



# BOLLINGTON

*Live*

**Issue 80 Spring 2021**

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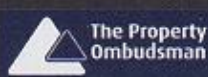
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## NHS PICNIC

On 5 July it is the NHS's 73rd birthday. In 2021 it will mark the first 'NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day', with civic events planned across the country, including flag raising, a minute's silence and a national doorstep clap.

The physical and emotion cost to frontline workers and their families during the pandemic has been immense and we want to provide a more tangible way of thanking them for their service to our community.

We are holding a party/picnic for NHS, social care and frontline workers on 3/4 July and have created a £20 'Bolly' voucher to be used in local restaurants, pubs and businesses. Bollys will be awarded to frontline workers nominated by the people of Bollington, with a proportion allocated to staff from Macclesfield District General Hospital and Social Care Services.

We announced our plans a few days ago and have already received 18 (well deserved) nominations, and 6 businesses have agreed to participate (some offering additional discounts).

We hope to raise £8,000 (£1 for every Bollingtonian) to fund 300 Bollys and provide food and drink for 100 workers and their families



to attend the picnic/party. If we don't raise enough to give every nominated worker a Bolly they will be entered into a draw.

We presented our plans at the March town assembly and hope to work with the Council to develop them into a community event. We imagine an event on the Rec with children's events, live music, poetry and comedy. In addition, picnic hampers will be made to reflect the needs and likes of the workers and their families, and there'll be a 'thank you trail' from the Rec to White Nancy made of messages from our community.

We'd settle for producing vast quantities of home-brew and elderflower wine and making a mountain of lentil dhal and naan bread for a garden party, with the best entertainment we can provide.

But together we can do better, and they deserve it.

**David and Nicky Raines**

To nominate someone, to get involved or to make a donation please see our Facebook page 'Bollington Picnic/Party for NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers'

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Another great issue all done 'at a distance' with so many of you feeling the call to write something and send



it in – from air pollution to baby signing to meeting the neighbours – a massive thank you to everyone involved!

For this issue we say goodbye and huge thanks to our treasurer of 6 years Vicki Cooper who has done an outstanding job with the magazine finances. And a warm welcome to Peter Kennedy who has kindly volunteered to take over as the magazine's treasurer.

To all our advertisers, sponsors, supporters, deliverers, the Printshop, everyone involved in this amazing magazine and YOU the readers - thank you for keeping Bollington Live alive!

If you have any ideas for the next issue, please email me: [liveditor@happyvalley.org.uk](mailto:liveditor@happyvalley.org.uk)

Join the Bollington Live team

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15th June 2021

*Annette*

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Back Issues: [www.happyvalley.org.uk/live](http://www.happyvalley.org.uk/live)



# MILL LANE MYSTERY

Bollington is a small complex place, changing rapidly as people have decided that residence in the countryside is respectable and safe. This desire, plus a plethora of cheap housing that can be bought up for rent, means that estate agents and developers thrive in our community.

Why talk about Mill Lane? It is a modest track between the Poachers Inn in Sowcar and Ingersley Vale. The lane bringing workers to Ingersley Mill, Rainow Mill and Higher and Lower Mills has been there probably for hundreds of years and certainly since the time of the first OS map in 1875.

We need to talk about Mill Lane because of the actions of another huge Bollington Institution; the international paper production specialists, Tullis Russell. Special because it is owned by its employees and special because for many years it made the sensitive papers needed for postage-stamp and currency production.

As the millennium approached two technological revolutions hit Tullis Russell at the same time. The huge increase in on-line traffic in communications and credit creation meant a decline in demand for specialist currency and postage papers. The company needed to change its product mix. By the early years of this century intolerable pressure had built up and Tullis Russell planned an escape route by transferring to produce specialist coated papers for a variety of other purposes, but



huge investment in new buildings and machinery was needed. Finance was available for machinery but not for a building.

The firm reviewed its assets and decided with regret that the much-loved bowling green, opened in 1928, would have to be sold for housing development.

A buyer was forthcoming in Salboys, and they commissioned Domis to construct 12 large town houses.

The trauma caused in the local community by the loss of the bowling green was acute. Inevitably Bollington Town Council became involved and there were intense discussions over the merits of development to protect jobs in the town versus the loss of amenity, in terms of sporting facility and change to the quiet rural valley with its Conservation Area.

Councillors met the directors of Tullis Russell to test the validity of the development. Local residents made representations to the Civic Society. The first plans were rejected as being too concentrated. Eventually, in 2014, a detailed set of plans were produced for 13 houses (whittled down to 12), which were passed, and the creation of new crown green bowling green agreed on Kerridge Cricket Ground.

Tullis Russell could go ahead with its investment and Domis Construction entered the scene to build the houses which are now for sale, changing the nature of the area for ever from a quiet rural backwater to a concentrated urban space (to be followed by a further 63 houses up the valley).

At this point Domis broke



the rules and a 2-metre 6-panel wooden fence was erected that encompassed a tree on Mill Lane to protect the house buyers from oversight from Mill Lane. Residents appealed to Cheshire East, our Public Rights of Way Authority for redress. The appeal was rejected. Mill Lane was not on the Definitive Map of Footpaths. Residents appealed to Cheshire East our official Highways Authority. They were rejected once more. Mill Lane was not on the official List of Streets.

Luckily Domis agreed that the line of the fence was incorrect and that a natural barrier rather than a wooden fence was what the Planning Permission specified.

But what of Mill Lane? No protection or status!! Luckily an appeal by Bollington Civic Society produced 80 local residents bearing witness to its use by walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders and someone remembering riding on the back of a tractor and trailer down the whole length of it in the late 1940s. Rainow Parish Council was prepared to put in an official demand to Cheshire East Public Rights of Way Officers and there is documentary evidence stretching back 150 years.

So, whereas postage stamps may disappear, we hope to resurrect Mill Lane.

**Ken Edwards**

*Ken would like to thank the 80 people who expressed an interest in Mill Lane and also a big thank you to those who filled in the Cheshire East questionnaire as evidence of use. All the responses are with Rainow Parish Council. What happens next? Watch this space!!*





# KNOWLES GREEN

Who would have thought that new shops and businesses could open and thrive during a global pandemic? Normal priorities and needs have been turned on their heads in many ways over the last twelve months. E-commerce and communications, pharmaceuticals, fitness equipment, home deliveries, Netflix, etc. – all these sectors have benefitted while many others have struggled enormously.

One thing is for certain: we have all been cooking at home like never before. Our interest in the food we eat has probably never been greater. In Bollington queues have built up not just outside our amazing butcher's, baker's and deli (not forgetting our Co-op!), but also outside recently opened Knowles Green.

'Knowles Green – Cheese–Wine–Creative Tasting' is the brainchild of Dagmara Szompka and Mark Dent. You will have seen the shop's enticing frontage on the former Heathcotes site on Wellington Road.

I met Dagmara and Mark the other day. Both made the UK their home around twenty years ago and both have settled in Bollington with their respective families. Dagmara, originally from Poland, is an artisan cheesemaker who learnt her craft in Ludlow. She is also a butter-making champion and has a diploma in wine. Mark, born in Canada, is one of the highest ranked holders of the Diploma

of the International Sommelier Guild and has frequently judged international wine competitions. They met years ago as work colleagues in Hanging Ditch, a wine bar in central Manchester.

Mark and Dagmara kept in touch, and two years ago hatched the idea of a cheese and wine shop. They looked for a suitable property for about a year. Bollington, with its very strong sense of community and excellent customer base, seemed ideal and last autumn, two weeks after a conversation with Chris Heathcote, they were in.

Mark reflects that ironically, the pandemic has worked in their favour. 'There is a new localism in the UK and, in many places, a strengthened community spirit which is reflected in people's shopping habits. People simply want to support local businesses. We and our families have felt incredibly welcomed in Bollington.' He continues, 'Equally, the business has attracted attention from all over the country, with people phoning in for their orders and gift vouchers too.'

Dagmara and Mark explained their plans – a website within the next few months, and forthcoming tasting events! With (hopefully) warmer weather and greater social freedoms ahead, they are planning to hold live events outside the shop. They are also on the lookout for a variety of venues, both outdoors and indoors, for tasting events, so do get in touch with them if you are able to help.

The Knowles Green business priorities will remain truly local and environmentally friendly, with organic and vegan produce being part of the offer. Dagmar



*Knowles Green – the origin of the shop's name*

*A small part of Wellington Road, Bollington was once known as Knowles Green. The area involved covers at least the location of the Methodist church, the Manse, the Arts Centre and the railway viaduct (Middlewood Way). The ground was provided by Peter Lomas, owner of the nearby Waterhouse Mill.*

and Mark already work with Fruits of the Forage, the Random Apple Company, The Mill Bakehouse and the bicycle delivery company eLv.

Among a huge selection of cheeses and wines they sell some vegan produce, for example soya-milk cheeses rather than dairy, and wines made with 'animal free' filters and organic fertilisers. They personally try all the products they sell, even visiting some of the vineyards concerned.

Needless to say, I couldn't resist making a few purchases before I left, including some Cornish Gouda, recently recommended by Rick Stein in his eponymous TV series about Cornwall. And a bottle of Chilean Casas del Toqui Merlot found its way into my basket. Mark confirmed he had personally inspected this winery in the Cachapoal Valley, I was glad to hear!

So finally, this is my opportunity to wish all Bollington businesses really well, including of course Knowles Green, as we all emerge blinking from our long hibernation. Let's all keep buying local, in terms of shops, services and on-line. And let's all look forward to the first We Love Bollington! market when it happens.

**Claire Moreland**





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# TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE

We all know what happened in March 2020. Everything closed down, plans had to be scrapped, events just had to be abandoned or postponed indefinitely. It suddenly became impossible to think ahead as everything was just a blur.

Bollington Chamber Concerts (BCC) had two big concerts scheduled which had to be cancelled and postponed indefinitely. As Covid spread and the future became more and more uncertain, the team of volunteers which runs BCC started to worry about the following season's programme of concerts. Since the programme consists of performances by top musicians, bookings must be made well over a year in advance, so last-minute changes just are not practical. Bollington Arts Centre was forced to close its doors to audiences, so the wonderful facilities for live music lay empty. With all their venues gone and bookings cancelled, musicians faced a desperate future. With social distancing rules, even the big theatres and halls could not be made viable.

At this point BCC started to look at possible ways forward. Today one answer seems obvious – streaming. But last summer the picture was much less clear. Could we get hold of the camera and sound equipment needed? Would the internet facilities of the Arts Centre be up to the transmission standards? How do you get a live streamed performance onto the internet? How do you get any income from a streamed performance? Can we afford to pay the musicians?

During the summer these questions were gradually answered. Tests at the Arts Centre resolved the technical issues. The team was lucky to have a retired academic in their midst: Ken Singer, who has lived in Bollington for over forty years, provided not only

the expertise but the loan of some vital equipment! Suitable microphones were bought, a commercial provider of access to the internet was found and the decision was made to seek funding through online donations rather than a commercial (costly) 'paywall' organisation. In putting their ideas into practical and realistic use so shortly into the first lockdown, BCC was possibly the first smaller music society to actually start live streaming events.



First came the trial streaming of a piano and violin – the Lantivet Duo – who had experience in producing their own streamed performances. An additional concert followed early in September, performed by the Alandale Trio. This trio is made up of three members of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Andrew Harvey, who now lives in Bollington. The results of these first events were really encouraging, with donations from the viewing enthusiasts producing enough to pay the musicians fully. The team decided to go ahead with the first of the new season's concerts in October – with the internationally known Piatti Quartet – and this was soon followed by another concert from the Gildas Quartet with Jack McNeil (clarinet). November's planned concert had to be cancelled when a key musician was quarantined at short notice due to contact with someone with Covid, but the case for streaming concerts

**Saturday 8 May - The Gildas Quartet**  
(Haydn 7 Last Words with poet Michael Symmons-Roberts)

**Saturday 29 May - The Castalian Quartet**

**Saturday 24 July - Craig Ogden, guitar and Helen Thatcher, cello**

**Saturday 14 August - The Marmen Quartet**

*All concerts will depend on the availability of the Arts Centre*

had been made, not only to the regular concertgoers but also to the musicians for whom the resumption of paid engagements was a lifeline. The Piatti Quartet wrote to us saying: 'Bollington will always hold a special place in our hearts as our first outing after the prolonged lockdown!' An accolade came from the Gildas Quartet as well: 'We've now done quite a few of these streamed concerts, and you are definitely the best at it by all measures.'

With the increased exposure to technology and the popularisation of Zoom, it became practical to restart the BCC's Music Appreciation Course, too, even without the Arts Centre as a base. Visit the BCC site, [www.bollington-chamber-concerts.org](http://www.bollington-chamber-concerts.org), for guidance on how to watch the concerts and to make donations.

In the meantime, Bollingtonians can already celebrate the success of their local efforts, and perhaps promote this local initiative to friends and the wider world of lovers of classical music.

**Ian Brammer**

**Photo:**  
**Gildas Quartet**  
**with Jack McNeil**





# BOLLINGTON 2030 : A NEW VISION FOR 0

Bollington 2030 is one of several collaborative initiatives, involving Bollington Town Council (BTC) and the community, that address major issues facing our town. The aim of Bollington 2030 is to minimise the effects of future shocks (e.g. flash flooding due to climate change) and make us more self-sufficient. However, this is not just about action against climate change, it is more about how the community wants to live in the future.

## How did the Bollington 2030 vision develop?

In June 2019 BTC declared a climate emergency with the aim of reducing local carbon emissions to as close as possible to zero by 2030. We cannot achieve zero emissions as at least 30% of our carbon load originates from outside Bollington. We recognised that immediate positive action needed to be taken to mitigate against future shocks adversely impacting Bollington. We also recognised that the demographics of Bollington were changing. Young families, with aspirations and expectations for their present and future, were moving here because it is a healthy and attractive place to live. We needed to identify and understand and meet these aspirations.

Many councils have declared a climate emergency, but some have

*Background flood photo courtesy of Harold Skelhorn*

*Photo: Planting community garden at the Civic Hall (Courtesy of Transition Bollington)*



merely paid lip service, doing little to address the issues. We were determined not fall into that category! Discussions with the resident-led grassroots community group Transition Bollington and Friends of the Earth resulted in the formation of the Future Resilience sub-committee, now Bollington 2030, with membership currently drawn from BTC, Transition Bollington and Friends of the Earth.

Our first aim was to produce a strategic plan with actions which will permit Bollington to have enhanced community resilience to future shocks. Our second aim was to embark on an extensive community engagement programme.

We need to help Bollingtonians recover from the damage Covid has done to people's health, jobs and livelihoods. Information from other councils has shown that community values have been changed by the lockdown, for example a much greater appreciation of the local environment and desire to take a greater role in community activities. We need to ensure we are protecting green spaces, increasing tree cover, and be on the path to achieving zero waste. All of which will lead to a physically and mentally healthy community.

## What we have achieved and what are we planning

In August 2019 we held a one-day conference on climate change which attracted attendees from local councils, Transition groups and the public. This helped us frame the nature of the future shocks and the actions the community might need to take to mitigate against them. We released land around the town hall, library and civic hall for community gardens; a couple of councillors even helped with the planting. We also persuaded ANSA to allow six heritage apple trees to be planted on the Recreation Ground. Currently we are trying to acquire more land for allotments.

The Transition Bollington Mad About Power group has been a major player in the production of the 2020 Bollington Transport

Survey and has supported the provision of electric vehicle charging points on Pool Bank car park which should be operational in early April. They will also be monitoring air quality outside the schools on Albert Road at different times of day and comparing this with the amount of traffic. This may support the proposal for a 20 mph speed limit. Finally, the Transition Bollington Plastics Group have been busy installing terracycle collection points in the schools so that crisp packets and similar plastics can be easily recycled.

The wide-ranging strategy (see box) has been drawn from plans produced by working groups and sub-committees within BTC and will go for public consultation soon. We will then launch a community questionnaire to collect your thoughts on how you want our community to look by 2030. We will also be asking how the lockdowns have changed your priorities. We will be engaging with community groups, local schools, churches, businesses and other Parish, Town and Borough Councils to make this a collective endeavour.

We need to have this honest conversation with Bollingtonians about the sort of future we want for our town, and its children. It starts with awareness and the will to come together and act as a community. This, thankfully, is what Bollington is good at! And let's face it, we have little to lose and so much to gain. So how can you help?

We would like to start recruiting residents to help us. Interested in getting involved in a particular field? No experience necessary, just an enthusiasm for creating the Bollington you would like to live in. Please contact Roland. [Edwards@bollington-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Edwards@bollington-tc.gov.uk)

**Roland Edwards,  
Helen Wright  
(Transition Bollington)  
and Estelle Worthington  
(Friends of the Earth)**



# OUR TOWN

## AREAS COVERED BY ACTION PLAN

### Community engagement

Engage with the community to shape and deliver the plan

### Alternative energy sources

Identify and implement renewable energy generation

Publish, or provide direction towards home energy-saving information for householders

### Transport

Promote a walking and cycling culture

Support and facilitate the switch to non-fossil-fuel vehicles

### Agriculture and food production

Promote local food growing, produce markets and restaurants

Encourage healthy, sustainable lifestyles

### Sustainable housing

Encourage building of sustainable housing

Encourage building of appropriate numbers of houses for the younger and older communities

### Economy and business

Support local small business opportunities in the green business sector

### Waste and consumption

Resource initiative which reduces consumption and waste

### Environment and land use

Promote more community gardens and encourage biodiversity of flora and fauna

### Health and wellbeing

Reduce levels of pollution in the air, our rivers and land

# AIR QUALITY

Poor air quality is a known health problem, and it may also intensify the signs of skin ageing! Volunteers from Mad about Power (part of the grassroots action group Transition Bollington) are monitoring outdoor air quality in Bollington as part of a wider study of transport in the town. With a grant from Bollington Town Council, we purchased two air-quality monitors that clip on to a bag or coat. This allows us to record how air quality changes during walks around town.

Air quality in Bollington is good. Not surprisingly, air quality is poorest when traffic volume is high. Alarming levels of particle pollution have been recorded when passing stationary diesel cars – so high that a 'leave the area immediately' message appears on the monitor screen. But volunteers have also found high pollutant concentrations away from main roads, possibly from passing canal boats. Another factor is the weather – pollutants can build up in the atmosphere during periods of high pressure and calm winds.

## Can you help us collect more data?

There are many things that affect local air quality. To help understand what's going on we need volunteers to collect more data. As well as an interest in walking, you'll need a smart phone to load the app. You'll be able to see the air-quality readings as you walk, and all data are automatically stored and combined with weather and GPS data.

If you are interested, please contact [MAPtransitionbollington@gmail.com](mailto:MAPtransitionbollington@gmail.com).

## Can we improve Bollington's air quality?

Some actions can only be taken at government level. However, individuals can do some things: walking or cycling instead of driving, for example. And a reduction in average driving speed and a smoother, more consistent driving technique (less braking and acceleration) can improve air quality.

Domestic wood burning is the single biggest source of small particle air pollution in the UK – both indoors and outdoors. However, burning dry wood reduces emissions (as well as increasing heating efficiency). Aaron Doherty from Bollylogs is keen to encourage people to burn their wood better. Aaron says, 'The simplest way to look at it is – more moisture = more smoke = higher emissions.'



## Air is Polluted

Air quality is poor, and you may experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation. The pollution may cause breathing discomfort on prolonged exposure, and discomfort to people with heart disease or asthma. Try not to stay in this environment for a long period of time.



Seasoned logs are air dried over the course of a season or seasons (6 to 24 months) – the longer it is left, the more moisture that naturally evaporates. Kiln-dried logs are heated in a kiln for 4–5 days in a controlled environment. On average my kiln-dried falls into a range of 9–13% and the seasoned ranges around 18–24%.

From May 2021 the sale of pre-packaged house coal and wood with a moisture content of more than 20 per cent will be banned. We will have to see if air quality improves next winter!

**MAP team from Transition Bollington**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Bollington's Air Quality Monitoring website: [www.public.tableau.com/profile/mh3529#!/vizhome/Airqualitydata/Dashboard1?publish=yes](http://www.public.tableau.com/profile/mh3529#!/vizhome/Airqualitydata/Dashboard1?publish=yes)

Transition Bollington's website containing link to the group's Air Quality Monitoring website: [www.transitionbollington.wixsite.com/tbolly](http://www.transitionbollington.wixsite.com/tbolly)

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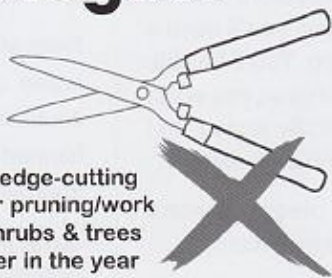
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## SMALL SCHOOL LIFE

**At Pott Shrigley Church School we put a firm emphasis on the well-being of our children, which is reflected in our emphasis on learning outside the classroom.**

Every Friday lunchtime we close the schoolbooks and shut the classroom doors as we head out into the forest, unroll the mats for yoga or keep up to date with the tasks on the gardening calendar. We have just planted onions and garlic after a terrific harvest last year! We are also regularly to be found exploring our fabulous location as part of the Peak District National Park.

Obviously, the events of the past year have made this focus even more of a priority, and we have increased our time spent on mindful activities for key workers

and other children currently in school. Those working at home are encouraged to join in via the provision of recorded yoga sessions and a weekly walking challenge to promote regular physical activity for the whole family!

Of course, there is plenty of traditional classroom time too, but

we strongly believe that children need to feel safe and happy at school in order to learn. If you want to find out more about our idyllic little school in the Peak District National Park, please do get in touch.

*Joanne Bromley*



## WHAT IS YOUR BABY SAYING TO YOU?

**It is a problem that every new parent faces – a crying baby and the parents left feeling a little frustrated and upset as they try to work out what their child wants. But imagine if the baby knew a little sign language and was able to communicate that way. Fewer tears, maybe?**

I learnt British Sign Language many years ago and had heard of baby sign, but I didn't know much about it. When I had my son, I started to use some basic sign language with him and was delighted when he signed 'drink' to me when he was eight months old. It was such an amazing aid to us through his early years and helped defuse a toddler tantrum or two. I am certain it helped him become a confident communicator and the fact that he knew more than 150 signs by the time he was 2, supporting his speech and language development, is something I am very grateful for.

We learnt baby sign (based on



*My son knew all the important signs. Here he is, aged 2, asking for a biscuit*

signs from British Sign Language) together, attending TinyTalk classes, learning through songs and games. I loved it so much that when the opportunity to become the local TinyTalk teacher came up I jumped at it! Since taking the job, I have been able to bring classes to Bollington too, teaching in the Arts Centre (when we are not in lockdown, at least).

If you would like to use baby sign with your child, pick a few signs that you think will work best for you and your family as a starting point. The words that you choose to sign should be things that you see regularly as part of your day so that you can point to the object, say its name, and do the sign, allowing your child to make the connection between what they are seeing and what you are saying. When they are ready, your child will sign back to you and the joy on their face when they realise you have understood them is extremely precious.

Classes for babies and for toddlers are running on-line while we are under the current restrictions (Mondays and Fridays at 10am for babies; Mondays at 11.30am for toddlers). If you would like to know more about these classes or receive further information when TinyTalk classes are able to meet again in person, please see [www.tinytalk.co.uk/claibarnett](http://www.tinytalk.co.uk/claibarnett) or contact me on [claibarnett@tinytalk.co.uk](mailto:claibarnett@tinytalk.co.uk). You can also find me on Facebook and Instagram.

*Claire Barnett*





# BRITISH CYCLISTS, ETHAN VERNON AND F

Ethan Vernon (20) is a British racing cyclist who currently is training with the British Team and hoping to compete in the Olympics later this year. He moved to Bollington last year.

Lodging at Ethan's house is another up-and-coming cyclist, Fin Graham (21). Fin is part of British Cycling's Para-Cycling programme. He was born with bilateral club feet, which has left him with no calf muscles and little or no movement in his ankles. Both young men have their sights set on the next Olympic Games, hopefully later this year. Both are very dedicated to the sport and have a busy training schedule. They have found time, however, to answer a few questions about their lives in cycling.

## Ethan Vernon

### Where did you grow up and when did your interest in cycling start?

I grew up just north of London, in Bedfordshire. I've always had an interest in cycling since I was a small boy, and I started off competing in BMX racing when I was just 4 years old. My career in the sport kicked off pretty quickly, and soon I was racing in the National series in the Under-6 category. This

moved on to European and World Championships until I was 14 years old. I then switched to track racing and road racing, with my first races coming in the Under-16 category for road, where I won a National Series Road Race. Things moved on very quickly from there, and I started picking up world records, European and world championship medals. But I could never have imagined that, four years down the line, I would be training for the Olympic Games.

### What were your greatest influences growing up and who encouraged you to pursue your ambition?

My parents were my biggest influence growing up. They supported me on and off the bike and I would not be at the level I currently am were it not for the foundation they gave me growing up. My various coaches have all been key factors in helping me achieve my short-term goals to progress to the next 'pathway' within the British Cycling Programme.

### So far, what are the highlights of your career and what are your current ambitions?

Tough one, this! I've had many highlights in my career, but one that definitely stands out is my Junior World Record in the individual pursuit in 2018. Following that, a silver medal in the Junior World Championships was pretty special, even if it was heartbreaking at the time to lose the gold by a couple of hundredths of a second. Other key highlights include selection and a fourth place at the Commonwealth Games in Australia. I was only 17 years old at the time so feel very proud of that. My current ambition is to be in Tokyo at the Olympic Games and following on from that, hopefully, to be on a World Tour team, racing the Tour de France in the coming years.

### What impact has the pandemic had on British cycling and, in particular, your training schedule and competitions?

It has been a mega-tough year. The Under-23 category years are a cyclist's most important years to learn and develop as a rider. I was lucky to experience my first Under-23 category in 2019 and picked up a few wins, which led me to believe I had some good years ahead of me. Last April we were sent home from Belgium, amid growing concerns about Covid. We still managed to get to a handful of races last year, including a couple of European Championships on Track and Road, where I managed to get a silver medal.

It feels weird to have no spectators at an event, but racing gives us motivation to train during lockdown. Training still goes on. We can access the Manchester Velodrome twice a week. The other days are spent in the Peak District on the road bike. Training is going well, and it's been great to be able to use the new Olympic bike in training and continue the build-up towards the Games.

### You moved to Bollington in 2020, not the easiest of times

Ethan Vernon  
(photo below,  
far left)





# N GRAHAM

**to get to know a place. Why Bollington, and so far, what are your impressions?**

It has been a shame not to be able to enjoy the facilities and to show family and friends round the lovely area and community. But that will be a pleasure for later.

Bollington was the perfect location for me. I was living in Gatley for a couple of years in a British Cycling Academy house with four other lads, which was great fun. Exploring the area, I realised I wanted to be based up here. Bollington is a perfect mix for both my track and road goals. The velodrome is only 35–40 minutes away and the Peak District is on my doorstep. I also have mates around here, and when we are allowed, we will meet up at local cafés. I am now enjoying local walks, exploring the sights.

As I have bought my first house in Bollington, I spend some of my down time away from training looking at interior design and searching on the internet for another decorative purchase for my home.

**Fin Graham**

**Fin, where did you grow up and when did your interest in cycling start?**

I grew up in the Scottish borders and lived there until I was 8, then I moved to the Highlands just north of Inverness. I loved cycling from a very early age as I lived near the Mountain Bike Trail Centre of Glentress, so even before I could ride, I would go along with Mum while Dad rode.

**Who are your influences and who encouraged you growing up?**

My mum and dad played a massive part in my cycling journey as without them I wouldn't have been able to travel to the trails and then when I started racing, they transported me all around the country. They would never let

me use my disability as an excuse, which helped me massively, as I loved sport and wanted to be in every sports team in school.

**What are the highlights of your career so far, and what are your current ambitions?**

My career highlights so far have been becoming a full-time cyclist and getting onto the British Cycling Team and winning the Road and TT World Cup in Canada in 2019. My current ambition is to go to the Tokyo Paralympic Games.

**This year has been a difficult one. How has it affected your training and competitions?**

It is a year since I was last away racing with the team and I can't wait to get back to that again. Just before the last lockdown I went north to spend time with my family, which was nice. As there is no racing the training is much more flexible, so I was able to just head out and have fun on the bike and get back on the mountain bike.

Training has been going well. We are lucky the velodrome is open, so we have the facilities to continue training. Plans include getting away to some warm weather to ride as I am a bit fed up with the UK weather.

**When you have a break from cycling, what do you enjoy doing?**

When I am not riding, I enjoy watching other sports – I am a massive sports fan and would have a go at anything. I like to meet up with friends and go to cafés when they are open. I also like playing on my Xbox as it takes my mind off things.

Thank you, Ethan and Fin. I am sure that the whole of Bollington will be following your cycling progress and wishing you luck in all your competitions.

**Sandy Milsom**





# LISTEN UP BOLLINGTON

We're always delighted to welcome a new business to Bollington, particularly when it is owned by a local person. Clare Kewney is such a person. Clare, who moved to Bollington when she was 11 years old, is following in the footsteps of her audiologist father, Barry Downes.

Now as, an audiologist and clinical ear-care specialist in her own right, Clare has recently achieved a long-held aspiration to open the Bollington Hearing Centre. The new business offers a full range of hearing-related services, including ear-wax removal, hearing assessment, hearing-aid provision, hearing protection and tinnitus management.

Clare qualified as an audiologist in 1997 but went on to do a further degree in Audiology at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge in 2013. Clare has worked both in the NHS and the private sector, giving her a vast amount of clinical knowledge, experience and skill. Clare also lectures and trains others

Clare:  
01625 409792  
clare@bollington  
hearingcentre  
.co.uk  
www.bollington  
hearingcentre  
.co.uk

to become audiologists and hearing care assistants on behalf of Mary Hare School for the Deaf and Audiology UK Ltd.

Clare very much wants to be part of the network of Bollington medical services and aims to work closely with the Bollington Medical Centre and the Middlewood Partnership, offering wax removal and audiology services to all. She is also a Dementia Champion and trains Dementia Friends on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society.

Clare strives to ensure her services are affordable, professional, ethical, and responsive to her patients' individual needs. She is passionate about her work and aims to transform the quality of life and hearing health for those with hearing concerns. Importantly, as this is an independent business, Clare can access the full range of hearing technologies, working with all hearing-aid manufacturers, enabling patients to make an informed choice about their hearing needs.



Clare says: 'We will give you all the time and expertise needed to listen to your concerns, explore options and support you through every step of your hearing health rehabilitation.'

There is no lower or upper age range of patients. Indeed, currently, her oldest patient is 101 years young! Home visits can also be provided, where necessary, for wax removal and hearing assessments.

Kate Gooding

## BOLLY BYWAYS

Many thanks to Roger Molineux, who sent in this quiz with clues to road names in Bollington. Zoom quiz, anyone?!

- 1 Every cloud has one
- 2 By Royal assent
- 3 A bit of a stretch
- 4 Head of a diocese
- 5 For little ones
- 6 A past queen's consort
- 7 Past GPs in Bollington
- 8 Maybe in a pan
- 9 Harnessing a natural power
- 10 A fiery view
- 11 One of a herd
- 12 A rolling stone gathers none
- 13 Helps the medicine go down
- 14 A place of worship
- 15 Magazine editor!

Answers:

1. Silver Street; 2. Queen Street; 3. Long Lane; 4. Bishop Road; 5. Nursery Road; 6. Albert Road; 7. Coope Road; 8. Flash Lane; 9. Waterwheel Way; 10. Blaze Hill; 11. Cow Lane; 12. Moss Lane or Brow; 13. Sugar Lane; 14. Church Street; 15. Hurst Lane

## WITHOUT BOLLINGTON

Imagine if Bollington had never been here ...

No cotton ever spun, or textiles printed, Plastic foam or coins even minted.

Paper labels for bottles and vinyl LPs, Royal Mail postage stamps, not any of these.

No coal and stone barged over an aqueduct grand, viaduct arches for a railway, never to stand.

The 'Rec' with its sports perhaps only a Green. And what of the Festival never to have been?

A Centre for Leisure, a Centre for Arts, Only a dream, if Bollingtonians not taking part.

Churches with spires for religious grace, Would not be here, but some other place.

Those who for country paid with their life, None here to remember this great sacrifice.

Though a certain White Nancy may still have been, Built by the Gaskells in 1815.

A folly without Bolly looking down on no town. So, would it be painted as a face with a frown?

PS There would also not be our Bollington Live! magazine!

Roger Molineux



# PLANET BEFORE PROFIT

We are very lucky to be so close to a major European city, Manchester, linked to our capital by train, and also being surrounded by beautiful countryside. From the lookout of White Nancy we have a fantastic vista, and it's up to us to protect that beauty. This is one of the missions of Scoop and Scales, and since 2018 we have offered an opportunity for those wanting to buy ethical products, largely single-use and plastic free, and healthier homemade options from the ingredients available.



As well as the goodness of plastic-free, seeds, cereals, wholesome foods at Scoop and Scales we have the best in ethical treats as well, including vegan sweets and ethical chocolate products like Tony's Chocology and Harry's Hot Chocolate. If being conscious



of our beautiful surroundings and wonderful natural world is at the centre of your living, we also have non-food items such as biodegradable packaging, cooking accessories, cleaning goods, and the majority of things your shower tray/bathroom cupboard already hold. The difference compared to most supermarket brands being that our products are ethically sourced and often offer cost savings.



We also think about the supply chain of all our products, using local suppliers wherever possible and focusing on ethical standards alongside quality and price. We really want to reach a broad

demographic, and hope to prove that using Scoop and Scales to stock up on edible dried goods and household detergents will both save money and be better for the planet!

Although we have a shop in the Old Sunday School/Heritage Centre in Macclesfield (closed during lockdown) you can click and collect (picking up in Bollington) or request a delivery, which is made on an e-bike! Becoming a member (by filling in the form on the website) means you get a members' discount.

For the Scoop and Scales team, people and planet come before profit, and we reinvest a proportion of our profits back into the community to support positive local change. Please take a moment to consider what plastic waste is created by your chopping habits and try a scoop of plastic-free community support!

*Emily Bartram and Russell Hope*



## BOLLINGTON DEMENTIA FRIENDLY GROUP

We run a coffee and chat group alternate Wednesdays, at 2pm. At the moment this is via Zoom. Anyone is welcome to join us. Just contact Gill Lancaster 07808 271591 gill.lancaster37@btinternet.com

We are working with other local groups to provide support for those living with Dementia. Check out our Facebook page: Bollington

Dementia Action Alliance.

### Helpful Contacts for information and advice

Middlewood medical Partnership... Social Prescriber, Susannah Slattery can help with support and activities [susannah.slattery@nhs.net](mailto:susannah.slattery@nhs.net)

Dementia UK have a 24hr HELPLINE staffed by Admiral nurses 0800 888 6678

Cheshire East Carers hub is single point of contact for Carers and produces a regular newsletter [enquiries@cheshireeastcarershub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cheshireeastcarershub.co.uk)

Cheshire east Hospice provides Dementia support, education and Living Well services: Contact Debbie Callow 01625 610364.





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# KRIV CLEARS THE WAY

The Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale (KRIV) volunteers are the legacy of the very first Heritage Lottery-funded Landscape Partnership project in the UK. The project ran from 2005 to 2010 and as part of it a group of volunteers formed in 2006 and were trained in a wide variety of outdoor skills such as hedge laying, dry stone walling and footpath maintenance, among others. The project evaluation report in July 2010 said this about the volunteers:

*'Between August 2006 and May 2010 the KRIV volunteers have delivered 5,081 person days of work on KRIV programmes. Whatever the weather and no matter what the task is the team manages to field between 10 and 20 volunteers.'*

After the Heritage Lottery-funded scheme ended in 2010, the volunteers have continued to maintain and improve the cultural and natural heritage within and around the original scheme area, including, of course, the annual makeover of White Nancy. In recent times a strong relationship has been forged with Cheshire



Wildlife Trust which has led to KRIV not only working over a wider geographical area in the South West Peak, but also benefiting from further training and getting involved in other activities such as natural flood management (Slowing the Flow) and seed harvesting.

Bollington, Rainow and the surrounding parishes have extensive networks of footpaths and other public rights of way. Many paths have a long history

connected to the area's industrial past or its location on ancient transport links such as the salters' routes from the Cheshire salt mines to Derbyshire and Yorkshire. While these paths have long provided a recreational asset for local people, their importance has been raised during lockdown and the emphasis on seeking exercise in the local area. There has been a large increase in the numbers using the footpath networks in Bollington and the surrounding areas, not just by residents but people travelling in from nearby urban areas. This has heightened the need to ensure that the paths are well maintained and safe to use in the current 'social distancing' situation, including:

- Adequate signage to ensure that users unfamiliar with the area follow the designated footpath routes
- Gates and stiles that enable safe passage along the route while providing effective barriers for farm livestock
- Appropriate surfaces, drainage and width to ensure that paths remain usable and safe, while recognising that a certain amount of mud is inevitable in the local terrain and climate!

KRIV typically undertake larger-scale footpath tasks, responding to requests from Cheshire East Council and landowners. These tasks have ranged from the creation and maintenance of new paths, through restoration of historic paths, such as the paved routes previously used by mill workers, to cutting back path-side growth to improve access and the scope for social distancing. Some of the KRIV projects are listed below.

## Restoring historic millworkers' paths

KRIV have restored a number of former millworkers' paths that retained their original paving but which had been lost under a covering of mud and grass. A notable example of this is Rainow FP39 from Sugar Lane to Waulkmill, where there is now a continuous paved path for most of the route, providing a firm and clean surface for walkers while avoiding wear and tear to the surrounding grass of the fields.

*All photos were taken pre-lockdown*

*For further information about KRIV please contact Lester*

*Humphreys on (01625) 573819 or John Stagg on (01625) 572816.*



## The Redway Wood path

During 2006–09 KRIV constructed a new path through Redway Wood up to White Nancy (Bollington FP57). Recent work on the Redway path has included the replacement of some of the risers and handrail posts to replace those suffering from deterioration and user damage after more than a decade in situ.

## General maintenance and clearance

A variety of tasks were undertaken on the footpaths across the area between Gin Clough and Kirkhill, including the repositioning of stone steps at one of the stiles and cutting back undergrowth that was obstructing the correct line of the path.

## Drainage and surface treatment

A section of path in Prestbury, providing access to the Bollin Way, suffered from frequent flooding. The KRIV team barrowed in aggregate to raise the level of path to reduce the incidence of flooding and provide a firm surface for walkers.

The KRIV volunteers will continue to work closely with the relevant authorities to help maintain our important and historic network of footpaths. A wide range of activities are involved, from lighter pruning work to heavier tasks such as timberwork and aggregate installation.

**Alan Brett and Lester Humphreys**





# MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Hidden behind busy Shrigley Road, Rainow View's quietude belies the hive of activity, creativity, adventurous and entrepreneurial spirit within.

## THE O'BRIENS

Let's go next door to Martin and Maria O'Brien

We moved from Brooklands, Sale 10 years ago to be near our two daughters Lucy and Annabel and their families. We have been married for 52 years and have six grandsons. Our son lives with his family in London.

MARIA: I am retired and kept busy with family, gardening, Pilates, walking, book club, etc. Before retiring I held a PR position for a large dairy and travelled extensively throughout the country dealing with all the major supermarkets and liaising with the farms after the dismantling of the Milk Marketing Board.

MARTIN: For most of my working life I ran a Consulting Engineering Practice with an office in the centre of Manchester and was involved in projects as diverse as Sizewell Nuclear Power Station and Croma and Lounge 10 Restaurants in the city centre.

Over the last twenty years I have specialised in the design of facilities for the movement, storage and distribution of bulk aggregates and was responsible for the design and implementation of several rail and river discharge schemes, ready-mix concrete plants and asphalt plants throughout the London area.

Notable examples of my work are the large asphalt and concrete plants at the M25/M4 junction near Heathrow, a railhead and aggregate depot at Purley and two plants for London Concrete which supplied all the concrete to build the 2012 Olympic Park.

Although I am now past retirement age it seems I am not to be left in peace and now appear to



Photo above:  
The O'Briens

be solely responsible for the HS2 rail project (I will staunchly defend this) with sites in London, Banbury and Birmingham along the route, designed from the Corporate Headquarters (a 3m x 2m bedroom!) and assisted by two of my ex-colleagues, who should also be retired.

Fortunately, the next generation of Structural Engineers is alive and well in Aidan next door, so I should be able to properly retire some time soon.

## THE WESTS

Let's meet Sarah, Martin and Aidan West, who have resided here the longest.

We moved to Bollington in July 1997. As we both worked, we wanted good child-support services and schools, plus easy access to public services and motorway networks for our jobs. We also fell in love with the town, its beautiful location and wonderful people.

SARAH: I'm now retired. After holding a managerial job which involved a significant amount of travel, I decided to change tack and look for a job nearer to home.

In 2009, I took an Admin Support role in a local secondary school. It was quite a culture change; however, I enjoyed the interaction with teaching staff and students. What it taught me is that today's young people are thoughtful and engaged. When not in lockdown, I'm an active member at the Tytherington Club, enjoying Zumba, Tai Chi, Pilates and Body Core classes. I'm also a member of a Bollington Library reading group.

MARTIN: I've always worked for software companies since coming to Bollington and have had the luck of being able to travel and work all over Europe and the US. I now work on contract and will soon be starting some work for a Manchester company and joining the Zoom world which I'm very much looking forward to.

We've lived in the house since 1997 and vow this year to finish building it. My friend and Master Builder who lives in the village laughs at the many phases he has completed for me. This year though, we swear to finish.

AIDAN: After completing a difficult final year (like most students in 2020), I graduated from the University of Sheffield with a



Photo right:  
The Davies



dual Structural Engineering and Architecture Masters. I currently work remotely at a Civic Engineering company in Manchester, recently contributing to the restoration of Manchester's Band on the Wall.

I'm a lover of the outdoors, hiking, climbing and trail running. Due to the staycation summer it was the ideal opportunity to walk and camp the 296-mile Pennine Way and 96-mile West Highland Way. I'm a keen photographer in my free time so you'll more than likely see me around the village taking photos.

### THE DAVIES

Now let's knock on the door of Ben, Jeanie and the twins, Stanley and Eleanor Davies (they actually live half in and half out of our road).

We moved to Bollington from London in 2006, just weeks after we were married and it has been a wonderful place to raise our twins. We love the backdrop of the hills, beautiful stone buildings and mills, and the work to keep the arts and community alive such as the Arts Centre, Bollington Festival, the Bridgend Centre and the library. The sense of history and rooted families with the traditions such as White Nancy at Christmas and singing round the tree means Bollington has an incredibly welcoming and anchoring feeling.

**JEANIE:** runs her own education consultancy company specialising in culture change and leadership development in schools.

In July 2020 Jeanie's book *The Trust Revolution in Schools* was published by Routledge. She was commissioned to write the book to look at why teachers are leaving schools at such high rates and how, by moving school cultures to be based on trust rather than on fear, we can enable teachers to stay and flourish in their schools.

**BEN:** is founder of a technology business based in Manchester. He started it 7 years ago when it was

just him, an idea and a laptop; now there are 25 staff in the business across the UK, France and Germany with clients including M&S, Co-op, Starbucks and Colgate.

**STANLEY:** recently appeared in the TV remake of *All Creatures Great and Small*. In episode 5 he won the Darrowby pet competition with his character's astonishing knowledge of goldfish! It was a great programme to take part in and meant two days filming in the Yorkshire moors as well as trips to London for costume fitting. Highlights were getting to act with Matthew Lewis, who played Neville Longbottom in the Harry Potter films.

**ELEANOR:** is still the reigning Rose Queen of Rainow, not being able to yet hand over her crown due to the pandemic. Eleanor has missed scouts but kept up on-line and when possible gone to the group meetings. She has camped in the garden regularly over the summer and was part of the virtual camp-out record in April.

### SCOTT ETHERINGTON

I came to Bollington in 2019. I moved to the North-West in 2017 for family reasons, and originally rented in Didsbury. As I then came to look at places to buy a home, I was originally looking at south Manchester, a work colleague who lives in Macclesfield mentioned Bollington to me as a wonderful place to live and the rest is history!

I am Finance Director of Nisa Retail, a wholesale business that Co-op bought in 2018. It's a high-intensity role, particularly with the demands brought by the pandemic, but I enjoy it. I also feel very proud to work for The Co-operative, a great business that plays a positive role in many communities around the UK, including in Bollington.

I enjoy exercising and moving so Bollington has reinvigorated my



*Photo above:  
Scott rowing  
across the Atlantic*

love of running (although I am yet to run to the top of White Nancy without stopping!).

In 2013 I rowed across the Atlantic, 3,000 miles from the Canaries to the Caribbean, raising almost £40,000 for good causes in the process. It was an amazing experience and spending 60 days on a small boat was an incredible adventure, although I don't miss eating freeze-dried food! The main lesson I learnt from this is 'you can do anything' – just 12 months before the challenge I was unfit, had never rowed on water, and had no idea how to navigate an ocean.

Life has been very different over the past year. I appreciate being able to work from home; going for regular walks in our amazing surroundings has been a great relief. I have a 5-year-old daughter, and I have tried to make life as 'normal' as possible for her, lots of time spent in the garden or at the Rec, playing and having fun.

We are all keeping busy and trying to keep positive during these difficult times and all look forward to better times when we can enjoy fully the lovely things Bollington has to offer. 'STAY POSITIVE AND TEST NEGATIVE!'

**Maria O'Brien**



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-  **0207 219 7106**
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# COMMUNITY CHRONICLES

After growing up in a fairly suburban town, the idea of a tight-knit, close community was relatively new to me. I remember the utter delight as we collected the keys to our very first home, a beautiful cottage on Palmerston Street. The first few weeks were almost like being on holiday and if I'm totally honest, the novelty of Bollington hasn't yet worn off, and I doubt it ever will. After a magical decade in the most charming location, I wanted to do something to say thank you to this amazing community for making us feel so very welcome and providing us with the place we will forever call home.

Moving away from home was a big step, yet I have such vivid memories of my first year living in Bollington, all of them rooted in kindness and acceptance. The wonderful laughter of Anne Bellfield still rings in my ears, the friendliness of neighbours on Palmerston Street and beyond, the boundless kindness of families such as the Murphys and the support in which to grow my career within the then Federation of Pott Shrigley and Bollington St John's Church School community.

I have worked as a teacher in Bollington for the past eleven years and have recently started my own photography business, Little Lens Photography. I used my time in between working during the 2020 lockdown to shoot doorstep

portraits of local residents to raise money for Hope Central Food Bank. This venture was a huge success, and alongside my experience with children, led me to embark into children's photography. However, my most recent project has opened the door to much more.

The inspiration behind my latest work – 'People of Bollington, Chronicles of a Community' – came from a colleague who suggested I look at a blog by Brandon Stanton, 'Humans of New York'. I was intrigued because, like myself, this chap had little professional photography experience and just wanted to do something creative with his camera. I seized the opportunity to develop a similar project using the people of our wonderful community. Bollington seemed the ideal place to document, as for a sleepy Cheshire town we are seemingly diverse.

I have used the Bollington Facebook page as a platform to showcase my photographs of members of the community in a bid to get people involved. This idea took flight and I now have a collection containing over 600 photographs of people of all ages across Bollington. The photographs will be accompanied by short snippets of these people's lives, including why they came to Bollington, what they love about it,



and the impact they have had on our community.

My aim is to turn these amazing stories and portraits into a book, to create a part of social history at this strange moment in time. I am looking for businesses and sponsors to get behind this worthwhile community project to help make it happen.

If you would like to get involved then please contact me at [laurenwalsh88@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laurenwalsh88@hotmail.co.uk).

All photographs are taken out of doors at a social distance unless your business is still open and permits my entry.

**Lauren Stout**

## A YEAR IN THE LIFE...

I have been a town councillor for a year or so beginning my term days before the national lockdown in 2020 so it has been an unusual set of circumstances under which I've been working, socially distanced and via countless online meetings. However, I have particularly enjoyed developing understanding

about the needs and concerns of our community; liaising and supporting the community with issues such as planning, parking, potholes, safety concerns and flooding; and setting up the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group and supporting businesses and local economic development.

I am happy to receive messages from the community about the things you need advice on or support with.

I can be contacted via the Town Hall or by emailing [Sara.knowles@bollington-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Sara.knowles@bollington-tc.gov.uk).

**Sara Knowles**



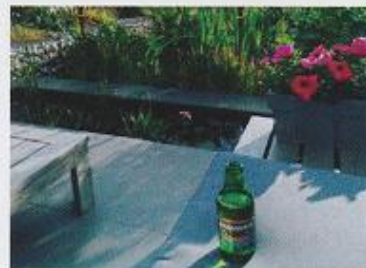
# BOLLINGTON BY NEAL JONES

Neal was born in Bollington and has lived here for 33 years. He attended Adlington Primary School and Poynton High School and now lives on the Waterhouse Mill Estate. Neal is a committee member of the Residents' Association and during the lockdowns was a street warden, making sure all shielding residents could call on someone to shop or collect prescriptions.

## What is your current job?

I recently worked in mortgage brokering and insurance, but since last March I have not been able to pursue this. However, I have more recently been employed at Covid testing centres in Stoke and at Manchester Airport. It sounds strange to say, but I have really enjoyed it. I met some great people and found it rewarding and satisfying. It has helped me during lockdown as I was out and doing something useful.

I am now looking after and managing a site. I facilitate the overall running of the site, which can be an unusual challenge, as we are a temporary built site which relies heavily on daily deliveries of water tankers and fuel wagons in order to remain open.



## How did you fill your time during lockdown before the Covid testing job?

I spent a lot of time painting and decorating and doing chores around the house. I am an avid gardener and spent a lot of time in the garden. I also

walked around Bollington and discovered many nooks and crannies and footpaths I had never been on before. I was amazed at the number of untrodden paths in a place have lived all my life. I also read a lot.

## How did you feel about having the blank page of a new garden to make your mark on?

Starting from scratch in the garden was great. I love plants and have enjoyed designing a habitat for them and creating a peaceful place to enjoy and relax. It was hard work but so worth it.

## Were you part of the Bollington Open Gardens?

Yes, I loved that. I enjoy meeting fellow garden enthusiasts and it is nice when other people appreciate your garden. I look forward to the day when we can reopen our gardens.

## Where is your favourite spot in Bollington?

The top of White Nancy looking at the view from all sides.

## What keeps you in Bollington?

Friends and family, of course, but it is a fantastic place to live. It is close enough to Manchester and Macclesfield with their amenities, but it has a charm of its own with great local pubs and restaurants and the surrounding countryside is brilliant for walking. It is friendly and welcoming and at its heart has a sense of community.

Thank you, Neal, for sharing with us, and thank you too for shopping for several of us older residents at the beginning of first lockdown and also offering help in the latest one.

Sandy Milsom



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## IS THE GRASS GREENER?

**Hello! I'm a neighbour of yours. Well, nearly. I live over the hill, 7 miles away, in a little place you may have heard of – Alderley Edge. Actually, everyone has heard of Alderley; wherever I go people ask, 'Isn't that where the footballers live?'**

I have enjoyed my 20 years in Alderley but admit it is a slightly self-satisfied place full of over-large cars, enormous houses and, if I may say so, some egos to match! Having discovered Bollington I have come to cherish it as an antidote to Alderley.

Differences were baked-in from the start. Victorian mill-owners commuted out of smoky Manchester to spacious villas in leafy Alderley. Mill town Bollington, meanwhile, lined its streets with stone-built artisans' cottages. You step straight onto the pavement and bump into your neighbours, always ready for a chat. Many Alderley people live behind high gates and emerge only in a huge 4x4. Happily, Bollington has more Minis than Range Rovers – just as well, when parking is such a challenge!

Weinholt's famous patisserie is the jewel in Alderley's compact shopping street, but the fishmonger, greengrocer, baker and

cheese specialists have given way to the all-conquering Waitrose. Now it's posh frock shops, hairdressers and nail bars. In Bollington, I'm delighted to find local food from artisan bakers, delicatessens and butchers dotted along the valley. Even the coffee shops are independent, with not a national brand to be seen.

Bollington has pubs; Alderley has bars. Bollington attracts walkers in sensible waterproofs; night-time Alderley swarms with youthful fashionistas. In Bollington I marvel at the night sky; Alderley's big houses dazzle with bright lights. Alderley has its lovely cricket ground and tennis club, but members need deep pockets. In more democratic Bollington the recreation ground is open to all-comers, and very popular too.

Most impressive of all is Bollington's community spirit and drive. Which other small town runs its own arts centre and major festival? Alderley has nothing of the kind. Where else would a Resilience Action Group spring up to tackle the pandemic? Where else does the culture of mutual help and kindness blossom so vividly? Bravo Bollington!

*Graham Nicholson*



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