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Live!

Number Sixty Seven

Summer 2016

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BOLLINGTON

Issue 67 Summer 2016

Live!

HAPPY-VALLEY.ORG 20 YEARS YOUNG!

It was the summer of 96, the internet was becoming accessible to the general public, there was nothing online about Bollington, and I was happily retired with time to spare. So I thought I should teach myself how to write web pages and provide a resource for the community.

I'd started my IT career 30 years before as a programmer but hadn't got close to code for over 15 years, so I had a look at a random web page to see how it was coded. Hey presto! the HTML language was based on GML, a language for which I wrote some of the interpreter code (like a browser, but for printed documents) many years before! In about ten minutes I had my first web page coded and working! In those days all sites were developed on a DIY basis.

Twenty years, three web technologies and about 1100 pages later we have the Happy Valley web site you see today. It has been far more popular than I could ever have imagined – on average there are about 50,000 page views every month! That's more than 10 million over the 20 years!



The site is laid out with many sections including 'Drink, Eat, Sleep' (by far the most popular), Organisations, Services, Streets (very popular with home buyers), Civic Society, Bollington Live! (every edition is online), etc. There are also pages on Kerridge and Pott Shrigley. The one section that continues to be developed is History.

The future? Within the past couple of years Bollington Town Council have developed a really good web site of their own, so some items have been removed from the Happy Valley site. With my increasing age my four web sites get less attention than they deserve, and they really need to be upgraded to the latest web technology but that's a big job!

My grateful thanks to everyone who uses the sites, I am often pleased to hear that they have been useful.

Tim Boddington



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Photo Left:
Tim Boddington

www.happy-valley.org.uk

I can't believe it has been a year since I started as editor of Bollington Live! I've had great fun and made some wonderful new friends in the process.

I'd like to thank the whole committee for their support and commitment to this fantastic magazine. And a big thank you to everyone who has advertised, sponsored, written, took photos and most importantly read the magazine.

So what's new in Bolly? Oliver on the Green is having a make-over and will be opening as 'Tapa' – (launch party on 23 June) – with Scott and Jaydean still at the helm serving small plates of food in a wine bar style setting. A new deli is in the making as well, next to Chadwicks – Jackie and Natalie are full of wonderful ideas for their new venture. I for one will be trying both out this Summer! Supporting all our local businesses is really important for our community if we want to see success stories like Belfields 50 years on (see page 5)!

I hope you can find something that interests you in this issue. If not, why not write something? Email me at liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk.

Annette

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Back Issues: www.happy-valley.org.uk/live

CROWING ABOUT IT

Did you know that in our midst we have one of the smartest birds known to man?

Our humble jackdaw is a member of the crow family (corvidae) along with rooks, carrion crows, ravens, magpies and jays. This 'family' has one of the highest ratios of brain size to body weight in the animal kingdom. They are highly intelligent and social animals.

Jackdaws are the smallest of the black crows but an easy way to identify them is by their light grey nape and pale white iris, which stand out against the black plumage.

Next time you see them around our fields you might see them performing aerobatic tumblers, often in strong winds, calling to each other with their signature 'jack-jack'. This is pure play and something repeated in other species of the Corvid family but very rarely seen in other birds. This playfulness is a sign of their intelligence and there are many records of how these birds can be trained to perform new tricks.

A tame jackdaw was once trained by some Italian thieves to steal money from cash machines! But we are more likely to see them working out how to get to the food we place in our garden feeders.

At this time of the year jackdaws will be nesting, often in colonies given the chance, and they always look for crevices such as holes in hollow trees, or better still chimneys. Jackdaws will collect twigs and drop them into whatever cavity they choose until one or two get lodged and form a base. More twigs are added until there

is a platform to
make a
nest
out
of

wool or other animal hair.

We have had crows added to our chimneys as we were finding twigs in our hearth.

If you take some time to follow a flock of jackdaws closely you will see several couples; pairs of birds who stay close to each other and again this is no accident. Once they have successfully fledged from the nest they will form a pair bond which can last for life, which for a jackdaw is 5 years on average



although the oldest recorded bird is just 14 days short of its 16th birthday. They breed in their second year and the clutch size is around 4 to 6 greenish-blue eggs.

As well as breeding in colonies, jackdaws also roost and feed together. If one jackdaw finds a particularly good supply of food, it will regularly come back to the same area, sometimes encouraging other jackdaws to 'tag' along. These birds are often also seen feeding alongside rooks and carrion crows. Their diet is largely composed of seeds, fruit and invertebrates, but as jackdaws are also carrion eaters, they will pick at road kill or even take other birds' eggs.

Our own population is fairly resident all the year round but jackdaws breeding in the high uplands will migrate to the south and west and even as far as Ireland for their winter months.

Finally, although wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, many jackdaws are killed under general licence by 'authorised persons', which includes landowners or occupiers or anyone acting with their permission.

Bruce Kendrick

The Claritas Choir is always looking for new members. Rehearsals are held in the hospice chapel on Monday evenings.

If you would like to join, there are no auditions, just the requirement to enjoy singing, both to bring pleasure and to raise funds for the hospice.

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Photos by
Bruce Kendrick

CLARITAS

Bollington Arts Centre was delighted to host a charity concert in aid of the East Cheshire Hospice on Friday 20 May. Claritas, the hospice's own choir, performed a wide range of well-known songs which were enjoyed by all.

The Latin word claritas means to brighten or illuminate, and this is something the choir wants to do for all those touched by and involved in the work of the hospice. The choir was formed in autumn 2006 and currently has 50 members from all walks of life.

Claritas were supported by soloists, Charlotte Jeffries and Sarah Doggett.

Charlotte is a Year 10 student who, as well as playing piano, clarinet and being a member of her school choir and orchestra, has recently taken lead roles in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and *Avenue Q*. She was accompanied by her teacher Kate Oldfield.

Sarah lives locally and is a professional musician. She is frequently hired as a session singer in studios all over Europe, including the famous Abbey Road Studios in London. Having toured with bands, spent several summers singing on cruise liners and obtaining two music degrees, Sarah has now turned to teaching singing.

During the evening, Sarah was accompanied by Ben Beer, also an experienced professional musician, writer and vocal tutor. Ben has performed all over the world; for the late Princess of Wales and supporting Elton John at the O2 Arena. As well as teaching in the area, Ben works with various youth musical theatre groups and is a regular accompanist and writer, producer and mixer.

Our musical evening raised a lot of money for the hospice – as well as the singing, the audience enjoyed an amazing raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. We would like to thank everyone who so generously donated, particularly the Bollington Beer Festival and Harvey Scott, whose sponsorship made a huge difference.

Lynn Hindley



50 YEARS ON..... (AND NOT A SOGGY BOTTOM IN SIGHT!)

It was just over 50 years ago that Ken Belfield opened his bakery business.

Belfield's has become a well established part of the Bollington shopping scene, providing the town with delicious bread, cakes, pies and pastries. Ken is now retired but Anne, his wife, continues to run the bakery with the help of an excellent team of bakers and shop assistants.

The first shop opened in Church Street on the corner of Turner Street and Ken lived upstairs. It was hard work with long hours, and involved a great deal of experimentation on Ken's part to get his recipes right. The meat and potato pies were particularly difficult to get the balance right. It took him about a week. Ken was one of the first Secondary School boys to do cooking, and he then went on to learn bakery at Manchester College.



(Photo above by Bill Kavanagh):
Anne Belfield

(Photo left) Lionel Ash - with pie!

(bottom) Philip Gibbon

(Photo far right by Jon Beck): Paul Lomas

Lionel Ash, who lived in Bollington then, was one of Ken's first customers. He was working at Steve Plant's on Silver Street as an apprentice welder and Belfield's was about to open. 'I was sent to buy meat and potato pies and custards to take back to work,' he recalls, 'they were brilliant - and everybody liked them.' The taste of the pies was obviously to everyone's taste, although slightly unusual, as Ken had put a lot of red pepper in them, but so well received that he kept the recipe. Lionel added, 'Every time I am back in Bollington, Belfield's is my first port of call, just to check on the pies.'

Anne Belfield joined the bakery in 1969, but left in 1973 to go to Canada to look after children and teach English. She returned in 1976. In the meantime Ken had moved to Palmerston Street in 1975, where the shop remains to this day. I asked Anne what her recipe for a successful business was. 'We like to chat to our customers, sometimes



we can even help to sort out problems. We feel that customers are like family.' I asked about any changes that she had seen in tastes over the years. 'Vanilla slices are still popular and firm favourites are meat and potato pies, but we do a range of different breads now to suit modern families and a good lunchtime trade in sandwiches, made to order.'

Belfield's employs two excellent bakers, Paul Lomas, (full-time and specialises in bread and cakes), and Philip Gibbon, the pie baker, (who is part-time.) Philip remembers when he first met Ken. He was a boy of 12 doing 'bob-a-job' with the scouts and Ken gave him a job. When he was ready to leave school Ken was talking to Philip's mother and telling her how busy he was. When she mentioned her son was leaving school he was taken on as an apprentice baker. He stayed for five years.



Philip recalls the time of the bread strike in 1974 when he and Ken did their best to meet the enormous demand from local residents. It meant them working virtually round the clock. They used up an enormous amount of flour over a few days and on one Saturday alone, baked one hundred 2lb

loaves, three hundred 1lb loaves and 1000 cobs. He remembers the large queues of people stretching from Turner Street to the Church House. They hoped their hard work would not go unappreciated and Bollington folk would continue to shop at Belfield's.



Although Philip left after 5 years he always felt that he would go back. Ken married Anne after her return to the UK, and when the children were born, Philip's mother sometime looked after them. Philip eventually became a carer for his mum and after she died he was asked to work part-time as a pie baker, a job he loves.

It is evident that Belfield's not only supplies great bread, pies and cakes but is a focal point in the village. The staff are always ready with a smile, a kind word and a chat. Their window has also provided a platform for local people to let everyone know about their organisations, a great service to the community.

Ten years ago Ken and Anne were presented with a 'shuttle award' for their forty years in business in Bollington. A big 'thank you' from the community is now in order for their 50 years of baking!

Sandy Milsom

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FRUITS OF THE FORAGE

The enthusiasm and passion of Fred Thorneycroft for all things wild and foraged is almost tangible. I have to admit it was a little weird having a conversation with a 24-year old lad about what you can do with damsons and sloes, (to name but a couple of ingredients Fred and his extended family use in their growing range of foraged produce.)



So where did this passion come from? Fred was interested in gardening as teenager and used his own family garden as his personal nursery, filling the greenhouse with chilli plants and making chilli jam. This had its first showing at a charity event his mum was running. As well as experimenting with chilli jam, Fred thought it would be a good idea to make nettle beer to take to a music festival. Needless to say it went down very well!

Three years later, armed with a degree in Environmental Science from the University of East Anglia, with a developing interest in sustainable agriculture, but no job, Fred and his older brother Bertie were out walking with friends one late summer's evening when they came across hedgerows laden with damsons and blackthorn, as well as blackberries and elderberries. Fred turned to his brother and said "This is incredible; people are unemployed and starving, but here there is food falling on the ground". They picked as much as they could carry, leaving plenty for the birds and wild-life, made chutneys and jams and sold them. This was the

start of the 'Fruits of the Forage' adventure.

This wild food business is a real family affair. Bertie's girlfriend, Franchi and Fred's sister, Tilly designed the labels for their jars of produce. Grand-dad, Graham Lewis and great aunt, Jean Lewis arrive at the family home every Wednesday to be given foraged food to chop.

Mum was the inspiration for preserving and, along with Fred's siblings, plays a big role in the business. According to Fred's dad, she 'endures' them being in the house cooking! Fred said "I am obsessed with making wild food".

Common land covers more than 4500 square miles of Great Britain. Even in urban England over half of the land in our towns and cities is green space, so there is no shortage of land on which Fred can forage!

In terms of plant-life, Fred has an excellent knowledge of the local area and his presence on social media, asking for surplus produce from people's gardens generates ample raw materials for his produce. In fact, he thinks he might soon need to employ someone to help with the foraging in order to keep up with the demand for his wares.

Fruits of the Forage produce is already on sale in Heathcotes in Bollington and Henry's café in Prestbury, as well as being available in the Treacle market and at local events and markets across Cheshire. The ingredients are creative and the combinations innovative. Fruits of the forage have just won a bronze



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Photo left:
Fred Thorneycroft

**Below: Foraging
for food**

medal at the Dalemain World Marmalade awards for their great tasting sloe Seville marmalade.

As well as foraging himself, Fred is eager to share his knowledge of the wild food palette by teaching people how to forage. Fred and his brother are launching their foraging courses this year. They keep it simple, focusing on the best wild ingredients, thus giving you the confidence to identify these and cook practical and delicious wild food that you will be desperate to show off. The foraging course begins at the community garden in Ingersley Vale, followed by a foraging and plant identification walk in the countryside and a scrummy lunch of foraged food with a chance to taste the range of Fruits of the Forage produce available.

So what's next for this growing family business? Well, Fred explains that they would like to have a large shed in the Community garden, so they can run educational events for schools and local groups. If anyone has a shed (about 10x12ft) in good condition that they no longer want, Fred can put it to good use, nurturing wild edible plants for planting on in public areas!

Fred's ambition (to help people reconnect with nature and use the abundance of wild produce around us as food) might at first sound a bit dreamy, but he is proving it can be done!

But please don't be tempted to go into the countryside and pick plants to eat without expert knowledge.

Annette Hurst



FORAGING COURSES

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For bookings call Fred on:
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CHASING PAVEMENTS

According to a recent report on www.propertydetective.co.uk, Shrigley Road has been named the best place in Britain to start a family. This is brilliant news, especially for Bollington's schools - all rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted.



What could be better than encouraging these new families to settle in Bollington, walking around the town with their children and using our many local facilities? On the surface, Bollington is ideally suited for young families wanting to embrace a healthy and active lifestyle. What could be nicer than taking a lovely country stroll? There may, however, be a fly in the ointment.

The state of our pavements leaves a great deal to be desired. Walking along them on the way to work, whilst trying to avoid treading on the dog poo, vomit, fish and chip wrappers, discarded drinks bottles and cans is bad enough, but imagine the added difficulty of trying to wheel a buggy, with toddler(s) in tow alongside. Couple this with the problem of the parked cars, which,



in an effort to keep the roads clear, are often parked half on the road and half on the pavement, and you can see the problem.

I recently attempted to take my grandson in his buggy between Clarke Lane and Kerridge. Within a hundred yards of leaving Middlewood Way, the pavement completely disappeared, eventually reappearing on the opposite side, meaning we had to cross the road, close to the sharp bend, where Clarke Lane becomes Oak Lane.

Fast-forward to Kerridge, where the pavement is barely a foot wide, then onwards to the footpath opposite the Bull's Head, where, again, the pavement narrows, so there is no alternative but to try to



manoeuvre the buggy between the closely parked cars, in order to cross. In an attempt to try to prevent parking on both sides of Jackson Lane, the residents of Kerridge have had half a dozen bollards fixed on the pavement just down from the pub, but this has merely encouraged drivers of smaller cars to use them as individual parking bays!

An additional hazard to be negotiated was the 'Men at Work' sign, conveniently positioned right in the centre of the pavement. By the end of the walk, the stress caused by trying to avoid grids and potholes, crossing and re-crossing the road in very unsafe places in order to stay on the ever-shrinking pavements and weaving around the many obstacles along the way,



offset any benefits the fresh air and exercise created!

Bollington Town Council has recently spent many thousands of pounds, repairing the pavement along Palmerston Street, which has been damaged to a certain extent by cars and lorries parking on the pavement, causing the slabs to move and crack under their weight. The uneven condition of many of the other pavements would suggest that this type of repair work needs to be carried out throughout the town.

My route took me around an area where the houses have stood for hundreds of years - built long before the invention of the internal combustion engine, with no provision made for off-road parking, leaving the current residents no alternative but to leave their vehicles on the street outside.

A hundred years on and we don't seem to have learned anything. The new houses being built in Bollington have a small area for off-road parking, but most families now own more than one car and if they have visitors, again, there is simply nowhere sensible to park.

Perhaps it is time we reviewed this situation - it is all very well being voted the top postcode for new families to settle in, but if outdoor life becomes so difficult, they may decide to move somewhere more buggy-friendly, resulting in Bollington becoming a ghost-town....

Louise Nottage

Photos:
Louise Nottage



TREATS IN STORE



In early May, I was lucky to get a sneak preview of Bollington's latest coffee and fresh food source: 'The Green', and I was left with a huge venue crush.

The completely new layout has pockets of seating, in a white rustic setting – including an outdoor sun-trap with mirrors and bird boxes, and family-made bespoke pieces of furniture. It's beautiful, and made me feel like a kid in Hamley's. The décor is the vision of new co-owner, Emi, and merges her background of catering and the arts.

But it's not just the look, it's the practicality of the place; there's a buggy and dog park, USB port holes in the wall sockets, 'free from'

food options, baby-led weaning consideration behind the kids' menu, and Origin craft roasted coffee lined up. It screams 'welcome' to anyone and everyone: home-workers, families, dog walkers and, whilst there are two steps up to the toilet and into the back room, the front room of the venue is wheelchair accessible.

The food looks great – think brunch, but at the other end of the continuum to a trucker's café. It's fresh, rustic and evidences a passion for art in its presentation. There's no shortage of vitamins, with 'smashed avocado' and fresh tomatoes far from shy on the menu.

What about the playlist? Radio 2, (with Radio 1 belting out during set-up). Booze? Not yet... but a licence to sell alcohol could be on the horizon.

Ideal customer? Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. And the name? Surely it's not just a lazy use of the nickname for the Market Place next door? No - green is the favourite colour of Emi's daughter, Harper.

My visit not only leaves me excited about coming back as a customer once the Green is up-and-running, but I am left inspired by the seamless juggling of creative flair, business and motherhood – which was evident throughout my meeting with Emi and her baby son Flinn. I'm green with envy.

Joining the strong set of eateries in Bollington, The Green is sure to add to the great little food Hub in our Happy Valley.



The community wish owners Emi Myers and Nick Brimelow, both Bollington residents, along with Jake (Emi's 'other half' and resident chef) the best of luck in their new venture.

Hannah Atkin

10K RUN

For the third year in succession, the Bollington 10K is back! The date for your diary is Sunday 28th August 2016.

Starting and finishing at Bollington Health & Leisure, the Bollington 10K hopes to bring serious runners and fun-runners to an event for a great cause.

Giving an opportunity to a range of ages and abilities and providing catering for over 400 people, you can run or jog through the village on what will hopefully be a sunny summer's day.



All proceeds raised from the run will go towards the upkeep of Bollington Health & Leisure, which is a registered charity.

Photo:
Harry Myers

Not planning to run? Why not volunteer, and help with a range of activities such as road marshalling, first aid, marketing, car parking, or sponsorship.

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BRAVADO

BRAVADO..... Bollington Rec and Village Association of Dog Owners was launched in February 2015 as an open, public group on Facebook for all local dog owners.

Through it we share information and promote responsible dog ownership throughout the village, and we are now up to 230 members. In the coming months we hope to attract at least 50% of all local dog-owners to the group!



But how many dogs are there in Bollington! Over 1000 dogs in 700 households are registered locally with Nick Rushton's veterinary practice, and perhaps 100 more are registered in Macclesfield. About 30% of all Bollington households have at least one dog.

If you check out our Facebook pages you'll see what we get up to, and if you've not yet joined us, please feel free to do so. Barbara Stephenson, Suzy Fenwick, Kate Gaskell, Carolyn Thorpe, Natasha Tabani and I act as our Admin Group. Apart from all of us owning dogs we are a mix of local dog trainers, dog rescuers, professional dog walkers and a veterinary nurse.

Since our inception we've very much promoted responsible ownership. It's at the core of our group. With the concerns this winter about dog poo we've been very active in identifying 'hot spots', carrying out wholesale clean-ups and working closely with local councillors from Bollington and Cheshire East and with ANSA, the waste contractors, to improve things. In total we've now managed to have eight new poo bins installed in key locations. We've also been working with the dog warden to improve the signs provision up at the Atax grounds and to mount surveillance to catch offenders. As

Right: Sam Webb, my dog

Far left: Barbara Stephenson's dogs

Below: New bin at Beehive Bridge



a result several irresponsible owners have been fined.

We'll carry on doing our best to improve the cleanliness of village streets and open spaces, but our group offers lots more than this. There's a huge amount of expertise and knowledge among our members as well as access to a vast range of local resources for dogs and their owners. As everyone knows, owning a dog is a very social activity. So many of us have got to know countless new friends through it. The BRAVADO group very much enhances that experience and is a real community in its own right. Why not join us? **Rob Webb**



FRIENDS OF BOLLINGTON TOWPATH GROUP

I'm pleased to inform you that the stretch of towpath from Hawthorn Road to Grimshaw bridge has now been completed.

We started work last autumn and finished in March, working through those cold, wet months. But it was worth it. We've recently decided to return to the stretch between Hurst Lane bridge and Clarence Mill, re-laying the surface. After just over two years the effects of the wind and weather, and your feet, have left some large areas which tend to 'puddle' after a day of Bollington rain!

A further improvement has been the installation of three new waste/doggie-poo bins by Cheshire East Council. They are sited near Beehive bridge, Hawthorn Road

gate and the footbridge by Clarence Mill. So for those few dog owners: please, please use them.

As a group we are pleased with progress, and some neighbours along the path have undertaken landscaping of their own which has made the area more colourful and attractive. There are also plans to refresh the details displayed on the wooden noticeboards sited along the towpath.

A date for your diary: Saturday 17 September. We are planning a day of activity and fun. Based around Clarence Mill, you will be able to visit historic canal boats from the Macclesfield Canal Society which will be moored here over the weekend. There will be exhibitions explaining the significance of the



*Ideas and suggestions to
malcolm_bailey2@sky.com*

canal to Bollington's industrial past, and a chance to meet Canal and River Trust employees and volunteers. You can also experience a short trip on a canal boat and an evening of folk canal songs hosted by the Waterside Café. Look out for the final details!

A big thanks to the CRT team who turn out on Sundays to support volunteer groups like ourselves, and a thank you to all who pass the group, stop and say what a difference this effort has made. Finally, to the committed group themselves, thanks and 'well done' for all their hard work.

Let's hope the weather over the summer holds out and ducks have a balance of white and brown bread!

Malcolm Bailey



BOLLINGTON



12TH WELL DRESSING FESTIVAL

Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th July

Saturday 2nd July 11.30am

Opening Ceremony

Greg Fountain, Flash Lane, with the Mayor elect.

Entertainment will be provided by Dean Valley Community Primary School, who will have decorated the fountain. This year's theme is 'history in petalling'.

If you would like to get involved in making the displays please join us at Bollington Cricket Club on any of the following days prior to the festival:

Wednesday 29th or Thursday 30th June between 9am until 8pm or Friday 1st July from 9am

July

Sunday 10th - 11am

12th Nostalgia Hill Race

7.11 mile funfest for age 18+
Bridgend Centre £6 in advance or £8 on the day 576311

Sunday 10th - 2.30pm

Kerridge War Memorial Remembrance Parade

Starting at Kerridge Holy Trinity Church and proceeding to the War Memorial for 3pm service

Friday 15th - 8.30pm

Notts Alliance at Bolly Folk Club

Dog & Partridge £7 online at bollyfolk.com

Friday 22nd - 6pm, Saturday 23rd all day

5th Bollington Beer Festival

Arts Centre £6 online at bollingtonbeerfestival.co.uk

August

Thursday 18th - 7.30pm

BDH&FC - Bollington District Horticultural & Flower Club

'Roses, from seed to pot' by Kate, Friar's
Roses at Community Centre.
Member £1.50 non member £3

Friday 19th - 8.30pm

Anthony John Clarke at Bolly Folk Club

Dog & Partridge
book online at bollyfolk.com

Sunday 28th - 10am

Bollington 10K

Leisure Centre
Member: £14.20 non member: £15.70
online at bollingtonrun.co.uk

Sunday 28th

BCC Presidents Day

Recreation Ground
President's XI V Chairman's XI

September

Saturday 3rd - 2pm

BDH&FC 52nd Annual Show

Contact Joyce Burton 572668 bollingtonhorticultural@hotmail.com Civic Hall

Thursday 15th - 7.30pm

BDH&FC - Coppicing

A talk by Mike Carswell
at Community Centre.
Member £1.50 non member £3

Friday 16th - 8.30pm

Pete Coe at Bolly Folk Club

Dog & Partridge book online
at bollyfolk.com

BOLLINGTON WALKING FESTIVAL

Saturday 24 Sept. to Sunday 2 October

We have planned 40 walks over this period with something for all abilities and age ranges. Watch out for some special events and evening activities.

The programme leaflet will be distributed to all libraries, pubs and meeting places. The Bridgend Centre is again the main information centre.

bollington-tc.gov.uk

facebook.com/bollingtonwalkingfestival

cheshirepeakdistrict.com

BOLLINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Calling all those with a love of flowers!

Would you like to learn about flowers and find out the pleasure of working with them? Bollington Flower Club would love you to come along - we meet at the Community Centre in Bollington Cross at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month. Don't be shy, and give us a try so you can see for yourself that a friendly welcome awaits.

For more details phone 01625 575082

Audrey Downes

October

Friday 14th - 8.30pm

Yesterday's Men with Keith Price at Bolly Folk Club

Dog & Partridge
book online at bollyfolk.com

Thursday 20th - 7.30pm

BDH&FC - designing a garden

A talk by Jeremy Herbert, from Stoke City Council

at Community Centre
Member £1.50 non member £3



All tickets for Arts Centre produced events can now be bought online from:
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

Charity Shop open
Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm, Sat. 10am-1pm

01625 576311

Monday

10am-4.30 Internet cafe
10.30am-12 Bosom buddies
2pm-3 Talk and Games (TaG)

Tuesday

10am-4.30 Internet cafe
10.30am-12 Bridgend Arts
10.15am-12.30 Crafts
1.30pm-4 Art
2pm-4 Reading group (2nd Tues)

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 Reminiscence

Friday

10am-1 Internet cafe
10.30am-12 Community choir

Saturday

10am-1 Internet cafe

MONTHLY EVENTS

Artisan Market

1st Sunday 10am to 3pm
Clarence Mill

White Nancy Breakfast Club

Last Sunday of the month from 7am
see Facebook page

Sip & Knit

2nd Wednesday 8pm Vale Inn
Free Tel: 575147

Car Wash

Alternate Wednesday
Recreation Ground £2.50

Knit and Natter

2nd & 4th Thursday 2pm
Community Centre
Free Tel: 575557

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL MUSIC THEATRE

In September 1986, some youngsters came along to Bollington Arts Centre to form a brand new group that aimed to perform some unusual drama with a high musical content – and so Bollington Festival Music Theatre was born.



Every September – and indeed every January – since then, the group has embarked on a new show, many of them written by founder director Donald Judge. This September is no exception. Being the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the new show has a Shakespearean theme. Characters from several of his plays – including rude mechanicals, three witches, a jealous husband, a lost baby and a ferocious bear all turn up in Bollington.

As always there will be a witty script – especially so in Shakespeare's original Pyramus and Thisbe – catchy songs and lots of fun for performers and audience alike. Anyone aged 7 to 13 is welcome to turn up at Bollington Arts Centre, 2.00-4.00 on Sunday 11 September, to find out what it's all about. More details at www.fun.to/bfmt

Donald Judge

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL

The planning has started!

We've had our first volunteer meeting and a committee for the next festival (May 2019) is emerging. We'll be taking soundings about festival duration and content soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to help with our fund-raising efforts or other aspects of the festival please contact Jon Beck: Bollingtonfestival14@gmail.com.

SINGING UP FOR THE BARD

Bollington Festival Choir announces new season

Bollington's Festival Choir is to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare a year late.

The concert, featuring works inspired by Shakespeare, will be the final one in the 2016-17 season. "We don't like to be conformists so we thought we'd let everyone else get their celebrations out of the way before we staged our own," said a choir spokesman.

The concert will include Shakespearean works by Purcell and Vaughan Williams, plus two rarely performed choruses from A Shakespeare Ode by Thomas Linley Junior (whose sister Elizabeth married the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan twice).

The choir will also honour the Bard in it's Christmas concert in December this year, when it will give the world premiere of a setting of words from Hamlet by its conductor Donald Judge, who has composed several other works for the 60-strong group.

That concert also includes the Missa Brevis (Tongues of Fire) by the contemporary British composer Cecilia McDowall and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

At its middle concert of the season, in April 2017, the choir will sing a Bach cantata, one of Handel's Chandos Anthems and Schubert's Mass in G which, with the Linley choruses, will be on the programme at a singing day at the Arts Centre open to all on March 11.

The ever-popular Messiah for All will be at the Arts Centre on December 6th.

"This is a typically wide-ranging and adventurous Bollington Festival Choir programme," said the spokesman. "We pride ourselves on presenting both familiar and lesser-known choral works, many of them suggested by choir members."

Membership of the choir is open to all – there are no auditions. We are a friendly group and will give a warm welcome to anyone who wants to join us at our first rehearsal of the new season on September 6th. Call 01625 261933. **David Ward**

FROM BANGLADESH TO BOLLINGTON!

Those of you who have been to the Bayleaf Lounge restaurant on Wellington Road will have received a warm welcome from the staff, particularly from the co-owner Mr Foysool Mohammed Syed.

Foysool, or 'Mr F', as many locals call him, is very much the face of the front of house, whilst award winning chef and co-owner Dilu Miah diligently works away in the background - the kitchen!

Foysool was born in Bangladesh where his retired parents still live. He is from a family of six children, four girls and two boys. He came to England at the age of 27 looking for employment armed with his university degree and lots of ambition. Ten years ago he settled in Hyde, started a family and was looking for a business opportunity.

Although there were several public houses in Bollington at that time, not many served food and there



'Mr. F'

were only a few restaurants. One of these pubs, the Waggon and Horses, was being converted into a restaurant and Foysool saw this as somewhere he could fulfil his ambition, and the Bayleaf Lounge opened in 2006.

The restaurant currently employs seven staff, with an average age of 38 years, all of whom, like their co-owners, are from Bangladesh,

Continued on page 15

TOM'S WORLD...

My name is Tom Murphy. I'm in Year 4 at Pott Shrigley Church School. I like going to school in Pott Shrigley - I sing in the school choir and I love playing football too.

Most Sundays I go to junior church at St Christopher's, Pott Shrigley where we listen to a story, pray and do a craft. On Easter Sunday the Revd Keith Ranger led our 10.45am Family Communion service. I like it when he leads our services as I enjoy it when he plays his accordion (which he did), and his talks aren't too long. When we were invited up for communion at Easter all the children got a Cadbury's Crème Egg. We have a family service each month and I've really enjoyed helping Mum and Dad, who have been helping lead these services. I especially like it when, with my friends from Junior Church, I get to do a dramatised reading as part of the service, like the one we did for 'The Good Samaritan' in April.

Other things I like doing are swimming and playing my guitar. I really enjoy my guitar lessons with Jeremy. He's a great teacher. I like walking, riding my bike, spending time with my family and playing with my cousins and friends as well.

I'm a member of 2nd Bollington Cubs who meet at the Scout Hall on Albert Road. We do some great activities like canoeing, visiting the climbing wall at Marple, cycling along the Middlewood

Way, night hikes and tracking. In May we went to the Cub Scout Centenary Camp at Capesthorpe. I've got quite a few badges now including home help, navigation, first aid and entertainer, and am very proud to have been made a seconder of my six. Some weeks we get asked to bring along a board



game to share with our friends. I'm really enjoying playing chess and monopoly (including Star Wars Monopoly!) at the moment. Over the Easter holiday I beat Dad at a few games of chess, which was a real result!

Another board game I was introduced to recently by some friends is Scotland Yard. It's just ace! It's set in London and has detectives (usually Mum and Dad or my friends) trying to find the

location of Mr X (usually I'm Mr X) and catch him. When we went to London in February it was fun spotting the places I've seen on the game-board map. I'll try and tell you how you play the game ...

All the players start with some tokens which allow them to use different methods of transport:

Taxis can be used to reach any point in London.

Buses let players travel further and so more quickly if the player is located at a bus stop.

The London Underground allows quick travel between distant points of London. Because the stations are far apart, using underground tickets can help you find Mr X more easily.

Each detective has a number of transport tokens to travel by taxi, bus or Underground to try to find Mr X, who only reveals his location every few moves. The game is won by the detectives if any of them land on Mr X (ouch!). Mr X can win by avoiding capture until all the detectives can no longer move because they've used all their transport tokens.

It may sound a bit complicated, but it's not really. I really like being Mr. X - but I did let Dad have a go once when we played. If anyone fancies a game - just let me know!

Tom Murphy (age 9)

Calling all young people! Tell us about your Bollington world. E-mail the editor:

liveeditor@happy-valley.org.uk

BOLLINGTON BY..

with their first language being Bengali. They also all share a love of traditional Bengali cuisine.

Foysol is primarily a business man who enjoys all aspects of management. However, he particularly warms to the social aspect of running a restaurant. In the ten years he has co-owned the Bayleaf he has endeavoured to ensure that this business is at the heart of the community.

His customers are mostly from the local area, with 70-80% of them visiting the restaurant regularly. To thank these loyal customers, their friends and others in the community, each year the restaurant has a tradition of providing free meals every evening for one week. Amazingly, over 700 customers were catered for in this year's celebrations!

Foysol is also rightly very proud of the awards that have come the restaurants way over the last few years. This year was particularly special as the restaurant was the winner of the Bangladesh Catering Awards, 'Best Restaurant' and 'Best Chef' in the North West for the second year running.

What then of Foysol's future aims? First and foremost he hopes "to continue to ensure that the restaurant provides a sociable and community space". He is also keen to continue the charitable work of the Bayleaf Lounge by helping, when asked, local community groups and schools.

In addition, now that the planning permission on the building has been refused, Foysol says he can concentrate on his plans to totally refurbish the fixtures and fittings in the restaurant. This work will take place over the summer.

Finally, when asked what is special about the Bayleaf Lounge restaurant, Foysol responded, "We provide specialist food which is of a good quality at a reasonable price." I think those loyal customers would agree!

Kate Gooding

Molly was born in Bollington and is now a student at Nottingham University studying German. She always likes to come back home to Bollington and I caught up with her during the holidays.

I hear that you are planning to raise money for charity this year, can you tell us about it?

The charity is called Hope for Children and I have to raise £2,990, I will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Hope for Children is a small charity working in 8 different countries, in the UK and internationally. Their focus is on providing education for children and self-help for communities.

Raising £2,990 sounds like a daunting task. How are you doing it?

I am more than half way there thanks to the generosity of Bollington people. Local businesses have donated prizes, and lovely pubs and restaurants have let me sell raffle tickets and have a collecting box. I recently held a ladies' afternoon with a cake sale and a raffle, which raised £700. It is hard work but I'm getting there.

An important part of the fund raising is the climb up Mount Kilimanjaro. Have you had much experience of climbing mountains?

My family are all keen walkers and all my life I have taken part in sponsored walks. I have done the Lyke Walk, which is 42 miles in 24 hours. So I am no stranger to walking challenges but this is the biggest one so far.

What will be the main challenge?

Physically, I will need endurance to cope with a 4 day trek over different terrain. Some parts of the climb are difficult with a wall of shale and some rock climbing. The nights will be cold when we are under canvas. I will also need to keep my spirits up.

What will motivate you?

Before the challenge we will visit some of the children who are helped by the money raised. This will keep me going.



MOLLY FENTON

Now you are away at University what do you miss about Bollington?

The green open spaces and being able to go out of the front door and up onto the hills. I also miss the friendliness of a small town and the fact that you know a lot of people and they know you.

What don't you miss?

The public transport system. No late buses from and to Bollington.

What do you plan to do when you graduate?

I would like to work abroad in business but am open to anything.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Pott Shrigley. It was a small school and you knew everyone. It felt like a big family. It was nice growing up where I felt so comfortable. I also remember the sponsored walks. That must have fed my love of walking too.

What do you like to listen to?

Indie music, Wolf Alice, The 1975

What makes you annoyed?

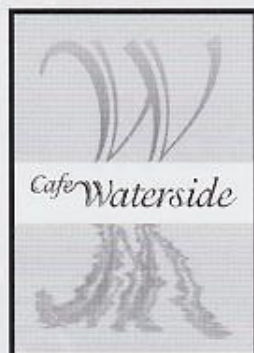
When I am not organised. I am not a disorganised person.

Coffee or tea?

Tea, no sugar - I'll put the kettle on!

Sandy Milsom

If anyone would like to donate to Molly's charity fund raising, the link to her donation page is <http://2016notts.everydayhero.com/uk/molly>



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BOLLINGTON - REAL...

The Housing Group (HG) of the Bollington Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has the difficult task of trying to work out the number, type and suitable design of new dwellings that will be needed in Bollington between 2010 and 2030.

One function of the HG is to collate information from the questionnaires completed by residents last June, together with official data. This will create policies which, if agreed by residents, will have statutory status and must be considered by the planning authority in any future planning applications.

There are other issues that also need to be addressed. There is currently a shortage of accommodation available for people of retirement age wishing to downsize but wanting to remain within the community. This is because we have both an increasing population, coupled with an increasing life-expectancy. We therefore must give consideration to the provision of adequate, as well as appropriate, housing to meet that demand.

Bollington has a high proportion of terraced housing compared to Cheshire East and England. This is recognised by local estate agents who say there is currently a shortage of 3 and 4 bedroom family housing, with secure gardens and off-street parking. The provision of this type of housing would help free up the two-bedroomed terraced houses wanted by the first time-buyer.

Affordable Housing is not 'cheap' housing. It is the provision of accommodation with bespoke criteria, dictated by local need. Any new development over 14 dwellings must give consideration to Affordable Housing.

In the 2015 Bollington Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, residents made it very clear they did not want any construction on green belt. The desire is to utilise brownfield sites (areas where there has already been some form of development) and smaller 'infill' sites.

The HG has surveyed the town to calculate how many houses could reasonably be constructed without

*Photographs by:
Howard Stringer
and
James Nicholas*



encroaching on to the green belt. Despite the wishes of residents, there is a real chance that Cheshire East Council will have to take parcels of land out of the green belt to meet the future housing need.

Undoubtedly, many residents would prefer no further development. Unfortunately, that is not an option. Cheshire East are planning to build a minimum of 36,000 houses, borough wide, between 2010 and 2030, and Bollington will have to take its share.



The number of new dwellings Bollington will be required to build between 2010 and 2030, according to Cheshire East, is not yet known, but could potentially mean an increase to Bollington's housing stock of between 7.5% and 15%.

This seems a lot and indeed it is. But let's put that in context.

35 houses were completed between 2010 and 2015. Waterhouse Mill and the two Lowerhouse developments will add another 151. The East Tytherington and Ingersley Vale developments

are less certain, but might provide a further 141 dwellings. There are 55 other brownfield sites with potential for development. This suggests that over 11%, the middle of the projected range required, of the housing need has already been accounted for.

Policies being worked on for future housing development include provision for renewable energy/ reducing the town's carbon footprint, one parking place per bedroom, no further developments on the flood plain, as well as numerous issues regarding future design and quality.

I have concentrated on housing, but the Neighbourhood Plan also covers employment and retail, green environment, built environment, traffic and transport as well as tourism. For more detailed information please visit the Town Council website www.bollington-tc.gov.uk/np.

So what is the next stage for the Neighbourhood Plan?

In June and July there will be a public consultation period on the draft policies. Any comments received will then be taken into consideration before the final policies are developed. A draft copy will be sent to Cheshire East Council by the end of October. The Plan will then go to an Independent Examiner. Once approved a referendum will be held for all Bollington residents to have their say. If approved the Neighbourhood Plan will then become a statutory document.

James Nicholas



BOLLINGTON - IMAGINED!

In May this year Bollington Arts Centre hosted a joint exhibition showcasing work from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and students from the 'Continuity in Architecture' atelier of the Manchester School of Architecture.

The exhibition, entitled "Bollington. Real: Imagined" marks the end of a student project in the town which has seen a hive of activity from kite flying and golden stones to the more serious work of master planning and finally designing buildings which are rooted in a respect for the local context within which they sit.

Continuity in Architecture runs programmes for the design of new buildings and public spaces within the existing urban environment. Throughout this academic year, the atelier has been working in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Planning Committee in Bollington, to investigate the local area in a bid to better understand the history and vernacular of the town.

Atelier leader Laura Sanderson said "It is so important for students who are engaged in courses of architecture to be exposed to the live context of a site and a situation. Working in Bollington has allowed us to step outside the normal academic environment and work with real people in a place with a rich heritage, to teach students how to respond to place through research, experimentation and collaboration."



The work in Bollington began in September 2015 led by academics Laura Sanderson and Sally Stone with colleagues John Lee and David Connor in collaboration with

Illustrations
Top:
Heather Clifton

Top right:
Jahan Ojaghi

Centre:
Polys Christofi

Bottom Left:
Adam Whiting

Bottom Right:
Joey Wong



Michael Burdekin, Sandra Edwards and Peter Milburn Brown from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. The nine month studio project was broadly split into four parts, 'Interrogating', 'Intervening', 'Planning' and 'Realisation'.

'Interrogating' saw the production of a book 'Oddments and Epigrams: An Intimate Interrogation of Bollington' which was exhibited at the Arts Centre in January and which collected together initial research and subsequent analysis of Bollington by the students.



The next task was a project called: 'Intervening' and asked the students to create a temporary solution to a site specific problem in Bollington. Each proposition was designed to connect to the earlier research and acted as a method of engaging with the local community. The ideas were diverse and bold; one student used mirrors to reflect the heroic elements of the town back to the everyday lives of its residents, and another explored materiality by casting and installing a concave golden stone in a wall.

This was a precursor to a much more serious project entitled 'Planning'. The students worked with architect and urban planning specialist Garry Colligan, who founded Think Place in 2006, a company who specialise in the design of communities. The design workshops built upon the knowledge of the town and a series of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified in six key areas of the town. These were: Movement, History and Heritage, Townscape, Sport and Culture, Landscape and Economy.

Garry Colligan said "Designers don't create communities. Design, however, if done badly can fragment communities and isolate people. If done well, it can bring people together, allow neighbours to bump in to each other, children to play safely and for the gradual shaping of a place over time by its people."

The workshops aimed to determine buildings, structures and landscapes which had the opportunity for development as well as traditionally conceived development plots and a proposal for the town was developed.



WALKING FESTIVAL 2016



Over the last few months students have been working on the 'Realisation' phase in three groups focussing on: the Civic Centre of Bollington (around the Historic Triangle); the Recreational Centre; the Industrial Centre of Bollington (around Adelphi Mill). Each group was tasked with developing a series of sites to be used for a mixture of community, commercial and residential uses.

The exhibition "Bollington. Real: Imagined" showcased the work of the students presenting 20 imagined buildings for 20 sites across Bollington alongside the very real context of the Neighbourhood Plan Draft Policies. These imagined projects aimed to provide a vision for the future of the town and included family housing, a theatre, live work units, a boutique hotel, a brewery, a walkers retreat, a cricket club, a market square, an industrial hub, a coach house, a museum, a gallery and even a cable car linking Clarence Mill to White Nancy.

The work of the students was displayed alongside the very real work of the Neighbourhood Plan committee who had reached the draft policies stage. The draft policies were presented for information and consultation and celebrated in a coffee morning when committee members, academics, students and the community met to discuss the work in more detail. **Laura Sanderson**

The ever-popular annual Bollington Walking Festival is back for the seventh time, from Saturday 24 September to Sunday 2 October 2016, generously sponsored by Bollington Town Council.

It will offer the largest range of walks ever, around 40, with the option of at least 3 different walks each day, varying in length from 2 to 20 miles, with many in the popular 5-7 mile range.

The overwhelming majority of walks start from Bollington, many from the Bridgend Centre, and in addition to covering the local area around Bollington, Kerridge, Rainow and Pott Shrigley, they go as far afield as Lyme Park, Thursbitch (forever associated with the novelist Alan Garner), and even to Shining Tor, Macclesfield Forest, Forest Chapel and Tegg's Nose.

Some of the walks are themed, including daytime and evening nature rambles, organised by the expert East Cheshire Rangers. There is an art walk and opportunity to paint, guided by a local artist; a photography walk with expert advice; history and canal and railway heritage walks led by a local historian and the Civic Society; a walk to search for the lost pubs of Bollington (we had 31 at our peak!), under the auspices of 'Walkers are Welcome' (appropriately – as Bollington was the first place in Cheshire to gain this accolade); and a Beer Celebration Stagger with advice on brewing.

You can also join us for a romantic ramble to Rainow and Rainowlow, with rhyme, practice your Nordic walking, undertake a navigation course, and even see the Milky Way in the company of a local astronomer. As you can see, there are great opportunities to learn and walk, or just walk and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Specifically for children, we have a walk to hunt for bears, with the help of Bollington Library staff; a self-guided treasure hunt; a walk with a quiz, and a chance to do some orienteering. We have not

neglected those who want to go on short walks for medical reasons, with a doctor-led walk from Bollington Medical Centre, and, for the first time, a sensory walk for people affected by sight loss led by the Macclesfield Eye Society.

There are a whole range of social activities happening in Bollington during the Festival, including Sunrise and Sausages on White Nancy, a Festival quiz night, the Happy Valley Artisan Market, a brewery tour and live music. The Festival truly has something for everyone.



At the risk of sounding like an Oscar-acceptance speech, we must acknowledge that, like Bollington itself, the Festival relies on co-operation and individual volunteers who lead the walks and activities. In addition to the organisations already mentioned, we are grateful to the East Cheshire and Marple Ramblers, the Manchester and District Walking Group (MAD), the East Cheshire Outdoor Group (ECOG), Cheshire Walkers and the Long Distance Walkers' Association (LDWA), all of whom arrange regular local walks and are very willing for you to contact and join them for a walk before or after the Festival.

Finally, the contribution of the Bridgend Centre is vital to the success of the Festival, in planning, leading and hosting walks, and if you want to try the pace pre-Festival, they run a regular Wednesday walk at 10.15am of between 5-7 miles duration – just turn up, no advance booking required.

Walking Festival Committee

For more information:
Bridgend Centre
01625 576311

Bollington
Walking Festival
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BOBBIES' BOLLINGTON BEAT

The role of the police in the local community is always of great concern. The police have a wide range of crime and public duties to attend to. Their resources have been cut recently due to 'austerity' politics, yet the community want to see police officers actively engaged in law enforcement in their local area.

For many years in the past, Bollington had its own police force led by a sergeant. The police station is now a house near the recreation ground and the old lock-up can still be viewed. However, those years are long gone.

For a number of years, Bollington paid an additional precept of about £11,000 a year and received in return the specific services of the PCSO (Police Community Service Officer). Last year, in a very severe budget review led by a Councillor who happens to have financial qualifications and a sharp forensic eye for value for money, it was decided not to renew the PCSO's contract.

However, the Council did want to have a local police presence. So, taking advantage of the more creative thinking that emerges with devolution, the Town Council is taking back responsibility from Cheshire East. They decided to offer the police with local responsibilities in Bollington, a permanent space in a downstairs office.

Never was an offer taken up with such speed and enthusiasm. As a result, depending on shift arrangements, we have a police officer and two PCSOs based at our Town Hall in the centre of Bollington, serving Bollington, Adlington and Prestbury. They have all the facilities they require to do the work they might do in Macclesfield or Crewe.

According to PC Gary Thurgoland, "this brings us close to the community - people begin to treat us as part of their lives, they share information... we are on call in the locality, we can easily run local surgeries and we really get to know what is going on."

Town Hall staff are delighted, "It helps to have more men around,"

said one member. "There is less 'Lone Working' where one can feel vulnerable".

So what do our Police Team members feel about their role in Bollington? Gary was questioned on crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs, domestic violence and traffic. Naturally he could not go into details at the level of the local community and statistics for Bollington alone do not exist. However, his overall judgement was that Bollington, 'is a nice place to be'. Crime is low and mostly 'opportunistic'.

**"BOLLINGTON IS
A NICE PLACE TO BE.
CRIME IS LOW..."**

All residents need to take reasonable responsibility for their own security. They should make sure they have decent locks and secure them. Gary said, "With people working away, a lot of houses can be empty for hours. It's not like the old days when lots of people were always around".

"Domestics are rare and can happen anywhere in our patch. There are isolated incidents of drug taking but we often get to know about it. That's one of the benefits of being this local." He continued, "There is little or no anti-social behaviour at the moment; however summer is coming and warm weather and long light nights sometimes bring problems."

"The biggest problem that people come to us about is traffic and parking. This is not directly our area any more. We deal with obstruction or direct breaking of the law, but all parking offences are the responsibility of Cheshire East. Naturally, the public do not always understand that," says Gary with a wry smile. "That's the other challenge of being local when you are so close and so visible people think you can solve many problems where you have little power."

So Bollington Residents save £11,000 on their precept and we have a police officer and two Police Community Service Officers present in the Town. For once 'new ways of working' bring benefits all round.

Ken Edwards

A BOLLINGTON BAFTA

It's a funny business, writing a sitcom. Five years ago I had the idea for a comedy in a car; two very different colleagues thrown together in a company car share scheme, just chatting on the way to and from work.

A colleague and I decided to write it together. And we had a right laugh doing it. Then he showed it to his mate, Peter. He loved it and asked if he could be in it. And you don't say no to the country's biggest comedian.

Next thing you know, we've gone and won a BAFTA. And now I'm writing in Bollington Live to say 'thank you'. Thank you, fellow Bollingtonians (the BAFTA allows me to call myself one apparently), thanks for all the support and kind

*'Car Share'
winning Best
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Programme at the
Broadcast Awards
2016*

*Tim Reid, Paul
Coleman, Gill Isles,
Jonathan Ross*



feedback you've given me since Car Share was broadcast last year. Thanks to those who told me they loved it. And thanks to those who let me know 'it's a grower', or that you 'can imagine some people might think it's very funny'. And a huge thanks to those who told me they're proud it was born in Bollington. It's just a silly TV show. But I'm very proud so many of you took it to your hearts. **Tim Reid**

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Bollington Horticultural Society is enjoying another interesting year. The Spring Show at the Civic Hall was very successful with the new round tables making a big difference to the displays, as the exhibits could be seen more easily from all sides.



Photo left:
Hellebores at the
spring show

Soon after the show, a coach trip to Reaseheath Agricultural College at Nantwich was arranged for us to learn about hydroponic cultivation. Huge greenhouses have recently been erected there for research into how to grow crops such as tomatoes all year round in warm, light conditions, by feeding the plants nutrients in liquid solution instead of soil.

In June, members had a coach trip to the gardens of Prince Charles at Highgrove. This was followed by a day trip to Sheffield Botanical Gardens and Wentworth Castle Gardens.

In addition the group has enjoyed monthly talks at Bollington Community Centre from invited speakers on a variety of subjects, varying from Food For Macc, pinks and carnations, to wildflowers seen on a country walk.

On 6th September the annual show comes round again but this is very different from the Spring Show. There are still many categories to enter, including a children's section, but instead of daffodils and hyacinths there will be more vegetables, dahlias and chrysanthemums.

Anyone can enter.

Pauline Pedlar

For a schedule,
contact Joyce
Burton, the show
secretary, on
01625 572668 or
email bollington.horticultural@hotmail.com

BRISCOLA BLOGGER

What it's like to work at Briscola restaurant

In January 2016, I ran into Briscola on a Friday afternoon, a dishevelled single parent on a so-far-failed career path, after a period as a stay-at-home mum. I was sleep-deprived, frizzy-haired and wearing a cagoule – not the state anyone should be in when asking for a job. The fact that I was welcomed in and given an hour to waffle on – with no point-scoring interview approach in sight – meant so much that I knew I wanted to work there.

I am aware that I am far from ideal waitress material on paper, and I also have social circumstances which are a huge red flag to employers. But the refreshing lack of job descriptions and egoless management led to a job being created for me: to waitress (which has the social contact I loved about my past NHS role), start a restaurant blog (as I'm a writing addict, this equates to a lottery win for me) and pick up some of the social media (I have had to join Facebook at the wrong side of 35 ...). And best of all, I am blessed with shifts that fit completely around the times my little boy is at school or with his Dad. I've struck gold. And I'm not alone – being one of four waiting staff in their thirties who have children and have left their previous careers.

So this article is to let the local community know that Briscola means more than just locally sourced fresh food cooked from the soul, and good service. In the

words of Dr Seuss, 'a person's a person, no matter how small' – this is adopted in-house, with ideas for events, décor, menu changes, etc., all being presented to the staff for their thoughts. You also get a very sincere thank you for your hard work.

The infamous Gordon Ramsay temper is refreshing – there is no backstabbing or politics, any error is pointed out there and then and you know where you stand – it's helpful and it's forgotten about. And, to me, passion shows care – I know for certain that a busy night in Briscola would mean nothing if one customer didn't have a nice time there.

The future is exciting: the corporate lunch and catering bookings are picking up, the monthly children's teatime events will continue, and there's been talk of a novel delivery vehicle to cater for the increasing number of takeaway orders. Promotion of the gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options, along with the flexibility of the bar doubling as a coffee bar for home-workers, are proving beneficial too.

Since moving to Bollington, I remain overwhelmed at how welcome the community has made my little boy and me. To find this job in the Happy Valley has been the icing on the Nutella Cheesecake. Please continue to show your support for this lovely local restaurant.

Hannah Atkin



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There is an element of risk with an online agent. They require their fees to be paid when they instruct your property, not upon completion like your local agent. If your property doesn't sell for any reason, these fees are non-refundable which could leave you out of pocket by over £500.

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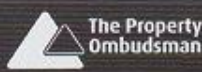
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ALEX MAKES A DIFFERENCE

One person in every 500 has Parkinson's, a progressive disease of the nervous system, marked by tremor, muscular rigidity and slow, imprecise movement. Symptoms, and how quickly they progress, are different for everyone.

There are many Parkinson's UK local support groups. One such group meets every Wednesday during term-time from 10.30am to 2.30 pm at Bollington's Health and Leisure Centre.

The group began in 2000 when four men with the disease attended weekly swimming sessions with coach, Rosemary Fletcher Turk. This group felt this exercise could benefit other sufferers. Therefore, under the auspices of the Macclesfield and District Branch of the Parkinson Disease Society, they applied for lottery funding to hold aqua exercise and other activity sessions. They were successfully awarded sufficient funds to hold sessions for three years. Sadly, shortly afterwards one of the original group, Alex Ferguson, died. In his memory it was decided to name the new group ALEX - Activity, Leisure and Exercise.

There are now approximately 30-35 Parkinson's sufferers and their partners/carers who attend. The meetings are free but donations, 'in memoriam' bequests and charity events enable a range of



Photo: Janet Beech

activities to be offered. These include swimming/aqua exercise sessions, Tai Chi, Pilates, gym exercise and massage. However, the chance to talk and discuss worries and experiences with people who have similar problems is seen by the members of the group as the most

important aspect of these weekly meetings.

"The Parkinson's UK local group has given me confidence to try new things and is now an integral part of my life" - Local group member.

Kate Gooding

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