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# Live!

Number Sixty Six Spring 2016

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## BOLLINGTON BEAUTIES!

The Bollington Festival Players pulled off an excellent performance of 'Sleeping Beauty' last month. It was a great modern take on the old classic with lots of modern songs and jokes to appeal to the audience.

The cast included talented individuals of all ages, Emily Hague, who played the young Sleeping Beauty, commented that the cast spent so much time together rehearsing they were like a family. There was plenty of interaction with the audience and many hilarious moments as well as one or two romantic ones, such as the duet between Sleeping Beauty and the prince. Definitely a moment to remember.



A member of the chorus, Tom Collins, said 'Last year I saw my friends in the production and was inspired to do it this year. I am glad I took part because it was a fun experience.' He is looking forward to next year's performance. He's not the only one!

The performance had so many great features, including the amazing costumes. For example, the flower fairies had beautiful lit-up wings. The singing was fantastic and the sets were eye-catching. The acting was outstanding, especially Prince Alexis, who captured the audience with her beautiful singing voice and convincing acting. You can tell a lot of hard work went into the performance!



Our reporters described their favourite moments. Alice's favourite moment was when her friend Emily Hague sang 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda. This is because she had a beautiful voice which entranced the audience. Anna's favourite part was when the postmen had to deliver the invitations and there was lots of comic banter. Overall it was a great evening enjoyed by all.

**Alice Langston & Anna Mellings**  
Titherington School

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



What an eventful issue! Back in November Mr Botwe the Headteacher at Titherington School contacted *Bollington Live!* inviting us into school. From this short meeting grew an exciting project for 9 students who have worked incredibly hard to put together 2 pages of this issue.

The learning curve for the students was steep as members of the *Bollington Live!* team ran workshops for them in school and at Bollington Printshop. I was very impressed with the standard of articles from our young news team who were expertly guided by English teacher Mrs Burke (Head of Advanced Learners). A big thank you to all for this amazing team effort!

So what other news? Our community have finally won a planning battle - Hurray! Well done! The leisure centre extension is finished and the 200th anniversary of the birth of the sculptor Alfred Catley is recognised with a blue plaque on his family home in Kerridge.

I hope you can find something that interests you in this issue. If not why not write something for the next issue. Email me at [liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk](mailto:liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk).

*Annette*

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

## INTRODUCING THE TEAM

We are delighted to have produced these 2 pages – we hope you enjoy reading them as much as we have enjoyed writing them.

We are: Dan Gaskell, Caitlin Hunter, Beatrix Haigh, Tom Stott, Tom Collins, Anna Mellings, Ismail Rehman, Alice Langston and James McGuinness and we are all part of the Tytherington School news team.

With the help of the *Bollington Live!* team who visited us in school we have: planned and written our articles; found photos; learnt to copy edit; and even made a mock-up of the magazine. We visited Bollington Printshop to see how the articles are made into a magazine and we may even have delivered your copy!

There's a lot more to producing *Bollington Live!* than we thought!

Beatrix Haigh

Cartoon:  
Anna Mellings  
and James  
McGuinness



## TYTHERINGTON TAKEOVER

Last term, a group of students had the opportunity to take over important management roles at Tytherington School, including the role of head teacher, which was taken over by Caitlin Hunter and Aidan Simpson in year 7.

This is a new initiative introduced by Mr Botwe. The idea behind the event is to help students understand how the school runs.

Aidan Simpson told us he came in at 8.15am to attend a Senior Leadership Team meeting and be briefed about the day. The students had to give the staff briefing in the morning, which meant giving out notices to all the teachers - quite a daunting task for year 7 students!

## HEADS YOU WIN

Emmanuel Botwe has recently become Headteacher of Tytherington School. We asked Mr Botwe some questions about how he is finding life at Tytherington School.

*Are you enjoying your first year at Tytherington?*

**Yes, very much so! The students are welcoming and easy to work with.**

*What gave you the idea of doing the celebration breakfast?*

**I know that there are many students, not just a core group, that need recognition, and it's just a way to say thank you and reward them.**

*Do you have family?*

**Yes. I have a wife, a 3 year old and a 1 year old daughter.**

*What's a typical day for you time-wise?*

**I usually come into school at 7am. Then I hold a Senior Leadership Meeting at 8am and a staff briefing at 8:35am. The rest of the day, I take a walk around the classes to make sure everything is alright. I'm usually at school until approximately 8pm.**

*What qualities do you need to be a head teacher?*



The new Headteacher: Mr. Botwe

**You need a clear vision and determination. You need to enjoy the company of others and have confidence.**

*What ideas do you have for Tytherington School?*

**Help children achieve their goals and for teachers to improve.**

*What do you think of the students? They're very kind and welcoming. Every single one of them!*

*And finally, what were your first impressions of the school?*

**I knew when I first started that I was going to love it here! It was so warm and welcoming.**

Caitlin Hunter & Daniel Gaskell

Aidan commented, 'We walked around to see how we could improve the school. We also went to the launch of the Advanced Learners and the year 7 Celebration Lunch where we ate pizza!'

The Advanced Learner Programme has been launched by Mr Botwe and is designed to provide opportunities (such as writing for *Bollington Live!*) for a group of able and talented students in year 7. During the launch, each student was given a Secret Mission to complete. At the Celebration Lunch, the achievements of the students were recognised.

Aidan summed up the day by saying, 'I learnt a lot about the way



the school runs, and next time I would like to try out some of the other roles, such as the role of receptionist at the school.'

Tom Collins & James McGuinness

# A PEAKE AT THE TELESCOPE



On 15 December a handful of year 7 students went to Jodrell Bank to see Tim Peake, the first British astronaut to join the International Space station, take off from Kazakhstan. When they arrived they were greeted by an assistant dressed in a space suit!

There was a definite buzz of excitement around the place. It felt like an important historic event was about to unfold. Students were very excited to learn that BBC Newsround reporters would be there, hoping to get their fifteen minutes of fame!

Some of the activities they took part in during the day were: a science exhibition, a planet exhibition, looking at the stars through a big telescope and learning about

the history of Jodrell Bank. The students learnt that the day of their visit was the 70th anniversary of the arrival of Sir Bernard Lovell, and that the telescope at Jodrell Bank is still one of the three largest moveable telescopes in the world. They also had a walk around the base of the telescope and spent a few minutes on the outdoor scientific adventure playground.

The highlight of the day, though, was the countdown to Tim Peake's blast-off. Allie Taylor said, 'It was very exciting and my favourite part was seeing the rocket go off, because I had never seen one go off live before'. Students from Tytherington School and several other local schools gathered in a large auditorium to



watch the launch on a massive screen. Everyone took part in the countdown, which added to the drama and excitement of the occasion. Reporters from

BBC's Newsround interviewed two students from Tytherington, Evie Hadfield and Alex Allen, about their reactions to the take-off.

The science show at the end of the day was awesome. Students learnt about life on board the space rocket. It was fascinating to learn what astronauts eat, such as the delicious sounding pea and celery puree! Not many of our students would want to swap their packed lunches for that. Students also discovered that the astronauts sleep while upright, and they have to spend several hours a day exercising to combat the effects of zero gravity.

One of the highlights of the science show was the live demonstrations of how the physics of spaceflight works. Jake Haslam bravely volunteered to act as part of a space rocket in a demonstration of how the take-off works.

This enjoyable and inspirational day was rounded off by the inevitable visit to the shop, where several Christmas presents and a large number of slinkies (which kept students entertained on the journey home!) were purchased. Tom Roberts summed up the day by saying, 'I found all of it cool, especially the launch because Tim was the first British man to go into space which was incredible to witness.'

**Thomas Stott**

# BOLLINGTON TO BIG SCHOOL

Tytherington School students are from a variety of different primary feeder schools two of which are Dean Valley and Bollington Cross.

When we spoke to some of our year 7 students from Bollington, most said their primary schools were small with around 20 pupils per class. For some, this made adapting to a new, larger environment difficult at first. Most, though, found the experience a positive one. This process was helped by the transition

programme, which involved both the primaries and Tytherington School. At the primary schools each student wrote down three friends they wanted to be with at Tytherington School and they were guaranteed to be with at least one friend in their new form.

Nadia Hulme, a former Bollington Cross student, said, 'Coming to Tytherington School was confusing, but after I had found my way around, it became somewhere I looked forward to coming to every day.' Oscar Steedman added he

found coming to school easy. Cella Cupertino said, 'I made new friends which made the transition easier.'

The Intake Day in the summer also helps new students settle in as it gives them the opportunity to spend a day at Tytherington School. Students meet their form tutor, take part in lessons, meet new friends and familiarise themselves with the school.

**Caillin Hunter & Daniel Gaskell**

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# COMMON SENSE PREVAILS

Community safety before private profit!

For the last half of 2015 Bollington was threatened by a development that could have caused massive disruption to the town and danger to pedestrians, old and young alike.

The private pension fund that owns the Bayleaf building (previously the Waggon and Horses pub) applied to put a Sainsbury's convenience store plus an upstairs Bayleaf Restaurant into an extended revamped facsimile building with car parking for 14 cars at the back of the store.

Rob Nicholson started the community action by opening a Facebook page devoted to local opinion which was virtually unanimous against the development. The community had worked together to move the local Co-op from nearby to a purpose-built site in the centre of Bollington. No-one wanted another potentially busy store increasing traffic flow at the entrance to the town.

The battle lines were drawn up. In favour - the developer and Cheshire East Planning Department, Against - the local community led by the Town Council with nine specific objections on safety grounds.

The Highways Department of Cheshire East brooded over their own report for weeks and the delayed committee decision eventually appeared on 13 January 2016. The Highways Department had made up its mind and was prepared to support the application. The fifteen councillors on the Cheshire East Northern Planning Committee would now have to decide. Would they support their own Planning Officer's recommendation and allow the development or would they side with the people of Bollington and reject the proposal?

The Bollington community had little hope.

Community interest was so strong that an unprecedented 100-plus residents crowded out the Capesthorne Room at the Town Hall in Macclesfield. A proposal to move the meeting to a bigger room was turned down.

## THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS...

**'I'M SO GLAD THE BAYLEAF IS REMAINING OPEN - A BIG BONUS FOR BOLLINGTON'**

**'WHY CAN'T WE SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND HAVE A SMALL CHAIN STORE. IF POYNTON CAN MANAGE THE A6 RUNNING THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF IT WHY CAN'T WE MANAGE THE TRAFFIC?'**

**'KEEP SAINSBURYS AND ALL NATIONAL CHAINS OUT OF BOLLINGTON! LOCAL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES RUN BY LOCALS FOR LOCALS!'**

**'HAVING LIVED AT THE LOWER END OF GRIMSHAW LANE WHEN IT WAS STILL A PUB, I KNOW TOO WELL HOW BUSY THAT JUNCTION IS AND WOULD BE VERY WORRIED ABOUT CHILDREN CROSSING THE ROAD FOR THE BUSES TO SCHOOL AND ABOUT THE IMPACT THE STORE WOULD HAVE ON LOCAL BUSINESSES'**

**'VERY SIMPLY, IT IS AN IMPRACTICAL IDEA BECAUSE BOTH ENTRANCES/EXITS ARE ON A BLIND BEND..... IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS TO BUILD A SHOP THAT WILL ATTRACT A CONSTANT FLOW OF VEHICLES'**



Six speakers addressed the committee. One spoke for the application, citing the improved building and the 25 jobs that would be created. Five spoke against, citing lack of car parking, unsafe sight lines for vehicles, increased heaviness of traffic flow, threats to children's safety and the total inadequacy, even danger, of introducing four courtesy crossings with no pedestrian control. Residents applauded their champions and were rewarded by being called a 'mob' as well as being reprimanded by the chairman.

The Councillors then deliberated for over two hours. One councillor declared an interest and spoke strongly for the development but it was soon clear the committee was building up to refuse the application. Cllr. Janet Jackson proposed refusal and was supported by Cllr. Jamie Macrae. When the vote was taken 11 councillors rejected the application only two voted in favour. The Bollington community had won!

It is worth reflecting why and how victory was won. First, there was strong community leadership from outside the Town Council by experienced campaigners like Heidi Reid who used social media to keep people informed and to call on them to make representations and to attend the planning committee meeting. Second, there was a mass of relevant information collected by the Town Council and volunteers including Rob Bosmith on speed of traffic and traffic volume. Finally there was a united front on the part of Town Council and Borough Councillors irrespective of party or sectional interest.

However, we must be ready for an appeal. Watch this space. This was a major battle won but have we won the war? Time will tell.

*Ken Edwards*

# KRIV STEPS UP

If you have walked up to White Nancy on a Christmas morning then you may well have taken the path through Redway Woods.

You probably didn't spot the small brass plaque on a tree stump near the bottom of the hill. If you did you'll have realised that the Redway path was built by the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) team of volunteers. It was completed a few years ago but, whenever I walk up the path now, it is with some relief I'm not carrying an armful of tools or wooden planks.

The KRIV volunteers are mainly retired men and women from a wide range of backgrounds but all have one thing in common – we enjoy working together every Friday. We all enjoy being outside in all weathers, the banter, the chocolate biscuits, keeping fit and improving the local environment for everyone. Here's what the KRIV volunteers do:

- After the path behind the old Ingersley Mill collapsed, KRIV were asked to repair the path, starting beside Rainow Mill Cottages on Ingersley Road and leading to the fields in front of Savio House. The volunteers put in sets of wooden steps and added to the flight of stone steps

behind the cottages. A new wooden handrail replaced a string of barbed wire.

- Three paths in Rainow were improved in 2015. We cleared flagstones on the path from Blaze Hill to Rainow Low and helped the Ramblers replace some large slabs that were at the top of a culvert, in the path that runs from Millbrook Cottage towards Lamaload. A third section of flagstones was exposed in the field path from Waulkmill to Sugar Lane.
- In mud and rain, the volunteers improved the footpath opposite Rainow Mill Cottages. The path climbs out of Ingersley Vale, past the enclosure for ducks, towards the field below White Nancy. Once again wooden steps were built, stone was laid in the treads and drainage channels were dug to divert the water. Volunteers also fitted a new gate and laid one of the large stones from the stile, as a landing.
- The last improvement for 2015 was on the path that starts in the entrance to Endon Quarry, Kerridge. The section near the top was a real challenge for walkers and runners when wet. Over two Fridays the group built two flights of wooden steps, stone steps, and some stepping stones with stones scavenged and donated from Endon Quarry.



If you are interested in joining KRIV please visit [kriv-volunteers.blogspot.co.uk](http://kriv-volunteers.blogspot.co.uk)

Work stopped on these paths because the hedgelaying season was starting and the mud was making it difficult to make safe progress.

To reassure the walkers who thanked us and asked us if we would be making further improvements, we will return later in the year as the paths do need further work. If you need a hedge laying then let us know, or if you would like to join us, we'd love to see you!

John Gooding



KRIV would like to thank the Cheshire East Footpath Officer and Endon Quarry for materials, and Bollington and Rainow Councils and Bollington Beer Festival for their support.

# ADLINGTON ROAD PLAY AREA

Forty years ago, a young artist named Tom Lindhardt witnessed an event that changed the world of children's play. One of his large, brightly coloured sculptures had been placed in a new housing estate to add colour to the otherwise drab surroundings.



Realising that children were more interested in playing on the sculpture than admiring it, Lindhardt decided to start his own play equipment company – KOMPAN.

Kompan is the now the world's No.1 playground supplier and a selection of their kit, designed to promote child development for ages 7–15, can be found in the newly updated Adlington Road play area.

Bollington Town Council successfully applied to WREN – a not-for-profit business that awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK – for a grant of £42,000 to replace aging play equipment, and work commenced last year.

The site drainage has proved a bit of a challenge, with over 42 tonnes of topsoil being poured to improve conditions. Turf has yet to be laid before the project is deemed complete; however the new apparatus, installed by Diamond Playgrounds Ltd, is already proving a big hit with young Bollingtonians.



Ten-year-old Freya (a Health and Safety Inspector in the making) commented that the new carousel being level with the ground is safer, particularly for her 2-year-old sister. Apparently our play area is one of the first in the North-West



to receive this new-style wheelchair roundabout.

Emma, aged 7, is a big fan of the corkscrew-like musca spinner, which forms part of the galaxy assembly blasting children into challenging and adventurous play experiences that require route planning and complex movements.

There's also the 'twirly' spica, a uniquely designed, delightful, challenging piece of rotating playground equipment, the dynamic spacenet, the bird's-nest swing and the 'stand up and hold on' flexus – every piece providing



fantastic training sessions for future space travellers.

Joe, aged 11, when not enjoying the skate park heads for the blox to test himself a mini challenge to climb to the top. With their iconic, geometric shape, impressive size and professional climbing grips the blox provide a world of opportunities for making up games, creating routes around the structure or just a good spot to hang out with friends.

**Vicki Cooper**

## AIR CADETS OPEN EVENING

2016 is the 75th anniversary of the Air Cadet Organisation.

If you would like to find out more about Air Cadets at 236(Bollington) squadron ATC there is an open evening on Monday 7 March from 7.30 to 8.30pm at the Slaughter House, Shrigley Road, Bollington.

Come along, meet our cadets and staff and see what Air Cadets has to

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**Fiona Mayne**



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**JNR CONSTRUCTION**

# A HEALTHY FUTURE

**Judith Mattinson, the Manager of Bollington Health and Leisure, has now been in the post for 12 months, so it was with interest I went along to interview her to find out how her first year has gone and to hear her future plans and ambitions for the Centre.**

First, I wanted to know something about Judith herself.

It was 26 years ago that Judith began to work at the centre as a 'water' helper. Upon obtaining qualified swimming teacher status she began a career of teaching adults and children to swim. She continued in this teaching role for 18 years. In addition, to the swimming post, Judith was recruited as a part-time receptionist.

## 'AN EXCELLENT COMMUNITY FACILITY THAT PUNCHES WELL ABOVE ITS WEIGHT'

She eventually became the Assistant Manager and held this job for 5 years before becoming the Manager. Incidentally, during this time, Judith was also the licensee of the bar for 10 years!

Her love, dedication and commitment for the centre are in evidence. She proudly declares 'It is unique; what started in a small single-storey building has now become an excellent first-class professional facility'.

Judith, in this first year as Manager, has overseen a large gymnasium refurbishment project, and has unsurprisingly found this, along with her everyday role, challenging at times.

The delay in the opening of the gymnasium due to poor weather conditions for building and the late delivery of supplies, etc., caused some frustration. However, the support of all the staff and their optimistic motto - 'think about how great it will be when it's finished' - kept her going to its completion.

Everyone is delighted with the results. Memberships are up too - 95 new members in just 2 months

after the completion of the project.

The Centre offers much more than a gymnasium and swimming pool. It has squash courts, two exercise studios, a spa, and facilities for sports therapy and beauty treatments. It also has a soft play area for children's parties.

At least 14 different types of health and exercise classes take place in the Centre. These range from 'Baby Ballet' to 'Army Circuits'. The Centre also supports ALEX (Activities, Leisure, and Exercise) sessions for those with Parkinson's disease and the Meet, Move and Improve group for stroke survivors.



Furthermore, it is an award-winning facility. It holds IOS (Institute of Swimming) Approved Training Centre status and three Swim 21 awards for excellence in 'learn to swim' programming, school swimming teaching and for its Phoenix Swimming Club. Today more than 2,000 children and adults are enrolled on courses.

## AS A 'NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION' THERE IS A CONSTANT NEED TO RAISE MONEY

More than 50 swimming instructors ensure that the excellent reputation for swimming is maintained. In total the Centre employs over 75 full-time, part-time and casual staff with the majority coming from Macclesfield and the surrounding areas.

Investment in these current staff members involves on-site tutoring and mentoring. This ensures a healthy future for recruitment to managerial posts from within the Centre as happened in Judith's case.



**Meet the team (above I to R): Natalie Ison (gym instructor)**

**Eve Cupertino (duty manager)**

**Ryan Williams (gym instructor)**

**Fiona Ford (duty manager)**

**Judith Mattinson (centre manager)**

**Jane White (assistant manager)**

**Kevin Broome (duty manager)**

*Photo left: A view of the new Gym*

There will be no sitting back now the gymnasium refurbishment is complete. Judith described numerous plans for future improvements. These include: refurbishment of the spa; painting of several areas; new carpets throughout; a review of all lighting; and modernisation of the plant equipment for the pool and spa.

## 'A BRILLIANT ALL ROUND FACILITY WITH HIGHLY COMPETENT STAFF'

However, the Centre is a 'not-for-profit organisation' and there is a constant need to raise money (£20,000 is needed for the spa alone). In the past, funds have come from WREN, individual donations, the government lottery and fundraising events such as the annual Easter swimming gala and the 10k fun run/walk in August.

Under Judith's management, the continual support of the Town Council, the residents of Bollington and all the users of the Centre, the future indeed looks bright!

*Kate Gooding*

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

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# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

## February

Friday 19th - 8.30pm  
**Pete Abbott at Bolly Folk Club**  
Dog & Partridge  
£7 online at [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Saturday 27th - 9.30am  
**Schubert Mass in G**  
Join Bollington Festival Choir to sing  
includes music hire, rehearsal CD &  
refreshments Arts Centre £15 online

Saturday 27th - 8pm  
**Jazz at the Arts Centre - The Magnificent Seven**  
Amy Roberts & Richard Exhall  
£10 online

## March

Friday 4th - 8.15pm  
**Bolly Comedy Club**  
Arts Centre £9.90 online

Monday 14th - 6.30pm  
**SciBar: Palliative Care**  
Dr Debbie Alexander, Specialty Doctor in  
Palliative Medicine, East Cheshire Hospice  
Vale Inn Free

Saturday 19th - 10am until 3pm  
**Vintage and bric a brac sale**  
Bridgend Centre

Saturday 12th - 8.30pm  
**BDH&FC - Bollington District Horticultural & Flower Club**  
50th Spring Show at the Civic Hall contact  
Joyce Burton 572668

Friday 18th - 8.30pm  
**Union Jill at Bolly Folk Club**  
Dog & Partridge £7 online

Saturday 19th - 8pm  
**Trio Ismsiz**  
Chamber concert at the Arts Centre  
£15 £7.30 students online

Saturday 26th - 8pm  
**Jazz at the Arts Centre - Dave Mott's Jazz Classics**  
£10 online

## April

Friday 1st - 8.15pm  
**Bolly Comedy Club**  
Arts Centre £9.90 online

Monday 4th to 8th  
**Great Shakes Theatre School**  
Week long course for children £110  
[www.greatshakes.org](http://www.greatshakes.org) 07429443765

Saturday 9th - 7.30pm  
**Tom Kitching**  
Traditional English music Arts Centre  
£10 online

Monday 13th - 6.30pm  
**SciBar: Glaciers, Permafrost and Climate Change**  
Dr Richard Waller, School of Physical &  
Geographical Sciences, Keele University  
Vale Inn Free

Friday 15th - 8.30pm  
**Dan McKinnon at Bolly Folk Club**  
Dog & Partridge £7 online at [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Friday 22nd - 7.30pm  
**The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes**  
Don't go into the cellar! Arts Centre  
£10 online

Saturday 23rd - 8pm  
**The Sacconi Quartet**  
Chamber concert at the Arts Centre  
£15 £7.50 students online

Sunday 24th - 2.30pm & 5pm  
**Eggstravaganza!**  
Bollington Festival Music Theatre at the  
Arts Centre £7 £3.50 children online

Friday 29th - 8pm  
**Project Jam Sandwich**  
World folk fusion #spreadtheword  
Arts Centre £12 £8 students online

Saturday 30th - 8pm  
**Jazz at the Arts Centre - T J Johnson & his band**  
£10 online

## May

Friday 6th - 8.15pm  
**Bolly Comedy Club**  
Arts Centre £9.90 online

Monday 9th - 6.30pm  
**SciBar: Einstein, Gravity & Pulsars**  
Professor Benjamin Stappers, Reader in the  
Jodrell Bank Center for Astrophysics  
Vale Inn Free

Tues 10th - Sat 14th May - 7.30pm  
**Pirates of Penzance by Bollington Light Opera Group**  
Civic Hall Tickets: 431038 [blogbookings@aol.com](http://blogbookings@aol.com)

Friday 13th - 8.30pm  
**Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage at Bolly Folk Club**  
Dog & Partridge £7 online at [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Saturday 14th - 2pm  
**Bollington 3 Peaks Fell Race**  
9km route Registration at Bollington  
Brewing Company from 12pm

Sunday 15th - 11am  
**A Dragon's Tale**  
Puppet show and workshop Arts Centre  
£4 show £3 workshop

Friday 20th - 7.30pm  
**Claritas - the East Cheshire Hospice Choir**  
An evening of song Arts Centre  
£5 online

## June

Monday 13th - 6.30pm  
**SciBar: Advances in Eye Surgery**  
Brendan Moriarty, Consultant eye surgeon,  
has specialist interests in surgery for age  
related macular degeneration, cataract  
surgery, clivaru / refractive lens exchange,  
glaucoma and laser treatment for floaters  
Vale Inn Free

Friday 17th - 8.30pm  
**Tom McConville at Bolly Folk Club**  
Dog & Partridge £7 online at [bollyfolk.com](http://bollyfolk.com)

Saturday 25th - 7pm  
**Chamber Concert with Summer Supper at the Arts Centre**  
With Jennifer Pike includes supper & wine  
£25 online or call 572648

## NEW CHEMIST OPENS

Rowlands Pharmacy will be relocating to new premises opening in the old GPs surgery on Monday 22 February at 10am.

Come and meet Bill Turnbull from BBC Breakfast news who will be cutting the ribbon. There will be nibbles and drinks.

The staff are looking forward to seeing everyone in the new pharmacy.

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)

## THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

**Charity Shop open:**  
Mon-Thurs 10am-4.30pm  
Saturday 10am-1pm

### 01625 576311

**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-1 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 Tel: 575147

**Car Wash**  
Alternate Wednesday  
Recreation Ground £2.50

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

## HAPPY VALLEY ARTISAN MARKET HITS NEW MILESTONES

**There are many reasons to want to take a trip up to Clarence Mill on the first Sunday of each month.**

You may want to stop for a cuppa and a piece of cake at Café Waterside – but if it's the first Sunday of the month you can rely on it being the Happy Valley artisan market.

The market has been running for 18 months and has grown into a thriving, busy hub of creativity. All the artisans are local to the area and offer something a bit different – not your everyday stuff from the shops in Macclesfield or Manchester, but one-off pieces of art and crafts.

The success of the market is undoubtedly due to the local Bollington folk. We love our individual, family-run shops and

supporting local businesses is ingrained in our community. Even Storm Desmond, which threatened to blow a few artisans and their gazebos into the canal, wasn't enough to dampen spirits or cancel the Christmas market.

The artisans and their stalls offer a wide range of treats to tempt, including glassware, soaps and candles, pottery, wreaths, driftwood art, prints, handmade dog treats and now also food, thanks to Scott Oliver from 'Oliver on the Green' restaurant.

If you are a local crafter/maker and are interested in running a stall, get in touch; or if you are a new shopper to the market, we would love to see you.

**Sarah Hodgkinson**



*Sarah at her market stall*

**NEXT MARKETS: 6 MARCH, 3 APRIL, 1 MAY**

## FOCUS ON SCIBAR

**Bollington Scibar brings science to the Vale Inn on the second Monday of every month.**

If you have a general interest in science (or one of the topics happens to grab your attention), then it's a good place to learn a bit more from the presentations, or to ask speakers the questions you've always wanted answered. You don't have to know about science – just turn up with an inquiring mind. Many of our speakers are researchers from local universities or places like Jodrell Bank, but we've got talks from doctors and dentists coming up, and in the past we've had speakers from the Environmental Agency, Rolls Royce and Manchester Museum and we've had tropical live frogs twice!

[bollingtonscibar.co.uk](http://bollingtonscibar.co.uk)

## CHARITY VINTAGE SALE



The Bridgend Centre is always grateful for donations of jewellery, clothes, pottery, books and household items. The vast majority of which, are sold in the shop.

However, occasionally an item is donated that is particularly 'exciting' or unusual.

These items are taken to a local auction house, go on the charity's eBay page or are sold at the twice yearly vintage and bric-a-brac sale.

**Kate Gooding**

# COUNCILLORS IN THE MAKING

Well, what a morning! It started with me having to supply hi-vis jackets to a group of very excited children. The jackets came in various sizes, as did the children, and matching them up was a challenge, I have to admit. After a couple of false starts – and having to prise an extra-small jacket off a normal sized child – we managed to form an orderly crocodile.

After we were all briefed on road safety and reminded we did not need to be heard in Tytherington – we were off!

I was entertained by two children from year 3 – they didn't know the location of the Town Hall – they knew the new Co-op – but when I asked them if they sang carols round the tree on Christmas Eve, the penny dropped.

We got a wave from Sue and Tony at the post office as we walked along Wellington Road, all keeping in line and together, in the main.

When we arrived at the Town Hall we posed for a photograph on the steps – having first removed our hi-vis jackets. The Town Mayor, Angela Williams, had her photograph taken with the children. She then showed them around the ground floor of the Town Hall before taking them upstairs to the Council Chamber.



The panelled chamber is a very elegant room and added to the occasion, which I know the children appreciated.

The chair of the School Council sat on the Mayor's chair, with her vice-chair on her left. Everyone



else occupied the seats normally reserved for Town Councillors.

The Town Mayor showed the chairman the secret drawer under the desk which is where the gavel is kept – it didn't take long to find out that banging it on the desk is a very effective way of getting everyone's attention!

Three of the school governors introduced themselves to the council; and in return each member of the school council told us their names and which year they were in at Dean Valley.

There were fourteen children in all, representing years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The younger children have a presence at the school council, not in person but via their teachers.

The governors were then subjected to questions, asked by each child in turn – 'Is it fun to be a governor?' was the hardest question to answer because we agreed that it isn't fun but it is extremely rewarding and there are enjoyable aspects to the role.

Throughout the meeting the children were attentive and listened to the responses given – quite a big ask from some wriggly 7-year-olds.

At the end of the meeting the hi-vis jackets were reluctantly put back on – the staff at the Town Hall were loudly thanked for the refreshments.

The children said that they were most surprised by the response to the question 'Do governors get paid?' The answer is a definite no, but it hadn't occurred to them that we do it for no reward other than the sheer joy and delight of being in their company – and being able to help make a memory.

*Amanda Stott*

## CAN YOU HELP BIT?

Can you help Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT)? We are actively seeking two new members for our Management Committee. If you have a legal background, we would be particularly interested to hear from you.

Formal meetings (evenings) are held every two months or so.

BIT is a charity which was established over ten years ago to assist in the social, economic and environmental development of Bollington and its surrounding area. Our focus has been on acquiring and enhancing land and buildings and holding assets for the benefit of the community. Current assets include Tinkers Clough Wood, Turner's Lodge and the Water Street Centre (formerly Water Street School). We are a member of Locality, the national body for development and community trusts.

*Will Spinks*

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact  
 Will Spinks, Chair of BIT at [s.spinks1@ntlworld.com](mailto:s.spinks1@ntlworld.com) or on 573413  
<http://bollingtontrust.org>

## BOLLINGTON BY..

Instead of our usual focus on a young person we interviewed a retired couple who have made their home in Bollington for the last 48 years and are very much involved with the community. Originally from Cadishead, Dorothy and Bernard have recently moved to a new home in **Leaf Place on the Waterhouse Mill Estate.**

### **Bernard, when did you first come to Bollington?**

In 1967, I was offered a new job at the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) in Cheadle Hulme, working in consultancy and electrical design, and with two young children we needed a home that would suit our needs. We wanted somewhere with a Catholic school and church, pleasant surroundings and a good sense of community. Bollington fitted the bill perfectly and we bought a brand-new house in Gleave Avenue and here we are, still in Bollington.

### **You have had a variety of jobs, Bernard. What was your most unusual?**

When I was made redundant, I applied for a job as assistant greenkeeper at Shrigley Hall. I was offered the job and really enjoyed it. It was an outdoor and healthy occupation, fun while it lasted.

### **What did you do, Dorothy?**

I was secretary at St Gregory's Primary School, which I loved. I have watched many pupils of the school grow up and bring their own children into school.

### **Now you are both retired, how do you fill your time?**

With no difficulty at all! Like most retired people, we wonder how we found time to work. Family is very important and recently our daughter has returned to this part of the world from Essex and now lives in Rainow. Another daughter lives in Didsbury and we are able to look after our grandson. Our son is a bit further away in Shrewsbury. Bernard loves music and has been in both the Festival Choir and St Gregory's Church choir. He is also a keen gardener and we are

both members of the Horticultural Society and are stewards at the shows. We are looking forward to planning our new garden. Bernard says he likes to give a bit back to the community – he has been a school governor at both St Gregory's and All Hallows and on the Hospice Committee. We are both members of Probus and have been stewards at the Festivals in Bollington. We enjoy crown green bowling on the recreation ground and walking in our beautiful countryside.

### **Have you settled in your new home?**

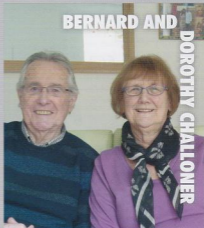
Very much so; we don't regret the move at all. It is a lovely site and the house is perfect for us and we are close to everything, which makes it very convenient.

### **What do you like about Bollington?**

The community spirit, the lovely countryside and it is a good place to bring up children. It must also be good for us 'oldies' as we are still here and wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

### **If you could change anything about Bollington what would it be?**

The traffic is a bit of a problem – some road calming needs to be done but we wouldn't want much to change. To keep Bollington like it is will need careful planning to maintain its character and charm.



### **You must have many memories of Bollington in the past. Can you recall some favourite ones?**

Too many to list, but picking bilberries on White Nancy and family picnics there were good – and where have all those snowy winters gone when we sledged on Nancyside?

*Sandy Milsom*

## SHOWING OFF

*Members of the Bollington Horticultural Society and Flower Club are already preparing for the 50th Spring Show on 12 March from 2pm to 4pm.*

It is a great event. As soon as you enter the Civic Hall you are met with the strong, fragrant scent of hyacinths and other spring flowers.

There are 70 categories to enter, including flower arrangements, flowers, baking, photography, wine-making and handicrafts. There are also six classes for children to enter,

*Photo: Club secretary, Sheila Franks and Show secretary, Joyce Burton*



*Contact Joyce Burton on 572668 or bollington.horticultural@hotmail.com*

including decorating hard-boiled eggs and salt-dough art. The top three entries in each class receive prize money and certificates.



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# THE HOBBY SHEPHERD

Carolyn and I started keeping sheep six or so years ago. We are both animal daft, so it seemed a reasonably sensible thing to get involved in, when the opportunity presented itself.

We had become very close friends with Stephen and Helen Sheldon, who farm up on Sugar Lane Farm, Adlington, and also with Alan and Brenda Buxton at Red Oaks Farm, Bollington. From time to time we had helped them with lambing, and they in turn supported us when we were setting up and have provided much needed advice and help along the way.

There is much more to keeping sheep than most people think and it really has been an ongoing learning process for us both. Apart from the obvious things, such as



Photo: Chris and his 'girls'

having appropriate land on which to keep the sheep and ensuring they are fed and watered on a daily basis, there's lambing, shearing, annual inoculation routines and day-to-day stuff, such as trimming their feet.

We currently keep 16 ewes on land opposite our home in Kerridge and have recently acquired some additional land up in Adlington, which we use to bring on our lambs. Fingers crossed, we can expect to have between 25 and 30 lambs born this coming spring. This will be confirmed when we have the ewes scanned at the end of January.

All in all, keeping sheep has been a really rewarding and enjoyable experience for us both. An experience to be recommended, but not one to be taken on lightly!

Chris Thompson

## TYTHERINGTON REMEMBERS

On Remembrance Sunday Mrs Timms took three year 7 students Tom Lineham, Katie Barber and Tom Collins to the war memorial in Bollington.

'The reason we went to the memorial is because we wanted to pay our respects and celebrate the lives of the soldiers who fought to protect our country, and I am very proud that I took part in this,' said Mrs Timms.



Back at school, the rest of the students took part in a two-minute silence at 11.00am. Each class took time to reflect on the events of all the wars of the 20th century through various activities, including reading and writing poetry on the theme of war. The last post was played at

11.00am as a mark of respect for all those who died.

Also, Mrs Wearne, who teaches RE, organised a magnificent display of poetry in the new Jubilee Block to mark the occasion.

Ismail Rehman  
Tyttherington School

## BREAKING NEWS

Local councillors are now thought to be in consultation with the developer to ensure the bridge goes somewhere more useful than the plan states, so that we will be able to walk along the River Dean and cross successfully through a small archway cut into one of the viaduct's great pillars. We shall see.

Ken Edwards

## BRIDGE TO WHERE?

I have recently moved into a small house on the new Waterhouse Mill Estate. I love my new house; I am part of a friendly community of mixed ages and varied houses on a well-planned small estate.

We residents were all delighted to see equally well-planned landscaping and planting alongside the river and the beginning of a path which would follow the river around the edges of the estate. It promises to be even more delightful in the summer when the planting will mature and blossom.

We are also looking forward to a riverside path through the estate, ending at a bridge near the viaduct which was thought to cross the River Dean to continue a walk across Adlington Road into the Recreation Ground. However, the current plan actually takes the bridge onto an island going nowhere!

Sandy Milsom



Photo:  
Landscaping  
around  
Waterhouse Mill  
estate

# ALFRED GATLEY OF KERRIDGE

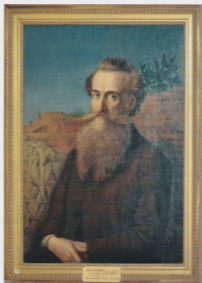
*Sculptor, 1816 – 1863*

Alfred Gatley was the second son of William Gatley, a quarryman of Kerridge who had a large family. Alfred's life is an example of a social rise unusual in our society; from an obscure country hamlet to a brief period of fame before profound artistic disappointment and an early death, far from his origins, in the great city of Rome.

Alfred's mother Hannah died when he was 7 years old. Although there is no personal record of Alfred's feelings and the impact of her death, her loss and this early trauma must have had a profound effect on such a sensitive and talented boy. He never married, being disappointed on two occasions. The record shows him devoting his life to his art, and all his tenderer feelings are expressed in his work. Although disappointed in love Alfred felt responsible for family members, particularly his seven sisters, and in later life was concerned to support them.

Alfred first showed promise as a sculptor in the unlikely guise of a comic carving, from a turnip, of his headteacher's head. His skills as a stone carver led him into carving gravestones, some of which are likely to be in local cemeteries.

Alfred worked in his father's stone yard until the age of 20 but his talent, ambition and application brought him to the attention of the Revd Sumner, Vicar of Pott Shrigley, who provided a richer education than the 'dame' school where Alfred began his studies,



*Painting of Alfred Gatley by Marcianno da Tuna, Rome 1862*

introducing him to Latin and Greek culture. James remained a firm supporter of Alfred until 1850, when a long estrangement began, perhaps connected to the Revd James's second marriage to Alfred's childhood sweetheart Ellen Lane.

Alfred's first substantial work, now in Gawsworth Hall, was a bust in Kerridge stone of the great seventeenth-century poet John Milton, completed in 1833 when he was just 17. This bust shows

Alfred's enormous aspiration and ambition which drove him forward all his life. But, like every artist, he had to find his bread and butter so he completed two popular images of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnnie in the same year.

The Revd Sumner took Alfred in hand and arranged for him to join the studio of sculptor E.H. Bailey in London. This was a vital move for Alfred, who suddenly had a new world of artistic excellence opened to him. He took full advantage, saved every penny he could, studied anatomy very seriously and at the age of 23 obtained permission to copy in the galleries of the British Museum, home of the best and widest collection of sculpture in the world at that time.

## ALFRED FIRST SHOWED PROMISE AS A SCULPTOR, CARVING HIS HEADTEACHER'S HEAD FROM A TURNIP

Alfred worked so hard that within two years he was admitted to the Royal Academy of Arts. He became one of the top 80 practising artists in the land able to exhibit each year and attract leading collectors. In 1841 he exhibited there for the first time a 'Bust of a Gentleman'. He must have thought he had made it into the top echelons of the artistic world and that his talent would be recognised.

However, without strong financial backing and a specific patron, Alfred found life hard and he was continually dogged by money worries as sculpting absorbed money and time. Undaunted, he transferred from Bailey's studio to become assistant to Musgrave Watson in 1843. Alfred now had success winning a Silver Medal for the best model from life and creating two wonderful marble busts of Cupid and Psyche. All his sensual feelings must have gone into his work as we have no record at this time of any passionate relationship whatsoever.



## CELEBRATING 200 YEARS SINCE HIS BIRTH

Watson was not a good choice. Although a northerner from Cumbria, he too had financial difficulties and died in 1847, leaving Alfred to help finish works and try to survive on his own. Alfred had some local support. In 1846 his memorial to John Whitaker, founder of the Macclesfield



Sunday School, was installed in Macclesfield, paid for by public subscription, and busts were commissioned for Martin Swindells and his wife (soon to be lodged in the Bollington Arts Centre). In 1848, trying to win national attention, he sent a bust of John Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Royal Academy Exhibition. Better paid however was a bust of his close friend Samuel Christie-Miller, completed in 1850. Sadly one of his great sculptures at this time that of the English protestant theologian Richard Hooker rested in the Temple Church until it was severely damaged by Nazi incendiary bombs in 1941.

After Watson's death Alfred failed to find sufficient work in London in spite of local patronage from Cheshire. He now set his sights on the centre of European sculpture at the time and travelled to Rome towards the end of 1852. Samuel Christie-Miller followed him to Rome with a complex proposition to create two huge panels for a

funerary monument to William Miller, a rich Scottish bookseller. This monument, which still towers over an estate of bungalows outside Edinburgh, was to have a grim panel called the Overthrow of Pharaoh on the Red Sea and a lighter one called the Song of Moses and Miriam. They were worked on by Alfred for a number of years, though only placed on the memorial years after his death in 1866.

### ALFRED FOUND LIFE HARD AND HE WAS CONTINUALLY DOGGED BY MONEY WORRIES AS SCULPTING ABSORBED MONEY AND TIME

Although Alfred was very industrious in Rome and created a whole series of works – mainly busts, but some animals – he felt isolated and lonely in spite of having one very good friend in a John Gibson. He also corresponded with a mysterious Miss Lowe, but she continued a European tour and abandoned him. Although far from Kerridge he could not escape family problems. His father died while he was in Rome and Alfred became embroiled in a family quarrel over his will.

Alfred returned to England for one last exhibition of his works in 1862, but they did not sell.

Deeply disappointed and without patronage, he returned to Rome and died officially of dysentery in June 1863, but more likely the financial stress of trying to provide for his unmarried sisters and disappointment at what he saw as artistic failure weakened his resistance to the disease.

Whatever the vicissitudes of Alfred's life, we in Bollington can recognise him as an artist of stature in stone on which and from which our town is built. We can recognise his stoic heroism in working without strong financial support in two great world artistic centres, London and Rome. We can regret his dying alone in a foreign city. But we read with pride the inscription on his grave: 'He was great in his works, a loyal citizen, beloved by many, respected by all. He had kindness of heart and a hatred of all that was false. He lived a Christian'. Finally we can celebrate his great sculptures in Gawsorth Hall, Salford Art Gallery and Craightenny (outside Edinburgh) and admire his expertise in the Arts Centre in Bollington.

On 15 January 2016 Alfred was recognised in Bollington through a Blue Plaque commemorating his life on his former family home, Spring House in Kerridge. This will be a permanent acknowledgement of his great spirit and creative power in our community.

**Ken Edwards**  
with support from  
**Molly Spinks**

*'Echo'*  
Gatley is known to have carved three of these! This copy is on view at Gawsorth Hall

*Craightenny Marbles comprising: 'The Overthrow of Pharaoh in the Red Sea' (left) and 'The Song of Moses and Miriam' (right), unknown date but not mounted until 1867, Craightenny Crescent, Edinburgh*



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# THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The voluntary Management Committee have now been running the Community Centre for over 12 years. When we started we thought we had a good basis for the venture, this being anchored by Cheshire County Council Social Services who used the Centre for four days every week for a day-care centre.

However, all has not been plain sailing! In 2007 Cheshire County Council retrenched and closed their day-care centre – quite a shock! Although by this time we had a number of regular users, there was a considerable income shortfall and fundraising became more of a necessity. The fundraising group responded brilliantly and together with the committee, the funding gap was always met. Thanks to the wonderful support from the community of Bollington, local organisations booked the Centre for their activities to the extent that in 2011/12 rental covered our operating costs for the first time.

Over time we have received financial support from a number of organisations, led by our own Bollington Town Council, Cheshire East Council and WREN. We have spent over £100,000 refurbishing the Centre, which was in a very poor state of repair when we took it over. We also converted the first-floor flat into meeting rooms. We received many donations 'in kind', particularly in the early stages.

Our fundraising group continue to succeed. The income raised is not required directly but it provides a prudent reserve fund for refurbishments. In fact we have just completed such a project in the kitchen when we were supported by WREN.



So who are these users? The Women's Institute (WI), the Horticultural Society and the Civic Society are monthly users. The Bingo Club and the Flower Club have been at the Centre for many years and of course the weekly Luncheon Club has been going for over 40 years. The Wilmslow Guild has been holding an art class for the past few years. There is also a regular yoga class held twice a week. The Probus Club hold a monthly coffee morning, raising money for charity. Cheshire East Council hold a weekly Children's Centre which is an offshoot from their Hurdfield Centre.

We now appear to be the venue of choice for children's parties, with several bookings every month. Other organisations have used us as a venue for meetings,

either using the main room, or if it is only a small number of people they use one of our meeting rooms on the first floor – this includes a saxophone group!

All this has been achieved by a relatively small committee, nearly all of whom joined on day one. Recently two of these long-standing members left; I will miss them greatly, but they have been replaced by not two new members but three. This has been a real boost, bringing new ideas to lead us into the future. I have been privileged to chair this committee throughout this time; some say I am obsessed with the Centre – probably guilty as charged – but this is fuelled by the knowledge that the community value the Centre, in particular our regular elderly users who attend a variety of activities providing the opportunity for social contact.

Last year I was stunned to discover that I had been nominated for a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2015 New Year Honours List. Whilst this seems a very personal award, I like to think that it is really for all the members of the Management and fundraising Committees – no one can be a one-man (or woman) band.

So what for the future? Thank you for your past support and we hope that you, the people of Bollington, will continue to support the Centre.

*Pat Haddleton*

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## Bollington

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Tuesday 15th March in the Civic Hall at 7.30pm

# THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR WALLS!!

Life in Bollington is always full of surprises. Just before Christmas Peter Brown and Sandra Edwards met with some keen students of architecture from Manchester University. They had been asked to come up with simple ideas to enhance our awareness of the built environment in Bollington.

One student, Will Priest, was fascinated by our stone walls; the different construction, textures, decorative toppings and the memories of field boundaries and ancient lanes they marked out in the community.

'You' he said, pointing accusingly at me, 'don't notice them, they are so much part of your life. I'd like to stick glowing gold stones in them so everyone looked at them again!' Stung by his vehemence 'Go on then' I said, 'Stick one in. There's 30 metres of stone wall out there.'

A week later Will was back knocking on our door. 'I've got it' he said, 'where can I put it?'

And he had. A large glowing artificial stone, hollowed out but covered in rich gold leaf paint. The rest is history. Set in the stone wall at the top of Hurst Lane it catches the eye of every passer-by. Filled from time to time with gold chocolate coins it has attracted interest throughout the town. Children rush to it to see if they are lucky on their walk to and from school. Thank you notes have even been left.

We feel deeply privileged to host this remarkable object in our wall and we half hope Will forgets it. We shall certainly miss it when it returns to Manchester. Meanwhile please admire all the varied stone walls in the Town. They represent years of work and high levels of local skill. Metaphorically they are all in gold. **Ken Edwards**



## BECOMING A GOVERNOR

I am a governor at Dean Valley Community Primary School. My special area at Dean Valley is a link with the school council.

I know that at some point all the schools in our town will be in need of new governors so I've written about what it's like to become one.

A school governor is an important role and you do not need to have a background in education. What you need is a confidence to ask questions; a commitment to school life; the ability to work with others; patience and enthusiasm; a willingness to learn; a commitment to working openly and democratically; and, most important, a drive to put the children first.

Governors typically spend about 10 hours a month contributing to school life (attending meetings, undertaking training, visiting school, participating in school events, and much more), but some do less and you can do a lot more if you choose.

The most important thing to remember is that governors are

a team, not a collection of individuals with separate agendas. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences, we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for its long-term success. In short, we have a common purpose.

The governing board at Dean Valley has established a number of committees and statutory panels. We meet together as a full governing body every half-term. Our committees also meet each half-term to review and discuss the details of school life. Each governor serves on one or more committees and, in addition, has a specific area of interest – for example safeguarding, school standards or health and safety.

Governors are asked to visit in their specialist role, class-link role and subject-link role at least once a term, where possible. Our statutory panels, which cover issues such as admissions, discipline and complaints, meet as needed.

**Amanda Stott**

*If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a school governor please feel free to get in touch with the clerk to the governing body*

### A governor's roles and responsibilities:

*Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.*

*Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.*

*Overseeing the financial performance of the school.*

### There are four types of school governor:

*Parent: elected by the parents and carers of children in school.*

*Co-opted: selected by the governing body to bring the expertise of the local community to the school.*

*Local authority: appointed by the local authority and represent the political parties on the council.*

*Staff: a maximum of two including the headteacher.*

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