

Update from the Barlow Chair of Trustees 25.10.18

I am writing to you all again to give you another update on how things are progressing at the Barlow. It is over a month since I last did an update and in that time a massive amount has been accomplished by the volunteers.

In September, volunteer-led activity has raised over £5,000. This is a great achievement. The trustees again want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication.

There have been significant changes to the Reading Room. A volunteer steering group has been formed to run the Reading Room for the next three months. They will then make recommendations to the Trustees about how it should be developed. Already costs have been brought under control and footfall has been increased. Our thanks to the steering group and their imaginative marketing!

We have appointed a new Trustee, Martin Smith who lives in Edgworth. Martin is a stalwart of the Folk Club and his wife Pat is a member of the office team. Our thanks to those who have expressed interest in becoming a Trustee; we hope to appoint more in the very near future.

There have been some very successful events this month including the Beer Festival which raised £3,979.86. The Folk Club Festival was a wild success as usual and we benefited from a most generous donation of £2,750 from the Club.

Sara Lobley has agreed to become Bar Manager for the next six months. We are grateful to her for taking on this demanding role and we will give her every support.

We are pleased to support the plans for improvements to the Cricket Club and the Bowling Club. The Trustees are optimistic that future relationships with both clubs will be cordial and mutually beneficial.

Another step forward for the Barlow is pending. You will remember that a working group was set up after the AGM to investigate the viability of a CIO or other legal entity for the Barlow. That group has now completed its work and will be presenting its report to the Trustees for consideration. Our thanks to the group and its Chair John Richardson for its researches and its diligence. We will keep you informed of progress.

In November, the Barlow is hosting an afternoon and evening event to welcome the Friends of the Barlow and express the Charity's gratitude for their continuing support. Our thanks to Mike King for organising this and indeed for setting up the Friends in the first place.

Erratum. Last month I made an error in reporting the sum of money currently sitting in the Friends of the Barlow account. It is actually in excess of £30,000. My apologies.

The Barlow has a very full and impressive schedule of events leading up to Christmas and I know that the volunteers are making a great success of everything they do. The Barlow is proud of them.

Christine Waring

Chair of the Trustees