



BOLLINGTON

Number Sixty Three

Spring 2015

Live!

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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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Cover: 'WHITE NANCY' - Photograph from the Discovery Centre archive. Hand tinted by Matt Wray

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WISE COUNCIL...

WHY NOT BECOME A BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCILLOR?

This year, four and possibly five of our town councillors will be standing down after many years of excellent service but all 12 seats, 4 in each of our 3 wards, are up for election.

Being a town councillor has never been more important as we see Cheshire East Council pulling back from the delivery or management of assets and services and offering them to local bodies such as ourselves. Since taking on the Civic Hall the Town Council has doubled the income from bookings and slashed the operating costs. The role is also more important as we move to secure local control of future development within our town up until 2030 with a neighbourhood plan.

It won't be an easy life and you won't get paid but it will be very rewarding. You will be supported by a small team of professional officers. You will be local, accountable and very much in the know about almost everything that happens in our community. There will be frustrations but Bollington has a very strong community spirit and a loud voice - add your voice to that.

The Town Council is holding an open evening for prospective councillors 6pm - 8pm on 26 February at Bollington Town Hall. Come along to meet the staff and existing councillors to see what is involved. You can also access the Town Council's website www.bollington-tc.gov.uk where you will find more information about the role.

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

To be nominated you must be:

- 18 years or over on the day of your nomination
- A British, Commonwealth, or Irish Citizen, or a citizen of another Member State of the EU.

AND at least one of the following:

- Registered as a voter in Bollington, OR for 12 months prior to election day an Owner or Tenant of any land/premises in Bollington, OR your principal place of work during those 12 months has been Bollington, OR you have lived in the Town or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) during the last 12 months.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

If you qualify you may be nominated after the Notice of Election published on 20 March; the deadline for nomination is 9 April. To be nominated you must be proposed and seconded and the proposer and seconder must live in the ward you intend to stand in. Nomination papers will be available from the Town Council Offices or Website. Please note that there is a strict timetable that candidates must adhere to and further details can be obtained from Bollington or Cheshire East Council. Only the Returning Officer (Tel: 0300 123 55 00), based at Cheshire East Council (www.cheshireeast.gov.uk), can accept/approve nominations.

David Naylor



Stephen Hurst - Editor

Get involved in our magazine!
E-mail: liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk or send a message through facebook (just look for Bollington Lives).

Why not become a councillor yourself? If you are interested in standing for election on 7th May 2015 please contact David Naylor.

Tel 01625 572965

<http://parish.cheshire.gov.uk/bollington>

Date for next copy:
20th May 2015

EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 63 of **Bollington Live!**

After what is the shortest editorship in the history of the magazine I will be leaving after this issue. I have been very fortunate to be able to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity over the festive period and have a new job based in Manchester. I will therefore be leaving my position as manager of Bollington Health & Leisure as well. Initially I had planned to stay with the magazine as long as it would have me; but unfortunately, these changes mean my connections with Bollington are all but gone.

It'll be sad to say goodbye to the village and **Bollington Live!** but I know the magazine will be in good hands in the form of the new editor, Annette Hurst, who coincidentally shares my name along with an interest in driving the magazine forwards. You may know Annette from her involvement in the Bollington Festival.

We would still like to encourage new writers and after a call to arms last issue we do have a few different contributors this issue, which is great to see. So if you feel you would like to get in touch and help the new editor please do so via the email address on the left.

As with all issues, issue 63 is a mixed bag, so read on to find out about growing your own veg, news on the Bollington Initiative Trust, an introduction to some of the newest residents of the village, lots of articles on local people and of course, news on the celebration of White Nancy turning 200.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

Steven

THE BOLLINGTON GOOD LIFE



Many of us have the ambition to live the 'Good Life', but just how realistic is it in Bollington? We are blessed with a number of allotment sites, but with 'Growing Your Own' becoming more and more popular, they are in great demand.

The average UK family spends over £5k ever year on fresh fruit and veg so it's never been more important to look at how we source our food and how we can get more from our gardens and allotments.

Crowing your own food invariably sees an increase during hard times. The price of vegetables has soared in recent years, family budgets are squeezed and now over 30% of the UK population grows at least some of their food. Recent food scandals also mean there is a wish for consumers to know where their food is coming from. The upshot of all this is there is a high demand on allotments and, particularly in a village such as Bollington, many people are finding it difficult to find the space to start their own veg patch.

My Allotment

My husband, Craig, and I have had our own allotment for 18 months. We are lucky as we waited nearly 12 years and I have spoken to other allotmenters who waited much longer than that! There are currently 22 people on the council waiting list and with no new allotments planned in the near future, it really is a waiting game – so if you are interested, best get your name on the list now!

This year has been a real challenge for us – our allotment was an overgrown bramble patch with a rich vein of clay which caused flooding last February – we were wallowing knee deep in mud! But with a lot of effort we have had a bumper harvest for our first year.

Our potatoes, cabbages, garlic and squash fared particularly well – sadly all our strawberries were eaten by the squirrels and the fennel bolted! But that's allotmenting for you – lots of high points with a few low points to stop you getting too big headed!

Allotmenting used to be the pastime of our Granddads – but all that has changed and now 'growing your own' is considered to be seriously cool! Fellow allotmenter and Bollington resident, Kate Coyne, is getting her children involved right from the start:



"Having our young children around the allotment has been a fantastic experience. My boys have learnt how to grow vegetables from seed and how to nurture them. They have also learnt that some grown vegetables come in funny shapes and sizes, covered in soil, but it is great fun eating your own produce after you have picked it. My youngest was surprised to learn that you can actually eat pumpkin rather than just using them for Halloween decorations. We have of course had our disappointments with cabbages eaten by bugs and leeks that won't grow, but this is the way of Mother Nature, and when all is said and done there is little more appealing in life to young boys than playing around with horse muck."

Photographs:
Sarah Hodgkinson

Above: Surveying
the plot

Right: freshly
harvested
vegetables

Btn: Homegrown
carrots.

Find out more
about the
Food 4 Macc
scheme at:

www.food4macc.org

Not got an allotment?

You can grow a lot in a small space with a few pots or windowbox in your yard. Two or three 20" pots can produce fresh beans and peas from May to September. I've grown shallots, potatoes and carrots well in tubs.

But if your ambitions are bigger then Food 4 Macc have got a brilliant Garden Share scheme. Interested allotmenters are put in touch with local people who have a garden they are happy to share. The payback is the allotmenter gives an agreed small percentage of the harvest to the garden owner – so everyone wins! Bill Pettipiece from Food 4 Macc can put you in touch with local garden owners who are registered for the scheme.

Some Top Tips on getting started:

- Get your name on the Council list for an allotment or Food 4 Macc list for a garden share
- Pop a raised bed in your garden – use reclaimed timber, or a couple of lengths of decking from the DIY centre
- Make friends with a local horse owner and top up your beds during winter
- Swap seeds and young plants with other growers so you have a good variety of produce without spending too much
- Get cracking now with a few early varieties of beans and peas.

Sarah Hodgkinson

