



BOLLINGTON

Live

Issue 78 Winter 2020

LOVE BOLLINGTON BUSINESS

MAD ABOUT POWER

NATURE ON OUR DOORSTEP





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HEY, EWE!



To name a lamb visit our just giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chris-thompson71 or to donate cash or cheque call 07584 639047

The lambing season is upon us, and for the second year running, we are launching 'Name a Lamb' in aid of Maggie's, Manchester (part of The Christie). To take part, we ask you name a lamb and donate a minimum of £5 per lamb on our just giving page.

In return we will mark the name and Facebook/email you a photo on our Facebook site. We look forward to naming lots of lambs for you all.

Helen Sheldon/Chris Thompson

MAGGIES CENTRE

Maggie's is there for anyone and everyone affected by cancer, offering a programme of support that has been shown to strengthen physical and emotional wellbeing.

Built alongside the Christie, Maggie's is a calm, uplifting place to visit just for a cuppa or for support from professional staff. The centre offers practical advice about benefits and eating well; emotional support from qualified experts; and is a friendly place to meet other people; or a calming space simply to sit quietly.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



An eclectic mix of articles awaits you in this issue. It is always a pleasure to read what is sent to us and to learn what a vibrant and caring community we live in. Lambs are ready to be named again, there's an update from the Bridgend Centre and a lovely historical article about a famous woman writer – Emma Frances Brooke – who was born in Bollington in 1844.

Please take a moment to read the transport article, sent in by the Transition Bollington group. There's a survey they would like us all to fill in. I hope you find something you want to read. Also we have news from two of our village schools – it great to hear what the younger folk of Bollington are up to these days.

Thank you to all who spontaneously sent in articles and photographs. 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.

Date for next copy:
15th May 2020

Annette

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

NATURE IN OUR BACKYARD



*Photo:
Darren's
bug hotel*

Children growing up in Bollington, surrounded by woods, fields and hills, are lucky to be able to connect with the natural world around them. Schools, youth organisations and environmental groups help in fostering a love of nature, which hopefully will remain with them throughout their lives.

On the Waterhouse Mill estate positive steps are being taken to help children connect with the natural world where they live. The development on this estate has included a commitment to encourage wildlife. A riverside walk was part of the estate planning, and it forms a link to the paths through the recreation ground and the Middlewood Way. It provides a delightful path alongside the river, which is home to many animals and a great place to visit. Kingfishers and dippers have been spotted and a heron is a regular visitor, the frequency of his visits indicating that fish are in plentiful supply in the river.

Residents have put up bird feeders in their gardens which, in turn, have attracted nuthatches, treecreepers, bullfinches and a variety of tits – long-tailed tits, blue tits and great

tits. The woods behind the estate echo to the sound of owls and wood pigeons, buzzards wheel above the trees and a sparrowhawk has been sighted. At dusk in the spring and summer, bats can be spotted swooping from under the viaduct and catching insects along the river.

Residents pay an annual fee for regular ground maintenance of the communal land, which means they have a vested interest in the site. The footpath has proved popular with residents, local people and walkers. However, it is not a designated public right of way, and residents hope that the public will respect the path.

The very active Residents' Association has worked hard to encourage those who live here, especially children, to enjoy and respect the wildlife that shares our backyard. In the late summer a bat walk along the river was organised. The use of bat detectors, the wealth of bat knowledge shared by Paul Cassidy, the maintenance company manager and Judy Snowball, a member of the Residents' Association, was exciting and informative, and the children loved the experience. Several varieties of bats were identified: the common pipistrelle, the soprano pipistrelle and Daubenton's bat.

Residents have worked hard to clear rubble left behind on the riverside after the building work. The site maintenance company have planted spring bulbs. Some residents have done a bit of 'guerrilla gardening', planting native wildflowers in the area cleared from rubble. Hopefully

these flowers will support a growing population of insects, which in turn will support birds and bats. Chris Holohan, Secretary of the Residents' Association, has worked hard to raise plants to populate these riverside areas.

The insects on the estate have been provided with a prime piece of real estate, designed and built by Darren Broadhurst. Resident Darren's amazing bug house is a four-storey structure with a basement and a pitched roof. The children were very much involved in stuffing the house with materials to attract many different minibeasts to take up residence, from bees and wasps to ladybirds, lacewings, moths, butterflies, earwigs, woodlice and even hedgehogs.

The maintenance company donated a small bee house to attract the solitary bees and have offered to donate nesting boxes. Residents have also collected fallen logs and branches to create a log pile for minibeasts to call home. In the summer a minibeast safari is planned to show the children how they have helped these tiny creatures to survive.

Foxes, squirrels and many species of small mammals roam the area and there is also a badger sett on the estate with an exclusion zone to protect it. The riverside area is constantly improving and provides a delightful setting for all to enjoy.

Waterhouse Mill is just one of the areas in Bollington that is helping young people to value nature on their doorstep and to take steps to ensure it thrives in the future.

Sandy Milsom

LOVE BOLLINGTON BUSINESS

On 29 November 2019, it was my pleasure to go along (at 7.45am!) to the Café Waterside to witness the pre-launch of the Love Bollington Business network. The café was full of local business people, all enjoying a delicious breakfast of coffee and tea cakes sponsored by Andrew Langdon of North West Wills.

The host for the event, Steve Brewer of the Café Waterside, opened proceedings by explaining that what had attracted him to the network was that Love Bollington Business was a bit different, and not a platform for sales pitches or referral networking. There would be no formal agenda, just a shared enthusiasm to take best advantage of the fact that Bollington is a thriving business hub. Andrew agreed adding, *'the great support of everyone here and networking is a natural part of business people coming together at these sort of events'*

Presiding over the event was Vikki Wray, from Bollington Printshop. Vikki announced that the official launch of Love Bollington Business would take place early in 2020, and that there will then be varied events throughout the year to offer the opportunity to learn, support and socialise together in an attempt to ensure people, businesses and Bollington itself reach their full potential

Love Bollington Business is one of the initiatives that has naturally developed from the Bollington Business Forum. Sara Knowles, the Chair of the Forum was there to support the event.

The Bollington Business Forum strategy is as follows:

Purpose: To provide information, advice and support for Bollington-based businesses

Values: Inclusivity. Empowerment. Influence. Innovation.

Mission: To support businesses by providing access to information, advice, support and networks to empower businesses to grow sustainably and profitably.

Vision: To make Bollington an attractive place to work where businesses can grow and thrive. Its businesses will attract and retains talent, provide high quality employment and ultimately support the long-term prosperity and wellbeing of Bollington residents, business owners and employees.

Love Bollington Business intends to enforce the mission. Vikki explained that as a micro-business owner herself, alongside her husband Matt, she has not just had to understand her trade (she having previously been a lawyer and Matt the one having the vast experience at the Printshop) but everything that goes with running a business too: marketing, bookkeeping,

Love Bollington Business can be found on Facebook @lovebollington or Instagram @love.bollington.business and contacted via lovebollingtonbusiness@gmail.com



accounts, sales etc and that at times it has been daunting but through speaking with people in a similar position she realised that so much to running a business effectively is not just what you know but who you know and Bollington is full of resourceful businesses and people who can educate, support and socialise together.

Claire Moreland & Vikki Wray



A MARK OF QUALITY

Bollington St John's School is delighted to announce it has been awarded the Early Years Quality Mark.

The Quality Mark award celebrates and recognises high standards in early years provision. The award takes account of recent studies in early childhood education and a global understanding of best practice for our youngest children.

After completing a 10-section audit and preparing evidence showing high standards, an inspector visits to ensure the school deserves the award.

Mrs Walker, Headteacher, said: *'We are delighted to have achieved this award, which serves to confirm the excellent Early Years provision we have at St John's.'*

Melanie Walker



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EMMA FRANCES BROOKE - ONE OF OUR OWN

There are many interesting people who have formed a part of Bollington's long history, but none more lost to time than the fiction writer Emma Frances Brooke (1844–1926). Compared with Elizabeth Gaskell and George Eliot during her lifetime for the subject matter of her fiction and the beauty and complexity of her writing style, Brooke might be counted as one of Bollington's most famous but little-known woman residents.

She was born at Limefield House on 22 December 1844, to Joseph and Anne Brooke (née Swindells). She joined a large family of five older siblings: three brothers and two sisters. Another sister came along in 1847, but died a year later. Tragically, in 1849, two months after giving birth to a son, Emma's mother Anne died at 42 of peritonitis. A year later her father remarried and four half-sisters were added to the family between 1851 and 1856. Emma, like all of her siblings, was baptised at St Christopher's Church in Pott Shrigley by the Revd James Sumner.

Emma's life growing up in Bollington was quite privileged, for she came from a close-knit, wealthy family of mill owners and cotton masters. Her grandfather Martin Swindells II and her father Joseph held joint ownership of Clarence Mill, along with her uncle George Swindells and her oldest brothers, John and Joseph Brooke, Jr.

By the time he died in 1872, her father owned estates in London and Manchester, and had made provision in his will for both the educational advancement and financial independence of his daughters, whether they married or not. He had a progressive attitude towards women's education, one that Emma took full advantage of when she left Bollington to attend Newnham College, Cambridge in 1872.

At Newnham she joined a group of seven pioneering women who made up the first class of scholars in this newly formed women's institution. Between 1872 and 1874, she took classes and studied history, literature, logic and political economy. She returned to Bollington after finishing her studies to live with her brother Joseph Brooke, Jr. at Hollin Hall (now Hollin House Hotel & Restaurant). Despite having inherited money from her father, at some point in the late 1870s she lost most of her fortune suddenly; this financial loss precipitated her move to London, where she became a self-supporting author.

Emma Brooke lived in London for over forty years, yet she never lost her love for the north of England, particularly the Cheshire countryside, which she brought to life in her fiction. Under the pseudonym E. Fairfax Byrnie, her autobiographical novel based on Bollington, Rowan and Sons (1882), was serialised in the Manchester Weekly Times. This gripping tale focuses on the plight of cotton-mill workers and the cotton masters who employed them during the cotton famine of 1861–65. A second novel, A Fair Country Maid (1883), examines the relationship between landowners and labourers and contains a character modelled on Alfred Gatley, the Kerridge sculptor.

In London, Emma became interested in socialism and the Fabian Society; she joined the Society on 2 October 1885 and there met such literary and political figures as George Bernard Shaw, Sidney and Beatrice Webb and Edward Pease, who would become lifelong friends. Her position in the Fabian Society and its history has long been overlooked; not only was she a member of the Executive Committee between 1893 and 1896, but she also was one of the co-founders of the Fabian Women's



Photos:

Above: Emma in 1909 at age 65

Background: Limefield House taken 25 March 2017 by Tim Boddington

www.happyvalley.org.uk/brooke

For more information about Emma Frances Brooke's life and writings readers can order a critical edition of her 1894 novel, 'A Superfluous Woman', which includes an introduction and notes by Barbara Tilley, online through Victorian Secrets Press (victoriansecrets.co.uk) or at Amazon.com

Group, which formed in 1908.

Emma Brooke wrote novels, short stories, plays, poems and political essays, but it was her 1894 novel, 'A Superfluous Woman', that changed her literary career and made her famous. This racy romance is set in the Scottish Highlands and follows the life of the aristocratic Jessamine Halliday and her love affair with a handsome crofter; laced with sensual moments of passion and political discussions about women's rights, the novel caused a scandal in the literary world but was incredibly popular with readers.

In 1912, at the age of 68, she published her last novel, 'The House of Robershaye', and then stopped writing entirely. She never married or had children. She died on 28 November 1926 at the age of 81 from 'old age and cardiac degeneration'. She is buried in the cemetery in Addlestone, Surrey with her sister Mary Eleanor, to whose children she willed her last remaining monies when she died.

Barbara Tilley, PhD

MAKING MUSIC

We featured Paul Kerryson a few years ago in *Bollington Live!* when he was awarded an MBE for his services to the arts and theatre. Catching up with Paul recently, we found that there's been a major change in his life – he is now the CEO of Buxton Opera House, perhaps the closest workplace to home he has ever known! Here's what he had to say ...

Originally from Ireland, I moved to Kerridge almost thirty years ago while working for the Library Theatre in Manchester. Appointed Artistic Director at the renowned Haymarket Theatre in Leicester in 1992, I was faced with the dilemma of whether to sell up an idyllic location or buy a property in the rolling hills of Leicestershire.

On the assumption that I would be in Leicester for a couple of years, I decided to hang on to the house in Kerridge, returning to the Happy Valley every weekend. Little



Photos:

Top: Paul at a rehearsal

Bottom: Malachy auditioning for Annie

did I know that I would be at the Haymarket Theatre, then artistic director at the new Curve Theatre, for 23 years!

Nevertheless, I returned every weekend during this time, getting involved in many local events and even becoming organist at St Gregory's, where I have been pulling out the stops for many a wedding and funeral!

Prior to my directing career, I performed in many musicals including the part of Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show* and in Cameron Mackintosh's *Godspell*. I was also performing as a young dancer with the London Festival Ballet in the Nureyev Festival at the London Coliseum.

Having spent years in the new high-tech Curve Theatre, the move to the opulent Edwardian Buxton Opera House has been quite a change; however, the eclectic

programme attracts big audiences to a magical theatre experience.

This year I am thrilled to be directing a Sondheim work – this time the brilliant musical comedy masterpiece *A Little Night Music*, which will be part of the Buxton International Festival in July.

The sumptuous production of this classic promises to be a special summer night out and should attract musical fans from all over the country. Originally starring Glynis Johns and Hermione Gingold, the show contains some of Sondheim's most beautiful and lyrical music, including the show-stopper 'A Weekend in the Country' and the haunting 'Send in the Clowns'.

Outside work, many will know me by my Irish Terrier Malachy, as we both trudge through the muddy fields of Bollington.

Paul Kerryson

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NOW TO ABANDON MY STICK! RAMBLINGS

I was diagnosed with Myeloma, a blood cancer, in 2015 and had to have an operation on my right femur to support the bone and prevent it from fracturing.

After being on crutches and then a walking stick for a very long time, I was told I would always have to use a walking stick on account of the operation I had undergone. I carried on using my stick, trying to build up the strength in my leg by gradually building up how far I could walk. My aim was to reach the top of Savio House Drive (I live just off Ingersley Road) as I used to love that walk, then over the fields and back down Oakenbank. The first time I actually reached The Poachers Pub was a great achievement to me, but then I had to walk all the way back home and couldn't chance popping in for a glass of wine to celebrate, as my balance would have gone!

I tackled Savio Drive in stages, achieving different landmarks all the way up – first up to the layby on the right just after the cattle grid, then the first copse of trees, then the conker trees getting to the last one and eventually as far as the two gates either side of the drive which lead over the fields – the day I did that was really special!

I carried on with my daily walks, using my walking stick, all the time building up strength and determination but with the realisation that I could not do it without the help of my walking stick keeping me upright.

Towards the end of 2018, I started to feel very frustrated at having to use a walking stick all the time and was just wishing I could find a way to be without it. It was then that I saw a poster advertising Hannah Atkin Physiotherapy – Move Well, Get Strong – with classes held at Bollington Leisure Centre – so I plucked up the courage to go along and see if she thought it possible for me to get rid of my stick.



Hannah decided we could work on it and see how we progressed, and she started off by studying the way I was actually walking and encouraged me to adjust my posture so I was not actually leaning to one side all the time, which I faithfully practised. There were around 5/6 people in the classes, all age groups, all with different problems which Hannah was able to identify and try to put right and she seems to be able to remember each individual and adjust the exercises to suit each of us. We do exercises to build up our strength, increase our flexibility and improve our balance. I was not able to get up and down from the floor when I started so she had to give me a hand, but now I am able to get up and down unsupported (if rather ungainly!) but I manage it. She is such a supportive and inspirational person and so full of encouragement.

I am now pleased to report that I have not been using my walking stick since Spring 2019 and it has been relegated to the back of a cupboard, after being told in the beginning that I would always have to use it. I can now achieve the whole length of Savio Drive, left across the fields and maybe a drink or ice cream at the Farm Made Café and back down Oakenbank, past the Poachers and home again.

I just cannot thank Hannah enough for being so encouraging, supportive and inspirational to me and the others she helps through her classes at the Leisure Centre.

Thank you Hannah.

Pat Murphy

We started out at the 'Robin Hood'

And sauntered down Stocks Lane

Through fields and woods and farmland

And picturesque terrain

On narrow paths of paving flags

We wandered single file

And bravely strode the inclines

And the steep occasional stile

The Cheshire hills were sunlit

The valleys soft and still

Then along the path we saw it

A derelict old mill

Just like a ghostly spectre

Its crumbling outer shell

Spoke of long-gone days in Bollington

In that pretty Ingersley dell

And every way we ventured

White Nancy was in sight

Aloft upon a modest peak

Her gown a misty white

We offered the chance to climb up

The steep White Nancy track

But no one took the offer

Maybe when we come back!

Then back to Rainow Village

To the good old 'Robin Hood'

For refreshing drinks, a loo, a rest

And a lot of fine pub grub.

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"Great bikes to take on a picnic"
Anna, via Facebook

A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

In September 2019, a 'dementia-friendly alliance' was formed, with the specific purpose of achieving official recognition for Bollington as a 'dementia-friendly community'.

For those who are not aware, dementia is a condition that affects 8,500 people in the UK, which can lead to catastrophic physical and mental decline.

Two years ago, when I heard that Congleton was putting in a big effort to become a dementia-friendly town, I felt strongly for very personal reasons that we should do the same in Bollington

Not because I wanted to inform everyone about dementia, but more to recognise the kindness and patience so many people showed to my husband, David, and myself as we coped over the years with his dementia.

Unfortunately, David deteriorated quite sharply at this time and I didn't have the chance to do anything other than try to cope with the situation day to day. However, I was very aware that David had been able to remain independent for a good 18 months longer than he would have done elsewhere, solely due to the understanding and helpfulness of people locally, especially members of Bravado, Papa's, the Co-op and many others who watched out for him, chatted to him and made sure he was okay... and if not, would phone me....so kind! It made me feel proud to be part of this village.

The Alliance Group is chaired by our current Mayor, Roland Edwards, who along with his wife Dawn and our wonderful ex PCSO Hannah Jackson, have shown a keen interest in working in this area and were instrumental in forming a group to take actions forward. They have been joined by a group of like-minded people who are keen to achieve this initiative.

The Group's official launch was 13 November last year, which was very well attended. It was encouraging to have interest from such a wide variety of people with a broad range of experiences and skills.

Over the last five years, so much government and local authority funding has been withdrawn and we have lost so many local services. The provision of care has, subsequently, fallen on the shoulders of the voluntary sector and churches. Therefore, it is important that we are proactive and do our best to help those in our community who are more vulnerable.

It isn't rocket science! It's not about raising money or grand gestures or quick fixes it's just about being kind, patient and a little more understanding for people living with dementia, their carers and anyone else who needs a little extra support.

I have struggled and I am relatively young; physically able; well-informed and computer literate. Imagine if you are frail, with no family support, trying to cope with the illness of your partner.

We need to consider a broad spectrum of people from those newly-diagnosed who are still able to work; those unable to work but who can still contribute to the community and those who are struggling to cope.

We also need to be aware of the extra difficulties faced by men, whether they are living with dementia or are a carer. In general, men find it harder to ask for help and are less likely to share their feelings.

Living with dementia can become very stressful, depressing and isolating. It is so important that we encourage and provide opportunities for people to talk.

You only have to look at how local

Photo:

Roland Edwards
chair of the
group



people rallied round during last year's floods to know that this is already a caring community. We now aim to get as many businesses as possible on board, including public houses, cafes and shops, so anyone struggling will know if a dementia-friendly sign is displayed, they will be shown patience and respect and can find the help they may need.

We are also hoping public houses and cafes in the town will follow the example of The Poacher's pub with a 'you can use our toilet' sign.

COME ON BOLLINGTON - WE CAN DO THIS!

The Bollington Dementia Action Alliance have launched their own Facebook page to provide information, including dates of future events, such as informal meetings where you can chat; learn from others; and give your suggestions as to what needs improving locally to make life easier for those living with dementia.

In addition, if you interested in becoming a Bridgend Buddy or are living with dementia or are caring for someone and need advice or support, please call in at our newly designated support centres - the library and the Bridgend Centre. Here, you will find support and information, including a series of leaflets and details of helpful websites like 'Alzheimer's carers'; and 'Dementia UK'. (The latter also have a 24-hour helpline).

Do also look out for notices on future progress and events that will posted around the town.

Gill Lancaster



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

Monday 9th - 6.30pm
Scibar - Beyond the Fringe
 Talk by Prof. Gary Davis Vale Inn Free

Friday 13th - 8.30pm
Virginia Kettle at Bolly Folk Club
 Dog & Partridge £8 bollyfolk.com

Saturday 14th - 9.30am
Singing Day - Brahms Requiem
 Arts Centre £15 511881

Saturday 14th - 2pm to 4pm
Bollington Horticultural Society & Flower Club
 54th Spring Show at the Civic Hall contact
 Mrs J Burton 572668

Saturday 14th - 7.30pm
Bollington Brass Band Spring Concert
 Arts Centre £9 conc £2.50

Thursday 19th - 7.30pm
Bollington Horticultural Society
Dunham Massey A talk by Emily
Chandler, Head Gardener
 Community Centre
 Member £1.50 non member £3

Friday 20th - 8pm
Sexy Lamp Comedy drama
 Art Centre £10 online

Saturday 21st - 10am to 3pm
Vintage & Artisan Spring Fair
 Bridgend Centre free entry 576311

Saturday 21st - 7.30pm
Craig Ogden & Heather Thatcher
Chamber concert
 Arts Centre £19 online

Saturday 28th - 7.30pm
Washington Whirlygig
 Jazz Club, Arts Centre £10 574410

Sunday 29th - 4.30pm
Dr Johnson, I Presume! Music theatre
 St Oswald's Church Free

APRIL

Wednesday 1st - 7.30pm
Pott Shrigley Flix in the Stix -
 Mrs Lowry & Son
 Village Hall £4 advance £5 on the door
pottflix@gmail.com

Friday 3rd - 8.15pm
Bolly Comedy Club
 Arts Centre £10 online

Thursday 16th - 7.30pm
Bollington Horticultural Society
 Community Centre Member £1.50 non
 member £3

Friday 17th - 7.30pm
The Hard Way
 Drama, Art Centre £10 online

Friday 17th - 8.30pm
Peter & Barbara Snape at Bolly Folk Club
 Dog & Partridge £8 bollyfolk.com

Saturday 18th - 7.30pm
The Carducci Quartet
 Chamber concert, Arts Centre £19 online

Monday 20th - 6.30pm
Scibar - AI, Machine Learning
 A talk by Paul Roberts
 Vale Inn Free

MAY

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

Saturday 2nd - 2pm
Bollington Brewing Co.
3 Peaks Fell Race 9km route
 online registration only, open from the end
 of February

Saturday 2nd - 7.30pm
TJ Johnson Band
 Jazz Club, Arts Centre £10 574410

Monday 11th - 6.30pm
Scibar - Tribology
 A talk by Michael Buttery
 Vale Inn Free

Friday 15th - 8.30pm
Nick Dow at Bolly Folk Club
 Dog & Partridge £8 bollyfolk.com

Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th 7.30pm
 (matinee on 16th 2pm)
BLOG's Joseph & the Amazing
Technicolour Dreamcoat
 Civic Hall £14 conc £12 07726500681
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bolly



Thursday 21st
Bollington Horticultural Society
 Community Centre Member £1.50 non
 member £3

Friday 22nd - 7.30pm
Yusuf - Cat Stevens
 A reflection by Keith James
 Art Centre £12 online

JUNE

Sunday 7th - 2pm
Canada Calling!
Age 7-12 music & drama workshop
 Art Centre Free

Friday 12th - 7.30pm
Bollington Boat & Folk Concert
 Art Centre £10

Friday 12th - 8.30pm
Bob Fox at Bolly Folk Club
 Dog & Partridge bollyfolk.com

Monday 22nd - Sunday 28th
Bollington Festival Players
Summer Production
 Art Centre full details tbc

JULY

Monday 29th to Friday July 3rd
Well Dressing - help us!
 Please join us to help make the displays
 ready for the opening ceremony, by the
 Mayor elect on Saturday 4th July

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE BRIDGEND CENTRE

Community kitchen, IT suite
& charity shop

Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

01625 576311

Monday

2pm Talk and Games (TaG)

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



Arts Centre tickets:
www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

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Saturday 9.30am-1pm

Free Events

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booking required

Tues 10am Storytime

Wed 10am Rhymetime

Fri 10am Rhymetime

Monthly

(*booking required)

Tuesday

11am & 6pm 4 Reading groups
(1st & 3rd week in month)*

11am & 4pm LEGO club
(2nd week in month)

1pm & 4pm Mini Makers STEM
activities for 7-11*

4.30pm 12+ young adult reading
group*

Thursday

2pm Story & Tea (1st week in month)

2pm Knit & Natter (2nd &
4th week in month)

Friday

3.45pm 7+ children's reading group*

Contact the library
for more info
on 01625 378266



JAZZ AT THE ARTS CENTRE

The Savannah Jazz Band

February 29th

A superb traditional jazz band from
Yorkshire, one of the most popular bands
on the circuit and always in demand at
festivals around the country.

Washington Whirlygig

March 28th

Another Yorkshire Band who tip their hat
to the late, great Alex Welsh band. This
will be their third visit and are always
welcome back.

T J Johnson Band

May 2nd

TJ and his boys bring us an eclectic
mix from Count Basie to Willie Nelson,
entertainment guaranteed.



Adrian Cox - Now is Spring September 5th

After last year's Edmund Hall show,
international clarinet star Adrian brings us
his new show featuring Compositions by
him and pianist Joe Webb.

'Spats' Langham's Hot Fingers Combination with Emily Campbell October 3rd

The walking jazz encyclopaedia that is
'Spats' returns with some more obscure
tunes and the stories behind them.

7.30pm start

Doors and bar open from 6.30pm
tickets at £10 from 01625 574410

MAD ABOUT POWER

In 2017 a group of residents got together to form Transition Bollington, with the aim of fostering the journey of our community to a more sustainable and resilient future. A number of action groups and focus areas emerged, with the Mad About Power (MAP) action group focusing on energy, power and transport.

MAP are keen to find more sustainable energy sources for Bollington as a means of reducing the town's carbon footprint. Part of this includes energy for transport, and in response to conversations around the community, the group decided to create a Transport Survey to determine Bollington's opinions, wishes and needs going forward. The survey creates an amazing opportunity for all residents to have their say on getting around Bollington and beyond, and the group will be taking an analysis of the results to the council and pushing for proactive solutions to the issues raised.

Linked with this is a look at air pollution in Bollington – more to come on that one; watch this space!

A couple of members of the Mad About Power group have changed the way they travel around.

Estelle Worthington said:

'Since I've become more aware of the climate emergency and realised that transport is one of the biggest sources of emissions in the UK, I've been trying hard to change the way I get around and be more conscious of the choices I make.

Having busy jobs and a toddler means my partner and I are often pushed for time, but still, we've managed to cut our car journeys in half over the last year or so. One of the major things we did was to move our son to a nursery in Bollington, rather than near where we work. That means we've ditched the car and instead tend to cycle to Adlington station and commute to Manchester and Stockport by train after dropping him off. To visit family and friends further afield we are also committed to using the train wherever possible, and regularly travel to Aberystwyth that way

(which also frees us up to enjoy the amazing views and play games).

We still find we're reliant on the car in the evenings when we're working late or doing something social, though. It's pretty shocking that the Bollington to Macclesfield bus service stops so early in the evening. Cycling home at 10pm doesn't feel especially safe and I'd love to see the bus service restored to what it used to be, with services running till at least 11pm. In lieu of that, I'm keen to see if Bollington could start a lift-share scheme, where people doing the same journeys could take extra passengers along, cutting the number of vehicles on the road and helping us all so our bit to slash emissions.'

Ruth Tams tell us:

'One of the ways I've changed my life to become more sustainable is to change from a petrol car to an electric one. One of the reasons



I changed to an Electric Vehicle (EV) is that I was concerned about air pollution and the effect on everyone's health and the planet's health. I've had my EV for 15 months now and I love it – it performs well, averages 200 miles to the charge (150 in colder weather and 250 in the summer) and has zero emissions. A lot of people have asked me how I cope with recharging – the answer is very well. I have a charger at home (free when you buy a new car) and mostly charge my car at night. I don't do huge mileages these days: I'm retired, drive about 5,000 miles a year, so charge about once a week. In the cold weather, if you're charging overnight, you can programme the car to have the heating on in the morning so it's all defrosted when you want to use it.

I've travelled in it on holiday and have charged successfully away from home.

Another of the good things about the car is how cheap it is to run! We changed our energy supplier a few years ago to a renewable energy supplier and when I notified them I had an electric car they reduced the tariff. This means that our monthly electricity bill has increased by only approximately £4 a month, including the car charging. Servicing is much cheaper also as there's not so much to deal with!

As Greta Thunberg says – 'One small step can make a difference.'

Ruth Tams for Mad About Power – Transition Bollington

TAKE PART!

Take part in the Bollington Transport Survey!

How do you get around Bollington and the surrounding area? Whether you walk, drive, cycle, take the bus or use another mode of transport, your opinions are valued.

bit.ly/BollingtonTransportSurvey



A group of Bollington residents are actively looking at travel in and around Bollington to better understand how people get around. The information you give will help the group work with the council to improve the transport options available.

All respondents have the opportunity to enter a PRIZE DRAW for completing this survey. Any responses you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and all results will be anonymised.

Can you help, please? The survey is for the benefit of the Community of Bollington as a whole, and it will support Bollington Town Council in making informative decisions that may help us all to travel around Bollington more effectively, sustainably and easily.

transitionbollington@gmail.com





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SECOND HAND BOOTS AND OWN GOALS



Imagine a football club made for children who love a kick around but have two left feet or lack any ambition to be the next Sergio Agüero.

A place that also welcomes kids who have a volley to rival the golden days of Roberto Baggio but have been left out of matches or had a football boot lobbed at them (Fergie-style) for an own goal. A football club that welcomes non-footballers with the same love that the music world had for John Barnes's rap.

Situations like these led to local parents in Bollington setting up and running Hurdsfield Phoenix FC, the priority being that all the children should be happy when they are training and playing matches, with no pressure to reach the standard of Messi. They wanted to do things differently and provide affordable grassroots football in a fun, safe environment; where fitness, confidence and social interaction are the main focus.

No child is turned away (even United supporters!), and the club welcomes any parents wanting to get involved in any capacity. FA coaching courses are provided for all volunteer coaches to acquire their badges and weekly training sessions are held at a secure venue, aiming to give players the best facilities and equipment to improve their football skills.

It's proving popular: they are the fastest growing grassroots football club in the area, with seven teams already formed. What about a waiting list? They are proactive – once the teams are full, they spread the word and form another one

**Hurdsfield Phoenix
Football Club**
07397 269 867

*(beware, you may
have to speak
to an Everton
supporter...)*



– aiming to leave no one on the bench. So come along and try your best – and if that means you miss a penalty by a 45-degree angle, or trip over your own feet and face plant, then so what? Your wins will be celebrated and you will learn from your losses – either way, it'll be high-fives all round.

Does your child want to play regular football in the Mid-Cheshire League? Do you want to get involved? Get in touch for more details.

Hannah Atkin



IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LEARNING...SING ON!

What a staggeringly amazing experience it was for the 40 strong choir of children from St Gregory's at the recent Young Voices concert, one of the largest school choir concerts in the world, aiming to inspire children to discover their love of music.

For the 13th consecutive year, children from St Gregory's sang and danced with thousands of other children's choirs from around the north west. Each year, the boys and girls learn an eclectic mixture of songs and dance moves for this musical extravaganza, have great fun and raise much-needed money for charitable organisations, helping teenage cancer youngsters as well

as homeless charities.

It really is a mesmeric musical occasion with an 8,000 strong choir and performances from the street dance company URBAN STRIDES, plus a selection of solo artists adding to the quality of the show. Even Tony Hadley, ex-Spandau Ballet, made an appearance one year! Pure 'Gold!'

As well as this, our choir performs for school events, sang at the Bollington Festival last year and have performed at Macclesfield hospital, a residential home for the elderly and TESCO! A few years ago, we appeared on TV, Channel M's Breakfast Show and

www.stgregorys.cheshire.sch.uk
01625 572037



in addition to this, we sing at the Cheshire Show, as well as entertain the terminally-ill patients at East Cheshire Hospice at Christmas.

And the evidence for singing is quite compelling. Singing is really good for you. The health benefits are staggering. For example, singing strengthens the immune system, it's a good physical workout, improves your posture, helps you sleep and makes you feel really good, releasing endorphins, lowering stress levels. It makes you more mentally alert, increases your circle of friends, improves confidence and communication skills and above all else...it's FUN!

John Daley

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ST JOHN'S HELPS FRANK IN UGANDA

Mrs Jobbins, an Early Years Foundation Stage teacher from Bollington St John's School spent a week last year in Uganda, visiting the school's sponsored child, Frank. Armed with 40kg of donations from staff and pupils at the school, Mrs Jobbins travelled to visit him and teach at the school, called Kamutuuza Tower Primary School.

While there she visited the onsite orphanage and presented the headteacher, Kamya Dan, with money the school had raised to help them build a new boys' dormitory. Also, the PTA had generously given Mrs Jobbins £200 to spend on sanitary wear for the staff at the school.



This is Mrs Jobbins' account of her time there:

'It has been a very overwhelming and emotional week in Uganda; I was welcomed very warmly by all the children and staff and we



learnt so much from each other.

I spent most of my time teaching classes from reception right up to children aged 14. The classes were large, generally between 70 and 100 children, and the children only had access to blackboards. The teachers were enthusiastic to learn all about how I teach reading and writing here in Bollington, so I taught several phonics lessons and shared my experiences with the staff.

I visited the local well that had just been installed and met Frank,



our school's sponsored child, who is now 12 years old. I also spent time with the children in the term-time orphanage and at the medical centre, as well as visiting local families in the village whose children were not able to go to school.

I was able to share so many of the amazing items that were donated to school, so thank you so much for all of your support. I would also like to say thank you to the PTA for their donation, which was used to buy washable sanitary wear and underwear for all the local women and girls. For most, it was the first time they have owned proper sanitary wear so it was very gratefully accepted.

I'm looking forward to continuing our link with Tower Primary School in Uganda.'

Melanie Walker

PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE

Bollington-based photographer, Gemma Taylor, is working on a project focused on young single parents.

She says: 'When you're a young single parent, and struggling financially, I know that putting food on the table can be equal part love, equal part stress. The project will share experiences, be shot beautifully, and help to reduce the stigma that still exists.'

Gemma is interested in working

with a wide range of mums and dads, within Bollington and across the North West. Young can mean anything from becoming a parent in your teens to your twenty-somethings. You might have been single at the time your child or children were born, or became single later, and your kids can be any age now.

As well as portraits, the project will focus around food as a way of sharing experiences. From fish finger sandwiches to food banks,



to Friday night pizza, to pancakes, whatever your family food rituals are, the photos will show the love and uniqueness of your family - and leave you with professional photos documenting your home life to look back on with your children.

Get in touch with Gemma to have a chat and find out more.

Gemma Taylor

hello@gemmataylor.photo

07305075511

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BOLLINGTON BY - KERRY LANGSTAFF CRAZY COIN

Kerry is a community worker at Bollington Bridgend Centre and lives in Bollington with her two daughters. She was born and grew up around Knutsford and Macclesfield and knew Bollington well while she was growing up. She went to university in Sheffield and then worked in Milton Keynes as a trainer for Samsung. She relocated to Cheshire to be close to grandparents in Rainow.



What brought you to Bollington?

It was an ideal choice for bringing up the girls; there was a lot going on and the schools were good. I felt it was a place which valued community and we would fit in well.

What attracted you to working at the Bridgend?

I used to go to the Centre with the girls and loved what I saw very much. I felt in tune with the ethos of the Bridgend. I ran a knitting group there and then a vacancy came up, so in July 2016 I applied for a post as a community worker on three days a week and a business administrator on one day a week.

What do you like about your job?

I love the variety it brings. No two days are the same; something different always happens. I love the feeling that what you are doing makes a difference to people. We get feedback, and in the light of that we can re-evaluate what we do. If I can describe my job in the simplest terms it consists of making cups of tea and being nice to people, but I know that it is much more than that!

How do you like living in Bollington?

It is a bit like living in the past in a nice way. The community value the fact that it comes together on

so many occasions and people look out for each other. It is a good place to bring up children. My two go to Dean Valley and my elder daughter is a Rights Respecting Ranger at school. They are both happy and doing well. We are all involved in the wider community.

What do you do to relax?

I love crafting and especially textile craft, knitting and felting. At the moment, while the Bridgend is relocated to the cricket pavilion, I am finding work more relaxing and have more time to talk to people. Sometimes at the Centre it can be more difficult.

How green are you?

I like to recycle, and I regularly use old wool to make new things. My kids are very much into recycling and all of us use the Bridgend shop.

Is there anything about Bollington you would change?

I would encourage a more tolerant attitude on social media and an appreciation of the lovely place where we live. It is unique.

What is your favourite place in Bollington?

The deck at the back of the Bridgend and Sunday roasts at the Church House Inn.

Sandy Milsom

Over time, the word 'penny' has become a part of our speech, often used in everyday phrases. Retailers still rely on pricing at a penny under the pound, yet who would stoop to pick up the humble coin lying around?

Below are clues for well-known phrases or objects, someone's name or a contrived clue, which all have the word 'penny' in them. How many clues do you know? Answers below the clues.

Roger Molineux

Clues

1. First female Defence Secretary
2. Sudden realisation
3. For convenience
4. A joyous windfall
5. Wrong priorities
6. Sits on a bonfire
7. Philatelist's desire
8. Being mean
9. An unwelcome return
10. Being thrifty
11. Profitable contemplation
12. It's worth a punt
13. Cheap instrument
14. Being very precise
15. One of Yorkshire's Peaks
16. Abundantly cheap
17. A medicinal flower
18. A Swinging Sixties hit

Answers
 1. Penny Mordaunt; 2. The penny has dropped; 3. To spend a penny; 4. Pennies from Heaven; 5. Penny wise, pound foolish; 6. A penny for the Guy; 7. The Penny Black; 8. Penny pinching; 9. Turned up like a bad penny; 10. Take care of the pennies, and the pounds will take care of themselves; 11. A penny for your thoughts; 12. In for a penny, in for a pound; 13. A penny whistle; 14. Down to the last penny; 15. Penny-Chent; 16. Ten a penny; 17. Pennyroyal mint; 18. 'Penny Lane'

TEMPORARY RELOCATION, RELOCATION, RELOCATION

Following the purchase of the Bridgend Centre building, our first priority is the urgent replacement of the flat roof to the rear of the property. This essential work began on 6 January 2020 and will last approximately four to six weeks, but please keep an eye on the website and social media for updates. During the building works, the Centre will be closed.

Our community café and group activity program has temporarily relocated to the cricket Pavilion at the recreation ground. We are carrying out our usual activities and drop-in and it has become a lively hub of activity in the scenic and peaceful recreation ground. The kettle will remain on for tea and chat so please pop in for a brew.

During this time, due to the lack of space, unfortunately there will not be a charity shop and we will not be accepting donated items.

We ask you please not to leave any donations in the area of the Bridgend building as we cannot accommodate them and they could pose a hazard. Please either save them for when we re-open or consider supporting one of the



other fantastic charities locally.

Should you wish to support our charity by making a financial donation, then we will still be gratefully accepting those as a new roof comes with a high price tag!

If you are part of our fantastic volunteering team, please come and join us at the Rec., There will be regular catch ups and still plenty of work to do!

This work is an exciting opportunity for Bridgend and will allow us to provide a safe and warm environment to serve the community for many years to come. So thank you all for the huge level of support, patience and understanding we have received during this exciting time.

A huge thank you must go to Bollington Town Council for lending us £56,000 through the Public Works Loans Board and also to the Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund (managed by ACRE on behalf of DEFRA) for a grant of £17,000, each of which will contribute towards these works.

We would like to thank Bollington Town Council, Cheshire East Council and 'Friends of the Rec' for allowing us to use the Pavilion on the Rec during our time of need. We also hugely appreciate the support from Broadheads Garage and A. Rees Auto Services for being so patient with the disruption caused by all the building work.

Rebecca Lea

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

This year the Annual Spring Show of the Horticultural Society and Flower Club is on 14 March, 2pm-4pm, at the Civic Hall. As there will be no September Show again this year, the society is hoping there will be lots of entries, including from non-members and children.

A copy of the schedule is obtainable from Mrs Joyce Burton, 01625 572668 or email: bollington.horticultural@hotmail.com. The categories include spring bulbs, pot plants, flower arrangements, bonsai, cookery, handicrafts and a children's section. To complete

the day, there is always a delicious selection of home-made cakes and a cup of tea!

As well as monthly talks, the society has arranged at least three trips, so it will be an interesting year.



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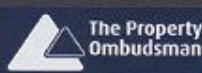
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FOOTBALL CRAZY

The opening of three new junior football pitches at the Bollington Cross Sports Field, Ovenhouse Lane, provides a major new facility for junior football in the area.

The opening ceremony took place last Autumn when Vicky Jepson, Manager of Liverpool FC Women (who grew up in Bollington), officially opened the new pitches. She was introduced by Roland Edwards, the Mayor of Bollington, who also welcomed Portsmouth winger, Gareth Evans and former Derby County midfielder, James Bailey, who both started their football careers with Bollington United Junior Football Club (BUJFC)

BUJFC has been established for more than 30 years and currently has 330 young players aged 6 to 17 registered in the Club. This season, they have 25 teams playing in a range of FA-accredited leagues and competitions. The new pitches will make a huge difference to the

efficient operation of Club fixtures and provide a much-needed increase to the facilities for junior football in the local area.

The development is the result of a long-running Bollington Cross Youth Project established by Bollington Town Council (BTC) with Bollington Health & Leisure (BHL) and BUJFC. The first part of the scheme was the provision of the Multi-Use Games Area, which was opened in 2017. The total project cost was around £300,000. The major sponsor for these facilities was the Football Foundation (£97,898) the largest sports charity in the UK, funded by the Premier League, the FA and the Government, via Sport England. Tullis Russell and Decipher Group (initial funding and design), WREN (Landfill Communities Fund), Cheshire East/Bellway homes (£55,000) also contributed to this project along with BTC, BHL & BUJFC.

Alan Pengelly



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