

New era for Barnes Charitable Trust

Two years before his death, in 1990, John Barnes, past Headmaster of Earnseat School and owner of its associated properties, proposed the setting up of a Charitable Trust to manage a potential bequest of the majority of the school's estates in Arnside.

He set about finding members of the community, who would join his Executors, as trustees to administer and manage the properties. John Barnes took great care in selecting his potential trustees so as to ensure that his own environmental interests, as well as the interests of the community, would be fostered following his demise and accordingly a Trust was set up comprising three executors and seven village residents.

This very generous bequest did not include any actual money, though provision had been made for the sale of assets if necessary. The principal asset, Ashmeadow House, a listed building, sadly fell into disrepair during the 1990's due to various factors presenting a singular challenge to the Trust.

Then early in 2002 the Executors, still owners of the estate, were approached by the Arnside (Abbeyfield) Society about possible purchase of Ashmeadow House and its garden to create a new Abbeyfield. The sale of Ashmeadow House to Abbeyfield in late 2003 had a twofold outcome; the new owners of the house were able to substantially refurbish and revitalise the building and the Trust were able to benefit from half of any interest which accrued on the capital from the sale.

In addition to property, the bequest

involved the estate surrounding Ashmeadow House and in 1998 the Executors asked the Trust to manage the woodlands, orchards, walled garden and cottage in the area to the south of the house which has proved successful due to the availability of several grants. The Trust have been able to improve access, particularly for disabled visitors, provide seats and continue with a programme of wildflower planting in the walled garden.

The Trust is now entering a new era free from the burdens of maintaining the principal building and new trustees have been appointed, as 18 years on, only four of the original trustees remain active.

The Trust will continue to manage the woodland areas and in due course will benefit from a capital sum when the full terms of the John Barnes bequest are realised.

Vic Gray, a long-serving Chairman of the Parish Council until 1999, has been chairman of the Barnes Trust from the beginning. He has recently handed over to a new Chairman, Peter McSweeney but remains a trustee.

The Trust has also appointed a new Secretary, Bernard Higgins and Treasurer, Jayne Beaumont. The Trust now has one Executor and 11 village representatives who will work together to maintain and enhance, where possible, this valuable village amenity and continue to ensure that the aim of John Barnes' objectives is never forgotten.

MESSENGER CONTACTS

If you would like an item putting in the next Messenger please contact the Editor, Sandy Felton, by email: Arnsidemessenger@btinternet.com or Rachel Dutfield on 01524 762573

Information about Arnside Parish Plan Trust can be found on

<http://arnsideparishplantrust.org>

ARNSIDE MESSENGER

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DO YOU REMEMBER THE GREAT GALE?

Twenty-five years ago on 4th February, 1983 force 10 gales and blizzards battered the Northwest for 24 hours. The wind blew heavy seas over onto the road and the waves reduced Arnside pier to rubble as well as bringing down railings and part of the promenade.



Picture by Les Dutfield

You may well remember the famous gale or indeed have photographs taken at the time. If you have any photographs Dennis Bradbury would be delighted to have copies for the Arnside Archive. Please contact Dennis on 761934.

VILLAGE MARKETS

organised by
Arnside Parish Plan Trust

Saturday 12th April

Saturday 14th June

Saturday September 6th

Saturday December 6th
(Christmas themed market)

all Markets will be held between
10am and 4pm at the W.I. Hall,
Orchard Road, Arnside

Local crafts and food

Playground initiative gets under way

The Playground Working Group are now actively applying for grants in order to raise the substantial sum which will be needed to replace the existing children's play area at the Playing Field.

The total raised at present stands at just over £6,000 and over the coming months, in addition to grant applications, a number of fund-raising events will be taking place.

Look out for the cake stall at the Village Market on Saturday 14th June.

Anyone who can make cakes for the stall should contact Sarah Young on 762820.

The Playground Working Group, formed by Arnside Parish Council, is being supported by Arnside Parish Plan Trust.

If you can help with fund raising please contact Ged Pinder on 761889.

Arnside Sailing Club Celebrates 50 years

With the 50th Anniversary of Arnside Sailing Club this year it seems more than fitting that they should be hosting, in partnership with Morecambe, the N.W. Area Championships for Enterprise Dinghies during the summer.

The present Sailing Club is probably the third to be formed in Arnside. During the 19th century, with the coming of the railway, the area became popular with day-trippers and so local boat builders and owners, such as Crossfields, organised boating trips out into the bay.



Eventually, people wanted to own their own boats – although these would have been very different from the dinghies and small boats we see today - and so the first Yacht club was formed. It is believed that the club existed up until the First World War, hosting regular sailing and rowing regattas. The second club is believed to have started after WWI but lasted only a couple of years.

Then in 1958 the present club was formed and among the early leading personalities were John Duerden and Jack Bernfeld. Within a short time the club took over their present premises at the Old Customs Warehouse.

It was Jack Bernfeld who noted that, "A man who can sail a boat in Morecambe Bay can sail anywhere." It is a well known fact that the Bay is a tough test for any sailor and can be a dangerous place for the inexperienced.

Activities at Arnside Sailing Club have always been family orientated and each season sees a full programme of events. There is the 'fitting-out' supper and 'laying-up' supper celebrating the start and end of the sailing season, jazz and quiz nights. Racing tends to be every second

weekend although the tide limits the time.

Currently the club has around 100 members but more are always welcome. The current commodore is John Quinn and the clubhouse is open every Friday evening for members and guests. More information about the Sailing Club can be obtained from Mr Peter Larsson on 761670.

ARNSIDE FIRST RESPONDERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The First Responders are able to respond immediately to 999 calls. Because we are in the village we can provide valuable help before the ambulance arrives.

North-West Ambulance Service provide straight-forward training for volunteers. More volunteers are now needed - if you feel you could help and would like more information please contact Jeremy Bayley on 762314 or Roger Dearden on 762577.

AONB Matters

By the time you read this your copy of The Bittern 2008 should have dropped through your letter box. Depending on where in the AONB you live it will have been delivered by your postman or one of our band of volunteers.

If the worst happens and for some reason you don't get a copy through your door, don't worry ... copies are also available at various outlets in the village including the Doctors' Surgery and the Library. This year's publication has the usual favourites from our partners but we hope you also enjoy the new additions of 'Dragonflies of the AONB'. We also hope that you will take up the challenge to dust off your boots and get out into our wonderful countryside, after reading about the health and well-being benefits of taking a walk - although we can fully understand if you are waiting for the weather to warm up a little first!

The AONB has help with the establishment of a Community Interest Company, to work alongside the AONB Service and the A/SAONB Landscape Trust. The Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company has identified several tasks to take forward as priorities: securing Conservation Grazing in the AONB, a Woodchip fuel supply initiative, a Conservation Cookbook and associated website and an online shop selling Landscape Trust merchandise.

The AONB Services main priority for the rest of 2008 is completing the review of the AONB Management Plan – check the website:

www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk for information and the chance to take part in the review.

David Askew
AONB Officer

RSPB Leighton Moss

There is a full programme of activities and events at RSPB Leighton Moss Reserve over the spring and summer. Events range from guided walks to Family Activities including Pond Dipping, Bitterns at bedtime and an art course on wild flower watercolours. For more information contact: 01524 701601 or email leighton.moss@rspb.org.uk

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Arnside's Fairtrade Steering Committee were delighted with the support for the coffee morning held at the W.I. recently. The Rev. David Cooper (Chair) gave illustrated talks on Fairtrade and a considerable number of visitors enrolled as local supporters.

The Fairtrade stall did exceptional business selling over £250 worth of goods.



Fairtrade coffee morning

The next fairtrade stall will be at the Village Market on Saturday 12th April.

Also a not to be missed event will be the Guides Fairtrade Fashion Show on Tuesday 10th June.

The Steering Group are looking for someone who would volunteer to do a simple website. Any offers to Rachel Dutfield please on 762573.