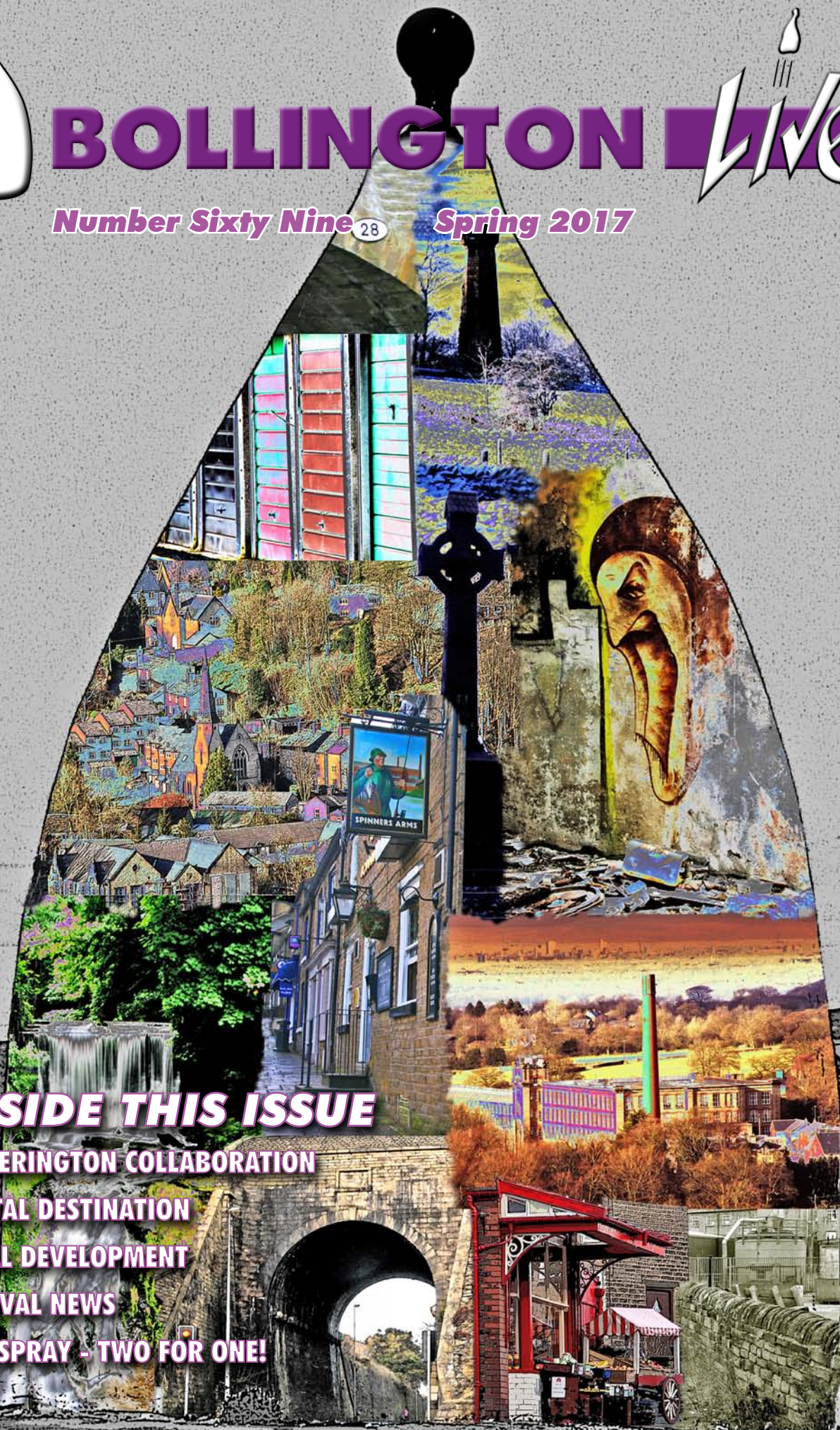




BOLLINGTON

Live!

Number Sixty Nine ²⁸ Spring 2017



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BOLLINGTON

Issue 69 Spring 2017

Live!

NAME THE LAMB

The lambing season is underway, and Helen Sheldon and Chris Thompson will be launching 'Name the Lamb' once again.



They are raising money for Prostate Cancer UK. When lambing begins - first ones usually arrive by 20 February - you are invited to

Name the Lamb; just let Helen or Chris know, and they will mark it, and email/Facebook you a picture of it/them with their mother. In return they ask that you donate a minimum of £5 to the charity. They want this year to be another fantastic success, and look forward to naming lots of lambs for you.

Helen Sheldon / Chris Thompson.

To name your lamb, visit:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Namethelamb>,
or call 01625 260186 to donate cash

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



The Spring issue sees us working again with students in year 7 (12 year olds) at Tytherington School who have produced some very interesting articles for you to read (please see centre pages).

The students have written and edited their articles, designed a mock-up of their pages, visited Bollington Printshop and even delivered some of the magazines. Its great to see the enthusiasm of youth!

In this issue we are encouraged to 'Name a Lamb' in aid of Prostate Cancer UK - I am waiting in anticipation to see a field full of lambs with names on them! Joining a choir, learning French and looking after your teeth are also covered within this issue.

Thank you to the local who dropped a letter into the Printshop about a recent article - we will answer it - unfortunately the article's author is away at the moment.

If you have any comments, ideas, complaints or even compliments for the team, please email me at liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk. I'd love to hear from you.

Annette

Date for next copy:
19 May 2017

COMPETITION TIME



Do you have an artistic streak? Can you help us redesign our mast head? (That's the bit running along the top of each page.)

In particular we are looking for a new 'White Nancy' or something representative of Bollington.

The one used now was originally based on a freehand drawing, before being set in print by Simon at the Printshop. Please drop your sketches in at Bollington Printshop or email any ideas to: liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk

Matt Wray

YOUR TEAM

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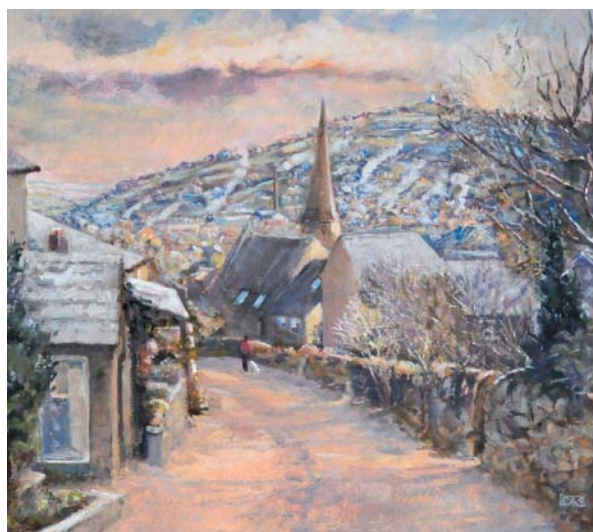
Cover photograph: WHITE NANCY - Digital Original by Jude Park

Bollington Live! is published three times a year on a non-profitmaking basis, with free distribution to households in the town. Under the editorial banner of "Bollington Live! - A voice for everyone" we aim to promote local concerns. The Editor cannot be held responsible for the opinion of contributors, the accuracy of the events listings, or the content of external websites referred to within this magazine.

Bollington Live! is an independent publication, published in association with Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society. The copyright of all articles and images submitted remain with the respective owner(s) and all submissions are reproduced with grateful thanks. No part of **Bollington Live!** may be reproduced in any form without the express permission of the editor.

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

EXPERIENTIAL TALES



Everyone has a story to tell, and Bollington has plenty – we want to hear yours!

We are looking to reach out to the people of Bollington to discover the stories of the town that are important to them and to give them new life. We are aiming to delve under the

To be part of this project, tel Zac on: 0792981657 or email ztanamli@gmail.com

many layers of history that make up the rich fabric of Bollington through recording people's stories of life in the town.

Led by anthropologist Zak Tanamli (www.zaktanamli.com) and artist duo One Five West (www.onefivewest.com), we are currently working with the Bridgend Centre who have put us in touch with some lifelong Bollingtonians who have already shared their memories with us.

The project is supported by a grant for One Five West from Innovate UK, the UK's leading innovation agency. This grant is to support One Five West, who are working at the forefront of art and technology.

The overall aim is to create an interactive public art exhibition that will use specialist technology to allow the audience to explore and learn about the community and history of the town. The audience will be encouraged to walk around

the town and engage with our storytelling objects; as people walk in front of these objects, the stories will be played aloud for all to hear.

The public exhibition will take place from 2 to 4 June, with a family event on 3 June from 12 noon to 3pm at the Bollington Arts Centre.

We are calling out for Bollington residents to get in touch and share their stories and experiences of life in Bollington over the years. We are interested in hearing about how things have changed, as well as what has stayed the same. We would love to hear your special memories about events like the Bollington Festival or funny little experiences you have had in the town – no contribution is too great or small.

Please don't be shy and get in touch

Zak Tanamli

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL 2019

Plans for the Bollington Festival were kicked off in style at the Poachers Inn in January.

Ideas and beer flowed freely after it was announced that the dates for the Festival will be 10th to 27th May 2019. It was a great opportunity for everyone to meet the committee and welcome our new Fundraising Coordinator, Betsie Dixon.

INTRODUCING..... BETSIE DIXON

"When I moved to Bollington, from Australia, with my husband, in December 2005, we knew we had landed in a great spot. We fell in love with this village and although many say you are never a 'real' Bollingtonian if you were not born here, we felt right at home and found the village a friendly and welcoming place.

Bollington delivered everything one could ask from a village with its active Arts Centre, great little library, fantastic Leisure Centre, eateries and pubs to suit any taste ... and then I encountered the 2009 Bollington Festival. I was completely bowled over by this inspiring event and to learn it was made possible with the hard work and commitment of volunteers! I decided then that once my time was my own again (we had a lovely daughter along



the line!) I would really like to be part of this amazing community event.

My first involvement with the Festival came in 2014 when I organised a sell-out circus at St John's School as part of the Festival. After helping Jon Beck blow up numerous balloons on the Atax Field after the parade, I think my fate was sealed. Jon invited me to join the Festival Committee and I soon found myself as the newly appointed Fundraising Coordinator. The task to raise sufficient funds to get the Festival off the ground is enormous but I have seen how the community has pulled together for previous festivals and supported the pre-festival fundraising events. I have no doubt we will do it again.

Hence my invitation to local businesses, schools, community groups and individuals to contact us should you like to get involved in this pre-festival fundraising process and help us once again put on a spectacular Bollington Festival."

You can support the Festival directly by joining our 100 Club (for the chance to win cash prizes) or become a Festival Friend. In the meantime, keep an eye out for our programme of fundraising events. Your Festival 2019 needs you!

bollfest2019@gmail.com

Jon Beck

PAUL KERRYSON

Quite a number of you might know Paul by sight around the village as he walks his Irish Terrier Malachy a couple of times a day around our beautiful countryside.

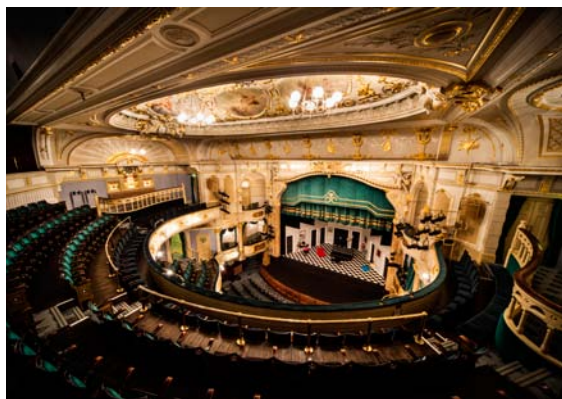
Some of you were more surprised to see him at recent performances at Buxton Opera House where he has been appointed Executive Director. He reports to the Board and is responsible for everything from the programme and staff to the roof repairs. Paul told me: 'A large



part of my job is to make Buxton Opera House part of the tourist destination offering. I want people to choose Buxton over Manchester and I want them to have a great all-round experience – there are many fantastic eating places near the Opera House, there's loads of free parking and the Opera House itself is a stunning venue for any production.'

Although the current schedule of shows/events at the Opera House was in place when Paul started, Paul's own touring production of the popular musical Hairspray was by chance booked in as well from 23 to 28 October. Paul first directed Hairspray three years ago at the new Curve Theatre in Leicester, where he spent 12 years as the Artistic Director. In fact the Curve was the first repertory theatre in the UK to stage the musical after the original American production.

Hairspray was a huge success, so successful that a commercial production company asked if Paul would direct a touring version of the musical, which he did.



The production coming to Buxton Opera House in October will be part of another year-long tour of Hairspray directed by Paul – who is responsible for the auditions and casting, which took place in London in January; the set design and costumes; working with the choreographer; and finally, directing the show. Rehearsals for Hairspray start in July in London and the cast has just three weeks to learn the entire show, before three days of technical rehearsals, getting used to the real stage and set, at the opening venue, Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

The set designer has the plans for all the theatres to be visited to make sure the set fits on each stage. Paul said: 'Buxton Opera House will be a great venue, as it's such an intimate



space, and the audience will feel like they are part of the show, especially as some of the action takes place in a TV studio, so the theatre audience feel like the TV audience.'

So what does putting a show on the road entail? A lot, I found out!

Shows normally run from Monday to Saturday. Then, on the Saturday night, the set, lighting and costumes are packed into lorries (four of them!) – this is called the 'get-out' and takes about three hours.

The lorries then drive to the next venue to be ready to construct the set, starting on Monday morning at 8am – the 'get-in' – and this takes all day!



The cast arrive at the theatre at 5pm and have a chance to check out the stage, and then the show starts at 7.30pm that night. Paul is at the new venue every Monday to check the show is in tip-top order, to sort out any issues and to brief the cast on their performances in the previous week.

Paul said: 'This latest touring production has a fabulous cast, with thrilling choreography by Drew McOnie – Hairspray is a worldwide success and is the guaranteed feel-good musical.'

Tickets for Hairspray at Buxton Opera House are selling fast – even though the show isn't until

October – so book early to avoid disappointment!

When Paul isn't directing Hairspray or running Buxton Opera House, he is teaching at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff. A couple of years ago Paul received an MBE for his diverse theatre work and has also received a doctorate for his theatre work with students at De Montfort University in Leicester.

The number of hugely talented people living in Bollington and its surroundings never ceases to amaze me. I know Paul as the organist at St Gregory's Church, where he has been enriching our celebration each Sunday without fail for 25 years. He is now chair of our new Parish Council and we are happy to be directed by him!

Annette Hurst

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FEELING SWAMPED!

It has now been a year since we became the owners of Clough Pool and Ingersley Vale Waterfall; a year of discovery, hard work and a whole lot of mud.

Clough Pool was created in 1800 by engineer Edward Collier, to store water for driving the waterwheel at Ingersley Vale Mill. The weir diverted water along a 'leat' which followed the side of Kerridge hill and then across to the wheelhouse in the mill. The remnants of this astonishing feat of engineering are still there to be seen, the largest and most obvious being the weir which forms the waterfall.

Smaller artefacts have revealed themselves as we have cleared the undergrowth from the structures along the leat. We have found several sluice paddles of varying construction, suggesting different ages of use. The original stone tunnel, overflow cistern and steps leading to the top of the weir have been uncovered. We have opened the views from all the surrounding footpaths so that these features can be seen more clearly. We have



also laid out some of the sluice machinery along the leat for viewing from the footpath above.

The old mill pool, known as Clough Pool, has silted up over the years through various stages of pond succession. To protect the extremely biodiverse wetlands and prevent them from drying up requires active management. The river Dean flowing through the pool also began to silt as it became blocked with debris and fallen trees. Using hand tools and a canoe, we have started to clear a stretch of the river, enabling it to flow freely and flush through the wetland.

Clough Pool is a haven for many species of flora and fauna that are otherwise losing their wetland homes due to land drainage for farming or building developments.

We aim to protect the wildlife we have here by preserving their habitat and enhancing it naturally. Working closely with the Woodland Trust, who manage the neighbouring Waulkmill Wood, we have planted dozens of native wetland tree saplings and will be planting hundreds more.

As the pool had been neglected in recent years, it had become infested with the invasive, non-native Himalayan Balsam plant. Whilst very pretty, this tall flowering plant over-ran the whole pool,



AS WELL AS MASTERING THE ART OF SWAMP LOGGING BY CANOE, WE HAVE BECOME INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS



suppressing our native wildflowers. Thanks to the help of 1st Bollington St John's Guides, KRIV volunteers, family and friends, we have been able to almost entirely eradicate it this year. It has been very heartening to see our beautiful native wildflowers re-establish themselves, providing a diverse feeding ground for insects, butterflies, moths and, in turn, birds, bats and other animals. In an extra effort to attract insects we have stacked decaying logs and brash in several areas to create 'bug hotels'.

The past year has been incredible. As well as mastering the art of swamp logging by canoe, we have become industrial archaeologists, learned more of our local history and become much more knowledgeable about our local wildlife. We often get asked "why did you buy it?", the answer is quite simply 'all of the above'. **Helen**

DIGITAL DESTINATION

We welcome tourists to Bollington. In a recent year it was estimated that 40,000 visitors walked by White Nancy! However, many of these did not venture into the town, and many more were ourselves walking to and from the hill. The annual Walking Festival is now attracting over a thousand walkers, many of whom visit from miles around, some nationally, even internationally!

The Destination Bollington group, led by Ivor Williams, is responsible for promoting tourism and encouraging the development of facilities designed

to increase the joy of visiting us. Bollington is becoming a destination!

To this end a project has been established to identify the things required to make Bollington a better destination. A key component of the project is information – we need better information available to the visitor using more modern techniques than hitherto. The information will cover both needs of the day – shops, food, drink, activities – and historical information – history of mills, churches, houses, and people.

We also envisage the use of smartphone friendly web pages.

Some of the data will come from the Happy Valley web site, but most of it will require gathering and presenting online.

We wish to include the recorded stories from the older generation. For this, we need volunteers.

If you are interested in helping, please e-mail: **destination@happyvalley.org.uk**.

Tim Boddington

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SPRING BLOOMS

The new 2017 programme for Bollington Horticultural Society has now been compiled. Once again it is full of interesting monthly evening talks, to which non-members are invited.

The topics vary from poly-tunnels and designing summer pots, to plants for a small garden.

A weekend visit to Highclere House in Berkshire (otherwise known as Downton Abbey) has been arranged, as well as a day trip to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. In addition there are visits to private gardens.

Two of the highlights of the year are the 51st Spring Show, and the 53rd annual show in summer, when the Horticultural Society joins forces with Bollington Flower Club.



The Spring Show is many people's favourite. The Civic Hall is full of the colour and scent of spring flowers, which is so welcome after a long winter. There are beautiful flower arrangements by members of Bollington Flower Club, but anyone can enter the show.

Apart from flowers and bulbs, there are classes of bakery, photography, handicrafts and wine-making. The children's classes include egg-painting, computer art and photography.

This year the Spring Show is on Saturday 11 March at Bollington Civic Hall from 2pm to 4pm. The cups and prizes are presented at about 4pm.



Above left: the 2016 Spring Show

Left: Margaret Mirrlees, a club member, and speaker Jeremy Herbert

If you would like a schedule of the classes, contact the Show Secretary, Mrs Joyce Burton, on 01625 572668 or email bollington.horticultural@hotmail.com

BOLLINGTON BY..

Lynn was born and bred in south Manchester. She worked in the health service until she felt the need to develop her creative side, when she did a degree in 3D Art and Design.

She spent some years as a self-employed furniture restorer and antique dealer and also became a mosaic artist. She once again went to college, this time to gain qualifications as a librarian, and worked in Warrington as a reference librarian.

Lynn is a great supporter of lifelong learning and feels that you are never too old to learn something new.

Why did you decide to move to Bollington?

I had a narrow boat and often sailed through Bollington. I liked the walks around Bollington and loved the surrounding area. But the thing that clinched it was the 2005 Festival.

I was so impressed with the wonderful vibrant community, the artistic and musical life and the buzz, and I felt this was where I belonged. I walked down Ingersley Vale and saw the waterfall and thought: 'There's even a waterfall – what more could I want?' I moved here just before the 2009 Festival and I had already joined the Festival Choir, so I performed at my first Festival as a resident.

Is there anything you don't like about Bollington?

It could do with a few more shops, but then we are not too far away from Macclesfield or Stockport.

Now you are retired, how do you fill your time?

Very easily – I could do with more time. I am involved with the Arts Centre and volunteer at the Bridgend; I like to make jewellery and mosaics. We are so lucky to have a good Leisure Centre and I try to keep fit. There is so much to do in Bollington.

I am an enthusiastic Samba Band member. I was instrumental in



LYNN KNOWLING

bringing the band to Bollington as well as to Macclesfield. We meet on a Thursday night at the Community Centre. I have also written a few articles for Bollington Live!

What music do you listen to?

I like such a lot of music – folk, soul, reggae, and as I sing some classical choral works with the festival choir, I enjoy listening to those. I also have a passion for flamenco and have attended festivals in southern Spain, and that's visual as well.

What is your favourite film?

The Fifth Element

What single thing would improve your quality of life?

Actually I am very content, but perhaps more visits to the Leisure Centre would be good.

Tea or coffee?

Coffee.

How do you relax?

I read a lot, particularly when I want to chill, crime fiction. Walking also is relaxing and there are so many lovely walks around Bollington.

What's your favourite place in Bollington?

Pappa's café.

What makes you angry?

Politicians and fat-cat billionaires.

Sandy Milsom



BOLLINGTON



February

Saturday 25th - 8pm

**Jazz at the Arts Centre – Spats Langham's
Hot Fingers Combo with Emily Campbell**
£10 574410

March

Friday 3rd - 8.15pm

Bolly Comedy Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Saturday 4th - 12pm & 6pm

The Hut Beer Festival 2017

In aid of Bollington Scout hut £4 afternoon
£8 evening <https://bookwhen.com/hutbeerfest>

Wednesday 8th - 7.30pm

**Pott Shrigley Flix in the Stix Sully -
Miracle on the Hudson**
Village Hall £4 advance £5 on the door
pottflix@gmail.com

Friday 10th - 8.30pm

Broom Bezzums at Bolly Folk Club
Dog & Partridge online at bollyfolk.com

Saturday 11th - 9.30am

Inspired by Shakespeare
Bollington Festival Choir Singing Day
Arts Centre £15 online

Saturday 11th - 2pm until 4pm

Bollington Hort. Society & Flower Club
51st Spring Show at the Civic Hall
contact Mrs J Burton 572668

Monday 13th - 6.30pm

Scibar Bugs, Bites & Parasites
A talk by Professor Janet Heminway
Vale Inn Free

Thursday 16th - 7.30pm

**Bollington Horticultural Society -
Making the most of your greenhouse &
polytunnel**
Community Centre
Member: £1.50 Non member: £3

Friday 17th - 7.30pm

Rebel without Applause
Terry Christian back with a new show!
Arts Centre £12 online

Saturday 18th - 8pm

Gildas Quartet
Chamber concert
Arts Centre £15 £2 students online

Friday 24th - 8.30pm

Tom Lewis at Bolly Folk Club
Dog & Partridge online at bollyfolk.com

Saturday 25th - 8pm

**Jazz at the Arts Centre – Roberts/Exall
Quintet**
£10 online

April

Saturday 1st - 10am to 3pm

Charity Vintage Market
Bridgend Centre free entry 576311

Saturday 1st - 7.30pm

Bollington Brass Band
Charity concert Arts Centre £8 online

Sunday 2nd - 2.30pm & 5pm

Rainbow to Rainbow
Bollington Festival Music Theatre at the
Arts Centre At door: £7 £3.50 children

Friday 7th - 8.15pm

Bolly Comedy Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Monday 10th to 14th

Great Shakes Theatre School
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Scibar
A talk by Jamie Ellingford Vale Inn Free

Thursday 13th - 6.30pm

Macclesfield Potato Riot
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Thursday 20th - 7.30pm

**Bollington Horticultural Society –
Container Gardening**
Community Centre
Member: £1.50 non member: £3

Friday 21st - 8.30pm

Dick Miles at Bolly Folk Club
Dog & Partridge online at bollyfolk.com

Saturday 22nd - 8pm

Fibonacci Sequence
Chamber concert.
Arts Centre £15 £2 students online

Friday 28th - 8pm

Michele Stodart
Folk music Arts Centre £12 online

Saturday 29th - 8pm

**Jazz at the Arts Centre – T J Johnson &
his band**
£10 online

May

Friday 5th - 8.15pm

Bolly Comedy Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Saturday 6th - 2pm

Bollington 3 Peaks Fell Race
9km route - registration at Bollington
Brewing Company from 12pm

**Bollington Light Opera Group
presents 'Hairspray'**

Civic Hall from 9 to 13 May

**Tickets: 01625 431038
emailblogbookings@aol.com**

Thursday 18th

**Bollington Horticultural Society
Trip to National Arboretum**

Friday 26th - 8.30pm

Bob Fox at Bolly Folk Club
Dog & Partridge online at bollyfolk.com

OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 27 May

Wonderful private gardens will be
open in aid of the Bollington Festival

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

June

Friday 2nd - 7.30pm

Bob Paisley – Quiet Genius
Evening with biographer Ian Herbert
Arts Centre £10 online

Sunday 11th - 7.30pm

Shakespearean Shenanigans
Bollington Festival Choir
Arts Centre £12 £3 conc online

Monday 12th - 6.30pm

Scibar - Fracking
A talk by Peter Webb Vale Inn Free

Friday 23rd - 8.30pm

Nelson Peach at Bolly Folk Club
Dog & Partridge online at bollyfolk.com

**Arts Centre tickets:
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk**

TYTHERINGTON



INTRODUCING OUR TEAM

For the last two years running, Tytherington School has taken part in a joint project with *Bollington Live!* and Bollington Printshop.

Fourteen of our year 7 students helped create and write articles for this pull-out issue of the magazine.

We had the opportunity to see how the magazine was produced and edit our articles as well as visiting the printshop.

We have loved taking part in this project and hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed writing it.



The talented editorial team helping to create this years' masterpiece are pictured during our visit to Bollington Printshop

*Susannah Bridgett, Emma Beech,
Charlotte Hall, Anwen Brookes-Tee,
Thomas Denham-Everett,
Oliver Gaunt, Harry Donohoe,
Jason Curtis, Charlie Coldwell,
Frankie James-Lee,
William Richardson, Jensen Gidion,
Theo Wharton, Daniel Balderson*

BRING BACK BOLLINGTON BUSES!

The Bollington school buses, which have transported students from Bollington to Tytherington School for generations, now appear to be under threat. This has caused outrage among the Tytherington and Bollington communities, many of whom are determined to fight to get the buses back on the road.

The Bollington buses have been declared too expensive for the council to pay for; therefore, the council are going to take away the school buses. This makes the road busier and more dangerous for the students to walk along. Also this decision puts pressure on parents/guardians of students who might choose to take their child to school before going to work.

The school gardening project is totally against the idea of almost double the amount of cars polluting the air and slowly destroying the world.

We interviewed Mr Botwe on the



subject and here's what he said.

What do you think about the council stopping the buses?

I'm very disappointed about the whole situation.

Are you going to supply buses?

We are looking into providing buses from elsewhere.

What can we do as a school to save and fight for the buses?

We are having a meeting on the 23 February with the council to discuss the situation.

What are you going to do about the pupils who can't get to school without the bus?

We will support them to the best of our ability.

Thomas Denham-Everett and Daniel Balderson



BURIED IN TIME

The time capsule, located at the entrance to the Jubilee Block, was placed there in September 2012. A time capsule is a space or container in which people place important objects – it's often buried in the ground.

The time capsule is usually intended as a method of communication with a future generation and to help future archaeologists, anthropologists and historians.

According to Dr Pugh, the time capsule was placed there to mark the opening of the Jubilee block in



Cartoon by:
Charlotte Hall and
Susannah Bridgett

2012 as well as the 50th anniversary of the founding of the school.

The time capsule contains objects from the year it was buried, including a school uniform; a student planner; and a newspaper from

the day. The time capsule will not be opened for at least fifty years.

The Jubilee Block is the newest building at Tytherington School. This

modern structure is spacious and hosts a range of subjects including English and Philosophy.

Mrs Burke, who has been working at the school for a long time said, "We are very lucky to have such a fantastic learning environment for the students. It is the first time since I have been at the school that the whole of the English department have been together in one building."

Oliver Gaunt and
Harry Donohoe



BOTWE BREAKFAST

Mr Botwe has added an awesome new feature in school. When you get a well-deserved HP5 (5 House Points), you are invited to his office to have a delicious breakfast with him and others!



You may get HP5s for various different things, for example, for amazing work; helping someone in need; working hard with your companions; or 100% attendance.

In addition, when you go to your Botwe breakfast, there will be a small group of others who have also achieved HP5.

When you get a HP5, your parents receive a text from the school to let them know your achievement.

The breakfast consists of a tasty pain-au-chocolat, and a juicy apple and/or orange juice. You, others and Mr Botwe himself, will have the chance to discuss issues about school and the community around you. Getting a Botwe breakfast with Mr Botwe is a privilege, and you should be extraordinarily proud of yourself!

Frankie James-Lee and Anwen Brookes-Tee

ASH HOUSE NEWS

At Tytherington School on Wednesday 25 January the whole of Ash house – from year seven to year eleven - took part in a sponsored silence to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. All the money raised will go to the charity to help support young people who are battling with cancer.

Mandy McPike decided to do a skydive to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Mrs. McPike is the cover manager in school and has the job of sorting out who is going to take the lessons when a teacher is absent.

Mrs McPike has recently taken on the role of Cover Supervisor meaning she is now teaching some lessons herself. She is also the form



tutor of 8MM, who will be taking part in the sponsored silence.

Mrs McPike decided to raise something for this particular charity because of working with children and knowing how brave they can be. The sky dive will take place on the 14 May in Lancaster. Mandy McPike hopes to raise £1000 for Teenage Cancer Trust and is doing so by advertising her skydive on Instagram and Facebook. You can also make a donation on our school website.

Susannah Bridgett



INTERVIEW

Andrew Pilbury is our Deputy Head here at Tytherington School. He is in charge of raising the standards of the school. We have decided to find out more about his everyday life.

Why is Tytherington School a good place to work?

The school has a good sense of community. When I first came for my interview here I could feel it.

What do you think the reason is for Tytherington School's success last year during the GCSEs?

All the Years 11 worked hard with our staff and teachers, who helped them to realise the potential that they had.

What are your favourite hobbies outside of school?

I enjoy doing lots of sport and I regularly play hockey and basketball.

Do you have any family?

Yes, I am married and I have two daughters who are seven and three years old.

What is the best part of your job?

The opportunity to resolve problems and help students to achieve their best.

Why did you become a teacher?

I used to coach children when I was younger and just decided it was what I enjoy doing the most.

What qualities do you need to be a deputy head?

You need to be able to think, solve problems and have patience and be able to consider the future.

Susannah Bridgett and Emma Beach

THE 'GREEN PLAN IT' CHALLENGE

Tytherington School is proud to have participated in the "RHS Green Plan It Challenge", a scheme run by the Royal Horticultural Society encouraging young people to help make a greener planet. The scheme encourages students to learn about the environment and also builds confidence and a sense of responsibility.

Two teams from Tytherington made models of gardens and entered them in a competition against other schools, a very exciting experience.

One of the teams designed a garden for the community situated



in Victoria Park in Macclesfield. Surrounded by trees and seating, the idea was to provide a calm area in a busy park. The other team designed a garden inspired by the school garden.

The year 8 pupils chosen for this project included: Fran Curtis, Lilia Almanza Torres, Myles Corn, Tom Collins, Tom Roberts, Rowan Ledbury, Charlotte Higgins, Eloise Gouldbourn, Alfie Taylor, Aiden Simpson, Eva Locoh Donou and Beatrix Haigh.

Mrs Rigby who helped organise this challenge said, "I think it is a really

exciting project that inspired and challenged the students involved. At the start of the project the students went to the Whitworth Art Gallery to give them ideas for their model gardens."

Mrs Rigby continued, "The two teams of six pupils were called the badgers and the cabbage patch kids. They met once every week for 10 weeks to plan and design their garden, with the help of a mentor."

Finally, having worked their socks off for 10 weeks, it was time for the judging. The garden models were presented by two teams of six. Sadly, they did not win (although it was very close.) The judges commented on how well thought-out their designs were, as well as their impressive display and their knowledge.

One of our teams even got the pupil's choice award. Well done team Tytherington!

Charlie Coldwell and Jason Curtis

TYTHERINGTON SPORTS

At Tytherington School we offer loads of sports for boys and girls including football, rugby, netball and tennis. There are school clubs so people can enjoy sport before and after school.

We have done well in many competitions, for example: badminton, swimming and football and we hope we carry on this great success!



Some of our recent sporting achievements

- **Macclesfield champions - volley ball**
- **Table tennis champions in Cheshire championship for boys: under 19s and under 13s and also girls under 16s held at Holton stadium**
- **Macclesfield cross country championship - Finn Proffitt, Dids Parish and Tom Boyd finished in the top 2 in their races and went through to the next round.**

Theo Wharton, Jenson Gidion and Will Richardson



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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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

Love Bollington Market

2nd Sunday of the month
11am–3pm Daisybank Nursery

White Nancy Breakfast Club

Last Sunday of the month
From 7am, see Facebook page

Sip & Knit

2nd Wednesday
8pm Vale Inn Free 575147

Car Wash

Alternate Wednesday
Recreation Ground £2.50

Knit and Natter

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

HAIRSPRAY IN TOWN

One of the smash hits of the modern theatre world comes to Bollington when Bollington Light Opera Group stages 'Hairspray'.

The show tells the story of Tracey Turnblad, who discovers the reality of discrimination in 1960s Baltimore, USA, when she gets herself onto a local TV dance show. Can Tracey, naïve but determined, and with her heart in the right place, put the world to rights? You bet she can!

Energetic, emotive and above all tremendous fun, 'Hairspray' swings along with strong leading characters and chorus producing great music right up to the final number, 'You Can't Stop the Beat'.

The show's directors are Diane McIntyre and Matt Gratton, who also directed BLOG's hugely successful Oliver! two years ago. They have assembled a strong cast,

with Rebecca Hart as Tracey, supported by principals including Emma Sheldon, Helen Valentine, Michael Scott, Richard Comish, Emily Bancroft, Andy Venables, Steph Evans, Charlotte Foden, Carol Pratt, Kalini Kent, Nigel Wells and Paul Yandell.

The part of Tracey's mother Edna has developed into a modern iconic role thanks to John Travolta's performance in the film version, and Craig Harris steps into his illustrious (high-heeled) shoes for BLOG.

Says Diane: 'Matt and I are very excited to be directing such a vibrant new musical. Whereas many modern shows leave you struggling to pick a song to whistle on the way home, Hairspray is full of show-stopping numbers that you'll struggle to get out of your head for weeks.'

The show's musical director is Ian Jones.

Michelle Foden

SPUD BASHING!

D'yer wanna riot? Join the Macclesfield potato riot! Susan Coen is fired up and ready with her King Edwards!

"Since moving to Bollington a few years ago, I've become more interested in local history – partly inspired by the old working mills and stone terrace cottages that form our skyline. So when I heard about the Macclesfield Potato Riot, I was keen to learn more."

I discovered that on 13 April 1812 it all kicked off in Macclesfield Market Place when a mob, including disgruntled residents of Bollington and Rainow, ran amok through the town, fired up by the increasing market prices."

Macclesfield Community ArtSpace wants to celebrate the town's past by presenting it through a street theatre re-enactment of the riot, at 6.30pm on Thursday 13 April 2017 in Macclesfield Market Place. Following the riot there will be a feast in the Market Square.

The current day rioters will be local people who play the many characters that appear in the records of the original riot.

The organisers are keen for the crowds lining the street to get into the spirit, by dressing up in costumes of the day and cheering or jeering the rioters as they proceed through the town.

"As someone who has only been on the school stage, I'm really looking forward to being a community actor!"

The enthusiasm of the people at ArtSpace is both infectious and inspiring, so come along to one of their open meetings."

If you would like to get involved, there are a variety of ways you can volunteer; from making costumes to dressing the street stage or baking potatoes and setting up gazebos.

Susan Coen

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PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

I have lived in Bollington for over 15 years now. I have 2 children at primary school here, an allotment, and as well as my day job in the digital media industry I run a French class at the Arts Centre, so I really feel like I am part of the wonderful community that we enjoy in Bollington.

My passion for France started at a young age with family camping holidays to the south of France. I went on to study French, Italian and History of Art at Leicester University. Having enjoyed my study year in France as part of my degree so much, I returned to live there after spending a year in Japan.

After six months living on the rugged and beautiful island of Corsica I moved to Marseilles where I had a job teaching English.

I went on to teach English at the Chamber of Commerce to French adults in the Wine Industry. This job entailed the arduous task of much wine tasting of 'les côtes de Provence,' all in the name of research of course.

When I returned to England I worked as French Product Manager for a Tour Operator which saw me travelling round France sourcing the best hotels and villas to feature in the brochure.

As much as I enjoyed it, travelling was not conducive to family life, so I returned to my teaching roots, gained a PGCE and hung up my hat in Bollington. Now I am lucky enough to share my passion for France with the Francophiles of Bollington.

I started the French class as a new venture in 2013 and soon had a lovely bunch of Francophiles attending every week. The class is an informal one for people to practise their French conversation, learn some new words and build on any existing grammar they may have.



People come along for a range of reasons, from owning a property in France, having holidays in France, using French at work, or just to keep their brain muscles agile and meet some new people.

The class quickly became as much a chance to socialise and share one's news, joys and woes as a chance to learn. The members of my original group of students have become solid friends and still meet up together for coffee and to talk in French.

I recently started up a lovely new French class for beginners on a Friday morning and we are enjoying getting to know one another and chatting in French.

I love the Arts Centre, it's such a great venue, and I love meeting new local people, or others from farther afield. I have students coming from Prestbury, Congleton and Poynton as well as Marple. It never fails to surprise me how many people are Francophiles and have a desire to speak French. Maybe as a nation are not as bad at learning foreign languages as rumour would have it.

There are no ability criteria for the group, and while the age range is predominantly pensioners or semi-retired people I have students from twenty something to eighty-plus years old so we really are an eclectic bunch and that is what makes it such fun.

If you think you would like to join the class you will be made most welcome.

Kate Coyne

klmcc30@hotmail.com

CANAL CAPERS



Since our last article I'm pleased to inform you all that the Macclesfield Canal has received the Green Flag award for the second year running.

At the Canal and River Trust 'Living Waterways Awards 2016' the Macclesfield Canal was awarded Winner of the Community and Volunteering category. This is indeed a national recognition of all the Macclesfield Canal groups who have contributed over the past three years.

Also at the awards ceremony was MIKRON (a canal based touring theatre group) who perform at the Bollington Arts Centre. They were winners of the category Art and Interpretation, so watch out for their next performance at the Arts Centre!

Last Autumn we organised an 'open day' at Clarence Mill which was a great success. Big thanks to Rob at Waterside Cafe for hosting the whole day and Peter from Bolly Folk club for assembling a group of fine singers and musicians.

Following the success of our open day, we are planning to repeat this event next year – date to be confirmed.

Our work continues every second Sunday of the month. Feel free to join us if only for an hour or two.

Malcolm Bailey

THE TOOTH OF THE MATTER

'Oh I wish I'd looked after my teeth' started the well-known poem by Pam Ayres and the very good news is that many of us are and we are doing it better than ever before.

Many 'oldies' these days will remember relatives with full dentures, and indeed my mother, and my gran and auntie and uncle who lived close by, had not a tooth between them. Dentures or plates were sometimes called 'clackers' as they fitted so poorly and eating was often a problem.

For those born around the time of the first world war it was comparatively common, especially for women and those from the more working classes, to have all their teeth removed when they were in their very early twenties or before they got married, to 'save them from having trouble in the future'. Large numbers of teeth were removed at one time, often under a general anaesthetic or 'dental gas' and it was a gruesome and bloody process.

All this treatment was carried out privately as there was no NHS at that time. This approach continued through the 1930s and 1940s and was especially popular after the introduction of the NHS in 1948. Initial demands for dental treatment under this new state system were so huge that charges for dental work (mainly for dentures) were introduced in 1951 and have remained in place ever since. 'Free at the point of delivery' lasted only a very short time as far as NHS dentistry was concerned.

It is difficult today to imagine what mouths were like at this time. Toothpaste in tubes had been available since the 1900s but still contained soap until after 1945 and many households used a tooth powder that came in jars or tins. Toothbrushes frequently had large, hard bristled heads and poorer households would often have one brush for the family or sometimes none at all.

Tooth decay was widespread and there was a lot of gum disease, or 'pyorrhea' as it was often called, so

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HOME**

**HE WILL BE
CELEBRATING
40 YEARS OF
DENTISTRY
IN
BOLLINGTON
THIS YEAR**



that people often had mouths full of wobbly teeth that also produced a rather unpleasant odour. There was hardly any orthodontic treatment and mouths were often crowded with misplaced teeth. You only have to look closely at black and white newsreels of the time to see what I mean.

Conditions improved slowly through the 1950s and 60s as the country became wealthier, the number of dentists increased, dental techniques became more sophisticated and the public became more dentally educated. Toothbrushes with softer nylon bristles became more widely available and there were more toothpastes containing fluoride. However, there was still a lot of decay and poor gums, and teeth were still being extracted, often with 'gas', and dentures made in their thousands. Even in 1968 almost 4 out of 10 adults in England and Wales had no teeth at all.

It was in the 1970s when dental health greatly improved. When I opened my practice in Bollington in 1977 I was determined to try to remove fewer teeth and make far greater attempts to save them by providing root fillings and crowns. The advantages of fluoride became more widely accepted and became available not only in toothpaste but as tablets or drops or gels.

So where are we today with the main dental diseases of tooth decay and gum disease?

Excluding the influence of hereditary factors, tooth decay is a balance between sugar (bad) and fluoride (good). The widespread use of fluoride toothpaste has been a saviour to us all. Those born after the 1970s have been using fluoride toothpaste all their lives and with a reasonable diet should

have only a handful of fillings, if any. Those born before 1970 have been using fluoride toothpaste for a comparatively shorter period and are very likely to have many more fillings, though there should be less decay than before.

Unfortunately there is no 'good' sugar - honey is as bad as granulated sugar - and the frequency of use is a major risk factor. The increase in consumption of sugary drinks (some people drink nothing else) and sugar-laden industrially produced food is again causing decay.

The simple preventive message is to try to control your sugar intake, especially between meals, and use a fluoride toothpaste. Pastes with higher levels of fluoride are available from dentists for those at greater risk.

Gum disease is also less widespread but still a problem and smoking is a major risk factor. Healthier gums mainly result from increased patient understanding and the improvement in cleaning aids such as electric toothbrushes and interdental cleaning brushes. My very simple message is to try to remember that the area you are trying to clean is where the gum meets the tooth and that every tooth has 4 sides. You clean the outside and inside with your toothbrush (I'm calling them gumbrushes these days to try and reinforce the point) and you clean the sides between the teeth with whatever is the biggest thing you can fit in comfortably. This may vary from dental tape (floss is too thin) for tight spaces to large 'bottle brushes' where the gaps are wider. I know it's a pain and difficult to do, but the better you do it, the fewer dental problems you will have. You need to do it every day and remember that healthy gums do not bleed even when you brush them.

For those with healthy mouths, a six monthly visit to the dentist should not be necessary but visiting your dentist regularly helps reinforce those habits that will ensure you keep those teeth you have for as long as you are ever going to need them!

David King

BOLLINGTON BODYWORKING

It is always refreshing to meet someone who is totally passionate about their work. Such a person is Claire Feldkamp. Claire is an experienced bodyworker, massage therapist and yoga teacher. Claire moved from Worcestershire to Macclesfield just over 2 years ago. She began to work in her studio in Adelphi Mill in Bollington in September 2016.

A great believer in learning and a self-confessed 'anatomy nerd', Claire has trained and continues to train extensively with some of the leading therapists, pioneers and academics in the field of bodywork, massage therapy, movement-based practice and yoga, in the UK and USA. Indeed, her first intensive yoga teacher training was in Chicago,



and she has since returned several times to delve deeper into her practice. Claire is currently studying for a teaching qualification which will enable her to offer massage training throughout the northwest. Claire is passionate about bringing good bodywork to everyone!

Claire uses a variety of techniques in her work, and does not work to any set massage routine: 'every massage session is unique to the person receiving it. Techniques are flowed together in a way that does not promote pain, but allows the body to find its own pathway to healing'.

A big feature of Claire's work is enabling people to understand their bodies and cultivate self-awareness. Claire believes that giving people tools they can use to care for themselves is important, and bodywork sessions may incorporate yoga, somatic movement, breathwork or mindfulness techniques. Many clients work with Claire on a one-to-one basis using these tools to address chronic pain, lower back problems, shoulder injuries, postural imbalances, fibromyalgia, anxiety and insomnia.

If you would like to talk to Claire about how bodywork can help you, please find her at www.clairefeldkamp.co.uk



Claire works voluntarily for the Massage Training Institute (MTI) as a regional representative for the Northern region and organises regular events/workshops for massage therapists. Claire has been instrumental in building a supportive, vibrant community, and she enjoys the places that this work takes her and all the wonderful people she meets!

Claire enjoys walking with her collie Pippin, rock climbing, baking, drawing and knitting, and is grateful to live in such a beautiful area!

Kate Gooding

BOLLINGTON BEASTS?

I am a Macclesfield investigator into cryptozoological stories; that is to say I look into any odd, unexpected, unknown or overlooked wildlife in this part of Cheshire and a bit further afield - the last remaining wallabies of The Roaches, for example.

Bollington, surprisingly enough, is not just noticeable because of its friendly people and White Nancy.

About 18 months ago I was told an apparently true story of 12 remaining red-necked feral wallabies. These were an off-shoot of the almost extinct Peak District population, itself descendants from those which escaped from a private

zoo run by Henry Brocklehurst in the early years of World War Two.

Having been told this story I decided to ask the question, "Are there any other mystery animals in Bollington?" and, after joining a Bollington Facebook group, the answer was a resounding "Yes!"

These animals are not strange, as in unknown; they are just unexpected or overlooked.

For example, the sightings of a black dog-fox near the tip; black, brown and white rabbits; a peacock in the Lowther Street area and the Sugar Lane cat/ghost/beast or whatever it is!

Email Richard with your sightings: muirhead@richardmuirhead4.orangehome.co.uk or Tel: 01625 261625

If any reader has seen, or heard rumours of any such animals, such as the (in?)famous big cats, or any other kind of mammal, bird, reptile, etc., that took them by surprise in or near Bollington, past or present, please contact me. Thanks!

Richard Muirhead

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/richmuirhead/cryptozoology/>

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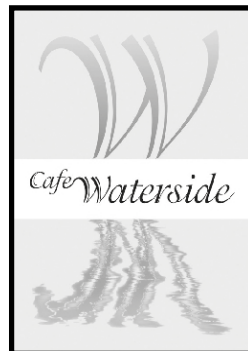
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LOONY TUNES!

The psychological and physical benefits of singing are well known. Singing has the power to lift the spirits and aid breathing, and singing as part of a choir is particularly joyful. Many people, including myself, were, in less enlightened times, told that they could not sing in tune and therefore should remain silent.

A new community choir has been set up at the Bridgend Centre, which does not accept this way of thinking. Primarily it is a fun social group that meets to sing a handful of songs every Friday morning. There are no auditions, you need no experience and everyone is welcome. At present there are 15 people and it operates on a drop-in basis with a weekly subscription of £4. The emphasis is on enjoyment and building confidence.

The choir leader is Darren Poyzer, an experienced musician, whose area of teaching and learning is usually in a special-needs setting. Darren was asked if he would like to set up a community choir and he jumped at the chance. Darren's life



history is very interesting: he served with the Royal Navy during the Falkland conflict and has stood in two general elections as a candidate for the Monster Raving Loony Party. He began his musical career after his naval service and this path as singer/ songwriter has been very fruitful. 'I was 21 when I felt the need to write. I went to college to study, and picked up a guitar during breaks. It rather started from there. I wrote some songs, ran some community performance events, and then managed a venue for 10 years', says Darren.

Darren has picked up a range of skills to carry on into education and workshop leading. He has over the last few months encouraged a rather nervous group of singers to gain enough confidence to sing in front of a small audience at the Bridgend Christmas party. Darren has fostered this confidence, saying: 'It has been wonderful to see the choir not only grow but to see the atmosphere change from one of nervousness and fear to one of smiles and accomplishment. The group and the welcome they give to new people who join us are very special.'

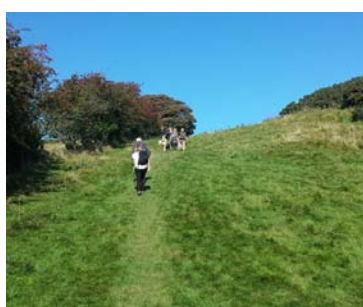
The choir would love to grow as more singers make an even more joyful noise. The repertoire is an eclectic mix of gospel, modern song, folk And blues tunes and hymns such as 'Only Remembered', from War Horse. I really look forward to Friday mornings, as do all the happy band. So if you feel like a good sing, come along to the Bridgend Centre on Fridays at 10.30am until midday.

Sandy Milsom

THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

The Bridgend Centre has lots of regular walking and exercise activities to kick-start a healthy 2017.

The walks explore the lovely countryside in every direction around Bollington, from up into the hills to the east, across the rolling countryside to the north; towards Adlington and to exploring the Kerridge ridge towards Macclesfield.



It is a great opportunity to exercise and meet people and socialise at the same time.

Walks are every Wednesday and are between three and seven miles, which prove very popular. There is also a longer walk on the first Saturday of every month, which tends to be between eight and twelve miles. Please bring your lunch to the Saturday walk as it usually finishes mid-afternoon. All walks cost £3. We have a leaflet giving details of where and on what date the next six months of walks will take place. This can be obtained from the Centre or downloaded from our website: www.bridgendcentre.org.uk.

The Bridgend Centre has also developed a number of trails around the area that you can follow

at your own pace. They are ideal for individuals, families and groups. As you walk you learn about Bollington's industrial, agricultural and environmental heritage through the memories of local people. These trails are available from the Bridgend for £1 each.

If your idea of enjoyable exercise is a touch more sedate, we have a yoga class with a qualified yoga instructor which started in January this year. In the relaxing room with the sound of the river flowing past the window, you can develop your postures and poses. The class is £4 and booking is essential.

The Bridgend Centre has many other activities and groups - why not pop in for a chat and an explore?

Rebecca Lea

STONE WALLED

Ban the fake stone!

"I think it's fair to say that the residents of Bollington feel very cheated by the events that have led to the Hurst Lane development seemingly being approved to be built in a man-made stone substitute, after so much public consultation took place to agree the most appropriate construction materials to be used."

The site sits beside the canal in Bollington, just off Hurst Lane. It's part of the Macclesfield Canal Conservation Area and is adjacent to the Bollington Conservation Area and next to and in between two listed bridges – Hurst Lane and the Palmerston Street Aqueduct. There is also a listed mile-marker on the canal bank. There is a traditional stone terrace and a detached stone house opposite, also beside the canal. This part of the canal is central to Bollington's tourist trade as a main thoroughfare for walkers, and only metres away from a canal-boat rental company.

Significant public consultation took place during 2013 by the then owners of the site (Canal & Rivers Trust, H2O Urban, and bloc) for the original application (13/5259M). Meetings were held with Cheshire East Planning officers including input from the Macclesfield Canal and Conservation Area, The Heritage Trust and Bollington Town Council and Civic Society. All perspectives were considered, and an application was submitted and approved which stated that stone, rendered brickwork, slate roofs and wood materials would be used.

These materials were chosen to mirror the properties opposite which fall within the Bollington

"THIS VERY SMALL DETAIL ... HAS EFFECTIVELY NULLIFIED ALL OF THE CONSULTATION AND INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ..."

Conservation Area. The materials were also to be representative of the existing structures being demolished on the site and sympathetic to the two Grade II-listed bridges that the site sits between.

A second application (15/3461M) made by the current owners of the site, Henderson Homes, largely for redesign of the site layout, provides a 27-page Design Access Statement which makes much reference to the conservation areas the sites sits within and consideration to the history of the canal, and also to the character and heritage of Bollington – it also states the proposed use of stone, brick, and grey and blue slate.

The final application (16/2632D) is a discharge ('D') application. This type of application does not need to request public consultation, nor does it provide any further Design and Access Statement or revisions to the previous Design and Access Statement.

For anyone wanting to register their views with Cheshire East Planning please use the planning reference 16/2632D

Email Richard Taylor (Planning Officer) and Cheshire East Planning directly at:

ceplanning@cheshireeast.gov.uk

richard.taylor@cheshireeast.gov.uk

planappcomments@cheshireeast.gov.uk

However, the elevation drawings are labelled 'Marshalls' Cromwell Pitched Faced Brown' – a man-made stone substitute. This very small detail on an elevation drawing has effectively nullified all of the consultation and input from the public and various interested bodies over the course of this application.

"What we're keen to understand is how such a significant change can be made to an approved application via a 'D' application – in this case the choice of construction materials in a conservation area following



significant public consultation and input from interested bodies.

With that in mind, we've made contact through David Rutley, MP with Mike Suarez, Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council, to call for an immediate inquiry into whether the planning process has been applied correctly to this development.

Moving forward, we intend to use this application as a case study with Gavin Barwell, MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning in the Department for Communities and Local Government, to ascertain whether the planning process requires amending to prevent further abuses of this nature.

We're also hoping that the developer, having been made aware of the huge public anger with this issue, will change their stance on this and revert back to those previously agreed materials; or that their appointed estate agent might advise them appropriately.

Until then, we're left with what some might consider to be a rather opportunistic and misleading approach by the properties actually being marketed as being built in 'natural stone', making it difficult not to feel that Bollington's heritage and character are being exploited to their detriment in the pursuit of profit."

Thomas McKenna & Phil Stebbing



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WANDERLAND

How lucky are we! A sentiment shared by everyone and anyone who enjoys playing out in the enormous and varied, rural back garden that we have on our doorstep. Whatever your age or ability there is a track, trail, climb or vista to suit.



The Middlewood Way, ten miles of level track between Macclesfield and Marple and adjacent to the Macclesfield Canal is great for little legs that might fancy a bit of puddle stomping, especially around spring when lambs, goslings and ducklings are also exploring the outdoors – some of which, like those near the Sugar Lane end of the canal, are protected by exotic South American llamas.

Lyme Park, on a misty or drizzly day, is ideal for those that prefer quiet contemplation and solitude. Exercise your long sight vision in trying to spot the herd of red deer that can often be found on the park moorland, near Bowstones - a truly majestic sight on a frosty morning.

If you want to blow away the cobwebs there is no better place on a blustery day than the ridge walk from Pym's Chair to Shining Tor, the highest point in Cheshire standing at 559m. Feel the elements whilst enjoying the incredible 360 degree views from the trig point, taking in the Derbyshire and Cheshire countryside panoramic including our mini Matterhorn, Shutlingsloe. On a clear day eagle-eyes can make out the Clwydian Range in North Wales.

For the more adventurous looking to test yourselves in 2017, why not walk out of your house in Bollington or one of our surrounding villages and join the twenty mile, circular Cheshire Peaks Challenge.



Or perhaps attempt to walk the 35 mile Gritstone trail. Typically completed over three days, it starts in the North, at Disley and finishes in Kids Grove. The first leg includes hiking up White Nancy and along Kerridge Ridge before heading off towards Tegg's Nose Country Park.

The health benefits of walking are well understood. We are just so fortunate that we can top up our vitamin D levels and increase our sense of well-being in such a picturesque part of the UK.

Vicki Cooper



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