



Wild About Barrow

August 2021

News Update

If you have perused the **WAB** newsletters recently you'll have seen that a lot has been happening recently.

Firstly, we have a page on the NatureSpot website. This is a fantastic charitable organisation which aims to promote the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland. Anyone can submit wildlife sighting and in Barrow we have 3 places: the Cotes Road verge and two sections of the River Soar. Experts are available to help with identification and there are thousands of species to view. Visit website: www.naturespot.org.uk and scroll down 'Wild Places' to find Barrow Cotes Road Verge or find Barrow-upon-Soar under 'Parishes.'

Secondly, the report on the Cotes Road Verge has been received and a total of 32 species have been identified. Since then 2 more have been found and no doubt there will be more. Volunteers will be needed to cut half the verge at the end of the summer. Notices will go out nearer the time but if you wish to put your name forward now, please do!

Finally, Barrow in Bloom was judged on 14th July and this time the new category, 'Environmental Responsibility,' was judged. The results will be published later in the summer under Barrow in Bloom.

Wildflower Area, Millennium Park



Sharing our village with Wildflowers

This area holds many wildflowers but one plant is not so welcome. It's the horsetail, *Equisetum arvense* (wood horsetail???) If you would like to don a pair of gloves and help to reduce this invasive plant please contact **WAB**: Wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com

Are you enjoying the wildflowers around our village? If so, do tell the Parish Council. I was delighted recently to count over 25 species of wildflowers on Psalter Lane, only to be dismayed a few weeks later to find that they had been removed as some residents had complained. Of course, any stinging and prickly plants should be removed if they are likely to cause harm. If you like wildflowers adorning our footpaths, instead of a lifeless concrete alleyway, the PC needs to know! Perhaps we can then enjoy floriferous walks through our village and live more in harmony with the natural world.

Contact the PC at: <https://www.barrowpc.org.uk/contact-us.html>

'I know a bank where the wild carrot grows ...'

Well, not quite Shakespeare but a dream-like bank nevertheless. A glorious show of wildflowers adorns the Willow Road bank heading in from Cotes Road. It's a fantastic habitat but if we want to preserve it, we need to find out what's there.

If you are interested in finding out what species are there contact **Wild About Barrow** and we'll arrange a time to record them.



Wild Celebration July

Here are a few of the gems to be found on the Willow Road bank.



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Common agrimony
(*Agrimonia eupatoria*)

Creeping thistle
(*Cirsium arvense*)



Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*)

Prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*)

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)

What have you seen? Send your pictures to wildaboutbarrow@gmail.com for inclusion next month. There's no need to identify, we'll try to do that. Just tell us where you saw it so we can look first hand.

What to see

1. Enjoy the **wildflowers** growing along the **Willow Road** bank. The Teasels are just coming into flower.
2. Don't miss the cheerful displays of the yellow hawkbit around the village including those at the beginning of Thirlmere Road and near the play equipment off Willow Road.

What to do

1. **Join the RSPB's Big Butterfly Count** and get all of a flutter to help nature. It's an annual event that takes just 15 minutes to help gauge the health of the nation's wildlife as many other creatures rely on these creatures for food. But hurry, it closes on 8th August. <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

2. Disinfect bird feeders regularly to prevent the spread of some pretty unpleasant diseases. Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection which affects mainly greenfinches and house sparrows. Infected birds tend to stay around feeders, are lethargic and do not respond to danger. Avian canker leaves birds unable to swallow and affects finches, doves and pigeons. Tit, dunnocks and pigeons are susceptible to avian pox which results in warty growths. So have a happy flock visiting your garden by keeping feeders clean.

Think global: Act local