



BOLLINGTON

Live

Issue 77 Autumn 2019

**ROCKY THE SCHOOL DOG
WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?
THE JOY OF REPETITION
THE FACES OF BOLLINGTON**





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WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?



Our youngest volunteer committee member, 8-year-old Emerson, was keen to write a piece for this edition, about the local ambulance service. They helped him earlier this year after an accident he had.

"When I broke 2 bones in my arm I wasn't allowed to move until the ambulance got there because it was a bit of a bad break - I looked like I had 2 elbows! The ambulance

arrived and they did a brilliant job in the rain, they were very calm and they helped me to be brave. They straightened my arm, carried me into the ambulance on a stretcher and got me safely to the hospital for my operation. I hadn't been in an ambulance before, I remember it was very bright inside. The ambulance men were very kind and they found my mum and dad to say how brave I'd been. I want to say thank you to them for helping me. My arm is doing really well and I'm having my next operation soon to take the metal rods out. They did a brilliant job."

Emerson

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Thank you to all who spontaneously sent in articles and photographs, which were specifically requested in the last issue.

It's great to receive articles you want to see published in your magazine. This time we have pages packed with everything from Rocky the school dog to lessons in permaculture and the joy of repetition. I hope you find something you want to read.

As it's the time of year we remember the men and women who died in the horror of war, I am especially thankful to Paul who sent in his Memorial poem. As I read it, I cannot help but be grateful for their great sacrifice. May they rest in peace.

*In Bollington's memorial gardens Over to one side.
An old cross is standing there
where valiant hearts abide*

*It is the war memorial to Bollington's brave young men
who marched away, one hopeful day
and did not come home again*

*They fought to keep this England free.
They fought and died for you and me
Let not their struggles be in vain.
May England's heart be free again.*

Paul Johnston

If you have a story you would like to share with us, please do get in touch - we'd love to hear from you, please email me at liveditor@happy-valley.org.uk.

Annette

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Back Issues: www.happyvalley.org.uk/live

CALLED TO SERVE

In June this year, Steve Murphy, a Bollington resident, was ordained at Chester Cathedral. He was supported by friends and family and many members of St Christopher's Church at Pott Shrigley, where he served as an ordinand.

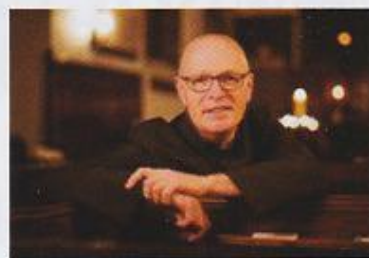
It was a happy event and a cause for celebration, but this year has not been easy for Steve. In March, he contracted Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare auto immune disorder, which attacks the nervous system pathways. He has had a long road back to recovery and still has a way to go yet. Six months down the line, he is still relearning how to do many things. However, he is well enough to consider a phased

return to work at the Mersey Care NHS Foundation.

Steve has felt well-supported by both Mersey Care and the Diocese, which has enabled him to complete the programme required for ordination into the Anglican Ministry. He still has further studies to complete and hopefully his health will improve. He is grateful for the support of his family and a huge debt and praise for the NHS for their care.

Steve was brought up in Oldham and has lived in Bollington for 23 years. With a background in marketing and PR, he moved to Bollington to take up a job at Carter Bench. He is married to Anne and they have a son, Tom (photo left). Steve has some interesting facets to his life, in the late 80s he worked behind the bar at the Cheshire Hunt and was also involved in the, one time, Community Pub, the Church House.

Steve is a trained actor and has appeared in numerous television and film productions, such as, Jimmy McGovern's, The Street, Emmerdale, Coronation Street, Hollyoaks, In the Club and Shameless. Bollington residents will remember his performance



in The Bollington Movie during the festival. He has also acted in Calendar Girls in Bollington. No doubt his acting skills will be very useful when he is delivering a sermon in his new role as curate in Prestbury.

Steve has not always felt called to the Ministry and has battled doubt in his own motivations and faith along the way. When his mother died after a long battle with MS, he says, 'I turned my back on God and withdrew from any connection with the Church.' It took a long time for him to be convinced that he had a calling and now accepts doubt as a part of his faith journey and hopes to use his life experiences in his ministry to understand better other peoples' experience of God.

Steve will complete his curacy in the Parish of Prestbury as a self-supporting minister and will continue to work in communications for the Mersey Care and the Zero Suicide Alliance. Bollington Live wishes him well.

Sandy Milsom



WHEN TOMORROW IS JUST TOO LATE

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Ever got in a 3am only to realise that you've left your handbag on the back of a toilet door 30 miles away? Arrived at the airport then recalled that your passport is still lying under a copy of Men's Health in your top drawer? How about needing an F1 part shipping rapidly to Bahrain? Bollington has a bespoke courier service taking the stress out of personal and professional lives...

Local couple, the Fearon family, set up their company, Guaranteed Same Day, 2 years ago and it's rapidly building a great reputation

both locally and nationally. Their internet background has led to slick processes and competitive rates, but at the heart of their business is customer service and being as dynamic as possible. From small vans ferrying personal gifts to people's homes, to 18 tonne trucks of pallets, the care and time-sensitivity is paramount – this is not a conventional courier service.

If only my Arena Cobra goggles had been sent via this company, we'd have saved a tree in failed delivery cards over the last week...

Hannah Atkin



SAMBAMBA CAN YOU LEAD THE WAY?

Anyone who hears the drums, bells and whistles of a Samba band cannot help but be motivated to move to the rhythm.

Bollington is very fortunate to have his own samba band. This band, called 'Sambamba', performs at numerous festival and charity events; beer festivals, and Christmas fairs around Cheshire and Lancashire. In particular, the group were to be seen and heard at this year's Bollington festival, performing on the stage as one of the acts in the "Best of Bollington" concert and taking a prominent part in the festival parade.

However, 'Sambamba' is now looking for a new leader, as John Hartshorn, the current leader, and his wife Salli are to move their canal boat to London to be nearer their family.

Approximately 10 years ago, John, a youth worker, musician and Samba teacher, with his wife Salli arrived in Bollington on their canal boat "Lonesome George". John and Salli were very much part of the Bollington and Macclesfield music scene. As well as playing in a local band, John was an organiser of the Barnaby festival parade. In this

capacity, he also helped to set up Macclesfield Arts Space, which in addition to other activities, made the amazingly imaginative themed artefacts for the carnival parade floats.

John's love and enthusiasm for samba led him to start 'Sambamba'.

The band membership includes a wide range of ages from students to retirees, men and women and those who live within a 20-mile radius of the town. Some are experienced musicians; others have never played a musical instrument before joining the group, but importantly, all have sense of rhythm!

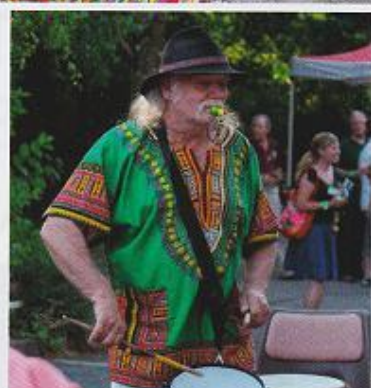
The samba rhythms and tunes mostly originate from Brazil. Samba instruments include all types of percussion from large Surdo drums to small tamborins; large and small shakers; and agogo two tone bells. However, a relatively new development in the Bollington band is the addition of a brass section and an electric guitar as some new members were guitar, saxophone and trumpet players. The group is always eager to learn something new. Therefore, the current repertoire is extremely varied.



Group Rehearsal

**Ovenhouse
Community
Centre**

Thursday 7-9 pm.



The Bollington samba band has blossomed under John's leadership and tuition, and he will be greatly missed when he departs. The search has now begun for John's replacement. Therefore, if there is a Brazilian samba expert, who is free on a Thursday evening, please contact the group via Lynn Knowling email lknowling@hotmail.com

Kate Gooding

DISCOVERING THE DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Discovery Centre has been developed by the Bollington Civic Society to bring together the story of the mills and people of Bollington, showing how both have contributed to the life in today's vibrant and friendly town. Based at the Clarence Mill (canalside) it is a great local history archive, and also highlights what is currently going on in the area.

There is a series of exhibitions which has included the shops in Bollington, the Armistice in 1918-19, and the current one about the

150 years of the Macclesfield to Marple railway. The permanent Photo Archive resource includes photos from the early 1900s up to today, and is continually being



expanded. The Centre sells a selection of books and maps of the area, plus an ever-expanding range of merchandise, including bags, calendars, notelets and honey, all with a local theme. So do drop by, look at the exhibits, talk to our well-informed volunteers and maybe even consider joining the team!

Sally Parsonage

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ROCKY THE WONDER DOG



"Hello. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Rocky. I am a well-trained, healthy, positive, fluffy and good-natured dog! During the day I am a member of 'staff' at St Gregory's Primary School in Bollington and I have been working there as a therapy dog for 3 years.

The children love me. So do the staff and parents and visitors. When children first walk into my school their eyes light up at the sight of me and everyone smiles. Many schools around the country now have dogs but I am the only one in Bollington and am very proud of that.

The reason I come into school is to help support the children's well-being. And it works. I am great at comforting children, reducing their stress levels and anxieties whilst increasing everyone's happiness

and energy levels. Children and adults really connect with me and I make everyone calmer and happier just by being stroked! It makes me feel good too!

I also help the children with their reading. Sometimes they get so excited about reading to me they practise reading the book beforehand so they can read it even better. I am really happy to be there motivating them to be their best and listening in a non-judgemental way.

My reward for this is a few cuddles and a walk at break-times and lunchtimes with my dog-walking buddies. They make sure I have at least two walks a day, have a run and a play, chase after sticks and then back to the headteacher's office for a well-deserved snooze. I love my days at St Gregory's."

Rocky



St Gregory's:
01625 572037

admin@stgregorys.
cheshire.sch.uk

head@stgregorys.
cheshire.sch.uk

Rocky is just one innovation that St Gregory's has invested in to help improve the health and well-being of all its pupils and staff.

The purchase and training of Rocky has been an outstanding success with a positive impact on all who come into contact with him.

As a result, we have seen at first-hand how Rocky's presence enables some pupils to feel better in the mornings if they have been a bit upset coming into school, how he brings great joy and excitement to all the children in school, how he enhances the children's caring skills as well as boosting their confidence levels when they read to him.

He is a real asset to the children's all round quality of education, especially in relation to their mental health and well-being. We think every school should have a Rocky and if you wanted to come and see him 'in action' and speak to the children and staff about Rocky then don't hesitate to give St Gregory's a call and arrange a visit anytime.

John Daley



BOLLINGTON OPEN GARDENS

It seems a long time since the Bollington Open Garden event was held as part of the Bollington Festival this summer.

The event was just as enjoyable as last year with the same lovely community atmosphere, although conditions were very challenging for gardeners with extreme heat and wet conditions so congratulations to all the garden openers who put on such a good show.

A big thank you to all our friends and family who baked cakes and served teas on The Green and helped put up gazebos etc. The temperatures had soared on the Saturday making the day quite an endurance test for all involved!

We would like to thank Belfields, The Bridgend Centre, Heathcotes and the Leisure Centre for selling tickets and all businesses who displayed

posters (designed by Lyn Knowling). Donations from Jon Weston towards the Flowers on The Green and Brian Brereton (Bolly Ice Cream) were very much appreciated. The Bollyrocks were once again fun for the children and all raffle prizes were claimed.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who visited the gardens. You all helped to raise £3,397. 73 for our wonderful Bollington Festival.

Maria O'Brien and Open
Garden Team



BE STRONG & OF GOOD COURAGE

On 22 October 2019 we celebrate 111 years of worship and witness here at the Parish Church of St Oswald's. Our aim is to offer flexible space for use by people of all ages and of any faith or none.

Last Spring, our plans for enhancing our hospitality were granted faculty permission by the Diocesan Chancellor. The first phase of this work is now due to start with the creation of a glazed fire exit; then, when funds permit, the installation of a new kitchen into the former main entrance porch, plus wall cupboards elsewhere for storage.

Apart from our regular weekly activities and services, St Oswald's is open on Wednesdays during daylight hours (normally between 8.30am and 4.30pm). Please feel free to call in for a time of peace and reflection, to make a hot drink, to light a candle either for yourself or someone else, and to sense the strengthening presence of God which has imbued this building for over five generations.



Whether the church is empty of visitors or you are aware of others also respectfully making use of the space, we pray that you will find it a place of solace, comfort and even challenge - a calming place where you can focus your attention on what is really important to you, and where you may discover some much-needed fresh perspective in the midst of an otherwise stressful working week.

Please consider becoming a 'Friend of St Oswald's', (www.stoswaldbollington.org.uk). Your support is vital in helping us continue to adapt to the changing needs of our town and to keep Bollington's last remaining Anglican church open for generations yet to come. Thank you!

Revd Canon Veronica Hydon



THE FLOOD



The Bollington spirit was well and truly alive as people helped their friends and neighbours during some of the worst floods we have seen. Thank you for sending in photos, please don't stop sending us photos and articles!



HOW CARDIAC SMART IS BOLLINGTON?

With the recent installation of a Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) generously donated by the Bollington Community Centre and located at the Sweet Kitchen Café, the answer is "extremely smart but can always do better".



Thanks to the incredible generosity of Bollington folk and the willingness of local businesses and venues to host installation sites, as a town we are incredibly close to meeting the best standard for North West Ambulance Service of one CPAD every 200m. This distance is based on the time taken for the average person to safely walk to get a defibrillator if required and get back to a patient who may/does require one, within 4 minutes. However, this is based on interacting circles on an OS Map and let's be honest, with the narrow twisting and hilly roads of Bollington, the reality is somewhat different.

Why 4 minutes? Because that is the advised maximum time

someone in cardiac arrest can be expected to make a full recovery if a defibrillator is applied AND if good CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) has been undertaken.

Bollington and Macclesfield Community First Responders (BMCFR) have been privileged to have been supported by many amazing fund-raising events over recent years – pub quizzes at The Poachers; Midge and her Easter eggs; Jazz night at the Arts Centre to name but a few. All funds raised go towards new installations and maintaining current ones (where not 'private') with replacement batteries and pads either when used or expired. Even the defibrillators themselves have a life and some will soon need to be considered for replacement. All of which means the fund-raising needs to continue.

BMCFR also run the British Heart Foundation Heartstart course, usually at the Community Centre, which is a free approx. 2.5hr session concentrating on key life support skills, especially CPR (with lots of opportunity to practice this on several 'Annies'). "We've trained hundreds of people to date but there are about 8000 Bollington residents so plenty of opportunities – and not just adults as young local



resident Dylan demonstrates".

So if anyone reading this would be willing to host an installation; or has a private defibrillator that they would be willing to have installed externally for the community; or if you'd like to make a donation, do please get in touch with Ian (ian@bmcrf.org) or Andy (andy@bmcrf.org). If you'd like to attend a Heartstart course please contact Ian.

And one final huge thank you to CPAD hosts and the Bollington folk for all your past and continued donations and support.

Ian Stoner

CPADS IN OUR AREA:

Bollington Cross School; Sweet Kitchen Café; Barrows Butchers; St Johns School; Bull's Head Kerridge; Fire Station; Town Hall; Pavilion on The Rec; Bridgend Centre; The Poachers; Pott Shrigley School; Adlington School; Green Close Methodist Church

NO HASSLE PARTIES

It only takes one child at a sleepover to drop a glass of Ribena/pot of slime/kebab on a duvet to put you off hosting another sleepover in your lifetime (I was once the clumsy-handed child, I remember the rage of the party-girl's mother).

Luckily, Bollington has a local company that provides, sets up and, wait for it, washes all the kit for a child's sleepover party: Perfectly Pitched Parties.



And aside from taking the pain of logistics and clearing up out of your hands, what they do is simply gorgeous. Little tents dressed in either lights or flowers, with arty name tags, bunting and superhero cushions. They've also thought about the kebab-dropping dangers and provide a cute tray table for each child, which holds a (safe) candle in a lantern. The parties cater for as little as 3 children and there are optional add-ons of

pamper baskets and survival kits. Another thing that stood out is that it creates a party with no element of 'forced-fun' – winner.

So the only remaining question in my mind, with a looming birthday, is 'Can my friends and I fit into one of those...?'

Hannah Atkin

www.perfectlypitchedparties.co.uk

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WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

It is not without irony that gardening is not necessarily green.

It can be energy intensive – think growing tender fruits in heated greenhouses. It can be insensitive to local wildlife – think forests of invasive Himalayan balsam in Bollington streams. And it can drive demand for unsustainably sourced materials from around the world – Indian flagstones anyone?

At the same time, gardens have the potential to address some of the great challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, quite literally in our own back yard.

Be it water-conservation, food security or bio-diversity, gardens can contribute to our local efforts to confront the climate chaos. Not only that, but it can be immensely empowering to create the change we want to see, in our little plots of planet earth. So how can we make sure that our gardens are part of the solution, and the problem?

A great place to start is with the concept of permaculture. Permaculture is a design philosophy that borrows ideas from nature to help us create growing spaces that produce more whilst consuming less. Some of the principles are outlined in bold as well as describing how they can help us to put sustainability at the root of how we garden.

First, if energy goes into your garden, permaculture's logic is you need to take some energy out. This means **obtaining a yield**. An efficient route to this, is to **plant perennials** that will crop year-on-year. Both fruit trees and herbs are



a good example – if they thrive abundantly on the Middlewood Way, they'll love your garden! It might feel small, but everything that you pluck from your patch means fewer plastic packets and fewer food miles.

Another appealing quality of permaculture's principles, is that they're refreshingly applicable to **small-scale** projects. This hinges on the recognition that energy conservation extends to you the gardener too.

Something that will resonate with Bollington gardeners is **use space intensively** so you are not wasting energy schlepping around a huge plot. If you think about a forest or hedgerow, thrumming with biodiversity, plants of different size and habit rub along to their mutual benefit. Permaculturalists call this **stacking** – and offer suggestions for **guilds of productive plants** (like the 'three sisters': squash, runner beans and corn) that grow well together and use every inch available.

Another tip is to start your permaculture project right by the back door. This is not simply to keep your plot close at hand, but to integrate your gardening with other activities. Permaculture encourages thinking about the **relative location** of different elements in the garden, and how they work together harmoniously.

Imagine you are cooking your tea – you might have three or four interactions with your garden: a trip out to pick herbs, some water from washing veg to give those herbs a drink; green waste for the compost bin; and then sitting in the sun to eat. It sounds elementary, but the idea of relative location is to plan your space so that it is easy for these things to happen together. At the end of a long day you're unlikely to forage at the far end of the garden for some parsley, but nor do you want to sit by the compost bin!

Photos:

Right: A 'extremely dwarfing' patio apple tree - for even the smallest Bollington Garden

Left: Transition Bollington's herb bed outside the library. Help yourself!

www.permaculture.org.uk



Harmony comes by design.

About keeping things small, **don't bite off more than you can chew**. Every project should be sustainable long-term: you don't want to waste lots of energy on a project that is too big, or on lots of resources for a plan that turns out not to work.

Instead, **work incrementally**, only adding more when you're confident of success. This tendency to observation goes back to the roots of permaculture: **to observe and mimic what nature does best**. Sit back and watch how the different elements of your space interact. Notice areas of sun and shade; where rainfall doesn't reach; the paths you or the dog take to get around; and where different plants (or weeds!) are happiest.

Note it down, and you'll have the beginnings of a map for everything from where to plant what, to the location for your evening gin and tonic spot!

Lastly, and I hope this will come as a relief to budding gardeners and veterans alike, but in the interests of energy efficiency, neatness is to be avoided! Measure your garden in pounds of plums or species of invertebrates: not how straight the edges are!

Ben Darlington



BOLLINGTON

live

To include your event, please e-mail: livedates@happyvalley.org.uk

NOVEMBER

Friday 1st - 8.15pm
Bolly Comedy Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Saturday 2nd - 10am - 3pm
Vintage & Autumn Fair
Bridgend Centre free entry 576311

Saturday 2nd - 10 - 11.30am
Well dressers coffee morning
Community Centre, homemade cakes
and pies for sale, raffle, tombola, entry
£1 inc tea and biscuit

Saturday 2nd - 8pm
Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants
with Paul Harrison
Bollington Jazz Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Wednesday 6th - 7.30pm
Pott Shrigley Flix in the Stix
Village Hall £4 advance £5 on the door
pottflix@gmail.com

Saturday 9th - 7.30pm
Capriccio Choir Concert
St Oswald's Church £10, U16 free
Annie Wood 07983528621
or on the door

Sunday 10th - 10.30am
Remembrance Parade Bollington Brass
Band start at the rec and proceed to the
War Memorial

Monday 11th - 6.30pm
Scibar - Immune System
A talk by Prof David Brough Vale Inn Free

Tuesday 12th - 10am
Men's Probus Club - Christmas Cracker
A talk by Rev. Michael Burgess
Civic Hall Free

Friday 15th - 7.30pm
Flossie Malaviale
Arts Centre £10 online

Sunday 17th - 2.30pm
Cinderella Tour
Arts Centre £7 adult £3 child

Tuesday 19th - 10am
**Women's Probus Club -
The Mitford Girls**
A talk by Shirley Dawson Civic Hall Free

Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd - 7.30pm
**Showtime 2019 by Bollington Light
Opera Group**
Civic Hall £12 ticketsource.co.uk/bolly

Saturday 23rd - 7.30pm
The Sacconi String Quartet
Arts Centre £19 online

Sunday 24th - 7.30pm
Hail Bright Cecilia
Bollington Festival Choir
Arts Centre £10 online

DECEMBER

Wednesday 4th - 7.30pm
Pott Shrigley Flix in the Stix
Village Hall £4 advance £5 on the door
pottflix@gmail.com

Friday 6th - 8.15pm
Bolly Comedy Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Saturday 7th - 8pm
John Hallam and Alex Clarke
with Tom Kincaid's Three Bears
Bollington Jazz Club
Arts Centre £10 online

Tuesday 10th - 10am
Men's Probus Club Members talk
Civic Hall Free

Friday 13th - 8.30pm
Chris Elliott & Caitlin Jones
at Bolly Folk Club
Dog & Partridge online at bollyfolk.com

Tuesday 17th - 10am
**Women's Probus Club - Christmas
Celebration Members talk**
Civic Hall Free

Tuesday 17th - 7.30pm
Messiah For All
Arts Centre £6 bollfestchoir.org.uk 511881

Tuesday 24th - 6pm
Christmas Eve - carols around the tree
Town Hall

JANUARY

Friday 10th to Saturday 18th 7.30pm
Matinee 2pm 11th, 12th & 18th
Hansel & Gretel
Panto at the Arts Centre

Monday 13th - 6.30pm
Scibar - Multisensory World
A talk by Dr Clare Jonas
Vale Inn Free

Sunday 26th - 11am
Coffee Concert
Arts Centre £10 online

FEBRUARY

Monday 10th - 6.30pm
Scibar - Pain
A talk by David Nolan
Vale Inn Free

Saturday 22nd - 7.30pm
The Victoria Quartet
Bollington Chamber Concert
Arts Centre £19 online

MARCH

Saturday 14th - 2-4pm
**Bollington Horticultural Society
& Flower Club**
53rd Spring Show at the Civic Hall contact
Mrs J Burton 572668

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Tuesday

10.30 Craft club
11.30am Reading group
(2nd week in month)
1.30pm Art club

Wednesday

10.15am Guided walk
2pm Mahjong

Thursday

10.30am Creative arts

Friday

10.15am Crochet
10.30am Community choir

MONTHLY EVENTS

Bollington Cross and Lowerhouse WI
2nd Monday of the month
7.30pm, Community Centre,
Ovenhouse Lane

Love Bollington Market
2nd Sunday of the month
10am-3pm, see Facebook page

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

Sip & Knit
2nd Wednesday
8pm Vale Inn Free 575147

Knit and Natter
2nd & 4th Thursday 2-4pm
Bollington Library Free



Arts Centre tickets:
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

HORT. SOC. NEWS BLOG BOOKINGS



This year several members of Bollington Horticultural Society joined the brave 25 residents of Bollington who opened their gardens to the public. It was a great weekend and most people came away with ideas how they could improve their own garden.

The society also had a trip to Barnsdale gardens in Rutland, Leicester, the home of the late Geoff Hamilton, who was a much-loved host of Gardener's World for 17 years. It was unusual in that it consisted of 37 small enclosed gardens, each having a different theme and colour scheme. Because it was June, many of the gardens were surrounded by many varieties of beautiful fragrant roses. The garden was and is often featured in Gardeners World.

Ruth and Graham, our superb box office team, have decided it is time to retire after 15 years' invaluable service, so there are new ticket arrangements.

You can buy tickets in a number of ways:

Online at TicketSource.co.uk/bolly

It is simple and easy. You can choose your own seats and your tickets will arrive by email for you to print at home. There is no booking fee.

By phone/text to Erin on 07726 500681

By email to Erin bollylightopera@gmail.com

A heartfelt thank you from everyone at BLOG to Ruth and Graham for their amazing support and dedication over the years!

The BLOG Committee

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THE JOY OF REPETITION

Have you ever bemoaned the fact that your life is full of routine? If so, you're not alone. But if we think a little deeper about this 'problem', we find we can be our own worst enemies, because we are not always willing to help ourselves to think or feel differently.

For the few minutes that it will take you to read my words, I would like to provide you with the opportunity to believe that repetition can connect us to experiences that are uniquely personal. So, before we go any further, you must try to put aside the notion that doing the same thing is boring. Once you have done this, the story of how I came to appreciate the joy of repetition can begin.

Some of you will already know that I was fortunate to be one of the seven lucky individuals who spoke at the inaugural TEDx Bollington event during June. Even more of you will probably know me because you may see me smiling as I walk to and from Visual Sense, which is the design studio I founded in 2010, here in Bollington.

My profession provides me with an enviable advantage in the pursuit of unique experiences borne out of the mundane - I am a creative - a Creative Director to be precise. Since 1993 I have conceptualised visual solutions and strategies for countless clients, ranging from multi-nationals to individuals.

The design process is all about portraying abstract concepts, thoughts and stories visually. In order to do this, I look for exuberance and relevance in equal measure. I allow my mind to be distracted by the unfeasibly large and the often over-looked small. These extremes are vital ingredients that influence my creativity. Another very important component of the process is positivity. In fact, this has become Visual Sense's ethos, because in a creative environment

To view
Andrew's TEDx
talk visit

[youtu.be/
LysBPngh78I](https://youtu.be/LysBPngh78I)

[www.
visualsense.com](http://www.visualsense.com)



enthusiasm is undeniably infectious – in a good way!

Last year, after recovering from the wonderful surprise of being invited to become a TEDx speaker, I began to formulate my concept surrounding TEDx Bollington's theme, which was 'The Art of Connection'.

A story began to unfold that revolved around my daily adventures along familiar pathways and fields as I walked to and from the studio. Basically, these repetitive journeys were nothing more than commutes, something most of us do every day.

My story was not difficult to compose. I have always carefully 'observed' what is around me, as opposed to simply taking such things for granted. This is a vital part of how we can find joy in everyday occurrences. Merely walking through the countryside or along a street is not enough to absorb unique nuances, because

we are swept along by a world that is all about nose-to-tail and sooner-rather-than-later.

I am sure you will be the first to admit that your weekend 'relaxing stroll' around the hills of Bollington can be a hurried affair. Even if you are not taking the journey at pace, it will certainly be negatively distracted by 'digital interference' from your mobile.

But let's return to the mundane – your daily commute, for example. Try to take just 15 seconds to pause, slow your senses down, and be aware of what you see or hear. You might be surprised. Like me, you might notice how you can strategically position yourself to rest and roll the sun across the top of a hill or a roof. It'll make you smile and think 'I didn't know I could do that!'.

The sky is a wonderful canvas for observation. The chances are that you have probably never looked directly up above you into the sky.



WELL DONE BECKY!

You'll notice how quickly the clouds scuttle by, and if you're lucky, you might be startled by the appearance of an upside-down rainbow, which looks like a smile beaming down upon you, called a circumzenithal arc (go on, Google it!). Talking of rainbows, did you know that you can see them in waterfalls? During one of my morning commutes, I walked towards the spluttering little waterfall near to Ingersley Mill, and as the low sunlight caught the water droplets splashing off the rocks, it created a miniature rainbow. This was such a joyful discovery and a unique moment, which manifested itself within the repetition of a daily commute. You don't need to go in search of a waterfall to have the same experience though. All you need is a sunny day, and a will to wash your car ... As you hose it down, stand with your back to the sun and hey-presto, a rainbow will appear within the spray. I'll guarantee that this will raise another smile! (photo top left)

I have also taken the search for unique experiences a stage further.

At the same time every day during early December a couple of years ago, I repeatedly watched the sun edge closer and closer to White Nancy, until both objects precisely aligned to create the beautiful, fleeting symmetry shown in the photo. During the alignment, two people walked into the scene and created this unique moment in time. The view took my breath away, and because I am a hopeless romantic, I call this composition

'The Proposal' (photo bottom left).

Whilst thinking about what I had just witnessed, I realised that a few days later I could perform real science. By continuing to repeat my observations, I could prove that the Northern hemisphere tilts away from the sun during Winter ... I asked myself 'I wonder if the Sun will rest upon White Nancy at its lowest ebb during the Solstice?' You can see the answer for yourself (photo below).

I could show you more striking images of unique occurrences that have revealed themselves during my daily commute, but sadly I am running out of space! But if you look at my Instagram account (@VisualSense), you will discover more of my day-to-day photography.

I hope that I have succeeded in providing you with an inkling of the unexpected joy we can discover within the daily routine of our lives. Through the experiences I have described, I connect myself to the landscape, pathways and the trees. I smile when I meet the same people, so I connect with them. I am also able to connect with myself because Bollington is special and provides me with a true sense of place.

When all these ingredients combine, they create the essence of what I believe is 'The Art of Connection'.

Andrew Greenwood

Becky Reardon, Managing Director of Embrace Marketing, has won Businesswoman of the Year (less than 50 staff) at The English Women's Awards – North.

The awards welcomed over 200 guests at the Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, on Monday 1st July 2019, in a celebration dedicated to women in business.

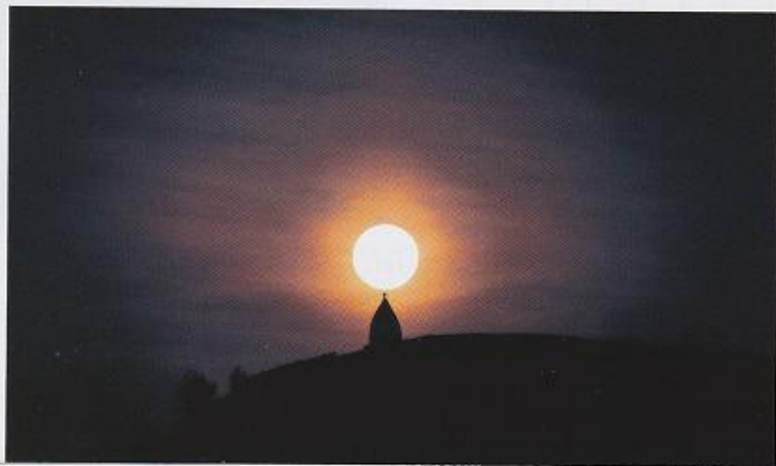
The awards ceremony aimed to showcase the contribution of women to various industries and professions such as Law, Medicine, Technology, Arts, Sport, Education and many more.



You might be familiar with Embrace Marketing as their office is based in Clarence Mill in Bollington. Established in 2015, they have now expanded to a team of 9 multiskilled creatives and integrated marketers.

On winning the award, Becky commented, 'It was fabulous to win the award for Businesswoman of the Year! As many will know, the first few years of starting up a business are super challenging and it's great to celebrate our efforts and 4 years of Embrace Marketing with this award! It's a real team effort at Embrace and we wouldn't be able to keep growing without everyone's focus and energy to adapt and evolve as the business changes.'

The team at Embrace enjoys being part of Bollington's business community, having recently supported TEDxBollington with PR, social media and website design.





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3 PEAKS CHALLENGE RAISES £7.5K

Following the last few years of local hike money-raising challenges, a team of 30+ Adelphi Healthcare Solutions Group staff took on the National 3 Peaks Challenge climbing Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and Snowdon in Wales.

Most achieved this exhausting challenge within 24 hours of total travel and others in a targeted 13 hours of walking, all completing the round trip of 820 miles from their offices in the Adelphi Mill in Bollington, an initiative led by COO David Harrison.

This immense challenge was to raise money for charity – and as it was 3 Peaks we therefore chose 3 charities:- East Cheshire Hospice, Mind, and The Christie at

Macclesfield. Alongside their own fundraising, Adelphi were again delighted to receive recognition and support funding for the new Christie in Macclesfield from the Enterprise Foundation.

Stuart Cooper CEO said 'I am extremely proud of our team of staff from our offices here in Bollington, London and Amsterdam, who took on this difficult challenge in extremely poor weather conditions, with pouring rain and 45mph winds in some places. They worked together to achieve this fantastic result and have been impressively supported to raise this fantastic amount for the charities.'

Some of the Adelphi 3 Peaks team and the Enterprise Foundation big cheque presentation to The Christie, specifically for the new development at Macclesfield

Adelphi Healthcare Solutions Group in Bollington have retained their headquarters base in the Adelphi Mill since its inception in 1986, and have consistently grown both within the Mill being a major local employer and sponsor of many local community events.

Well done to all the team for raising an amazing £7500!

Alison Geary



BOLLINGTON BIBLE TRADITION

In the summer pupils leaving our Bollington Primary Schools attended a special event in the Civic Hall when they were presented with a modern child-friendly Bible by Cllr Roland Edwards, our Town Mayor.



Dai Jones, retired RE teacher from Tytherington High School, delivered an inspiring talk about moving on in education, encouraging the children to be ambitious and to make the most of the many opportunities available to them.

The ceremony was well attended by

parents, grandparents and friends, many of whom remembered receiving a bible when they themselves reached the end of their primary education in Bollington. As this became a Bollington tradition in 1974, hopefully, many of our readers still possess such a gift!

How it all began

In the days after the cotton mills began to operate in Bollington, children were taught to read and write in classes held in the factories, in homes and in Sunday Schools. The Methodists established a non-denominational Sunday School as long ago as 1788. In 1861, a Sunday School was built where the Civic Hall and the Library now stand. They called it 'The Large Sunday School'. The Bollington Urban District Council and the Cheshire County Council demolished the building in 1972 and built the new Library and Civic Hall on the site. Two large headstones with the name of the Bollington Sunday School were

The Sunday School Trust Trustees: Mrs Heather Cann, Mrs Anne Fenton, Mrs Maggie O'Donnel, Mrs Jenny Thorpe, Cllr Mrs Angela Williams

fixed in the wall opposite the Library to remind people of what had stood there before.

A charitable Trust was set up to make use of the money realised from the sale of the old building. In the years since 1974, the Trust has assisted schools with swimming tuition fees, libraries, computers, landscaping as well as the presentation of a bible to every school leaver. Many young people have been funded for expeditions, pilgrimages to the Holy Land and grants given to youth organisations, Football Clubs, Sunday Schools and the Bollington Festival.

However, due to reduced interest rates funding for similar activities has become impossible. If you would like to support the work of The Sunday School Trust please contact the chairman, Mrs Audrey Williams audhar46@outlook.com,

Jenny Thorpe



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THE FACES OF BOLLINGTON

Simon Nottage and Bollington Photographic Group are excited to launch: "Populous", the 'Faces of Bollington project' designed to capture the portrait of everyone living in Bollington.

Over the last few years, Bollington has become a choice destination for people looking to relocate and enjoy a better quality of life. For those of us who are fortunate to live here, the current Bollington is far removed from its grimy industrial past.

Our town's original character is changing and may soon be gone forever. Before this happens, everyone in Bollington is invited to take part in our major community photography project

The thousands of portraits taken will form a permanent work of art, recording the diversity of Bollington's population. This archive will be of immense value to historians, sociologists and anthropologists. It will be exhibited and permanently kept for future generations and may even be included in a time capsule for the town.

**'PLEASE COME AND
BE PHOTOGRAPHED
AS PART OF OUR PROJECT.'**

The finished images will be posted on the photo group's website and will also be available to purchase as archival high quality photo prints.

'My idea for this project came from viewing the work of the acclaimed

Icelandic photographer: Andlit Baerjarins. <https://andlitbaerjarins.com/english/>.

'I contacted him and with his blessing and encouragement, Andlit's iconic "Our Town Faces" project formed the inspiration for our major undertaking' explained Simon.

There are similarities between the community spirit of Andlit's town and that of Bollington and you can read about his success in photographing his town's residents, on the 'about us' page of his website. With sponsorship from local firms and community, Andlit went on to hold a major exhibition of this work in the Reykjanes Art Museum in 2015.

'The character of a community is mirrored in the faces of its occupants. Collectively, these people form a snapshot of the community's soul. Now is the ideal time to record Bollington's demographic changes for posterity.'

'Obviously trying to put together a project of this nature will involve considerable time and investment. Our time is free, but to make this project a reality, the photographic group are looking for modest grants and/or donations to cover the initial start-up costs, materials and printing.' said Simon

With your financial help, pop-up photo studios should be appearing in various locations throughout the town.

If you can help with a donation, or an offer of a small accessible space

for a pop-up studio, please contact Simon Nottage on 07411 521179.

Times and places will be posted on Bollington's notice boards and on social media. It will only take a couple of moments to take your portrait, so keep a lookout for the studios and please become part of this exciting new project.

Simon Nottage



**Bollington
Photographic
Group**

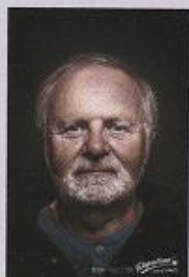
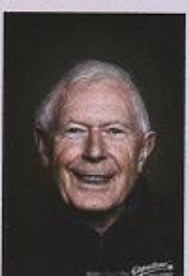
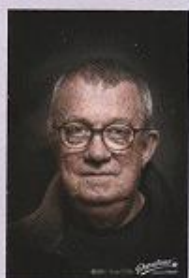
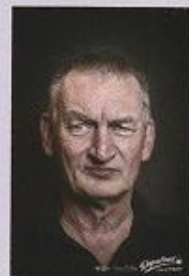
The photography group is friendly, and welcoming for all those interested in photography, from beginners using a mobile phone to the more proficient with digital SLR's

Unlike some camera clubs, they are an informal group of like-minded individuals who simply enjoy taking photographs in and around our community.

Regular monthly meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month, at Bollington Printshop and every year there are seasonal, organised photo walks in the surrounding area.

www.bollingtonphotogroup.org

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the 'Faces of Bollington' project



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BOLLINGTON RAILWAY - COULD IT EVER RETURN?

Memories of the local railway have been aplenty this year, and I can add a few of my own.

In the days of steam, I would waken as the 07.36 to Macclesfield trundled over the viaduct outside our house. This was the cue to get out of bed, rush through breakfast, then gallop up the path to Bollington's station. Meanwhile, the 07.36 had morphed into something else, and was on its way back from Macc. At Bollington it might wait for a minute or so while travellers such as myself dashed from the ticket office, arms waving and heavily out of breath.

I don't remember buying a season ticket, or even a weekly. The 1950s were not an era of 'Special Offers', Student Passes and that kind of thing. The slamming of many doors signified that 20 or so passengers had climbed on board. The carriages, I might add, were of the multi-compartment type, free of any corridor or, indeed, a WC. The windows, like much else, were heavily engrimed. It was a surprise, sometimes, to find other people in there already.

More travellers joined the train later, of course, at Higher Poynton, Middlewood, and so forth. There was a choice of routes beyond Romiley, but our train took a direct one, rather than the loop past Hyde.

It was all rather homespun. Even the diesel railcars that came along later had a folksy appeal, and the timetable they followed stayed the same. But think of this: with numerous stops on the way, the 08.12 from Bollington arrived in

central Manchester at 08.57. Could that be done in a car today?

While walking various dogs along the old railway route, I have wondered, often, if the train will ever return. The line closed in 1970, without any effort beforehand to smarten the outfit up. To the end, it had twin sets of tracks and no notion whatsoever of ticketing machines, or paying on the train.

The late night service was hopeless; even a moderate Saturday night in the city was a risky undertaking. When I went to Manchester to hear the lion of jazz trumpeting, Henry 'Red' Allen, I had a choice between missing the last few numbers as the great man hit his stride, or getting the midnight express to London. This stopped in Macc, and also at Stoke, which was useful when I overslept and had to hitch-hike back. Even from Macclesfield there was the lengthy walk home. Taxis were a rarity and too expensive for me.

Mysteriously, when the line through Bollington closed, a portion north of Marple was spared. Possibly, there were greater numbers of passengers from the station there; maybe they had been more vocal. It demonstrates, perhaps, how close the rest was to being saved.

The age of the car had yet to arrive: neither my mother nor father could drive, and that was not uncommon. Soon, though, car ownership would be upon us in spades. It was the primary justification for closing railways down, though Marple, strangely, was spared.



An afternoon train from Manchester stands in Bollington. Ahead of it, out of picture, was a bridge across Grimshaw Lane - now demolished

Unfortunately, various critical structures on the rest of the route have been demolished. The entry to Macclesfield station, on girders above the River Bollin, had always been troublesome. An alternative route behind Tytherington School might have been taken, but the presence of the Silk Road makes that harder now. Likewise, the removal of the bridge across Grimshaw Lane has left us a gaping hole.

But from Bollington northwards the route seems intact. Stations have gone, the one at Bollington completely, but a pathway for tracks remains. The iron bridge at Middlewood may need attention, but is still there.

A railway then could be provided, with Bollington as a terminus for starters: single track, with periodic request stops and payment on board. There would have to be separation between this and the Middlewood Way, as the route has now become, but that, surely, is possible.

Why not? There are, of course, counter-arguments. But think of all those cars, nose to tail, not just in Manchester, but on roads between: time-wasting, costly to provide and socially intrusive. We are supposed to be saving the planet.

Trains again? I won't be around when it happens, but my bet is that it will.

Bollington Station, 1960. Diesel railcars replaced steam haulage in the late 1950s. The timetable remained the same



BOLLINGTON BY JOSE SPINKS

Jose is a well-known person in Bollington, particularly if you are involved in the Festival, or visit the Art's Centre, the Bridgend, or St Gregory's Church.

Jose is originally from Portsmouth and married to Will Spinks, another stalwart of Bollington Community volunteers. Jose and Will, a Geordie, met at Georgetown University in America and eventually came to Bollington in 1988 via, the North East and Hazel Grove. They had one child and were expecting another; Bollington looked like a great place to bring up a family.

Jose has taught English at Poynton High School, The Kings School, Fallibroome and in Delaware. She now facilitates an Adult Literature Group at the Wilmslow Guild.

I caught up with her at the Café Waterside, a favourite haunt of us both.

When you first moved to Bollington, how did you become so involved in the community?

When I first moved here I looked for a Church, and became, and still am, very involved in church affairs at St Gregory's. Next, because I love singing, I joined Dr John and his Festival Choir at the Arts Centre. I've pranced around on stage for the Festival Players too, enjoying a number of roles and producing Wedding Photo. Then, it only seemed fair to put a bit of my own effort back in to this brilliant community venue, so I served on the organising committee for several years alongside the other volunteers.

How did your involvement in the Festival begin?

I was very excited by the fact that Bollington had a community-run Festival, a venture way more ambitious than is usual. I made a few tentative suggestions which were well-received and was asked to deliver a visiting theatre performance. It all developed from there. I led a lively Literature Group, which sparked a lot of ideas which delivered Book-Crossing, Postapoems, an Internet Novel involving 17 writers, and talks by local and visiting novelists, journalists and poets. When Carol Ann Duffy was named Poet Laureate, her first public performance was in Bollington's Methodist Church. A set of four interconnected short stories appeared in Bollington Live and came out of the Festival literature Group too and a "Just Jose" programme on Canalside Radio – another of our town's rare treasures.

When did you join the Executive Committee?

I stepped up from the general Festival Committee in 2011 and became a Festival trustee and Programme Director ready

for the 2014 Festival and again in 2019.

How do you think the Festival maintains its momentum?

It is a growing and evolving organisation, each generation brings something new and dynamic, which energises it. If an experienced Committee takes the lead and encourages and supports new volunteers, then it grows contemporary interests and skills – recruiting people ready to take a lead next time. With the security of financial 'seedcorn' to guarantee a next Festival and a detailed pattern to follow, the legacy is protected and the Festival moves forward. But one thing to beware is exhausting people – even the organisers must enjoy their own Festival.

So you feel that Bollington is a positive place that encourages community?

We live in a good-natured place, embracing old-fashioned ideas of mutual effort and support. I am always encouraged by Bollington's Remembrance Day parade and the Christmas Eve carol singing and love occasions when we gather together.

We're used to enjoying annual exhibitions, fell-races, Walking and Beer Festivals and Well-Dressing weekends. It's brilliant. We live in a warm, friendly place of mutual effort and support. I suspect we take much for granted, like junior football teams, folk and jazz clubs, Girl Guides etc. Who knows how many hidden hours of labour and committee meetings lie behind our tidy towpath or a weeded flowerbed?

Is there anything you would change?

Local Facebook is a good way to celebrate and exchange views but I'm not too keen when posts lead to bad feeling and insults. Something not to be changed willy nilly is our wonderful countryside and green spaces – so we must fight to influence how Bollington develops.

Now the Festival is over, at least for a short time, what are your plans?

Rest, recovery and a bit of a break.

How do you relax?

I read a lot, listen to music, go to the theatre. And my dog Inca, never says no to a walk.

Sandy Milsom



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LOOKING COOL IN THE POOL

It was a long, quiet summer at Bollington Health and Leisure waiting for our pool to re-open, but we are now pleased to announce that the renovations went swimmingly and the pool is open!

We are continuously looking for ways to improve and be a hub of sporting and leisure needs for everyone. In recent years we have redeveloped the gym, refurbished areas throughout the centre, introduced a new café and seen an increase in popularity with our classes and sport within the centre. Therefore, we knew it was time for us to pay some attention to the pool and we are thrilled with the results.

The beloved pool first opened in 1977 and all the original 11,000 tiles have been replaced, filled with 111 fire engine tanks' worth of water and decked out with a new colour scheme. As well as the tiling the guttering and drainage has been renovated and new storage for pool-side equipment has been designed and installed. The modernised pool area is a sight to behold: we were extremely excited to restart our normal pool operations, public sessions and, of course, welcome back all our little swimmers for their lessons as the new term started this September.

Bollington Health and Leisure is completely self-funded and improvements would not have been possible without the fundraising efforts, such as the junior triathlon; The Bollington 10K; Pub quizzes at The Poachers and The Lord Clyde; and our sponsor tile raffle. All of these have contributed to reaching our target of £15,000 in support of the pool project. There is still a little left to go but we want to personally thank our members and the community for their generosity.

We hope that you enjoy the new facility and that the pool project represents how much the continued support and loyalty means to us.

Justine Redwood



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Bollington Live! wishes to thank our local sponsors for their essential support. They have enabled our community publication to continue into its *twenty sixth* year.

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