



# BOLLINGTON

*Live!*

*Number Sixty Five*

*Autumn / Winter 2015*

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**REMEMBERING THE 50s**

**BOLLINGTON SPEAKS**

**30 MUSICAL YEARS**

**STRICTLY DANCING**

HOLMES ~ NADEN

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## THUMBS UP!

## CANAL GETS GREEN FLAG

We started 18 months ago with a determination to improve 'our' stretch of the Macclesfield Canal. Now we can proudly say the work over this period made a significant contribution towards the canal being awarded The Green Flag status.



Thanks to all who stopped, encouraged and thanked. It's good to have the Green Flag award, but it's much better to see happy, healthy, smiling faces enjoying the canal!

*continued on page 7*

## WALKING FOR FUN!

We made a decision to move this years walking festival forward for better weather, firmer ground and longer days. What a result!

38 walks over 8 days of glorious weather organised by 13 established walking groups. Yes, that many, and for a voluntary festival it shows you how big and inclusive this festival has become.

We intended the programme to be diverse and cover all age groups and abilities. This we have achieved as the figures show an increase in numbers signing up to all walks and very positive feedbacks.

The social events were also very successful. The Milky Way Night walk had great sightings, Bollington ghosts complained it wasn't raining and dark enough, and the bear hunt had a fantastic picnic!

The volunteer committee - Tricia Hodgskiss, Christine Brear, Tracy Mills, Cate Wallace, John Gooding, Jim Hoyle - would like to thank all those who contributed to this year's Festival.

Finally, a big well done and thank you to the Bridgend Centre for hosting the Walking Festival, providing a wide range of walks, and entertaining us all at the Walkers' Social.

Malcolm Bailey

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



I thought I'd do something different this issue and not have a picture of me so I've taken a photo of the pear tree in my front garden.

Planted 6 years ago as a small 'twig' the tree has not produced any fruit - until now! Each year I have carefully tied in the branches, pruned to a fan shape, fed with manure and waited - and the reward - all those pears!

My little tree got me thinking - editing Bollington Live doesn't take 6 years an issue - thankfully - but from a few months of careful preparation, masses of emails, phone conversation and committee discussions comes a great magazine reflecting the life of our town.

Of course, it goes without saying that we can only do it with your help - so if you have a story to tell or want to write about something you are involved with in the town or just have a great photo to share with us all, then just email me at [liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk](mailto:liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk).



If you have a photo of someone/thing that deserves a 'thumbs up' or a 'thumbs down' please email the editor

Annette

Date for next copy:  
11 January 2016

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Back Issues: [www.happy-valley.org.uk/live](http://www.happy-valley.org.uk/live)

# BOLLINGTON SPEAKS....

The Neighbourhood Plan for Bollington has entered an important development phase based on the results of the questionnaire distributed to every household in the Town during May and June this year – as reported in the last issue of Bollington Live.

Following the submission deadline on 12 July, data and comments from all online and paper copy responses were collated for detailed and impartial analysis. These results have since been presented in poster format at a public exhibition held at Bollington Cross School on 26-27 September, which also outlined the next steps in the development of the Plan and the key role further local community consultation will play in that process.

Mike Burdakin, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, commented: "We organized the exhibition display to reflect the key themes and results from the questionnaire which will now need to be addressed by our Neighbourhood Plan in terms of objectives and policies covering future land use and development in the Bollington area."

These themes cover:

- Local Demographics
- Aspects of Town Life and Local Services
- Open Spaces
- Heritage and Conservation
- Green Belt
- Housing
- Current and Future Employment
- Traffic and Transport
- The Future of Bollington

A total of 1,943 Questionnaire submissions were received. Assuming the current population of those aged over 16 in Bollington to be 6,300 (based on the 2011 census), this represents a return of 31% of those eligible, and more than 50% of households. A third of respondents indicated that they have lived in Bollington for longer than 30 years, and a third for less



**95% DISAGREED  
WITH  
DEVELOPMENT  
ON ANY OPEN  
SPACE**

**BOLLINGTON  
IS CLEARLY  
CONSIDERED TO  
BE A PLEASANT  
PLACE TO  
LIVE, WITH  
VERY STRONG  
SUPPORT FOR  
THE RURAL  
ASPECTS OF THE  
SURROUNDING  
COUNTRYSIDE  
AND THE  
COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT OF THE  
TOWN**

**59% OF  
BUSINESSES DID  
NOT FORESEE  
A CHANGE OF  
LOCATION**

than 10 years. The age distribution of respondents was widely spread but there was essentially a 50:50 split between those aged 55 and over, and those aged under 55. A very high number of respondents own their own home (86%).

Set against the returns from other similar surveys, the Bollington results appear to provide a reasonably representative response, and a viable evidence base on which to take the Neighbourhood Plan forward.

The exhibition presentations can now be accessed in detail via the Bollington Town Council website. However, a number of important indications emerged from the questionnaire data in relation to the major themes for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Bollington is clearly considered to be a pleasant place to live, with very strong support for the rural aspects of the surrounding countryside and the community spirit of the Town.

Strong support was indicated for cultural, social and recreational activities, while Health, Retail and Civic Services all scored particularly highly in importance.

Questionnaire responses confirmed the overwhelming importance to residents of open spaces within the urban Town, particularly the canal and towpath, Middlewood Way and recreation ground.

The majority of respondents considered that there is currently sufficient open space, but less certainty over provision for persons with a disability and young adults. Virtually 100% of responses indicated that it is important to conserve the natural environment, with very strong support for the retention of access to the surrounding countryside, and maintenance of the recreation ground to Green Flag status.

In terms of Conservation and Heritage, strong support was shown to retain the status of the existing four conservation areas within the town, and to give the Lowerhouse area conservation status. Importance is also attached

to the promotion of Bollington's industrial and agricultural heritage for tourism purposes.

Little support was shown for allowing any development within the parcels of Green Belt land around and within Bollington. Respondents strongly supported Green Belt land to be left as open space, and for uses of a recreational nature. However, there appears to be very little support for housing, renewable energy schemes, or caravan/mobile home sites as suitable uses for Green Belt land.

The Neighbourhood Plan must include policies on housing and other land uses in Bollington over the next 15 years. Accordingly, the questionnaire collected data from existing residents on the number and type of housing likely to be needed, and residents' preferences for the location of new houses.

Respondents generally indicated the highest priority is for affordable housing and housing for older persons, followed closely by houses with 3 bedrooms. The lowest priorities given were for 5+ bedrooms and private rented housing.

Regarding the location of new homes, the overwhelming preference was for the use of brownfield sites and vacant buildings. More than 92% of respondents disagreed with building on green belt land, while 95% disagreed with development on any open space or current recreational space.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents agreed that small 'infill' sites should be developed first, while 84% disagreed with large-scale developments. Almost 90% of respondents considered it important to have a property with a private garden and adequate off-street parking.

In general, similar numbers of people indicated that Bollington had the right mix of population and employment, or could do with more employment (28% and 30%, respectively), so that 58% support maintaining the provision of employment. The

# .... WITH A NOD TO THE FUTURE

overwhelming view was that if more employment land was required it should not be built in green belt area or on Bollington's open spaces and recreational space. Among respondents in work, about one-third who live in Bollington also work here. Two-thirds travel out to work and most commuting is done by car.

Employing companies interviewed by our Employment Working Group (more than 160 businesses) told us that 56% of their employees came from Bollington; 25% have come to Bollington in the last 5 years, but more than 25% have been established for 25 years or more. Overall the majority of current businesses are sole traders or small businesses with five employees or less. The major needs reported for business were for more parking, better signage, traffic calming, and the promotion of "Bollington for Business". Encouragingly, 59% of businesses did not foresee a change of location outside of Bollington in the long term (to 2030).

Given Bollington's geography and layout, it is clear that traffic and transport infrastructure will require careful consideration and advanced planning as part of the Neighbourhood Plan in order to maintain acceptable future conditions for residents and businesses. The suggestions both of traffic calming measures and a 20 mph upper speed limit received a positive majority response. Respondents were divided as to whether reduced speed limits or the provision of cycle lanes would encourage them to cycle in Bollington. The idea of a new shuttle bus scheme attracted positive interest, although 32% returned a neutral response.

There was majority agreement (57%) that there is not enough public car parking available in Bollington but only 32% agreed with the idea of introducing charges which might help to increase availability. Other results suggest that the main car parks at Pool Bank, Adlington Road, and the Civic Hall are under considerable pressure from residents as well as visitors to the town.



Considering Bollington's future, nearly half of respondents indicated that they would like to see it described as 'a working town' in 2030, compared to 23% as 'a dormitory town', and 17% as 'a tourist destination'. In relation to new initiatives that might be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, the majority of respondents indicated interest in green energy proposals, public toilets and tourist attractions. There was notably very little enthusiasm for the development of a new single-site shopping centre.

Based on these findings and consultations, as required for the Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Committee and Working Groups have drafted a series of Vision Statements linked to these major themes (see right). Local feedback and comments on these Vision Statements are invited and encouraged. "We need the people of Bollington to tell us if we are moving in the right direction" said Mike Burdakin, "so that hopefully we can define the most accurate vision, objectives and policies for the Neighbourhood Plan and the future of Bollington."

One date for your diary is Friday, 11 December 2015, when a public forum to discuss the status of the Neighbourhood Plan will take place at Bollington Civic Hall.

It is hoped that the exhibition panels will again be on display so that people will have the opportunity to review them prior to the start of the meeting.

Doors will be open from 7.00 pm.

Steve Roxborough

Photo:  
James Nicholas

Please e-mail your  
feedback to  
np@bollington-tc.  
gov.uk  
or by post to  
NP Steering  
Committee  
c/o Town Hall,  
Wellington Road,  
Bollington  
SK10 3JR

THE  
MAJORITY OF  
RESPONDENTS  
INDICATED  
INTEREST IN  
GREEN ENERGY  
PROPOSALS,  
PUBLIC TOILETS  
AND TOURIST  
ATTRACTIONS

## Draft vision statements

### Our Community

Bollington should continue to be a picturesque working town with industrial heritage roots. It must retain its vibrant community activities and events. The community support services provided in Bollington must keep pace with the size of the population.

### Our town's relationship with the environment

All open spaces – both official and green belt – are highly valued by Bollington residents. Our Neighbourhood Plan will endeavour to ensure they remain a protected and vital part of the atmosphere of the Town – 'an urban jewel in a rural setting'.

### Our Heritage

Bollington is a community that values its industrial heritage highly and wants to conserve it. We strongly support our conservation areas and wish to extend their protection to the Lowerhouse area. We also look forward to developing tourism based on the stories of our industrial and agricultural past.

### Our Homes

Any development should build a variety of the correct type of housing to satisfy the needs of the first-time buyer, the family and the elderly, to maintain Bollington as a comfortable, welcoming place to live.

### Our Economy

Bollington should continue to provide employment opportunities for its residents and for persons from the surrounding neighbourhoods.

### Our ability to move around the Town

Bollington is a linear town with considerable traffic, transport and parking issues which require proactive management to create a safe and workable system for the whole community.

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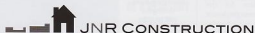
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# BRIDGEND OF AN ERA

For all the many users of the Bridgend Centre there will be a large gap, once filled by Ann Mayer, who, with Anna Lena Johnson, started a community drop-in centre which evolved into the Bridgend Centre.

Ann is now enjoying her retirement after 25 years of service to the community at the centre. I caught up with her just before she retired to ask her a few questions.

*How do you plan to spend your retirement?*

"I have not planned at all and will take each day as it comes. I don't think I will retire completely and will hopefully still be involved in some aspects of the Bridgend. I would like to continue to lead some of the walks. Lena is coming back from Sweden soon to live in Macclesfield, so watch this space. In the meantime I shall have a holiday and see what comes next."

*After 25 years at the Bridgend, how do you feel about letting go?*

"It is the right time to go now when I feel that the Bridgend is in safe hands. It will continue in its own way and grow and change."

*What will you remember most about the Bridgend?*

"Every day is so completely different and unpredictable. That is what is so good. There are always new projects, new experiences and new challenges. It is this diversity that I will remember. I have particularly



*Photo Left:  
Anne Mayer*

*Bottom right:  
Anne (centre)  
at the Bridgend  
25th birthday  
celebrations*

enjoyed my work with the schools, and putting together the walking trails. At the other end of the journey of life, we have developed memory boxes, decorated a 1950s room and hold reminiscences, which I enjoy, and I shall never forget our wonderful volunteers, without whom it would be difficult to run the centre."

*Where in the world would you like to be now?*

"I love the Greek Islands and have been to Sifnos in the Cyclades this year. I also love Morocco, especially Essaouira, a delightful fishing port in Morocco."

*What is your favourite food?*

"Fish tagine."

*What do you listen to in the car?*

"Mostly easy listening, like the Eagles."

*Talking about music, I believe George Borowski has performed many times at the Bridgend?*

"Yes, George has been a great friend of the Centre and has brought new talent to perform with him. He has given many a young hopeful a chance to showcase their talent, and helped us raise funds for the Centre."

*You have led many walks around Bollington. What is your favourite?*

"I love all the walks and am still discovering new things about the area. We are so lucky to have such lovely walks at hand. I think Harrop Wood at bluebell time takes some beating and up on the moors, Bakedonedale is also good."



The Bridgend Centre has recently celebrated its 25th birthday with a party during which Ann said her official goodbyes. **Sandy Milsom**

## GREEN FLAG CANAL

*continued from page 3*



As a result of this community partnership, the Canal and River Trust has carried out work which has perhaps been overlooked in previous years. Edging stones by Adelphi Mill and Tinkers Clough are good examples as are the steps by Hurst Lane bridge.

Our tasks now are to complete the towpath resurfacing up to Grimshaw Lane bridge, make good all the sunken edging areas and improve and maintain vegetation along the canal.

The group welcomes all suggestions for future work and please feel free to join us on the second Sunday of the month (see Bollington Town Council website for details).

**Malcolm Bailey**

## IRENE CALLS IT A DAY

In 2013 Bollington Live! ran an article on Irene Warren, a feisty octogenarian who was still working and enjoying it. Irene had at that point been working continuously for 68 years, the last 18 at Belfield's Bakery. Now the time she has spent at work is almost 70 years and finally Irene has retired. She can relax and put her feet up, but I suspect Irene may have other ideas.

The staff at Belfield's and all her many customers wish her the very best for the future.

**Sandy Milsom**

# LEILA'S PASSION

As a cadet who is part of the Bollington and Macclesfield Sea Cadets, I can say that joining offers a wealth of opportunities.

Cadets can gain useful qualifications, take part in engaging activities, earn BTECs, improve personal confidence, have fun trips and days out and represent our unit in parades and guards.

As sea cadets, we are big on water sports. We regularly travel down to Errwood reservoir in the Goyt Valley to practise rowing, kayaking and sailing. This gives us chance to improve and develop our skills, as we often compete in regional and national competitions.



Sailing and rowing aren't the only water sports we do. Some of our cadets, including myself, have recently competed in a kayaking competition and also our male cadets competed in a rowing competition in Barrow in Furness – all doing very well, coming back with a gold and a silver medal. Two



*Photos clockwise from top:*

*TS Ardent at the Manchester Trafalgar parade*

*2014 swimming competitors*

*Remembrance parade, 2014*

*Practising Kayaking and Rowing at Errwood reservoir*



of the cadets now have a position in the national kayaking competition which is to take place in London. Water sports activities range from windsurfing to power boating and diving to offshore weekends away doing a variety of them all.

There is also an offshore event that takes place over a week or so. TS (training ship) John Jerwood leaves Liverpool (the course differs with each trip) and can go to the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland or Scotland. On board, cadets are assigned to different jobs such as

helping the engineer in the engine room or being put on watch as a duty mess man. Cadets are also taught about how to plot courses and how to read charts, parts of the ship and positions on board. Many cadets say that they've enjoyed the experience fully, with one of our own cadets, OC Freudenu, saying: 'It was a life-changing experience and I met many amazing people; the staff were brilliant.'



Cadets march as part of the Remembrance parade which alternates every year between Bollington and Macclesfield.

Cadets and staff believe it is an honour to march in such an emotional and patriotic event. Many people attend the service in memory of the fallen and to show support for our troops. This is great to be part of, not just in uniform, but as a community.

*Leila Jacklin*



# SET IN STONE...

By August 1915, 20 men from Bollington and Kerridge had already sacrificed their lives for King and Country in the First World War. By the end of the conflict 170 men from Bollington had died in the service of their country.

Bollington's war memorials are a reminder of these people's sacrifice, and the new plinths with the re-carved names by William Warrington are a fitting continuing memorial to those who died that we might live in freedom.

Our original war memorial has suffered over the years and the names on it are gradually wearing away. Last

*Photo left to right:*

*Cllr. Allan Williams*

*Deputy Mayor Cllr. Angela Williams Mayor*

*Chris Hawes Regional Supervisor of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

year, as the centenary of the Great War approached, Cllr Allan Williams felt it was time to put the matter right before any name could no longer be read. So two large Kerridge stone plinths were designed, and the then Mayor Cllr Amanda Stott



made financing the new memorials her charity for the year.

Local builder John Drabble built the two plinths and all the names of Bollington and Kerridge residents who gave their lives for our freedom are now commemorated for the foreseeable future in local Kerridge stone. Careful research by David Williams discovered 20 people who had died during the First World War on active service who are commemorated for the first time.

Thanks to Dave Williams and Roy Arnold's splendid booklet, Bollington 1914-1918, for information.

*Ken Edwards*



# BOLLINGTON CADET HONOURED

Thyerington teenager Emily Bethell has been awarded the prestigious appointment of Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for Cheshire, the highest honour in the Cadets, in recognition of her outstanding service in Bollington Squadron Air Cadets.

The certificate was presented to Cadet Flight Sergeant Bethell, aged 18, by Mr David Briggs MBE, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, at a ceremony at Chester Cathedral.

Emily joined the Air Cadets in 2010 and since then has attended camps at RAF Brize Norton, Cyprus and Gibraltar, debated the future of the Air Cadet Organisation at RAF Cranwell and been selected to represent the UK and the Air Cadets in the International Air Cadet Exchange in Canada. Emily, who attends Thyerington School and Sixth-Form College, is also a qualified Royal Yachting Association Dinghy Instructor and dedicates her free time to instruct young sailors at



Rudyard Lake Sailing Club. She also attends Bollington Youth Council meetings, debating community youth involvement in Bollington.

Emily said: 'When the envelope landed on my doorstep I never imagined what I would find inside! It was such a shock when the NW RFCA logo appeared at the top of the letterhead, and even when I saw my name under the heading "Lord Lieutenant's Cadet" the enormity

**Emily Bethell and David Briggs MBE**

**Photo: NW England & JOM Reserve Forces & Cadets Association**

07794 205 031

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of my appointment didn't begin to sink in. I have been blessed with so many wonderful opportunities in the ATC in 2015, and this honour is the culmination of what has proved to be an incredible year.'

Colonel Mark Underhill, Chief Executive of the North West of England and the Isle of Man Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (NW RFCA), which runs the awards, said: 'Cadet Flight Sergeant Bethell is an outstanding role model, especially for younger cadets. She is most worthy of her appointment as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet.'

Emily was among only six cadets from across the whole of the North West of England and the Isle of Man to be awarded this prestigious appointment. All cadets are between 10 and 18 years of age, and can be part of the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Cadets or Combined Cadet Force.

**Mike Sullivan**

# SANDWICH COURSE...

Could the finest sandwich in the UK be just around the corner? The team down at Livesey's Delicatessen and Coffee Shop, based on High Street, recently became the proud recipients of a 'Sammie'!

Sammies, the BAFTAs of the sandwich world, are awarded by the British Sandwich Association, a national association for the promotion of Britain's mealtime favourite.

The Bollington concern was in competition with delicatessens and cafés from across the UK and won one of four Gold Awards.

The independent panel of judges were particularly impressed by the delicatessen's range and quality.

Livesey's team aim to combine this with their passion and expertise to produce products that attract

locals from all walks of life; from tradespeople to national celebrities.

This latest award for Livesey's complements ones for Best Delicatessen received from Chester Food and Drink in 2013 and 2014.

Over the years Livesey's has become part of the Bollington landscape. Wherever possible they use ingredients from local suppliers and combine them with those from further afield to create fabulous textures and flavours across their menu.

Jo Weselby and Dave Freel are both Bollington residents and feel that, in many ways, Bollington has made Livesey's what it is today. So, they say, the Sammie was not just awarded to Livesey's but to Bollington.

**Simon Weselby**



**Photo left to right: Dave Freel, Kathryn (Jo's daughter) and Jo Weselby receiving their Sammie from Camilla Deane of the British Sandwich Association**

**Photo: Martin West**

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# BOLLINGTON LIBRARY WRITING GROUP

**Bollington Library Writing Group has had its fair share of successes and celebrations over the nine years it has been running – and those successes just keep on coming.**

There are four new books on their way from its members: a debut book – a memoir of a volunteer's year spent in Ghana; a new poetry collection from a prize-winning poet; a book about the tragedy of a missed early onset dementia diagnosis; and, finally, Nik Perring's fifth – the second in his 'Beautiful Trilogy' (this one's about trees). More on those in a moment.

And what previous successes are these new books adding to?

Plenty! Two anthologies of group members' stories have been produced. Also, along with photographer Katherine Lewis, the group raised hundreds of pounds for the Alzheimer's Society, with a book of photo-inspired fictions which included members alongside more established writers. And, the last we heard, it was still being used by the Society!

More money was raised, this time for the Bollington branch of the Royal British Legion, with the publication of 90 Years On – honouring the anniversary of the First World War.

Stories and poems have been published in journals – notably in *Homage to Cheshire*, an anthology compiled by then Cheshire Poet Laureate, W. Terry Fox – which included work by Betty Challenger, Jenny Martin and former member Sandy Milson.

But perhaps the group's most notable success was when Bollington resident of 40 years

Jenny Martin came runner-up in the 2011 Hunter Davies' Lakeland Book of the Year Awards with her collection *Mining Memories*. Her next collection, *Aftermath*, marking the centenary of the start of the First World War, with all proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal, even had a foreword by Dame Vera Lynn!

While she was a member of the group, Sally Gething published two hugely successful self-help books on common medical conditions, *Too Much Salt: Ten Annoying Symptoms and How to Breathe*.

**So, new books...**

Barbara Challenger published *By God's Grace* – her experience of a year in Ghana, working as a volunteer

(you might have read a brief extract in the spring edition of this very magazine!).

Jenny Martin follows up her poetry success with *Night Light* – her collection

of new and selected poems: readers, prepare to cry, fume, laugh and reflect.

Renata Payne (Jenny in disguise!) brings us the group's

latest medical self-help book, *Why Didn't They Listen?* which deals with the nightmare of a missed dementia diagnosis and on living with dementia and other long-term illnesses. All proceeds go to *Lyrics and Lunch*, a dementia support group, and the Clinical Human Factors Group (CHFG), which campaigns for change in working systems conducive to medical accidents.

**Nik Perring**

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Jenny Martin**

As I come from a mining family with an unfair share of injury and illness, *Why Didn't They Listen?* is based on my experience as a Bollington locum GP, hospital specialist, researcher and expert witness on behalf of people harmed by medical errors. My earlier poetry collections were written thanks to Nik persuading me, against what I believed was my better judgement, to try my hand at poetry.

For details about joining the writing group contact the library staff on 01625 378266

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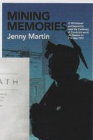


**Barbara Challenger**

Spending a year, through Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), living and working in Accra, the capital of Ghana, proved a priceless experience I wouldn't have missed for the world. From nearly walking into a pair of mating black cobra to being moved to tears at Cape Coast Castle, there was rarely a dull moment. Proceeds from my book will go to charities which help to alleviate child poverty in developing countries.



**Sally Gething**





# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## November

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - 7.30pm  
**Concert for Michelmas**  
 St Oswald's Church £7 Tel: 573890

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - 8.15pm  
**Bolly Comedy Club**  
 Arts Centre £9.90 online

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> - 10-11.30am  
**Bollington Well Dressers coffee morning**  
 Community Centre, Homemade cakes and pies for sale plus raffle, tombola and quiz

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**Jazz at BAC - Adrian Cox Quartet with Tom Kincaid**  
 £9 Tel: 574410

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am  
**Remembrance Parade**  
 led by Bollington Brass Band  
 Starting at the recreation ground and proceeding to the War Memorial

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - 6.30pm  
**Scibar: Antibiotic Resistance**  
 Speaker: Phil Turner  
 Vale Inn - Free

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm  
**Kerridge War Memorial Curry Night**  
 Viceroy £15  
[susan.poynton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susan.poynton@hotmail.co.uk)

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - 8.30pm  
**Maria Dunn at Bolly Folk Club**  
 Dog & Partridge online [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**JB Barrington - performance poet**  
 Funny & engaging display of poetic writing  
 Arts Centre £8 online

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> - 7.30pm  
**'Showtime'**  
 by **Bollington Light Opera Group**  
 Musical numbers: Les Mis, Grease, Moulin Rouge etc. Civic Hall £12 (inc hot pot supper) 431038 [blogbookings@aol.com](mailto:blogbookings@aol.com)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm  
**BDH&FC - Chris Bright on Fuchias**  
 Community Ctr. Member £1.50,  
 Non member £3

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**Amy Webber & the Encompass Trio**  
 Arts Centre £10 online

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - 8.30pm  
**Phil Campbell and Tom MacFarland at Bolly Folk Club**  
 Dog & Partridge online [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

## THE RETURN OF AMY WEBBER

One of the highlights of the Bollington Festival was the performance of the RNCM Jazz Collective and their singer Amy Webber. Amy has now graduated from the RNCM and is returning to the Bollington Arts Centre on Friday 20 November with her own group, the Encompass Trio.



This is the first in a series of concerts to be given by students from the RNCM at the Arts Centre over the next year.

In January Gravity Percussion, a duo who also performed with the Jazz Collective, will be appearing. They play an eclectic mix of samba, jazz, Latin and classical pieces. More information on these exciting performers will appear over the next few months.

**Roland Edwards**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**Mayor of Bollington's Senior Citizens Committee Concert**  
 Arts Centre £7

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**The Zelkova Quartet**  
 Bollington Chamber Concerts presents at the Arts Centre £15 conc. £7.50 online

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> - 2.30 & 4.30pm  
**One Thousand & One Nights**  
 A musical play of Sinbad, Aladdin & Ali Baba by Bollington Festival Music Theatre  
 Arts Centre £7 (£3.50 conc.) on the door

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> - 4pm  
**Christmas Light Switch On**  
 Town Hall

## December

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**BDH&FC - Members Christmas Meal**  
 Community Centre

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> - 8.15pm  
**Bolly Comedy Club**  
 Arts Centre £9.90 online

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> - 2pm  
**Christmas Fair at St Johns School**  
 £1 adults, kids free

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**Jazz at BAC - John Burgess Roy Williams Quintet**  
 £9 574410

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm  
**Messiah for All**  
 Arts Centre £6 261933

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - 8.30pm  
**Phil Cockerham Trio at Bolly Folk Club**  
 Dog & Partridge online [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> - 2.30pm  
**A Taste of Dahl**  
 Arts Centre from £5 online

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> - 6pm  
**Christmas Eve - carols around the tree**  
 Town Hall

## January 2016

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm (2pm matinee Sat/Sun)  
**Sleeping Beauty**  
 Arts Centre from £8 Tel: 07776 239613

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - 8.30pm  
**John Kelly at Bolly Folk Club**  
 Dog & Partridge online [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7.30pm  
**Gravity Percussion**  
 Arts Centre £10 online

## February

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - 6.30pm  
**Scibar: Quantum Biology**  
 Speaker: Prof. Nigel Scrutton, Dr Sam Hay, Dr Alex R Jones Vale Inn - Free

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> - 8pm  
**The Solemn Quartet**  
 Arts Centre £15 online

All tickets for Arts Centre produced events can now be bought online from:  
[www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk](http://www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To include your event in the next issue, please e-mail: [livedates@happy-valley.org.uk](mailto:livedates@happy-valley.org.uk)

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Saturday 10am-1pm  
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**Monday**  
10am-4.30 Internet cafe  
10.30am-12 Bosom buddies  
2pm-3 Reminiscence

**Tuesday**  
10am-4.30 Internet cafe  
10.15am-12.30 Crafts  
1.30pm-4 Art  
2pm-4 Reading group

**Wednesday**  
10am-4.30 Internet cafe  
10.15am-12 Guided walk  
2pm-4 Mah jong  
2.15pm-4.15 Creative writing

**Thursday**  
10am-4.30 Internet cafe  
10.30am-12 Yoga  
11am-12.30 Reading circle  
3pm-4 English conversation

**Saturday**  
10am-1 Internet cafe

### Monthly Events

**Artisan Market**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10am to 3pm  
Clarence Mill

**White Nancy Breakfast Club**  
Last Sunday of the month  
From 7am, see Facebook page

**Sip & Knit**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
8pm Vale Inn Free 575147

**Knit and Natter**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2pm  
Community Centre Free 575557

## BAND SUBSTANCE

**Bollington has produced a wide variety of musicians, bands and artists covering many styles and of many levels of ability.**

It is said that there are three types of people in this world: those who don't know what happens; those that wonder what happens; and those that make things happen. This last bunch are the ones that can change the world, if there is no option to play music locally, they will spread their wings, find somewhere and take their fans with them.

A beer festival once a year, or battle of the bands every four years might be fun but if the plan is to take your music further, these might not help gather momentum at a pace that matches your ability.

Hopefully, a few pub owners will read this and realise that there is money to be made in local music: if the music being played in their pub gets people in and money spent, they will happily book you again and again. Then, when they realise how easy it all is, they will book more bands; they'll put on jazz nights, open mic nights, folk evenings, acoustic afternoons, rock nights anything is possible. You never know which gig could be the start of your journey to where you want to be.

If your goal is to play to 10 people or 10,000 it all comes down to your approach. You get out what you put in. Everything you do locally can be a stepping stone for something globally. So, the bottom line is it that it makes sense to start locally when building your music career. It is dependent on how you lay the foundations as to whether you can turn your musical shed into a musical shrine.

Local music scenes are great places to launch music careers. Maybe, just maybe, by getting the local pubs in Bollington to support you and you in turn supporting them, then the sleeping giants of local business, our pubs and clubs can be awakened and rewarded.

That in itself will cement your legacy as a local hero. You might sing, but money talks. Nobody hears a noise, if no one makes a sound.

If you're a musician, or in a band or you own a pub or club and would like to have your say, then get in touch. **Matt Wray**



# 125 YEARS - NO BULL!



Barrow's Butchers have been trading from the same shop at 1 Henshall Road, opposite Grimshaw Lane, for over 125 years.

The business was started by John Thomas Barrow who was born in 1856. He was the first Chief of the Bollington Fire Brigade and won medals for long service. He was joined in the butchery by his eldest son Tom.

In those days deliveries were made by horse and trap; the horse was named Bob. The shop had its own abattoir in the yard behind, poultry were kept on what is now the car park and cattle were grazed in a field which is now Ashbrook Road.

Tom was succeeded by his eldest sons John and Reg and the business became Barrow's Brothers.

During the Second World War meat was rationed and customers had to be registered with the butcher to receive their meagre allowance of meat. These were very difficult times and a little meat had to go a long way.

Above: Richard, Sam and John Barrow

Photo: Janet Beech

Below: Staff standing outside their first shop



In 1962 Reg's elder son John joined the business and was later assisted by his wife Rita, who is still involved with the bookkeeping. Their elder son Richard was interested in the shop from a very early age and joined on leaving school, when the business became Barrow's Butchers. Richard now runs the shop and his son Sam has started his apprenticeship, making him the sixth generation of butchers.

The abattoir has now been converted into a preparation area where sausages, burgers, etc., are made. Barrow's pride themselves on using only the finest quality local produce, as our customers will testify. May we thank them for their loyal support and assure them of our best service for many years to come.

Thanks also to the wives and relatives who have helped out over the years and our loyal employees. Your patience and assistance have been very much appreciated!

**John Barrow**

# 10K RUN

On Sunday 30 August, Bollington Health and Leisure hosted their second Bollington 10k. The event was a huge success with almost 300 people taking part and many more cheering the runners on their way.



Photo: Harry Myers

Participants were running for an array of charities including East Cheshire Hospice and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, plus the event raised about £3000 for Bollington Health and Leisure fundraising targets.

Following the success of this year, Bollington 10k looks to have become a date for everyone's sporting calendar. The 2016 event will take place on Sunday 28 August.

**Tom Horsfield**

[www.bollingtonrun.co.uk](http://www.bollingtonrun.co.uk)

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# BEER FESTIVAL FUNDING

In September 2011 a group of enthusiasts met in the Vale Inn to discuss the possibility of running a beer festival to raise money for the 2014 Bollington Festival.

For some unknown reason we agreed that it would be a good idea! From the outset this would be specifically for Bollington and to raise money for Bollington projects. The event has grown in popularity, all sessions being sold out this year, and we had visitors from as far afield as Canada and Cornwall.

Since 2012 we have donated over £10,000 to the Bollington Festival and £5,000 to the Bollington Arts Centre. But with the next festival not scheduled until 2019 we decided that until 2017 any surpluses would be distributed to Bollington groups and charities. The

main criteria were that the groups should be based in Bollington, have no political or religious bias and that the funds should be used to improve the community. Last year we provided monies to Allsorts Pre-School to install an all-weather children's play area and to the Poachers Inn to part-fund the purchase of a defibrillator. Funds also went to local cricket clubs.

This year we have chosen to distribute funds to a much greater range of local organisations. KRIV will receive £100 for materials for footpath repair around the village; £440 will be given to Bollington ATC to purchase new IT equipment and £900 to Bollington Pre-School for the installation of a sensory room. Grants are also being provided to the Bollington Brass Band, 2nd Bollington Scouts, the Bridgend

Artificial grass installation at Allsorts Nursery



Centre, and Andy Longden, who is working to ensure that there is a defibrillator within 5 minutes of every person living in Bollington.

Roland Edwards

# ARE WALKERS WELCOME?

Where are the public loos in Bollington? This difficult question was posed in the last Bollington Live! And your local 'Walkers are Welcome' team have been trying to discover some answers ever since.



Let's start with the Adlington Road loos. The East Cheshire Council groundsman has recently moved into the former Ranger Office in the car park and part of his duties are to open and look after the toilets there during the week. In addition, our Town Council now pay for the toilets to be opened and cleaned at the weekends and for the toilets to be open until dusk during the summer (they used to close at 3.30pm).

Meanwhile, on the Recreation Ground, you may have noticed that our public toilets with disabled provision have been firmly padlocked all through the summer holidays. This is because Cheshire East Council refuses to pay for their maintenance as Adlington Road toilets are not far away. Will other group users of the Rec join the bowlers and have a key and maintain the loos themselves while they are playing?

Overall we would like Bollington Town Council to cost what is needed to supplement the current provision paid for by CEC so that the two existing sets of public toilets

Left: Adlington Road Ranger Office and toilets

Below left: Recreation ground facilities



are open and maintained during the summer for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Our other main proposal is to provide information about what toilets are available and where, and their opening hours, by using the six Town Council noticeboards and the noticeboards in Pool Bank car park and on the canal.

Sandra Edwards and Chris Brear

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# MEMORY LANE REVISITED

*A few issues ago we printed an article by Joan Taylor (nee Franklin). Her twin sister, Helen, has now stepped up to the plate...*

**Despite the austerity of the post war years, children growing up in Bollington in the fifties were fortunate indeed!**

Fortunate because we could "play out" and Bollington provided a boundless playground. Whilst there was always a curfew, we were free to roam and our parents didn't seem to worry. What a good job they didn't know what we got up to!

We were 5 when the Queen was crowned and we were invited to attend a big garden party at Hollin Old Hall. All the children, stuffed with sandwiches, jelly and cake, (well, you didn't get food like that very often), returned home with a Coronation mug and a shiny half-crown.

Returning home from junior school, the cry from the Hurst Lane and Highfield Road children was "see you on the banking after tea". "The banking", conveniently close to all our homes, was a piece of waste ground overlooking the wood-yard. "Truth, dare, kiss, command or promise" was a popular game on the banking, but it was only an entree, the real fun began in the wood-yard itself! Its giant stacks of wood were great for climbing and its many nooks and crannies were perfect for hide and seek. When we discovered that it was easy to get into the cutting shed our wood-yard playground came to an abrupt end! As we were standing knee-deep in sawdust admiring the huge, unguarded, circular saw, a policeman arrived and banned us from entering ever again!

As we grew older, the "rec" was our hub and usual meeting place. I almost wrecked the "rec" when our friend brought her horse along and offered rides. Obviously sensing that I was a novice rider, her horse decided to enjoy itself and galloped across the cricket pitch with me on its back. I can still picture the furious groundsman, but I could neither stop it nor turn it! I've always hoped that a Bollington CC bowler got a

lucky wicket when his ball turned in a hoof print divot.

Rounders on the rec was probably our most long-lasting past-time, played on summer evenings and school holidays. (Was it sunnier then, or is memory selective?) But when that palled there was the adjoining swing park as well as the "cricket wood", (behind the cricket pavilion), for climbing trees and playing hide and seek.

*Helen and Joan in the garden of 8 Highfield Road, ready for Sunday School in their "sermons" dresses*

*Photo:  
Ted Franklin*



At the end of the recreation ground, near the aqueduct, the River Bollin passed through a stone tunnel. If you were very brave it was possible, by means of a handily placed pipe, to walk right through the tunnel to its end at Water Street. It was very dark and slimy but it gave the boys a chance to show their mettle and chivvy along the girls. The River Bollin was such an exciting river – one day bright pink and the next day deep blue! (The Henry Slater paper mill made the wrapping paper for Cadbury's chocolate bars.)

Councillor Clough lived along our road so we didn't have to worry in the ice and snow as it was always one of the first to be gritted. His kind and patient wife was the infant school headmistress who taught us to read and write. Each child had a little slate board and a piece of chalk. We loved it in the winter when the school mill froze because it tasted so much better as ice. If you were a monitor in the junior school you were responsible for making the teachers' break time drinks. This entailed heating

up milk on a gas ring until it was frothy and then adding liquid Camp coffee.

Living near the canal, its possibilities were thoroughly exploited. A favourite feat was to walk along the canal bridge parapet but we were awestruck when our friend, Jennifer, performed the same stunt across the aqueduct. Dare I mention that we collected dead fish from the canal and pushed them down the chimneys of moored narrowboats and through nearby letterboxes? And these were the girls who religiously attended Sunday school every Sunday! Years later I discovered that my father was an atheist and that Sunday school was a ruse for a child-free Sunday morning. I don't remember the bible classes themselves, but the Sunday School Romp was brilliant! Held in what was the secondary school hall/gymnasium, now the Civic Centre, all the gym equipment was assembled and we were allowed to jump and climb and generally run wild.

Further along the canal was Clarence Mill's waste tip. A scavenger's paradise! We found all sorts of things in it; however, the best find was the bright blue glass "barley sugar" sticks. I still don't know how these were used in a cotton mill, but they were exquisite. We created the fastest slide when the canal froze over, but were horrified one summer when some Manchester lads, holidaying in Bollington, actually swam in it!

Fortunately we didn't have today's obsession with Health and Safety so a trip to the village, or to school, could include a scramble down the quarry and a walk through the paper mill. You could also make a short cut from Palmerston Street to Water Street by walking through some waste ground, over a little plank bridge and then through the iron foundry.

As we became teenagers tennis replaced rounders, our lives were enriched by the Methodist Youth Club, and our childhood haunts came in handy for "courting"! That, of course, is another story!

**Helen Allen**

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# IN BIT WE TRUST

Twelve years ago a small group of Bollington residents founded the Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT).

Based on a group which had originally formed to tackle provision for young people in the town, it was relaunched and expanded with local residents whose expertise was in property, fundraising and heritage. This group became the Board of the new Bollington Initiative Trust.

## What are its objectives?

The legal objectives of the Trust are broadly drawn to tackle most matters that benefit the local community, but BIT chose to concentrate mainly on acquisition of land and buildings. BIT is a limited liability company with charitable status and is able to raise money, attract grants and hold and manage property for the good of the community. The Trust is a member of Locality - the national body for development and community-orientated trusts.

## What sparked it into life?

The initial Board members recognised that Bollington was under pressure for development and vacant land or buildings were inevitably a target for property developers, so the Trust could potentially help protect some land and buildings for the community.

## How do you start with no money?

BIT applied for a grant from the then Adventure Capital Fund to appoint an expert consultant for one day a week to assemble a list of potential projects and to liaise with the then Macclesfield Borough Council and Bollington Town Council. A number of feasibility studies were carried out and funding applications made.

## Who is involved?

The Trust has had three chairmen to date: Ted Clunn initially, until his business commitments forced him to stand down, followed by Graham Barrow for eight years and currently Will Spinks. Throughout this period, David Haddleton has been the able company secretary. BIT has seven local residents as trustees who, together with four other volunteers, make up the Management Committee. Representatives of the Town Council and Cheshire East Council also attend meetings.



Above: Turner's Lodge before and after the BIT treatment!

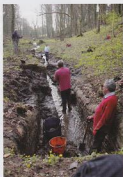


## What has BIT achieved so far?

The trust has tackled five major projects during its 10-year history. Although two have not progressed, three significant projects have been successful and are ongoing.

Tinkers' Clough Wood was leased to the Trust for 99 years by the landowner. Now grants totalling around £90,000 have been obtained to prepare plans for the woodland, carry out remedial tree work, improve drainage, repair walls, reinstate the main footpath and erect entrance signs. The woodland is now open to the public and managed by the Trust with volunteer help, particularly the KRIV conservation volunteers.

Turner's Lodge is the redundant former toilet block on the junction of Shrigley and Ingersley Roads. It was transferred to the Trust from Macclesfield Borough Council and has since been restored to a high energy-efficient standard. The funding of £80,000 was obtained largely via Co-Lo Macclesfield, a project which promoted locally the Government's Green Deal programme. However, following the demise of that programme, the Trust has been able to let the building, so providing an income for other trust projects.



had been managed by the Trust through an agreement with the former Cheshire County Council. Some £300,000 is now required to fully restore the building. This will be done in two stages with fundraising as an immediate focus. The lower floor is let to the Bollington Pre-School. On the upper floor, where the Bollington Girl Guide groups currently meet, there are a range of plans for further community uses.

## What about the other projects?

The ambitious vision to create a heritage skills and environmental study centre in under-used buildings at Savio House attracted a stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of over £100,000. Detailed business and architectural plans were prepared, but the HLF declined to give the £2m+ grant.

The old Lovthorpe Street School was to be sold to the Trust by the Crown Estate and detailed architectural and business plans were prepared for that to be redeveloped as a small business centre. The Trust obtained a mortgage of £250,000, but the recession hit, so BIT decided not to proceed with the scheme. BIT is happy that the housing development on the site has preserved the school building.

Twelve years on, BIT is firmly established in Bollington and in a good position to tackle any projects that the community considers worthwhile.

Graham Barrow & Margaret Park

# BOLLINGTON BY..

Mona, her husband Klaus and 4-year-old daughter Katrine came to live in Bollington in November 2014. They are originally from a village near Esbjerg, a seaport town on the west coast of the Jutland peninsula in south-west Denmark. Katrine has attended First Steps Nursery and began St Gregory's School reception class in September. A new baby is due this month!

## Why did you come to live in Bollington?

My husband is a chemical engineer. He works as a sales manager and site leader for the Dow Chemical Company based in Birch Vale, Derbyshire and his job brought us to the area. We previously lived in Argentina for 8 months.

## Where do you call home?

Denmark. We still have a house there and it is the place where our parents and family live. We used to live in a community there a bit smaller than Bollington.

## Why did you choose to live in Bollington?

We chose it because it is a small community. We like the fact there are the shops – the Co-op; post office and baker's. We also like being outdoors and we spend a lot of time in the surrounding green area. Also, we can get to the airport and Manchester very easily.

## What is your favourite place in Bollington?

Katrine would say the Coronation Gardens playground. We spend most of our time there. I also like the canal and the walking trails. Sometimes I think I am on private land but then realise they are public rights of way.

## What is different about living in England?

English people are very open and you can ask for help. Danish people are more closed. It is easy to fit in here. Normal living is very similar, but children in England do go to school very early compared to Danish children. They then spend long days in school for 5 days per week. Also Fridays! I think for a 4-year-old this is a lot. It means parents don't have the possibility to do something with their children in the week. But I do have a positive feel about her new school.

## How do you celebrate Christmas?

We go home to Denmark. We do have Santa Claus but we also have Nisser. These are Santa's helpers who live in the lofts of our houses. In December, we decorate our houses with them and we have shows for children about them.

## English or Danish food?

I would probably say Danish, but food is more international these



Mona and Katrine  
Photo: Ian Walker

days. My husband likes Indian food and we like to have takeaways from the Bay Leaf restaurant.

## English or Danish television?

We don't watch a lot of television. When we do, in Denmark we watch mostly American TV. I was a baker in Denmark so we do watch some food programmes. We both like Hugh Fearnley Whittingall. We also watch a lot of films on Netflix.

## How long will you stay in Bollington?

Possibly another two years. But there is no time limit and it depends what opportunities come along. It may be that we go back to Denmark when Katrine is to start school at age six.

Kate Gooding

# RETURN TO THE CHURCH HOUSE

Chris Jennings took over as Landlord of the Church House in October 2014 but for him it was more like a homecoming.

Chris's long association with the pub began when he was 14 and was employed as a pot washer. Running this pub has been a lifelong dream of his. After a course at catering college, Chris worked for Steve and Julie, the previous owners, and when they went to Spain he went with them to help them set up there. When they returned to the Church House Chris came back to the UK. He worked at the airport for a while but is now back where he belongs. He is happy to be back in Bollington where he grew up and doing the job he loves.



Chris is happiest when serving behind the bar and chatting to people, but he will don his chef's hat and help out in the kitchen when needed. He hopes to maintain the cosy ambience of the pub and not change too much. He will continue to serve good, pub food as before but has added his own touches to the menu. The pub has a new beer garden and takeaway fish and chips are on offer on Tuesday nights.

Chris wants to involve the pub in the community and hopes it will provide a hub for Bollington groups.

Welcome back Chris! Sandy Milsom



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# MUSIC THEATRE - 30 YEARS ON

One day long ago, Dr John Coope asked Donald Judge, then the accompanist for the Festival Choir and now its conductor, if he'd like to be Musical Director for Britten's community opera *Noye's Fludde* at the 1986 Festival. He and drama director Marcia Rowlands readily accepted before fully appreciating what a massive but satisfying task it would be.

This request led to a unique group being formed which has put on at least two unusual performances a year at Bollington Arts Centre and every Bollington Festival ever since.

Following memorable performances of *Noye's Fludde* in St John's Church, some of the children stayed on as founder members of the Music Theatre. The group became part of the Arts Centre in 2009 and that generous support is greatly appreciated.

From the outset, the group was to be different and distinctive. All who come along can take part and there are no auditions. Even 'auditions' for solo parts are done openly in rehearsal, meaning it's sometimes three weeks before casting is confirmed. It isn't about creating or showcasing 'stars', though there have been plenty. It doesn't involve children sitting about backstage for ages awaiting their brief time in the limelight. It's about involvement, developing natural talents and teamwork.



Well-known musical shows requiring adult actors with the associated expectations of the audience aren't on the agenda. There's a workshop approach and simple costumes and sets, enhanced by imaginative lighting, currently provided by Kim



*Photos clockwise from top:*

*Wall of Wishes May 2010;*

*Cecilia McDowall's Deep Waters 2002;*

*When Bolly Beat Booney June 2015;*

*Happy Valley Haunted Valley Bollington Festival 2014*

*Photos: Donald Judge*

Creasey, a tower of strength, along with former member Jo Lee who does everything from making props to playing older parts to jolly along the younger ones.



In the 1970s, composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies went to live in Orkney and began writing unusual musical theatre for local children. The Music Theatre has performed several of his pieces – its first ever show was *The Rainbow* in November 1986 which it hopes to revive for the official 30th anniversary a year from now – and others by composers in the classical tradition, most recently three by Cecilia McDowall, one of the leading lights not just of British, but of women composers.

The Music Theatre was one of the first groups in the UK to perform Hans Krása's *Brundisbar*, a satirical children's opera written for the unfortunate inmates of the Terezin Ghetto in 1942.

The sort of shows Donald wanted to do are few and far between, so he took to writing his own. To date there are 32, with source material drawn from a wide spectrum including folk tales from various European countries, using matching folk music as a musical inspiration. Some outrageously 'invent' local history and some star 'Nancy

White', the premise being that White Nancy is just the distinctive skirt of a much larger statue of a local heroine. To celebrate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, the group performed Donald's play with music about the childhood of nurse and heroine Edith Cavell.

The latest show to be performed at the Arts Centre on 29 November is *One Thousand and One Nights*. *Shahrazad* found a way not to be put to death after one day of marriage to the cruel Sultan, by telling him riveting bedtime stories – stories such as *Sinbad*, *Ali Baba* and *Aladdin*. The Sultan had to keep her alive to hear the next episode. Updated with the Sultan as a gangland leader, a script approaching pantomime, and music based on Turkish folk music, it's certain to entertain.

Children have a tendency to grow up and move on, and not only the opportunities but the pressures for them are much greater than in 1986. Maintaining numbers isn't easy and they've fluctuated from as many as 42 to few as 5. But in the best traditions, the show always goes on. Existing and new members will be warmly welcomed, and the next opportunity to join is on Sunday 7 February.



Announcing the next show before it's written is a good way to ensure it's ready in time. At the time of writing, the idea germinating in Donald's head for spring 2016 is about eggs. It may well be called *Eggstravaganza*, and will probably include unique versions of *Humpty Dumpty* and that wonderful story about an Easter egg from Alison Uttley's *The Country Child* reset in Victorian Bollington. Look out for details on posters and the Arts Centre brochure or website. And if you're aged 7 to 13, come along and take part.

**Donald Judge**

# GHOSTLY TALES

It may surprise you to hear that Pool Bank car park in Bollington wasn't always as it is today. Before becoming a car park it was used for holding many a wakes week fair.

But even before this, back in the early 19th Century, the whole of Pool Bank car park was in fact a deep water-filled pond supplying power to Defiance Mill as well as the small bobbin mill at the bottom of Queen Street. However, as the local mills began to take advantage of the increasing efficiency of steam powered engines over the old waterwheels, water for the purpose of making steam could be supplied by far fewer ponds: so many of Bollington's mill ponds, including this one, were drained and filled in.

Late one October night in 1845, before the work of filling in this space could be completed, a certain young man made his way out of the

Holly Bush pub much the worse for drink no doubt. He wandered around in the pitched blackness, losing his way and stumbled into the partially-drained pond. As he hit the bottom the force of his fall knocked him out and he was drowned in the few inches of water remaining. No one knows exactly what happened that night to cause his tragic death – maybe it was an accident as described or maybe the young man was set upon and robbed, his body being flung into the pit. Nobody knows for sure... but every so often, on dark and windy nights, a terrible moaning can be heard as if coming from the very depths of the earth. Perhaps it is the spirit of the drowned man attempting to make known his terrible plight, or perhaps it is some other creature calling out from the depths of hell itself...

Anna Barker

## Ghostly happenings in the Printshop...

Our till rolls are glued along their top edge to stop them unrolling in transit. Whilst replacing a roll last week, we got the shock of our lives.

The shop lights caught the pattern of glue on the paper and we saw White Nancy and the Kemridge ridge faithfully depicted on the surface of the till roll! Weird or what?!!

Simon Nottage



## A Ghostly Pastoral

Whenever the earth winter's fist grips tight  
And when the moon shines full and bright,  
A mournful moaning rends the night  
Over fields by Jacksons farm,  
And if you walk these lanes alone  
At night, and hear that gruellin groan  
Beware, beware, turn back for home  
And ponder this sad yarn.

'Twas early one fine October morn  
When the sun shone through the mists of dawn  
As Autumn chill through the air was borne  
And blue skies crisp and clear,  
He came first to the farm that day,  
Amid many admiring looks, they say,  
His fine curls the colour of golden hay  
So handsome he did appear.  
For he to work in the fields had come  
(His agile form and strength of limb,  
Alert and quick with eyes agleam)  
The farm's fine flocks to serve.

And on this day at milking time  
To the farm yard came a maiden fine  
As oft she came, twice daily fetched  
For milking it was her raison d'être.  
And as to her task she settled down

With big brown eyes she glanced around  
And there she saw him, fine and strong,  
And to her heart there leapt a song  
Of love, as their eyes met o'er the gate  
At once she knew he was her fate.

And likewise, as he caught her eye  
(So big and brown and soft and shy)  
In love did fall and by and by  
He knew he'd found his mate.  
But the course of true love ne'er ran smooth  
And never the farmer could approve  
Of two lovers so unmatched in life,  
So, kept apart by the farmer's wife,  
They soon began to pine.  
He no longer to his work could warm  
So they sent him away from Jacksons farm  
And never did he there return  
To his fair young maiden line.

And when to the meadows oft times she  
did wander  
Seeking her love she'd gaze out yonder,  
All in loneliness her sad loving  
Told of her heart-break at his going.  
And when to spring cold winter cleaving  
For to die she lay herself down full

grieving:  
Never again would she see his face  
Or lay her head on his soft white fleece.  
Her love unrequited, dear death  
embracing:

On the brow of the hill her body left  
rotting -  
They left her cold body for the crows to  
sup,  
For her lover was a Derbyshire Gristone  
tup  
And she was a longhorn Cow.

So if you walk these lanes alone  
At night, and hear that gruellin groan  
And bear the mournful moaning below  
Fear not the devil's dreadful yell  
Nor fear the burning flames of hell  
But spare a thought for lovers lost  
And ponder on its tragic cost:  
To wander forever o'er field and brow  
The lovesom ghost of a sad old cow!

Anna Barker



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# Live!

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## STRICTLY BOLLINGTON

In the post war years ballroom dancing played a part in many peoples' lives, it was one of the few places people could socialise and meet friends.

I am sure many residents will remember as I do, taking lessons and going to dances organised by Eric and Rhoda Dawson in Bollington.

During the 60s ballroom dancing fell out of fashion as youngsters found other ways to socialise, but over the last few years, due to the popularity of Strictly Come Dancing, there has been a revival, and no place more so than in Bollington which now has its own Ballroom Dance School at the Civic Hall called DanceTech.

DanceTech is run by Peter Bailey, a professional ballroom dancer qualified with the International Dance Teachers' Association. Peter has been dancing for over 30 years both as an amateur and professional and recently won the IDTA's John Dilworth Award from a field of 713 other professional ballroom dancers from around the world.

Dance is the UK's fastest growing activity. More than 4.8 million people regularly attend dance groups each year in England alone. Regular dancing is great for losing weight, maintaining strong bones, improving posture and muscle strength, increasing balance and co-ordination, beating stress and its great fun!

DanceTech's classes are held at the Civic Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Peter and his staff pride themselves on running the classes in a friendly social environment with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment.

As well as classes, DanceTech recently ran their first social dance on a Saturday night at the end of

September allowing their pupils to socialize and put into practice what they had learnt in class. With tickets sold out in only a few days,

DanceTech will be running these as a regular feature throughout the year.

So if you want to take up a new hobby or social activity that is going to keep you fit where you can meet new people and enjoy yourself (having a laugh is compulsory!) then one of DanceTech's classes is certainly for you.

**Valerie Bailey**

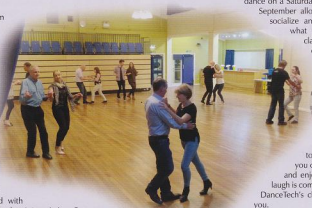


Photo right: Peter Bailey outside the Civic Hall



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