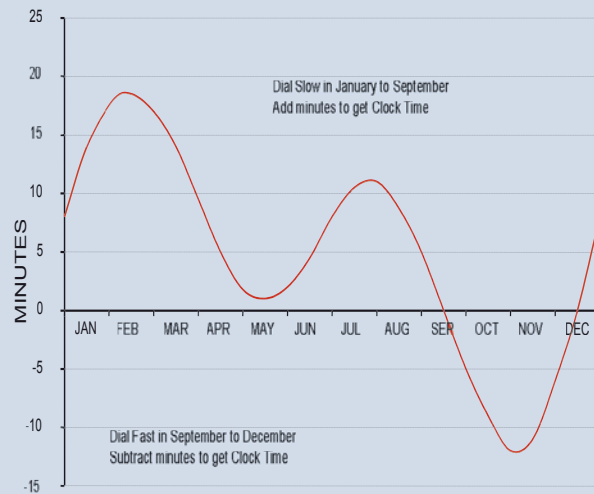


In the United Kingdom, time is related to the longitude of Greenwich and our average time is called **Greenwich Mean Time GMT**.

Use the graph below to find the correction that you need to apply to the sundial reading at different times of the year in order to find GMT.

When **British Summer Time BST** is in force, usually between the end of March and the end of October, you must apply the correction given by the graph and then add one hour.



Acknowledgements

The Millennium Group is grateful to all those connected with this project but in particular to the people of Barrow-upon-Soar for supporting the events which raised £12,000 towards this whole project in Millennium Year.

Our gratitude also goes to the Leicestershire Shire Grants, Barrow Parish Council, the Barrow Community Association and Charnwood Arts for their support.

Numerous contractors were involved with the project and some of the materials were donated by Lafarge Aggregates and Brett Landscaping.

Finally thanks are extended to Patrick Powers, the Sundial Consultant, who advised and guided the project.

LOCATION

The Millennium Park, where you will find the gnomon, is situated on the edge of the village of Barrow-upon-Soar as shown on the map. The grid reference is SK583178. There is an entrance at the junction of Melton Road and Fishpool Way and two other entrances along Fishpool Way. It is hoped in the future to provide limited parking near the northern end of the park, but cars may for the present be parked on Fishpool Way.

The Sundial, consisting of a large stainless steel gnomon set in a chapter ring of 16 hour-marking granite blocks, is to be found in the centre of the Millennium Park on a promontory overlooking the village to the west.



The Millennium Group

Mike Morley (Chairman),
Drew Kirby, Lilian Middleton, Mike Neale, Sue Rodgers,
Ted Rodgers, Jean King and Betty Turner.

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Barrow upon Soar Millennium Sundial & Park



To celebrate the new millennium in 2000 the Barrow Millennium Group was set up by the Parish Council. As a result of numerous events £12,000 was raised and consideration was given to planning something suitable as a lasting record of the occasion.

This was followed by the Parish Council taking ownership of the land adjacent to Fishpool Way and they agreed that the millennium Group should use the money raised, together with other grants, to plan and organise the Millennium Park.

The land had already been fenced and extensive tree planting carried out. In March 2003 village organisations took part in a Community Tree planting day. Later that year a perimeter footpath was constructed and small trial patches of native daffodils, bluebells, primroses, cowslips, wood anemones and snowdrops were introduced.

Whilst all this was going on plans were being put together for construction of a Time Zone, the central feature of which would be a large Sundial with a stainless steel gnomon. Investigation showed that there were only two or three such structures of this size in the whole country and expert guidance was sought from Patrick Powers from Hertfordshire with its design. Some highly technical calculations were required to determine the angle and height of the gnomon, the central part that creates the shadow; in addition the direction and position of the hour markers was highly critical.

After much deliberation and planning everything was eventually sorted and the giant gnomon (6.75 metres high) was constructed by Duffield Engineering (Colwick, Nottingham) and installed in collaboration with DTM Gardens and Landscaping (Cosby, Leicester) who were responsible for all the underground work and the setting of the cobblestones and granite blocks.

In addition to the Time Piece, a wood sculpture, in the form of three large Song Thrush eggs, designed by Martin Heron as part of the Charnwood Biodiversity Community Programme, was constructed in the area.

The Millennium Park and Sundial were officially opened by Lady Gretton, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire on Saturday 3rd July 2004.

Telling clock time from the Barrow Millennium Sundial

The Barrow Millennium Sundial indicates time by the position of the centre of its shadow, cast by the gnomon, on the hour line which is indicated by the angled three cobbles in front of each hour number. For 6.00am, 12 noon and 6.00pm the hour line will be a complete set of cobble stones.

Sundials show the time by the sun. However, because the earth does not travel in a circle round the sun and also because the earth's axis is tilted, the time shown by the sundial is not usually quite the same as that which is shown on a watch or clock. Clocks cannot cope with the sun time and instead show an average or mean time for the country concerned. It is this measure of time that we are used to.

