



BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Fifty Six Winter 2012

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ALL THAT GLISTERS - LONDON 2012

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Bollington Live! is published three times a year on a non-profit-making basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington Live! - A voice for everyone" we aim to promote local concerns. Contributions are welcome to: The Editor, c/o Bollington Printshop, The Old Stables, Queen St., Bollington SK10 5PS

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POWER TO THE PEOPLE

BUSES – WILL THERE BE ANOTHER ALONG IN A MINUTE?

As usual, Bollington has risen to the occasion and forcibly expressed its response to Cheshire East Council's suggestion that they may remove subsidy from the 10A bus service from Macclesfield to Ingersley Road. This would practically curfew non car owning residents after 6pm on Monday to Saturday.

At the Town Council meeting on the 2nd October a brave Chris Williams, Cheshire East Council's Transport Officer, came to explain the situation and to take people's views and he didn't go home empty handed. There was a big and vocal turn out. Chris was well up to the task and was very open about the level of the subsidy (circa £12k) and the usage which was about 900 passengers per week. However, he was aware of the unique situation in Bollington and felt that in terms of the decision making "line" Bollington was very close to it and accepted the social, leisure and employment arguments put forward. He was also aware of the high level of response to this issue from Bollington, similar to the number 11 service to Kerridge which had been retained.

Supplied with hundreds of names on petitions, plus letters and emails, Cheshire East's Cabinet met on

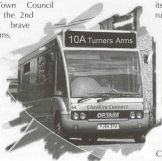
Monday 15th to discuss this and other routes and after a lengthy discussion, the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Rod Menlove, decided to consult with Arriva buses before he would confirm the continued running of the 10A.

Is this bad news? Well it is for me because I was expecting confirmation of its continued running. However, I have been assured that the debate has moved on from whether it runs to who pays for it and the situation is now who blinks first. Also as Town Clerk I have had everything crossed on this issue - and a number of others - and I was hoping to be able to unravel at least some of my appendages soon!

.... THE USAGE WAS ABOUT 900 PASSENGERS PER WEEK

Thanks to everyone who signed the petitions, put up the posters on every bus stop and generally supported this life-blood route, AND if we can also use it a little more and leave our cars at home we can stop this ever happening again.

David Naylor
 Bollington Town Clerk



GET INVOLVED BY COMING ALONG TO OUR NEXT MEETING

The Dog & Partridge

Wednesday, 14th November.

8.00pm

EDITORIAL

By the time this edition of **Bollington Live!** reaches you, the clocks will have changed and we will be getting used to the dark nights and looking forward to the spring once again.

Bollington Live! finds a place to look back on a summer where the Olympic and Paralympic Games were a real highlight. Two Paralympian medal winners are former Bollingtonians, and their grandparents still live in our town. May I add my personal congratulations to Libby and James Clegg on their Medals.

Bollington, as always, keeps itself busy over the summer months, and this is reflected in this issue. Once again, there have been a large number of articles submitted for consideration - in fact far more than at any time previously while I have been editor. I think this shows that we are still producing a popular quality magazine.

We print 5000 copies of each issue, and try to include something for everyone. From our surveys, the vast majority of Bollingtonians are very happy with **Bollington Live!** There is however, always room for new ideas and articles. It's up to you to make this magazine what it is. Why not come along to our next meeting and consider becoming a part of our editorial team. You will be made most welcome. There's no pressure, and you will be able to write as and when you want - as long as you're writing is of interest to Bollington!

I hope you find something of interest, enjoy the read, and hope it is not too early to wish a Happy Christmas to all our readers.

Anthony Holland

Date for next copy:
Friday 25th January 2013

ALL THAT GLISTERS...

London 2012 brings bronze and silver medals for the Clegg family in the paralympics! What an achievement for Libby and James Clegg who spent many of their childhood years here in Bollington. The Clegg siblings are totally blind, but in spite of this they now compete with elite athletes around the world in their chosen sports of running (Libby) and swimming (James).

From about seven years old Libby started to sit closer to the television and have her nose right up to school books at St Gregory's school where she was a pupil, but being a quiet child and the oldest of four siblings she didn't complain and it wasn't until two years later that the local GP gave the devastating news that Libby was almost totally blind. At this point her confidence had gone and she was retreating into her own world – her glimmer of hope was her running. She started running with sighted athletes at Macclesfield Harriers and she was soon discovered to be not just 'good' but 'exceptional'. Her running sustained her as she struggled to adjust to her new isolating, introspective sightless world.

STRUMMING HIS GUITAR AT HOME, JAMES HAS SPECIAL TUNES FOR DIFFERENT FAMILY MEMBERS AS THEY COME AND GO ABOUT THE HOUSE

Moving to Scotland was the only option for the Clegg family when two of Libby's younger brothers started to go blind too. This was a brand new start for both Libby and James as they went to a school for the blind where their disability was 'normal' and their extraordinary gifts for running and swimming were realised and nurtured. They could start to trust people again, they learnt Braille, they studied for GCSE's and most importantly they were no longer defined by their blindness.

Photographs of Libby and James Clegg with their Paralympic Medals provided by the Clegg Family

Libby decided 'I can run' and she poured all her energies into her training. This hard work and determination was rewarded as she started to win medals all over the world. In 2008 she won her first paralympic silver medal in Beijing. This success inspired her younger brother James to follow in her footsteps.

LIBBY ONCE SPENT TWO HUNGRY DAYS IN BEIJING BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE FOOD WAS IN THE VAST DINING AREA...

James first started to swim in Scotland and soon discovered that he was 'quite good at it'. London 2012 was his first paralympics – entered as a 'wild card' – he came away with a well-deserved bronze medal. James was bowled over by his success – which of course has to be communicated verbally to the athletes at the end of the race because they can't see who has won. He is naturally a quiet person but has a fantastic humour. Strumming his guitar at home he has special tunes for different family members as they come and go about the house.

Neither Libby nor James use a white stick – Libby was adamant that people would not see her disability first and James has followed her lead. Now they both live independently coping with daily difficulties that sighted people



don't even think of – Where are the plates for dinner? Where is the drink someone just made for me? Learning to be ordered at home putting things where they can find them again and having a regimented kitchen are second nature to people with no sight. The difficult part comes with the interaction with sighted people who don't think when they put the milk back in the fridge on a different shelf or leave the top off the jam or push the coffee table to one side in the lounge.

Libby once spent two hungry days at the Beijing Paralympics because she didn't know where the food was in the vast dining area and so could not join in the self-service system. 'We don't think of the day-to-day things that are hard if not impossible for someone who is blind' said a friend.

Libby completed her degree at Loughborough University and now lives in Loughborough dividing her time between her training, competing in competitions around the world and helping other people into sport so others can realise their dreams too!

Libby and James are not only great athletes whose names now are written in paralympic history but they are also shining examples to us all that no matter how difficult our personal handicap may be, nothing is beyond our achievement, when heart and mind are involved.

Well done Libby and James – we're all behind you for Rio!

Annette Hurst

