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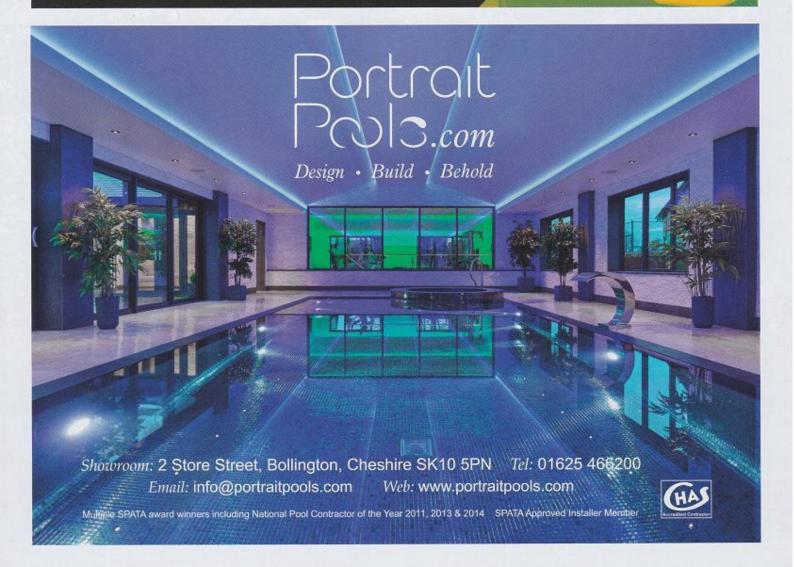
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Issue 81 Summer 2021

# **REC REBORN**

The Friends of Bollington Rec (FoBR) was established to work with ANSA Environmental to provide a thriving and welcoming environment for residents, visitors and sportsmen and women. FoBR have been quiet over the last couple of years, but the Covid pandemic has sparked us back into life.

Last autumn Chris Bennett and I considered running a socially distanced Christmas event on the Rec to help bring the community together. Despite conditional support from BTC and ANSA, we reluctantly concluded that under prevailing conditions such an event would be inappropriate. We did, however, want to commemorate those who lost their lives, or who lost loved ones during the pandemic. In February, the FoBR committee was reconstituted to plan the planting of a Japanese weeping cherry by the cricket pavilion. We chose cherry blossom as it is viewed as a sign of hope and renewal, which seems appropriate for these times. The planting, which was a very low-key, socially distanced event, took place at the end of March, with the mayor and deputy mayor officiating. Soon, a small stone plaque is to be placed by the tree.

Since then we have been quite busy. We have started a competition for local schools to produce posters to educate visitors to the Rec to take rubbish home for recycling, rather than leave it around the waste bins. We are well advanced in planning a major community event on Bank Holiday Monday and will be supporting Transition Bollington in their COP26 event in October. We have a number of other plans which you will hear about over the next few months.

Roland Edwards and Chris Bennett



If you have any ideas for the next issue, please email me: liveeditor@ happyvalley.org.uk

Planting the commemorative tree (courtesy Little Lens Photography)

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

From Dragon's
Den to Badger
vaccinations
the breadth of
subject matter
never ceases
to amaze me
with Bollington
Live. There's
also reviews of



a couple of new businesses in town and the annual walking festival is returning after a year off.

I don't usually get involved with the content of articles to avoid any editor bias, but this issue I was lucky enough to work with the Windmill Angling Club on Stuart's lovely article about fishing. The photographs of Hunter's Pool are stunning, and the extensive work carried out in and around the pool at the beginning of the year is fascinating to read about.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as we, the volunteers did! A huge thank you to the loyalty of our advertisers and sponsors for keeping the magazine afloat in these turbulent times.

Date for next copy: 28th Sept 2022

Ametre

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

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# **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

It was inspirational the other day to meet Sophie Hocking and Megan Malone, the local young women who run Rootstock. If you haven't yet visited Rootstock you might well have seen it signposted next to Bollington Brewery on Adlington Road.

The concept of Rootstock rose out of the first lockdown over a year ago, when our reliance on nature for our wellbeing became apparent like never before. The increasing reality of climate change is also highlighting the absolute necessity to look after our environment. And there is no doubt that, because of the pandemic, plastic and packaging is being used more than ever.

So cutting down on our consumption of finite resources links straight into living sustainably, which in turn inspired the name of the business. According to Wikipedia, 'The rootstock is part of a plant, often an underground part, from which new above-ground growth can be produced.'

On their website – wearerootstock. co.uk – Megan and Sophiestate their aim of 'reconnecting everyone to sustainable living. We're promoting awareness of living a good life, grounded firmly in the belief that living well alongside others as a community, and within a healthy environment, can benefit us all.'

Choosing to live in an 'eco-friendly' way is often more expensive and labour-intensive. So Rootstock aims for affordability, accessibility and

making 'sustainable' the everyday choice. After starting up in a garage, Megan and Sophie had the chance of a shed next to the Brewery, and following months of research they launched the business. Refillable food products (rice, pasta, flour, loose-leaf tea, etc.), organic goodies and 'green' household and pet kits are just some of the items on offer, along with the know-how to improve the health of our environment and the quality of our lives. For example, did you know the difference between compostable and biodegradable dog poo bags?!

Research involved looking into air miles, packaging and potential suppliers' often misleading claims (apparently large conglomerates frequently engage in 'greenwashing' in order to hop on the eco bandwagon).

Sophie and Megan are keen to ask people what products they would like to see and also to take on board suggestions and criticisms. They collaborate with other like-minded local businesses to make supplying refills easier and more efficient (e.g. splitting an excess of rice between businesses).

It is early days and the women have other jobs while the business is becoming established. But things are going well. When I called into Rootstock a new and permanent canopy was being erected outside the shed to provide a more inviting environment for customers, making it a destination rather than a stop.

The women are proud of everything



they've managed to do in just six months, but are under no illusions about the task in hand. That said, the new localism across the country – and the powerful sense of community we see here in Bollington – gives them extra hope and faith. There is a groundswell against naked capitalism and disposable culture and a growing interest in the notion of the 'circular economy'.

Individuals make a difference, even when it is global and political processes which are heavily responsible for the destruction of our environment. So, along with Transition Bollington and many others, Rootstock is hoping to plant its roots down into the community to act as a platform to promote and implement environmental and social justice. Are there shades of the glorious ideals of Woodstock, which in 1969 was a defining moment for the counter-culture generation?

Because the pandemic brought death and mortality to the fore, here in the UK we are undoubtedly re-evaluating what is important and what we want out of life. Changes in values and behaviour lead to changes in social structures. (I can't imagine that working from home will go away any time soon!) If we want to take all the positives from the last year and continue to enjoy living in the moment and being in nature, then it is in our own interests to look after it! And just as Woodstock did over fifty years ago, it's clear that Rootstock captures the spirit of the age.



Claire Moreland



# DRAGON'S DEN

One evening in May several Bollington residents were glued to their TV screens to watch an episode of Dragons' Den, one of the most successful BBC programmes. Many friends, family and neighbours of James Coulthurst, a local resident, knew he was to appear on the show, but as he was sworn to secrecy, they had no idea what the outcome would be!

James, along with his business partner and creator of the Leicester-based company Willsow, Tom Willday, were to pitch to the Dragons for an investment to support the development of a new and innovative concept for children – the first-ever plantable book.

The idea of the books was created when Tom, who was working at his family's 77-year-old printing firm, found that you could create business cards out of seed paper and grow wildflowers by planting them. At the same time, he was looking for ways to get his young cousins away from technology

and back to enjoying nature and the fresh air.

In 2019 the two friends launched Willsow, with the company's first book, The Carrot Who Was Too Big For His Bed. They now have five titles in their line-up. Environmentally conscious and eco-friendly practices are at the heart of Willsow's brand values. As a result, each book is made from post-consumer recycled paper, features non-genetically modified seeds, and uses vegetable-based, biodegradable ink. Instead of the toxic glue or metal staples commonly used in binding, the books are hand-stitched, using natural cotton. In addition to this, the family printing firm that produces the books is powered by completely renewable energy, making the whole production process completely sustainable.

Tom and James bravely entered the Dragons' Den looking for a £20,000 investment for a 10 per cent share in their company. After an intense pitch to the Dragons – Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden,

> Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Sara Davies – Peter Jones and Deborah Meaden were extremely keen to invest but asked for a higher percentage of the business. After some serious negotiation, Peter Jones and Deborah Meaden refused to



Photo: James and Tom with Sara Davies

reduce the percentage they asked for, and eventually the pair struck a deal with Sara Davies, securing a £20,000 investment for 15 per cent of the business.

When asked about the future of Willsow, James said, 'It's going to be an all-encompassing brand that stands for sustainability, recycling and getting the most from our natural surroundings. We'll have a huge range of books, how-to plant guides, gardening equipment and be the go-to business for parents who are looking for fun ways to get their kids out into the garden, learning about our environment and everything it has to offer.'

Tom, added, 'We're on a mission to educate future generations on all things sustainable. Willsow is where the end of the story is just the beginning.'

We can only wish these two entrepreneurs every success and look forward to hearing how their company progresses.

For further details and to purchase these innovative books, just visit Willsow.com or pop into the No. 74 deli on Palmerston Street.

Kate Gooding

## **PLAQUE TO THE FUTURE**

As readers know, Bollington Civic Society is determined to advertise our wonderful industrial heritage to residents and visitors. We now have four plaques in place – five, if you count the first one organised by our Chair, Ted Clunn, at Ingersley Mill.

We thought that after agonising over the text for two years, the next challenge would not be producing them. No! It would be placing them. So it has proved.

Thanks to the finance from Bollington Town Council our Secretary, Chris Kettlety's design skills and the manufacturing ingenuity of our sign makers, we can turn out signs in less than a week.



Getting our plaques in place is a different matter. We have waited four months for permission from Cheshire East to place one plaque. We hope you enjoy the ones we have put in place so far; these can be found at Ingersley Mill, Adelphi Mill, Clarence Mill and the Aqueduct.

Ken Edwards



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# **CATCH OF THE DAY**

'Fishing is about relaxation, not necessarily catching fish all the time. There's nothing better for your mental health than getting close to nature and relaxing in a beautiful environment.'

I've been a fisherman all my life and I joined the Windmill Angling Club in 1999. Before that I used to fish with the Royal Oak Club, and one day I was in a fishing competition at Hunters Pool in Mottram St Andrew, the home of Windmill Angling Club, and I loved it so much I switched clubs.

40kg of

The club originally began in the 1960s at the Windmill pub - hence 'Windmill Angling Club' - and Hunters Pool used to be part of the Adlington estate before it was sold and the club were lucky enough to buy it in 1986. I'm now the Chair and Match Secretary of the club, which has more than fifty members and even a waiting list for new ones! There are four committee members as well as me - Mark Bowden, Bob Hallworth, Andy Southern and Peter Boyce - who communicate pretty much daily via a WhatsApp group to steer the running of the club and, when allowed again, we'll be at the new Con Club (Turners Arms), together with the members. The membership subs are inexpensive and go towards the maintenance of the pool, its surroundings, insurance and, most important, increasing fish stocks.

Talking of the pool and its surroundings, in 2020 our Treasurer, Andy, applied for and got a £20,000 grant from the Environment Agency to desilt the pool and upgrade the banks. Getting the grant was a huge

boost and work started in January 2021, with club members pitching in alongside a company called Aquatic Solutions, who were hired to desilt the pool professionally. The company worked from boats called Truxors that rest on the water and use mechanical arms to scoop the silt from the bottom of the pool. This was purposely done in winter to help the pool retain as much water as possible, and then the silt was transferred onto the banks and left to dry out. It has now been levelled and planted with over 40kg of grass seed and hundreds

of plants, such as irises and other water-loving species.

The members also erected owl-nesting boxes and bat boxes around the site and the pool has since been stocked with extra carp, tench and

bream. Hawks, buzzards and kingfishers are among some of the bird life seen at the pool. A new picnic bench has been added – hopefully it will be used regularly by members' families for years to

I like to fish from 5pm onwards at the moment, as the fish are biting then, but this changes with the

weather and seasons. I have accumulated I o a d s of fishing tackle overthe years, but you only need a fishing starter kit to have a go. I

use maggots, luncheon meat and sweetcorn as bait and the hooks used are barbless (a club rule, for the welfare of the fish). The fish go back in the pool after being caught. Last year, due to the pandemic, you had to book a slot as we were only allowing 5 people to visit the pool at once, although there is room for



Right: Aquatic Solutions desilting Hunters Pool



17 fishermen, but now it's more relaxed and you can easily 'get a peg' – your fishing area. There are 17 peg markers around the pool and these indicate the locations from which you can fish.

We don't operate a 'closed season' at Hunters Pool, so you can fish all year round; however, as fishing is usually quieter in winter, we'll often use this time to carry out essential maintenance, constantly improving the environment both for the wildlife and the fishermen. Being a builder myself is a real asset when it comes to these maintenance jobs!

On 22 August the club is hosting a charity fishing competition - the Committee (The Committee That Should Be Committed) against six club members (The Anglerholics) the monies raised being donated to East Cheshire Hospice. We have an online fundraising page so people can make donations - and perhaps even bet on a winner! The teams will fish from around 9am until 3pm, and the winning team will be the one with the best combined weight. So even if you are not a fisherman and not a member of the club, perhaps you would like to visit our fundraising page and even donate to this worthwhile cause: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ windmill-angling-club.

For further information about Windmill Angling Club and Hunters Pool please visit http://windmillanglingclub.org, where you can find out more about us and our ethos and our contact details.

Stuart Drabble



# BLOOMIN' BRILLIANT Bellingten

The Flower House Cheshire is an independent florists founded in 2016 by Beverley Coghlan and Megan Palmer. Originally based in the iconic Arighi Bianchi furniture store in Macclesfield, they have this year opened a charming second shop in our idyllic village of Bollington. Interestingly, they found that the recent lockdowns in 2020/21 gave them the time and opportunity to further develop their business and open the new shop here.

After meeting at a florists where Megan was working, Beverley joined her there after leaving a pharmaceutical career following the birth of her daughter. They then decided to create their own vision of flower-based boutiques and have lately been joined by



Free no obligation consultations www.theflower housecheshire.co.uk or ring 01625 919929 (Bollington shop) or 01625 464949 (Arighi shop).

Tracey Ormisher, who now manages the Bollington shop and also works at the Arighi shop.

They have created two unique flower and gift boutiques

offering customers something a little bit different, are proud to stock many local suppliers and are always on the lookout for any unique and quirky products to



add to their current ranges. They stock a wide selection of indoor and outdoor plants, vintage and architectural antiques, candles, small gardening-tool gifts for both men and women, vases and even bobble hats and gloves, and also their very own brand of Flower House gin!

They have their own distinctive



flower style incorporating lots of different textures with complementary colour schemes, every bouquet being custom made from a selection of the best seasonal flowers sourced from the very best suppliers.

From bespoke wedding design, corporate and event flowers, gift bouquets and flower subscriptions to sympathy and funeral tributes, everything is hand-crafted with attention to detail and a focus on customer care. They believe that incorporating fresh flowers and/or plants within the home promotes a sense of health and wellbeing. All bouquets are custom made and can be tailored specifically to your colour and flower preferences.

Plans for the future include opening up the back room at the Bollington shop to offer creative and seasonal floral workshops on themes such as Christmas wreaths, flower arranging, etc.

Lynn Knowling



## THE AUDIENCE RETURNS

A sense of relief came to classical music lovers and professional musicians in the middle of May with the partial lifting of the pandemic restrictions. The change meant that both groups of people could once again be active contributors to live performances.

Bollington Chamber Concerts was one of the first music societies to take advantage of the new situation by offering the chance for a limited audience to see a performance in the Bollington Arts Centre by the outstanding Castalian Quartet. In the first part of the year we had been able to make our contribution to the classical scene by streaming concerts with no one in the auditorium apart from the musicians. Now we were faced with all the practical problems; would our audiences worry about mingling again, and how would we have to change things to cope with the remaining restrictions? We soon worked out that the need for full social distancing and the



# YAS BEAN COFFEE SHOP

Bollington has some 'new kids on the block'. Mika Johnson and Dan Hardman have developed a new business – a coffee stop in a horse trailer!

Sounds exciting. It is! The enterprise, based at the Vale pub car park, is already getting rave reviews—'great coffee and cake and lovely friendly people too'— and it is becoming a popular refreshment stop for cyclists, walkers, canal boat owners and cricketers and footballers, who play regularly on the recreation ground.

After Mika was furloughed from his job as landlord of the Cask Tavern in Poynton due to the Covid lockdown, he and Dan saw a new opportunity. They realised that as shops and pubs were closed coffee was one thing that could be sold out of doors. They first set up a coffee











stop on a table in Tytherington, sometimes working in -8 degree temperatures. Then Mika received a phone call from his previous boss, Lee Wainwright of Bollington Brewery fame. Lee asked them if they would like to lease a pitch to sell their coffee and cakes on the Vale pub site. Mika and Dan leapt at the proposition, and after buying a fully-furbished coffee facility in a horse box, they were in business!

They now employ three staff and are open six days a week, Tuesday to Sunday, from 10am to 4pm. Wherever possible, they use locally sourced ingredients to make their delicious home-baked pastries, biscuits and cakes and the coffee comes from the Kickback Coffee Roasting Company at the Old Brickworks on Bakestonedale Road.

They are an ambitious pair and are working incredibly hard to obtain the funds to make their pop-up shop, the Yas Bean Coffee Shop on Buxton Road, Macclesfield, a permanent fixture. Fortunately for Bolly residents, they have no plans to leave their current plot as they have begun to love the area and the people!

As Mika says, 'I started Yas Bean to make something positive. I want to



celebrate our amazing community. I just want to humbly and gratefully say that all your support has been such a boost in such an otherwise dark time. You are directly supporting us and in turn that helps others because we pride ourselves on using local suppliers.'

Kate Gooding



limitations on entering and leaving the auditorium meant that only 32 people could sit in the hall, and there could no longer be an interval for drinks or coffee. Those seats for that first 'live' event soon sold out and, to be viable, simultaneous streaming was still essential.

The Castalian Quartet were able to perform before a live audience for the first time since September 2020 and were fulsome in their praise for the Bollington initiative. As Donald Judge wrote in his review

Photo:

The Heath Quartet - one of the most popular performers at Bollington Chamber Concerts of the evening, 'This exhilarating concert proved once again that in difficult times – and still with uncertain ones ahead – audiences have not lost their hunger for live, serious, even challenging, music making. And musicians have not lost their uncompromising passion to deliver it.'

Both audience and players were able to leave with renewed hope for a return to something like normality. Our patrons have been extremely generous in their support, and despite the difficulty of forecasting what will happen in the coming months, Bollington Chamber Concerts has arranged a full programme of seven exciting and very varied events for the 2021/2022 season, beginning in mid-September. Full details are on our website, www.bollington-chamber-concerts.org.

There is much to look forward to!

Ian Brammer



# **BOLLINGTON BY**

Please meet some of our residents over the next few issues. They tell us what they feel about our small town and what they would like to see in the future. In this issue we meet some younger Bollingtonians.



#### ANNA WINSTANLEY

Anna is 12 and in Year 7 at Fallibroome school and has lived in Bollington for two years. She lives with her mum, her mum's partner, Darren, and younger twin sisters Arabella and Florence.

### What do you like about Bollington?

It is very friendly, and I have met lots of people. People talk to you.

### What would you like to see in Bollington?

I would like to see more facilities for young people, perhaps a youth club. The skate park is well used but some sort of after-school club in the early evening would be nice. Somewhere to meet with friends and have a coffee. Young people would like their own space.

### Can you tell us about your recent surgery on your leg?

I was born with a congenital condition, a club foot, and was fitted with a Ilizarov frame, which will, hopefully, make my foot flat and straight. I am now an occasional wheelchair user, so I have been able to see some of the daily problems of people pushing wheelchairs around. One example of this is the entrance to the Rec. The pavement really needs lowering.

### Howdoyou feel about Bollington's ability to be a Green Town?

I think there is a lot being done already and local people are working to encourage people to stop single-use plastics, to grow fruit and veg and be more energy efficient. I think young people do get the message.

Anna has recently raised £2,690 for the NHS and Manchester Children's Hospital by walking 100 lengths of her drive (3 miles). At the moment, with the frame on her leg, that is difficult, but that has not deterred her. She continues to raise funds in other ways, such as cake making, and has a Just Giving page for donations.

Well done, Anna, one of our wonderful young Bollingtonians.

### HANNAH ROWLINSON

Hannah is 31 and lives in Bollington with husband Damon, an on-call firefighter in Bollington, and their two children, Eva and Archie. Hannah was born and brought up in Bollington but moved abroad to join Eurocamp. While working in France she met Damon and they eventually came back to Bollington. Their first child, Eva, was born here. Hannah worked as a classroom assistant recently at Dean Valley but now is looking forward to an exciting new career.

### Can you tell us about it?

When I was expecting Eva, I learned about a technique of preparing for childbirth called hypnobirthing. It helped me so much and I wanted to learn about it, which I did at Macclesfield Hospital. I then worked in schools, but the seeds had been sown and after the birth of my second child I went on to train to deliver hypnobirthing techniques to expectant parents. Now I hold classes at Mother Nature Sanctuary. It is so rewarding, and I love it.

### I know you are a Bolly girl, born and bred, but what keeps you here?

The community feel is lovely, and I like how people support each other, particularly in businesses. Personally, I find it very special to bring up my children where I was brought up and now Eva attends the school I went to.

### How do you see Bollington developing in the future?

I really love the way the community provides ways of looking after its residents. Over recent years places like Mother Nature Sanctuary, for health and wellbeing, the Bridgend Centre to support the vulnerable in the town and the proposed Family Hub at Water Street have developed alongside the Leisure Centre, the Arts Centre and the Civic Hall to cater for families, older people and all walks of life. I would like to see this grow and develop as each group complements the other. We are very lucky here in Bollington.

### What changes have you seen over the last few years?

The opening of more independent shops, especially small food shops, often owned by locals. I feel very proud of these little shops and special eateries and pubs.

There has been quite a bit of newbuild, not welcomed by everybody, but I have to admit that it has been positive for us as we were able to buy a house and get on the mortgage ladder. Without the affordable housing in Bollington, we would have had to move away.

Wereally love living here and Damon, who lived in Carlisle, feels very much at home here in Bollington.

### **BRIONY HORTON**

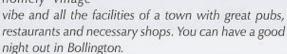
Briony is 36, grew up in Bollington and works as a receptionist at Bollington Vets. She went to school in Bollington and then to Reaseheath College and Chester

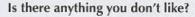


University and now lives with her partner, Chris, in their new home in Cedarway.

### After university, what brought you back to Bollington?

It has a comforting and homely village





It is becoming too built-up and seems to be growing fast. I don't mind the brownfield sites, but we need to retain our green spaces. I know this is a sought-after area, but I would not like to see the town become a suburb of Macclesfield.

#### How do you see Bollington in the future?

I hope that it won't change too much. Fortunately, we have so many enthusiastic people in Bollington who care about the community. Housing will increase but hopefully carefully. The parking and traffic are a bit of a nightmare so I hope we can improve that.

#### How green are you?

We have to think of a sustainable future. I have to admit that I need to work on being greener. I am getting better. I do like to shop locally; we have a good variety of shops – bakeries, butchers and the Co-op – so it's not difficult. I try to reduce plastic use and in future may consider an electric car. Step by step I am taking on these issues.

## So, looking into the future, what will keep you in Bollington?

I love the walks around Bollington and feel lucky to be able to be up in the hills easily and quickly, and my family are close by.

I hope that a future Bollington will still hold the Festival and that it is still the brilliant event that it always is, with so much for all ages and tastes. I look forward to the next one. I don't think there are many small towns that hold such a wonderful festival run by volunteers. Something we can be proud of.

Sandy Milsom

# **TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF**

You will all remember the great community discussion about traffic management arrangements at the junction of Wellington Road and Grimshaw Lane when the planning application for the new store with the restaurant above was passed.

One of the big arguments was about traffic management and, even more importantly, pedestrian safety. This argument came to a head recently when Ringway Jacobs, Cheshire East's highway contractors, sent the Town Council a note that two sets of speed cushions were to be installed on Wellington Road. What was our view?

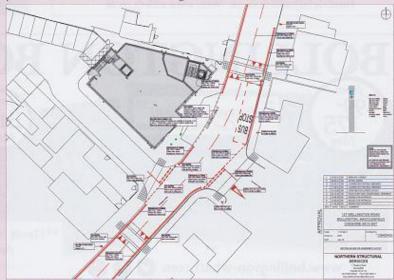
This was an informal consultation. Our view was very clear.

We did not want a few speed cushions – we wanted the full agreement we thought we had with Cheshire East Council and the developer for four raised courtesy crossings and a clear set of signs to slow traffic at that junction so pedestrians, and particularly children who cross regularly at busy times to go to school, could do so safely and without fear of being knocked down and injured, or worse.

The new Town Clerk and a borough councillor went immediately to the developer. The developer produced the detailed drawings he expected to be introduced for the four raised courtesy crossings. The Town Council endorsed this action at a town planning meeting and by the time you read this we expect to have Cheshire East's agreement that instead of two sets of speed cushions we will have four raised courtesy crossings. For once a community agreement will be carried out in full, with the support of the developer; pedestrian safety in Bollington will be improved; and we hope two new businesses will be successfully installed to all our benefit.

Now we need to concentrate on improvements. There will be a public consultation period which we hope will not be over before you read this. The Town Council will be looking at yellow lines and signage in detail. We want to warn motorists coming down Henshall Road that there is intense pedestrian use of crossings ahead and that they need to slow down and be prepared to stop. That warning should be clear. Please make your views known, remembering that the businesses are there. We want their services, and we want us all to be able to use them safely.

Ken Edwards





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# **WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS**

BOLLINGTON WALKING FESTIVAL, 25 SEPTEMBER-3 OCTOBER 2021

Once again, the Bollington Walking Festival team are putting together a programme of walks for the next Bollington Walking Festival. After a breather in 2020 we feel sure that the keen walkers among you will be more than ready to return to explore the wonderful countryside of Bollington and its environs. The team will be running the Festival in whatever form we can, bearing in mind any restrictions in place at the time.



All the regular favourites are here

– the children's Bear Hunt, the
Mayor's Boundary Walk, a Nordic
walking taster session, an artthemed walk and a photography
walk. Lengths range from half a
mile to twenty miles, so there's
something for everyone!

Do you want to explore the history of the place where you live, get your walking confidence back or visit a local brewery? Do you want to develop creative skills – in art or photography, for example? Are you looking for activities to do with your children or grandchildren? You'll be sure to find some appealing walks in the programme for the 11th Walking Festival – generously supported yet again by Bollington Town Council.

New for this year we have a 'Walkers' Picnic', exploring the pastoral landscape of Adlington and Butley Town; a walk to Marple

for lunch returning along different parts of the canal towpath; a meander along the saddle of Kerridge to Rainow; and the ascent of Shining Tor.

Many of the walks are themed, including the above-mentioned art walk and opportunity to paint, led by a Bollington artist; a photography walk with expert tips and advice on hand; heritage walks looking at the history of Bollington; a walk looking at the work of KRIV (Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale conservation group); and a nature walk led by East Cheshire Rangers. There is also a canal walk led by the Canal and River Trust. But of course, what the festival is really all about is walking, so there are plenty of opportunities for those who just want to enjoy our beautiful local countryside!

If you want to walk at any pace in any direction for as short or long a distance as you like, we'll have it covered. There's a short, mindful walk organised by the Medical Centre, a variety of walks in the popular 5-7-mile category, some of 7-18 miles, and a 20-mile walk led by the Long Distance Walkers' Association. Once again we also have a specialist sensory walk organised by the East Cheshire Eye Society, and two Nordic Walking events, led by a local instructor, one for the experienced and the other for those who want an opportunity to learn the technique, at no cost.

Last but by no means least, children are welcome on many of the walks, and there is a specific activity for pre-schoolers – the well-established 'Bear Hunt' led by Bollington Library staff.

As ever, the Festival will rely on the contributions of the volunteers who organise and lead the walks. In addition to the organisations already mentioned, we are grateful to the East Cheshire Ramblers, the Manchester and District Walking Group (MAD), the East Cheshire



www.bollington walkingfestival. co.uk, For more details, contact the hub of the whole operation, the Bridgend Centre, on 01625 576311

Outdoor Group (ECOG) and Footprints Walking Club. They would welcome your joining them before or after the festival for walks or other activities.

Finally, the contribution of the Bridgend Centre is vital to the success of the Festival, in planning, leading and hosting walks. They run a regular walk every Wednesday at 10.15am of between 5 and 7 miles at a cost of £3 (booking essential) – or of course you are welcome to visit the Centre for any of the myriad of activities which take place there.

Bollington Walking Festival Team

### **MILL LANE UPDATE**

Thanks to all who submitted descriptions of their use of Mill Lane as a public footpath and bridleway. Progress is slow but steady. All your information has been passed to Rainow Council, and the Town Clerk, Sarah Gillham, has processed it all and sent it on to Cheshire East. They have been helpful and accepted the formal documentation that must be submitted.

We must now contact the Land Registry to ensure there are no claims to ownership. We have discovered none so far through local enquiries. We hope it will be designated formally and therefore protected from any incursions by the autumn. Fingers crossed!!

Ken Edwards

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# THE THERAPISTS

Maisa García Fernández, Sarah Fielding and Christine Rolph are three independent therapists, with differing fields of expertise, who have recently set up psychotherapy services at Brookbank House in Bollington.

Their lease began on 9 March 2020, but the building was in need of care and attention, so, during the first months of lockdown, time was spent in breathing life into the fabric of the rooms that were to evolve into the therapeutic space they needed.

Over the following months, as Covid restrictions continued, they were thrilled that their key workers status allowed them to welcome some face-to-face clients to Brookbank House, though much of their work was conducted via telephone and Zoom.

### MEET THE TEAM

Christine is an independent creative psychotherapist with a master's degree in art psychotherapy practice. After a decade working in prisons, she is now a full-time independent practitioner offering collaborative therapy for individuals and groups. Further to her clinical practice, she is passionate in her role as a Creative Clinical Supervisor.

Her way of working is psychodynamic/integrative in nature; anything coming into the room will have value and be met with curiosity and compassion. There is no fixed or 'right' way to do this work.

Keen to remove any stigma around mental health, she believes that we can all benefit from therapy, and that working with a psychotherapist should be as everyday as going to the dentist or to the optician.

Maisa is a relationship and psychosexual therapist. She trained at the University of East London and Hull University with Relate and, for almost two decades, has worked as a relationship therapist, including delivering workshops for the Christie and MS charities.

Maisa has witnessed the impact of simple approaches that can transform a couple's relationship into a truly cooperative and affectionate one. She offers a timetested combination of collaborative and integrative approaches to relationship, sexual and meaning-oflife concerns. She is also a clinical supervisor with the CPCAB and lectures on the graduate and postgraduate Counselling courses at Staffordshire University.

Sarah is a psychoanalytical child and adolescent psychotherapist and parent-infant psychotherapist. She is registered with the Association of Child Psychotherapists and trained at the Tavistock Centre in London. She has worked as

a therapist with parents and infants, children, young people, and their families for over 20 years in NHS, third sector and independent settings. In addition to her private practice, she works in the NHS running a specialist parent-infant psychotherapy service. She provides brief and long-term psychoanalytic psychotherapy to children and young people (up to the age of 24), as well as parent and family work, and parent-infant work. She can offer support with issues such as: parent-infant bonding difficulties, excessive crying or sleep/feeding difficulties in infancy, child/adolescent depression and anxiety, relationship problems, difficulties managing strong feelings and trauma.

The collaboration began when Maisa invited Christine and Sarah to join her in creating a peer support group. They quickly acknowledged the benefit they gained from exploring clinical ideas with each other, and soon began thinking about the possibility of a shared working space; a



Left: Christine Rolph Top Right: Sarah Fielding Btm Right: Maisa Garcia Fernandez space that would bring an end to commuting, a space that would bring their clinical skills closer to home. They are independent practitioners, but keen to develop community partnerships, and hope conversations can soon take place with other local community groups and organisations. They are excited to work in the heart of the lively Bollington community and play their part in enhancing the wellbeing of the people who live here.

They are sensitive to the current Covid climate: 'the ongoing impact of so much collective unspent emotion and the effect of Covid is rippling through every family. People continue to struggle; the lack of physical contact has been hard. We want to play our part in the collective recovery.'

We wish the business well; the group are passionate about what they do, and they have a huge commitment to the community they live in.

Sandy Milsom

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# **BADGER OF HONOUR**

'How do you vaccinate a badger?'
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talk about one of my proudest
achievements, my accreditation
as a badger vaccinator.

Badgers have lived with us for 250,000 years. Related to otters, stoats and the formidable wolverine, they have always been well represented in literature and folklore, from Mr Badger in The Wind in the Willows to Detective Inspector LeBrock in the Grandville graphic novels.



I had always loved wildlife and grew up in a country town, similar to Bollington, observing butterflies by day and moths and nocturnal creatures after sunset.

I jumped at the opportunity to join the Cheshire Badger Vaccination Project when it started in 2018. We were sure that we could work with farmers and landowners to offer free vaccination by trained volunteers as an alternative to the badger cull. Our aim was to protect farms, cattle and our wildlife from bovine tuberculosis. We were a small group of volunteers, from students to retirees, ecologists, agricultural staff, nurses, carers and civil servants. We now have 200 volunteers.

Our Programme Manager, a business adviser, started fundraising so that we could show Defra that we were suitable for their funding. This was successful and Defra agreed to match every pound we raised. Supported and trained in sett surveying at the start by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and rangers from the National Trust, which welcomed vaccination early on, we swiftly developed to have nearly twenty accredited vaccinators. We have now signed up farmers, landowners, country parks and council-owned land from east to west of the county and are adding more all the time.

So, how do you do it? Patiently. Over about ten days we dig in peanuts, a favourite badger food,



Clipping the badger's fur to stock mark after vaccination



around the setts. We then site cages and place the peanuts in them, gradually moving them to the back of the cage until we can catch our badger. We arrive at first light and vaccinate, clip some fur and apply stock spray before releasing.

People say, 'They must be vicious.'
This is not my experience. I remember in September seeing the sun rise as I vaccinated three very curious, sleek, stripy-faced animals and released them back into the beautiful Cheshire countryside.

What better way to start the day?

Judy Snowball

# **BIT OF A SURVEY**

In 2010 Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) carried out its first survey concerning the future use of the old secondary school in Water Street. The results were strongly in favour of keeping this historic building for the community, with an emphasis on its use for social and educational purposes.

Initially, BIT managed the property on behalf of Cheshire East and during this time the highly successful Bollington Pre-School became a tenant on the ground floor after having to leave their former location. Later the Brownies and Guides were able to use the first floor for their weekly meetings.

Finally, in 2015, the transfer of the building and former playground from Cheshire East Council to BIT eventually took place. Following this transfer the trustees brought together a group of parents and carers, grandparents, Bollington town councillors, local school staff



# **BIT MORE OF A SURVEY**

and other residents, to form the 'Water Street Feasibility Working Group'.

This group organised open days and further surveys with residents and possible service and organisation providers. These surveys showed that there was a demand for facilities and services that would help families and children in Bollington, as well as provide spaces for other organisations to use. The vision for a 'Bollington Family Hub' was born.

The first stage of creating the hub was to renovate the toilets and boilers located on the first floor. Significant funds were raised and, after a pause because of Covid, their work has recently been completed. The trustees can now turn to the next stages of renovating the building.

However, by 2021 the trustees acknowledge that many new families have moved into the town and residents have suffered the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, so needs may have changed. Therefore, the BIT trustees decided to ask all residents again, both young and old, if the vision for a Family Hub is still supported.

This latest survey in May was distributed in both paper form and online, which meant it could be promoted on social media and emailed, and would save time compiling statistics from the results. The results below cover both survey formats.

### Analysis of the data findings

160 people responded (10 on paper and 150 online)

More than 90% of all 160 respondents thought the building could provide:

An advice and support centre for families (47.77% said 'definitely' and 42.68% said 'may be needed') Sensory sessions for families, including for children with additional needs (49.69% said 'definitely')

After-school and holiday provision for 0–12-year-olds (44.65% said 'definitely')

Learning and recreational group activities, e.g. music/language tuition, arts and crafts (54.41% said 'definitely' and 38.85 said 'may be needed')

Over 80% supported making the Water Street Centre available for:

A 'drop-in' crèche for 1-2-hour sessions for 0-5-year-olds

Community group meetings

A venue for occasional hire

There were also many suggestions on other activities and facilities that residents would like to be provided for their children or grandchildren.

Here are some of the comments:

'Our community needs centres like this to bring people together and offer essential support to young families in an (increasingly) expensive society.'

'An after-school and holiday provision would be a huge help to me. My child already attends pre-school there so an after-school/holiday provision in the same setting all school holidays, if possible, please.'

'Facilities for special educational needs children.'

'Sensory sessions. I'd also like to see other provision for disabled children, for example some holiday provision specifically for children with additional needs. Also, as a member of the Home Education community a space that could be used during the day as a teaching space, especially a space suitable for doing practical subjects like science and arts/crafts.'



These are just a few snapshots from the survey. The full (anonymised) results will be shared on the new BIT website, which is currently under development.

#### Conclusion

The BIT trustees are delighted with the feedback and think the results of this latest survey give further evidence that the best use of the Water Street Centre will be as a Family Hub with services and activities likely to appeal to families with children aged 0-12. To this aim the trustees are committed to continue to progress with their fundraising, the priority being to make the building watertight with a new roof, provide a lift to the first floor to ensure access for all, and undertake refurbishment and redecoration. In addition, it is also hoped that with further funding there will be an opportunity to improve the car park.

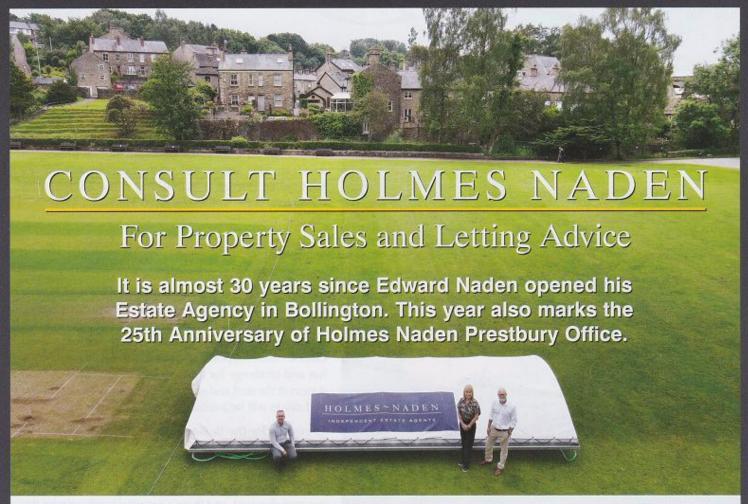
Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey online or on paper, and a special thank you to the 26 people who told us they would like to get more involved in the project and gave us their contact details (we have already been in touch!). The trustees will always endeavour to keep everyone in Bollington aware of progress with this exciting project.

If you would like to know more or get involved, please contact the BIT Chair, Will Spinks, through the BIT Facebook page or directly on s.spinks1@ntlworld.com.

Kate Gooding

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Edward has also worked in the industry for over 35 years and has a wealth of experience in all aspects of Estate Agency including new build projects. His team at Prestbury Office also work tirelessly for their clients. Both Bollington and Prestbury Offices offer a bespoke service with attention to detail and customer care which is second to none making them the favourable choice for vendors and landlords and are open 7 days a week.

As Edward celebrates two significant anniversaries he would like to thank all his clients past and present for their continued loyalty.

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# **BOLLINGTON BIKEFEST**



Wheels are in motion for the tenth annual Bollington Bikefest. This event will take place on Sunday 12 September, starting and finishing at the Adelphi Mill, Grimshaw Lane, Bollington SK10 5JB.

Riders can choose from one of three routes; a Twenty is Plenty (12 miles) beginners' ride; the Bolly Bash, a 46-mile course taking in Rudyard Lake; and the stamina-sapping Grimshaw Grueller, which involves 7,000 feet of climbing over 72 miles. The organisers, Macclesfield and District Lions Club, Bollington Town Council and Girl Guiding Cheshire Border, are hoping to raise a substantial amount of money for the East Cheshire Hospice and other local causes. Please support this exciting event, which embraces fun and challenge for riders at all levels. There is a food station at the start and around the longer courses. Burgers and drinks will be available at the end of the ride.

To register for the Bollington Bikefest please follow this link to the British Cycling page: https://www.britishcycling. org.uk/events/details/226137/Bollington-Bikefest-2021.

Riders registering for the event before 31 July get a 25 per cent discount, and there's a special family rate for the Twenty is Plenty ride.

During the pandemic it was great to see so many new cyclists out and about, and we hope that they will join the regulars to make the relaunch of this very special event a memorable community occasion. This will raise vital funds for our much-valued local charities who have struggled to raise income during this last difficult year.

We look forward to seeing you on 12 September.

Debbie Hughes

In 2020, between the second and third lockdown, we rode the Bikefest route on our own as it had to be held as a virtual event. Here's a photo of me, Debbie, and my son Robert, when we were out on the route.

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