a Strollers & Striders walk, attended a Film Night, picked up litter with the Womblers, used the Barlaston Car Scheme, or enjoyed one of Michala's uplifting community posts online, then you'll know just how much she brings to village life.

From founding the Barlaston Community Group and rallying volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic, to always finding a reason to celebrate or support others, Michala embodies the spirit of our village.

Congratulations, Michala – and thank you for everything you do to make Barlaston such a special place.

A full list of *community-nominated* individuals who will receive a Certificate of Commendation is as follows:

Charlotte Davies: A regular performer at village events and a dedicated Wombler, Charlotte is always ready to help - whether it's assisting at film nights or leading inspiring initiatives like the Tree of Hope during the pandemic.

Becky Wilshaw: Becky organises the *Warm Welcome Wednesday* coffee mornings, giving residents a regular opportunity to gather for a friendly chat, a brew, and a slice of her famous cake. She also organises the Village Markets, with all profits from both going to charity.

Gill Brealey: Gill has been involved in village life for many years. She's a former member of the Village Hall committee, a Strollers and Striders leader, Church Warden, Wombler, and a member of the Speed Awareness group.

Mandy Bloor: Known as Barlaston's *Wombling Queen*, Mandy plays a huge role in keeping the village clean. Her regular litter-picking walks and cheerful updates on social media have brightened many days. Thank you, Mandy!

Gareth Jones: Gareth stepped down this year as Chairman of the Village Hall after an incredible 43 years of service. The Parish Council is proud to recognise his dedication to our valued community hub.

Irene & David Moran: Irene coordinates the Volunteer Car Scheme - an essential service for villagers without transport. Together, Irene and David also contribute to the annual Wassail, with David crafting the equipment and Irene making and mending costumes.

The Green Family – Leese's of Barlaston: Leese's has recently celebrated 40 years in business in the village. A cornerstone of our community, the Green family have consistently supported village events through generous donations and outstanding service. Congratulations!

Lynne Coates: Lynne has played a key role in village life for many years and is a previous Jubilee Award recipient. This year, she stepped down after 20 years as the Parish Council's webmaster. We thank her for her long-standing support and commitment.

Shane Brunt: Shane is the quiet force behind care of our Village Green. Increasingly, we've seen careless drivers causing significant damage by driving onto the Green. Time and again, before anyone else has even noticed, Shane has stepped in to repair the damage - without fuss or fanfare. Thank you, Shane, your efforts are appreciated.

Thank you all!

We'll confirm the date and location of the award presentation soon, so the whole community can join us in celebrating everyone involved.

VE/VJ Day Commemorative Event: A new bench has been ordered to mark the 80th anniversary of VE/VJ Day, this will replace the old wooden one at the bus stop on Wedgwood Lane.

Youth Council Initiative: Cllr Lloyd is organising a drop-in session at the Village Hall for young people interested in forming a Youth Council.

Grants Awarded: Barlaston Bowling & Tennis Club has been awarded £212 to protect the retaining wall. Barlaston Guides have been awarded £600 to purchase new tents for their summer camp.

Casual Vacancy: There remains a vacancy for a Parish Councillor in the Barlaston Park Ward. Interested residents are invited to contact the Clerk for more information.

Viv O'Dunne – Parish Council Clerk