

DHBT PAST EVENTS

2021

August 2021, Barrow on Trent and St
Wilfrid's Church



The recently refurbished Church of St Wilfrid's in Barrow upon Trent. The Grade I listed church has received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, amongst others.

On Sunday 15th August, the Friends of St Wilfrid's Church led 20 DHBT guests on a village trail around Barrow upon Trent.

Dominating the growth of this pretty village are two things that are almost hidden. Firstly, the River Trent; only visible at the end of Church Lane and, secondly, Barrow Hall, first built in the 16th century and burnt to the ground in 1956.

The Parish of Barrow used to be a farming community with around 19 farms and small holdings, of which 12 were situated in the village. In the early and mid-20th century, several of the larger estates were sold off, and land was made available for building. We were introduced to many of those buildings built before 1900 as part of the visit.

Highlights included The Row, which was built in 1789 and paid for by parish levy. Originally one room deep with kitchen extensions added later, these were built as workers cottages immediately after the enclosures had redistributed land amongst the landowners. No.16A retains evidence of its days as a shop and No.18 was extended in 1901 to include a bakery.

'Pinfold' is a cottage that was part of the farm buildings for 'St Wilfrid's House', containing the blacksmith's forge. The pinfold is a medieval structure provided for stray animals. St Wilfrid's Church dates back to Anglo Saxon times and was developed by the Knight's Hospitallers between the 12th and 16th century.

You can find out more about the village and the church on their website: www.stwilfridsbarrow.org





Village War Memorial Puzzle



The war memorial in Barrow upon Trent.

During the visit to Barrow upon Trent we found out some interesting facts relating to the village war memorial.

In 1915, Mr. F. C. Arkwright, the great grandson of Sir Richard Arkwright, having lost his son and a son-in-law in the fighting, organised a competition for Derbyshire villages.

He wanted to seek out the village that had sent the greatest number of volunteers to fight in the First World War, in proportion to the size of its population. He wished to encourage others to support the war effort.

The prize was a Memorial Cross to be erected in the winner's village. Barrow won that competition, having sent more volunteers to the war in proportion to its population than any other village in Derbyshire and it has been suggested, in the country, (there were, at that time, fewer than 60 dwellings in the village and by late 1915, 36 men had volunteered to enlist).

Two years after the cross was erected a further puzzle was presented regarding the date that had been engraved.

In 1918, the Derby Daily Telegraph included this letter under the title '1914-1919?'

A BARROW-ON –TRENT PROPHECY

Sir:- In view of the many opinions now being hazarded as to the ending of the war, the following inscription from the handsome new village cross at Barrow on Trent, which charmingly picturesque old village I visited yesterday, is not without interest:-

“In honour of the men of Barrow-on-Trent, who voluntarily served their King and Country in the great war of nations 1914 -1919. This cross is erected by Frederick Charles Arkwright of Willersley, in this county, 1916”

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Yours faithfully,

Horace Weir, Derby, August 20th 1918

At the end of the war, 29 men whose names were celebrated on the cross returned home and 7 of the men had been killed. In 2016, the Parish unveiled another plaque with the names of the men of the village who volunteered after 1916 and whose names had not, of course, been included upon the main memorial cross.