



# BOLLINGTON

*Live*

**Issue 83 Spring 2022**

**BOLLINGTON BORROWERS**

**AN EYE FOR THE BIRDS**

**MUSIC AND MATHS**







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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Preparing for this issue each year is always the most challenging. The deadline for the receipt of articles seems to be straight after Christmas and people haven't got back into their usual routines, the days are short and dark and finding something exciting or interesting to write about is often evasive. However, I will have to say this issue has been a dream! Fantastic articles have flowed in, been the right length with good photos all of which makes my job super easy!

I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed the articles, which are very varied. We have two published authors each telling their story in this issue, with some beautiful bird photos taken by

Bruce Kendrick. I also learnt of a Bollington-based composer who initially studied maths and now teaches and composes music.

I am constantly amazed by the number of small and artisan businesses springing up in Bollington and the surrounding countryside as well as the volunteer groups in our community. This issue we hear about Bollington Borrowers, where you can borrow 'stuff', use it and return it – what a great idea – just how often do I really need that drill or extra party plates! The idea is to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption. Anyone can get involved, from manning the 'office' where you borrow things from, to donating things to borrow, to borrowing things!



As ever, if you have any ideas for the next issue, please email me: [liveeditor@happyvalley.org.uk](mailto:liveeditor@happyvalley.org.uk)

I'd like to thank all the Bollington Live team for their contributions to the magazine and replying swiftly to my many emails often asking for something! This issue I'd like to thank Simon Nottage especially as he is responsible for looking after our advertisers and sponsors and his job is the most time-consuming at this time of year – agreeing with our supporters for perhaps another year of adverts or changing adverts as its winter. If you would like to help Simon and get involved and know you would enjoy liaising with local businesses and can use a computer, then please do get in touch with me (email below).

Have you got a story to tell? Would you like to write something for the June issue of the magazine? Or perhaps you are keen photographer and can send in some photos for the front cover (portrait only please).

Annette

Date for next copy:  
15th May 2022

## AN OPEN INVITATION

We are again organizing the ever-popular open gardens on 16 and 17 July as a fundraiser for the Bollington Festival.

Have you got a garden you are proud of? Or a special hideaway for wildlife? Or a stunning collection of summer perennials? Or have you got a garden you just want to share with others? Then we'd like to hear from you.

To put forward your garden for the open gardens event please send: your postcode; a photo of your garden (in summer if possible); and a short description of your garden highlights to [fundraising@bollingtonfestival.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@bollingtonfestival.org.uk)

We'd love to hear from you.

Nicola Walker

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



# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The third exhibition of Rainow Rural Life will take place this summer from 11 to 19 June and promises to be a terrific addition to this year's calendar. It will be based at One House Lodge on the Buxton New Road and entry is completely free.

First started in 1996 in Rainow Parish Church to help mark its 150th anniversary, the second exhibition in 2017 grew massively in scope under the inspiration of founders David Nixon and Sue Hadfield and their committee. There were demonstrations of traditional country skills, sports and crafts. Vintage tractors and farm tools were showcased, along with all kinds of vintage memorabilia.

The 2017 event was hugely successful and popular, with hundreds of visitors and perfect weather. According to David and Sue, many former members ('back in the day') of the Rainow Youth Club were also reunited for the first time!



*Photos:  
Below, 2017  
festival;*

*Right, two  
installations  
from the  
Museum of  
Rural Life*

In 2022 David and Sue have decided the time is again right to celebrate all things rural in Rainow and the surrounding area. In the last five years David has even built a museum of rural life within the Lodge grounds – as well as a stone tractor!



A Victorian walled vegetable garden next door, restored by Louise Bayliss and her volunteers, will also be open and be host to home-made refreshments from Sue, who recalls virtual 24-hour bake-a-thons.

Plans include local talks, a steam engine and demonstrations of spinning, sheep shearing and (weather permitting) scything and haymaking. There will be marquees in the grounds and an evening entertainment, including a hog roast on the second Saturday. A large chunk of the proceeds will go to help local community projects.

What really struck me while chatting with Sue and David is the obvious strength of the local community, as so many local people serve as committee members and volunteers. Skills, knowledge – and tractors! – are freely shared. Connections with

other local organisations are very strong, for example with KRIV (Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Project), with the Local History group and with the parish quarterly magazine, The Raven. (Did you know that Rainow gets its name from the Old English hraefn hoe, meaning 'Ravens' Hill'?)



Anyway, put 'Rainow, 11–19 June' in your new 2022 diaries – I am sure all Bollingtonians will be made very welcome!

*Claire Moreland*

## A VALUABLE ASSET

Ralph Pettengell, Managing Partner of Pettengell Wealth Management LLP, is a Chartered Financial Planner, and in 2005 he became one of the first in the UK to obtain the ultimate 'gold standard' of financial services qualifications – the Fellowship of the Personal Finance Society.

This Corporate status is an exclusive title only awarded to firms which meet the rigorous criteria relating to professionalism and capability. All Chartered financial planners commit to the

*Photo:  
Ralph with his  
son Callum*

Chartered Insurance Institute's Code of Ethics, reinforcing the highest standards of professional practice in their dealings with business and individual clients. This status is reviewed annually.

Since leaving school in 1979, Ralph has furthered his career and developed his professional skills by undertaking numerous financial planning and professional qualifications – and in 2018 became the president of the largest tax-compliance body in the UK, the Association of Taxation Technicians (ATT).



Now based in Adelphi Mill, Bollington, Ralph and his small nucleus of four staff, which includes his son Callum, continue to access numerous further training opportunities relating to the complex world of wealth management.



# BOLLINGTON BORROWERS

**How often do we say, 'I'm going to chuck that out'? What do we mean by 'out'?**

Considering the fact that 30 million tonnes of household waste is generated in the UK each year, there really is no 'out'!

Bollington Borrowers (BB) is a new volunteer-run initiative to try to combat some of this ever-increasing mountain of waste on a local scale. The idea of the scheme is to encourage the community to donate kit, appliances or other less-used household items they may have lying around their homes and garages to a 'Library of Things'.

The items are then carefully stored at the Bollington Borrowers' site, PAT-tested if required and then displayed in an online catalogue to be reserved and borrowed by anyone in the community when needed. Considering the average



household drill is used for just 13 minutes in its lifetime, this will not only save on landfill but also on clutter and expense.

Bollington Borrowers now have over a hundred items on their books, all of which have been kindly donated by local people, and they are expanding fast! The library so far includes really varied items such as a folding wheelchair, a car bike rack, camping equipment, a carpet cleaner, a drill, a lawnmower, a film projector and a child's balance bike. Other items are available for events, such as the Bollington Mug Library, a reusable children's party kit (including plates, cups, platters and bunting), and a sports-day activity bag, as well as many fancy-dress costumes.

With the grateful support of a grant from the Postcode Lottery, the Borrowers team has been able to really move forward with this scheme. The volunteers are now staffing the cabin on Hawthorn Road (next to the Life Church) each Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and would love to see you there. Please feel free to drop off any donations then or come along to sign up.

Membership of Bollington Borrowers costs £5 annually or for £30 you can purchase a lifetime



**BOLLINGTON  
BORROWERS**

A LIBRARY OF THINGS

supporters' membership. The scheme is not for profit and these fees help to keep it up and running.

If you wish to find out more, please see the BB Facebook page, or get in touch at [bollyborrowers@gmail.com](mailto:bollyborrowers@gmail.com) and the team will be happy to help with any queries.

To hire an item please visit <https://bollingtonborrowers.myturn.com/library/>.

*Emily Bartram*

These can range from regulatory control and administration to working with all aspects of social media.

The company, an appointed representative of St James's Place Wealth Management, offers a dedicated quality personal service in a wide range of areas including investment planning, retirement planning and inheritance-tax planning to a client base which consists of mainly local residents. Ralph will be featuring in 'The 2022 Guide to Top-Rated Financial Advisers'

which will be distributed nationally in The Times in March 2022.

However, the business has one particularly important objective i.e., to give something back to the local community and to add value to people's lives. This manifests itself in a number of ways, ranging from small-scale projects such as repairing a church clock to sponsoring the regeneration of the Cat and Fiddle public house! As Ralph is an avid football supporter, his company has also sponsored the regeneration of

local football club, Macclesfield FC.

When asked about his mission Ralph responded, 'We aim to look after clients by providing and delivering a quality of personal service.'

It would appear Pettengell Wealth Management LLP is another valuable welcome asset to the Bollington business community.

*Kate Gooding*



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# THE OLD BRICKWORKS

The small industrial estate at the Old Brickworks in Pott Shrigley was once the site of a brickworks that, in its heyday, employed 120 people. The combination of a seam of fireclay and a coal seam below it was a profitable combination that produced firebricks, firebacks and fireclay tiles. Peak planners eventually put a stop to the industry in the 1960s.



However, the brickworks now are, once again, a hive of industry, with many small units producing a variety of products supplying services such as bespoke kitchens, roasted coffee, car servicing, joinery and many others. There is an artisan vibe about the place, and I visited a couple of the units to find out what was going on.

## Pottery

Rachael Clarke and Jane Ewington are two ceramicists who work independently and are also tutors at Poynton Pottery. Rachael and Jane moved into the studio space at the Old Brickworks in March 2020. Both had envisaged a space where they could work separately but continue their teaching at Poynton Pottery. This unit would give them the space to explore new ideas, produce their own craft to sell and hold the occasional throwing class.

The unit had previously been used by an artist, so it had an artistic pedigree, but Jane and Rachael had to work hard to make it viable as a pottery. Rachael installed a sink and a log burner, and the space became a warm, welcoming studio – a place for creativity to flourish, but practical too. Looking at old photographs of the brickworks, Jane pointed out that their unit was where they used to clean the clay, with a rail track leading into a shed. She says, 'I feel as though we have brought

the clay back to the brickworks.'

Jane has a background in art and after a course in visual arts, she gained a degree in three-dimensional design. She bought a kiln in 1999 and ventured into glass-blowing. She later took a course in Ceramics at Macclesfield College. Her initial ventures into pottery saw her making bird feeders in the shape of White Nancy, and when someone asked if they were for sale that was the start of the business.

Jane is one of the organisers of the Love Bollington Market and has had a stall selling her pots there since the market began. Now she has room to grow, to experiment and develop her skills and to teach others to have a go at this satisfying art form. I enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the unit at the Brickworks throwing pots – some a little wonky – and enjoyed a wonderful cup of coffee from Kickback Coffee.



## Kickback Coffee

The first thing you notice as you enter this space is the fantastic smell of roasting coffee. Alex Shaw is the owner of this small independent coffee roasters, roasting and supplying roast coffee for wholesale and individual purchasers. A small coffee shop is open to the public, and as it is on a well-known cycle route welcomes cyclists and weary walkers alike.

Alex is a former rugby player who has played for Sale Sharks, Doncaster Knights, Leicester Tigers and Nottingham. He also has a great passion for coffee and has turned his passion into a business. 'It was just a hobby when I started. I tried different beans from all over the world, sourced from eBay of all places.'

With passion and a popcorn machine, Alex developed his roasting skills. When he had to ask friends and family to pay for

Photo right:  
Alex Shaw

Photo left:  
Sandy at the  
potter's wheel



the coffee it was at that point, he thought he would start a business.

The unit at the Brickworks was the first he opened and Alex, who lives in Altrincham, opened a second Kickback Coffee outlet in the railway arches on Viaduct Road in Altrincham.

Unlike many coffee shops Kickback has in house roasting which you can come in to see while enjoying a coffee and take away a bag of freshly roasted beans. Alex sources his beans from all over the world and he likes to introduce people to more origins of coffee. He shows so much enthusiasm about the processes involved in the harvesting and roasting of the coffee fruit.

I would encourage coffee lovers to wake up and smell the Kickback coffee!

Both these businesses started during lockdown and it is heartening to see that the spirit of enterprise and positivity is still so evident. Our best wishes for their continuing success.

Sandy Milsom





# AN EYE FOR THE BIRDS

I never thought I would write a book, let alone have a reputable publisher offer to publish it. Life can have a few unexpected late, and in my case, delightful twists and turns.

One of my daughters – I have four – suggested I write down a few words about my time growing up on Merseyside and getting the bug for birding. I started to make a few notes and began to enjoy the memories. I found that one recollection led to another and soon my imagination allowed me to re-enter this world of my youth. But many of my recollections were coloured by my adult self, especially when I returned as an old man to what was my birding patch of my youth, the North Wirral coast. I'm a septuagenarian now. I grew up in the Merseyside of the fabulous 1960s.

What started as story of one lad's experiences, where birding sits easily alongside rock bands, girls, football and radical politics, soon morphed into a 70,000-word book. It was my very good fortune to be able to turn to a top author, a guy called Cynan Jones, for help. I nearly came a cropper. You see, I'd been lured into a shabby publishing deal by one of these 'vanity' publishing scams and I was seeking Cynan's advice. He told me to stay well clear of these rip-off merchants. I think he was managing my disappointment

Photos:

1. Skylark;
2. Curlew;
3. Meadow Pipit;
4. Bar-tailed Godwit

when he suggested I send him the manuscript. I gratefully complied and after two weeks he phoned and suggested we have lunch. We met in one of our favourite spots, near his home in Aberaeron, on the Cardigan Bay coast. Several risotto lunches and more than eighteen months later, we had a manuscript ready for a publisher's scrutiny. 'Be prepared for push-backs' was Cynan's straight advice. Cynan's support, as my good friend and mentor throughout this time, means so much to me.



So what is the book about exactly? It is certainly a memoir of a 10-year-old, who contracted TB and was sent to an isolated sanatorium deep in the Cheshire countryside, but it develops into much more. At the hospital he was bedridden for six months. On fine days, nurses would push the young patients, in their beds, out onto a large veranda and it was there that his love of birdwatching developed.

On leaving hospital, he shared his passion with three schoolmates and over the next five years this small band of birders explored wildlife locations on and around the Wirral. Their travels and love of nature were epitomised when, aged 16, they spent part of their summer on Bardsey, a remote island off North Wales, as part of a small, professional team of naturalists. As a young birdwatcher, the author was fascinated when he observed nature at first hand and began to grasp the basics of the science of evolution.

This is a rite-of-passage story of one lad's journey through those early formative teenage years between 1957 and 1962. Each chapter traces the boy's expanding world of nature and then, in later life, he reflects on those times.

A passion for nature has stayed with me throughout my life and as an adult, in this book, I try to explore the way our views are formed and how our youthful experiences become a base-reference framework to work out how to deal with life's ups



It was my second piece of good fortune when Keith Whittle emailed me to say he would like to publish the manuscript. Whittles had been recommended to me by another good friend, Mike Crutch, from Morayshire. One of his pals, also published by Whittles, passed on his view that they are a top company and a pleasure to deal with. He was so right.

The fourth slice of good fortune was when Keith Whittle chose Caroline Petherick to edit my debut manuscript. Not only has Caroline done a superb technical job but I do believe she has added, with her gentle guidance, much more to that original script. It helps that she believes in the world of nature conservation and evolution as much as I do.





4



and downs. Revisiting my old haunts triggers further questions, reflections and musings. How does nature manage, over all those years, to continue to inspire and stimulate me? What does it mean to be part of nature? How does nature manage to heal?

*An Eye for Birds* is more than a memoir of a lad's growing pains; it is a series of reflections of an individual, trained in the sciences, revisiting his teenage wildlife haunts and looking back to those times with a mature perspective and sentiment that add their own colours to the story.

The book is not without humour, as when I made my winter migration, or pilgrimage, to Goodison Park to

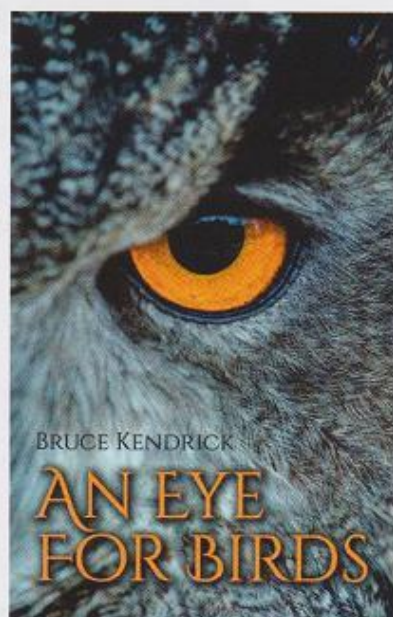
watch my lovely Blues. To offer just one quote from the book:

*'I parked in a side street and a lad on his little pushbike, no more than six or seven years old, rode up when I was getting out of the car: 'Mind yer car, mister?' I paid him 20p: 'You look after it and I'll give you another 20p when I get back.' That day we won the league when we beat Spurs 1-0, and I was late leaving, consuming both the atmosphere and a beer or two. When I returned to collect my car, the street was empty. Mine was the only car left. I got in and turned on the engine. Suddenly there was a knock on the driver's window from a young black kid, again no more than six or seven. I wound the window down. We were staring at each other face to face, a gap of just 9 inches.*

*'You promised another 20p,' he said.*

*'I did - but you're not the lad I left to look after my car.'*

*'That's orright; he's given us the franchise.'*



I still chuckle at that story. I hope he made it out of the back streets of Walton.

**Bruce Kendrick**

*An Eye For Birds* by Bruce Kendrick is available from high-street bookshops including Waterstones and WH Smith. It is also available on Amazon or can be bought directly from the publishers, [www.whittlespublishing.com](http://www.whittlespublishing.com).

## THE BOLLINGTON HYDRA\*

The conversion of the Waggon & Horses pub into a building for two complementary businesses has many fearsome heads. The latest is a set of road-closure arrangements that will cause mighty disruption to the smooth and even flow of life along our very busy B5090 at the Grimshaw Lane junction with Wellington Road.

Currently the closure is for 8 weeks at the bottom of Grimshaw Lane, where a loading bay is being installed outside the newly built store. Eight weeks of a three-way traffic-light system at our busiest junction!

Then, in February half-term – 19–27 February – we faced a

*\*The Hydra:  
See Ovid's  
Metamorphoses:  
The Hydra was  
a monstrous,  
venomous seven-  
headed snake. As  
one of his twelve  
labours, Hercules  
cut off its seven  
heads.*

complete closure of the B5090 on every working day between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., to install courtesy crossings for the safety of pedestrians as they enter the store or restaurant. Next, a pause until the Easter holidays, when we hope a final complete road closure will enable the completion of the three pedestrian crossings.

Many people in Bollington have been concerned about our road closures in order to complete safety work and the Bollington Facebook page, substituting for pub conversations, has been full of concern about disruption to normal life. Bollingtonians have recommended night working or partial closure.

Cheshire East Highways did put some thought into the situation in that they scheduled work during the school holidays and restricted daily working hours. But they did not inform businesses to enable them to reschedule deliveries, and there appeared to be no liaison with the bus companies. Bollington Town Council has frantically tried to provide more detailed information but again has been pushed from the Cheshire East pillar to the Ringway Jacobs post. It appears that our Hydra has as many bodies as heads, and we have no Hercules to slay this troublesome giant.

We will report further on this noxious beast.

**Ken Edwards**



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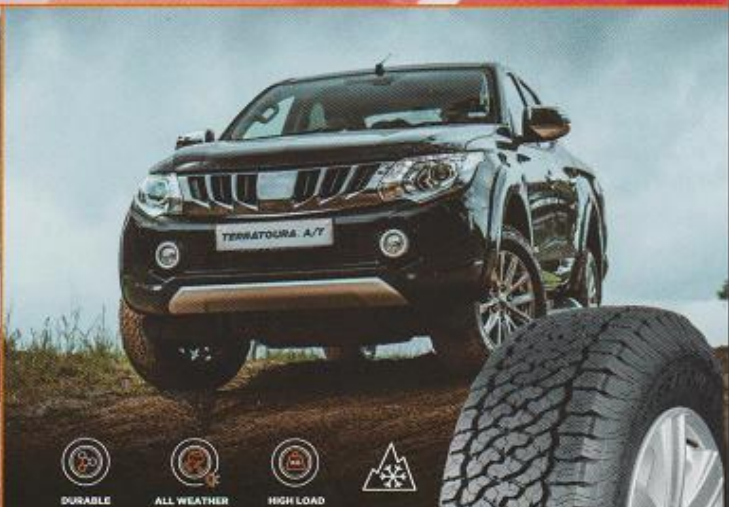


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# MUSIC AND MATHS IN HARMONY

When you see an orchestra sitting ready to play at the Royal Albert Hall or the Bridgewater Hall and the conductor steps onto the podium, you don't usually think about how this big event came into being. Before any conductor even appears, though, someone else has been at work to build the foundation for the whole thing – the composer. Whether the music is classical or rock, the composer provides the ideas and converts them into sound.

Some composers are household names – Beethoven, Gershwin, McCartney – but others are simply too recent to have become legends. Bollington's own composer Emily Howard is in that group, where she has an impressive reputation for original and challenging music. With over forty pieces to her name, she is already established as one of Britain's leading new composers with works commissioned for the BBC Proms, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and for the opening concert of the London Symphony Orchestra's season, with Sir Simon Rattle as conductor.

Emily has lived in Bollington for ten years, but she was brought up and went to school in Birkenhead. She and her two sisters and brother enjoyed a home filled with both music and science. Her mother was a concert pianist and her father, an anatomy professor, played with the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra. Emily herself chose to learn the cello but her interests were wide-ranging (she was British Junior Girls' Chess Champion). She developed an enthusiasm for exploring new sound possibilities and at the age of 7 had a piece performed.

Maths was her forte at school and led her to choose mathematics and computer science as her

Oxford degree subject. After a brief period teaching music she decided on a 'portfolio career' combining teaching and composing and studied composition at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) followed by a PhD at Manchester University.

In 2008 Emily's Liverpool connections came to the fore when the city became European Capital of Culture and she was commissioned to compose a piece for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. The resulting work, 'Magnetite', established Emily's standing as a professional composer. Soon afterwards she became a Composer in Residence with the LSO and wrote another important piece – 'Solar'.

Teaching came to the fore when Emily became a member of staff at the RNCM in 2010 but at the same time she continued to build her composing career with a flow of important new works. She is now Professor of Composition at the RNCM and director of PRISM – the Centre for Practice & Research in Science & Music.

Reading her list of compositions, it is obvious that Emily is essentially an ideas person; her science background has been key but she reads widely and is stimulated by a range of topics. Her music reflects this, with pieces such as 'Zatopek' relating to the famous Olympic runner and 'The Anvil: an elegy for Peterloo', based on the Peterloo Massacre of 1819. For that work she collaborated with poet Michael Symmons Roberts, who also lives in Bollington.

Emily seeks to develop collaborations with scientists and mathematicians as a key source for the development of her ideas. 'What I like to do', she says, 'is take their wonderful ideas and use them as catalysts for my music.' Her interest in words often combines



*Photo:*  
**Emily Howard**

with scientific ideas as a starting point. 'Afference', which describes the way the brain receives signals from the body, brought a flow of musical ideas resulting in a chamber-music work with that title. Another typical example is a group of five pieces ('Four musical proofs and a conjecture') developed in collaboration with the leading Oxford mathematician Professor Marcus du Sautoy, which was premiered by the Piatti String Quartet in 2017. Bollington Chamber Music had a hand in supporting a commission to develop another new piece and we look forward to seeing the quartet here again, perhaps to perform a brand new piece by Emily.

Emily likes living in Bollington because 'Bollington is a real community with great eating places and facilities, although if I could change one thing about Bollington, I'd give it back its railway connections.' If only Beeching hadn't been around in the 1960s!

When she's not composing or teaching young people at the RNCM, Emily is likely to be found hill walking, often on the Nab.

**Ian Brammer**





## Bollington Photographic Group

**We are a friendly and welcoming group for anyone interested in photography - from beginners to experts - who enjoy taking photographs of the local area.**

We hold regular meetings (usually at a local pub), where we discuss all aspects of photography. We set ourselves challenges, have photo walks and document changes happening in the local area, some of which have been used as a record in Bollington's archives. The emphasis of Bollington Photographic Group is on enjoyment. We are not a competitive group, although we have been known to have 'fun' competitions.

*As one member said, 'I like the relaxed way the group is run. People can get involved with the bits they want to do, but with no pressure. I have learned loads of stuff, enjoyed looking at other people's pictures, enjoyed the chat and meeting new people.'*

The group has always been closely involved with Bollington Festival, which is held every four years or so. The festival was, for the most part, the main reason why our group was formed, back in 2009, as we wanted to create a permanent record of the events taking place.

We are now in our 11th year and

most of our original group are now firm friends. The past couple of years have obviously restricted us considerably, but now restrictions are easing, we feel it is time to re-invent ourselves and welcome new members to our group.

We've changed our name and logo to reflect our broader outlook. A new social website is currently under development, which we hope will contain inspirational photographs, an interactive social hub for members, photo news, upcoming bookable events and get-togethers. It will include photographic discussion forums and searchable archives. Members' posts will also be linked to our Facebook account for all to view and the site will include a separate section entirely devoted to Festival Photography, where we would hope to document the 2024 festival as it happens.

A web-shop will be added to market our members' best images and photographic products and finally, a selection of high-quality photographs will be made available via the website's publicity section for use by schools, local societies, and groups.

Our calendar for this year will include new activities and events to suit all photographic abilities.



*Photographs kindly supplied by members of the Bollington Photo Group: Janet Beech, Terry Heathcote, John Howarth, Andrew Huggett, and Simon Nottage*

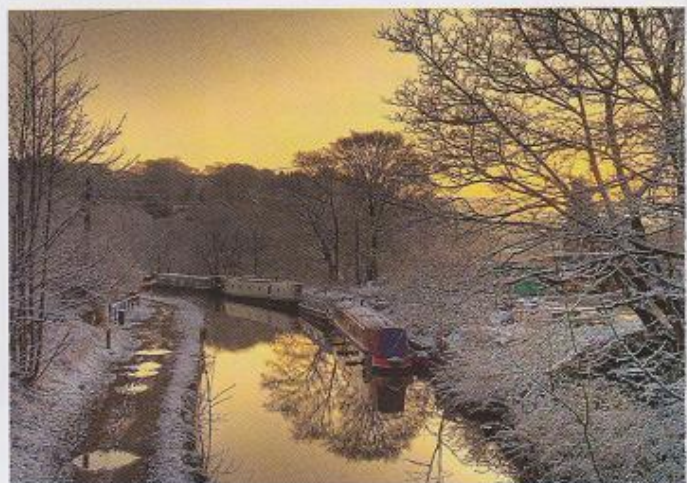
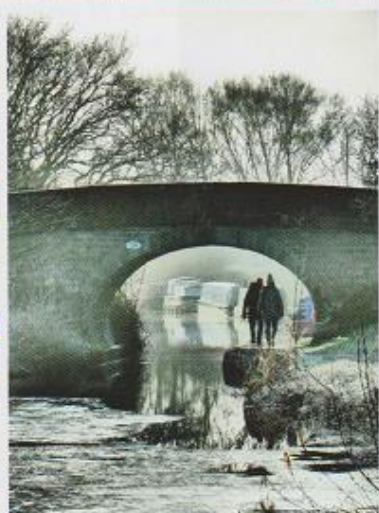
Do you have an idea for any activity or a particular subject that you need photographing? Previous projects have included the reclaiming of Tinkers Clough, Cow Lane development and several photobooks from the Bollington Walks; not forgetting the festivals, of course! Please give us your suggestions.

If you are interested in finding out more and joining us, please contact Janet Beech: [janetgbeech@btinternet.com](mailto:janetgbeech@btinternet.com) for more details.

*Simon Nottage*









# SAYING GOODBYE

Birth and death are the only two certainties in life and each occasion is celebrated in an appropriate way. We associate joy with birth and often sadness with death and in that sadness organising a funeral can be difficult for family and friends. This is the time when having trained, professional, and understanding people around us can make all the difference.

After a long career in nursing, Emily decided she wanted to train as an accredited celebrant conducting funeral and memorial services. Emily's path to this decision was a long one, but she now works as a self-employed celebrant in the NorthWest. Having recently attended a humanist funeral myself, albeit online, I was touched by the sensitivity of the celebrant (not Emily) and the connection made with the family as well as the gentle nature of the ceremony itself.

## Here's Emily's story.

Emily qualified as a nurse in 2004 having spent her student days in Edinburgh. She moved back to Manchester and despite her best intentions to avoid the cliché, met a certain doctor who shared her sense of humour, energy as well as her values and dreams. They had a humanist wedding in 2012 and their unique wedding ceremony packed with meaning is still talked about by friends and family. Emily is proud to call herself a humanist, carrying forward the notion of thinking for herself and acting for everyone and making the most of this one life we have. She knew from this day forward that one day she would love to train as a celebrant.

A 20-year career in nursing enabled her to work in many corners of the world, to meet people from endless walks of life and to be part of some incredible communities and organisations, 'whether in Macclesfield or Mozambique



Photo:  
Emily Bartram  
(by @katescott  
photography)

[www.humanist.org.uk/emilybartram/funerals/](http://www.humanist.org.uk/emilybartram/funerals/)

Emily Bartram  
07811 210 232  
[emilybartram@humanistceremonies.co.uk](mailto:emilybartram@humanistceremonies.co.uk)

*it has been an absolute pleasure to take care of people when they have perhaps needed it most'.*

Having her two children in fairly quick succession and practically skipping back to her job as an HIV practitioner,

she was surprised and a little shocked to find herself several years later with a sudden sense of sadness at the approach of her children's school days. She suddenly strongly felt the need to be more present for this precious chapter that was galloping by and so made the daunting decision to resign from her post.

With the unwelcome arrival of the pandemic, plans to do anything else were put on hold as her husband working in the hospital was seldom seen out of work and full-time home schooling took over. But as soon as time allowed, she successfully gained a place on a Humanist UK funerals training programme. The training was fairly intense and often felt quite surreal all done over a screen – it would have been lovely to be able to practice in a real crematorium for example rather than holed up in the bedroom and projecting a mock ceremony to an audience of assessors on zoom! But still, the teaching was excellent and her fellow trainees inspiring, and Emily says it felt validating and exciting to be on this journey.

After someone has died, Emily is usually contacted by a family member in the first instance, or by a funeral director when a family has requested a humanist funeral

for their loved one. (You don't have to be a humanist to have such a ceremony – a humanist funeral is for anyone without religion who wants a funeral based on the perspective that every life is individual and valuable). Then she arranges to meet the family, usually in their own home if circumstances permit and spend most of this time together discussing the person who has died; what their life looked like, what was important to them and it's an opportunity to share any significant stories the family want at the funeral.

Sitting together and talking like this enables Emily to get to know the person through those closest to them, so this can be reflected throughout the entire ceremony. She will then write the ceremony and check the family are happy with it. Music and poetry reading choices are also important and can be woven in. The ceremony can be as conventional or as quirky as desired! Emily will liaise with the funeral director (if one is being used) throughout the process and conduct the funeral at the location of choice. Often she conducts the whole ceremony but sometimes just provides a backbone for family and friends to lead the tribute. What is most important is that the person who has died is at the focus of the event and that it provides an opportunity to reflect and remember, to grieve and to celebrate the life that has been, in the most fitting of goodbyes. 'Although a funeral cannot remove sadness, it can provide some comfort and light. I believe that each life has a special story to tell and it is my job to make this story real', says Emily.

It was a real pleasure to work with Emily on this article and learn about her journey to the important work she now does with families at a very vulnerable time.

Annette Hurst



# A MEMOIR OF MUM

I am sure that writing a novel can be an arduous but fulfilling task but writing about one's own much-loved mother, who has sadly passed away, must also be very emotional. Helen Birchill, a Bollington resident, has recently done such a thing. Amazingly, she wrote this entire book on her iphone, with the process taking five years from conception to publication.

Helen, a member of the Bollington Library creative writing group, previously only wrote humorous poetry. However, she decided to turn her hand to writing and publishing this very personal novel after her mother's illness. She was spurred on by her relatives and friends who kept saying the stories were so good she should publish them for others to read.

To put the book into context, a little about Helen herself. The youngest of four children, she was brought up in the small community of Mottram in Longdendale, a close-knit community about the size of Bollington. Her mum, Freda, who worked in the local shop, knew everyone, including one famous resident – L.S. Lowry. Her dad, Len, enjoyed a pint in the local public house, where he was also well known!



After graduating in History from Manchester University, Helen undertook a PGCE, then began her teaching career, sharing her passion for history with all students from the age of 11 to 18.

Helen has always believed in the importance of oral history and strongly believes that we need to write our memories down or we will lose them. Having a close relationship with her mum, who was 'a good yarn teller', she felt her mum's stories should not be lost.

Here's an example of one of Mum, Freda's yarns from the book as she talks about eating crab:

*Freda chipped in to stop the bickering, 'Crabs are difficult to prepare if you don't know what you're doing, Penny. They have poisonous bits – dead man's fingers – that could kill you. Len brought one home once from a fishing trip and it was still alive. Expected me to cook it. It was walking all over the place. The kids thought it was great. They were getting it to race up and down the kitchen!'*

*Freda looked at Ava apologetically, then continued, 'I'd never cooked one before, so I phoned me mam up to ask her how to do it. She said to boil it for ten minutes or so. Well you've never seen anything like it, Penny! I got a big pan of cold water and put the crab in, then switched on the gas. But it was clambering up the sides trying to get out! I had to stand there shoving it back in. So, I put a lid on it, but still it was pushing on it. Had to weight the lid down in the end with a brick. I tell you; it was horrible! I told Len I'd never do it again!'*

*'Oh my God!' exclaimed Penny. 'That's horrendous! What did Nana say when you told her?'*

*'Well, she played bloody hell with me!' said Freda. 'I told her what I'd done and how upsetting it was*



Photos:  
Left,  
Helen Birchill;  
Above,  
Helen's book

*and she said, "You cruel bugger! You're supposed to boil the water first then drop it in, so it dies instantly!" Well, I didn't know that did I? I said to her you said boil it. You didn't say owt about boiling the water first!' She said she assumed I wouldn't be so bloody stupid!*

*She looked at Ava again who looked, understandably, horrified.*

*'Sorry, Ava!'*

*'I don't think I want to try crab now you've said that,' said Penny. 'That's put me right off.'*

While writing this novel, Helen received invaluable advice and help, including proof-reading, from two Bollington-based published authors, Jenny Martin and Nik Perrin. On completion of the book, she then posted on the Bollington Facebook page for advice on how to self-publish. The community came up trumps and Helen heard from others about the opportunities to do this using Amazon. This has proved a remarkable success and the book is now ready to purchase online.

An Amazon reviewer wrote: 'Brilliant! Hilarious and sad at the same time, this book gives a real insight into northerners' lives and how family can come together at times of need. A must read!! This will have you laughing smiling and crying 'til the end.'

Congratulations, Helen, a marvellous example of commitment and perseverance to produce a wonderful tribute to a much-loved mum. Thank you for sharing your story with me.

**Kate Gooding**



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# COOKING THAT CONNECTS PEOPLE

**Bollington is a town full of interesting people who have lived or are living fascinating lives. One of these is Jinny Chivers, an entrepreneur, who one year ago launched a new business on Zoom, 'Cooking with Jinny'.**

Jinny moved to Bollington with her Australian husband, Greg, in 2014. Jinny feels she has now come full circle after living an exciting life abroad for many years.

Her parents lived in South Africa and for political reasons left the country during apartheid and moved to Handforth, Cheshire. Throughout Jinny's childhood she recalls the house was always full of visitors of various nationalities, who would sit around the dining table sharing their stories with the family. This really stimulated her desire to experience life in other countries when she grew up.

Jinny spent a year travelling and working in Australia and then India. Following this she did a 3-year degree course in Economics and European Studies in Bristol, which included a sabbatical working with the Students Union. On graduating Jinny began her varied and interesting career.

Her first employment was to work in bars and restaurants and to organise social events for Gloucester Cricket Club and Bristol City Football Club. After a few years, looking for adventure and to fulfil her childhood dreams, Jinny decided to go travelling. She had heard about the opportunities of working on the yachts of the rich and famous. So enterprising as ever, Jinny went to Majorca to begin a life as a chef aboard various types of boats.

Glamorous as it seems initially this saw Jinny not only being employed as a chef, but also scrubbing the decks! Her first big gig was working as a chef on a Spanish motorboat and later on a luxury sailing

yacht undertaking trips around Majorca and across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. She continued to develop her culinary skills, taking courses, and working with other chefs whenever she could. Jinny says it was a great lifestyle, which she thoroughly enjoyed for over a decade.

During this time, when working in Antigua she met her future husband Greg, and they began to work together as a captain and chef team that took them through the Panama Canal and beyond. As part of the transition to moving to land, they moved to work on a new-build at a shipyard in Finland.

With a baby on the way, they decided to move to England to be near her parents in Handforth, and they settled in Bollington. Jinny and Greg have two delightful children, Mirabelle, aged 7 years and Ruby-Jane, aged 3 years. Greg is a successful drone pilot, camera operator and editor with a thriving business (Lunar Aerial Imaging [www.lunaraerialimaging.com](http://www.lunaraerialimaging.com)), whilst Jinny decided during Covid that she wanted to get back to cooking and started holding online zoom cookery classes.

In the one year since its launch Jinny has taught over fifty on-line classes, a combination of private groups and scheduled classes with children and adults alike. Customers mainly hear about her business through word of mouth or on the Eventbrite search engine. Many are from Bollington, but others are from across the country and the world. She is demystifying skills in cooking from making sushi to fresh pasta to champagne jellies.

*'I love how it can bring different corners of the world together*



**Photo:**  
**Jinny Chivers**

*be it for a birthday party or a reunion of old university friends scattered around the world.'* Locations include the US, Australia New Zealand, Germany, France, Portugal, and Hong Kong. The session times are very flexible due to different time zones.

People often book the private group sessions to cook and then eat with family and friends as a way of catching up with friends, family and colleagues that cannot always be together. *'They are cooking lessons, but they can provide so much more, bonding, connecting, relaxing, time out, entertainment and laughter.'*

Anna, her cousin who lives in South Africa and is also a trained chef, acts as a co-host when needed. It has been a wonderful way for them to hang out and get to know each other more too.

Jinny would dearly love to hold sessions in person, either in people's homes or, more excitedly, to have in her own wonderful large well-equipped kitchen where people can come and learn to cook with their friends and family.

Jinny is obviously an ambitious and strongly motivated person and no doubt it will not be too long before her vision becomes a reality. On behalf of the Bollington community, I wish her every success.

**Kate Gooding**





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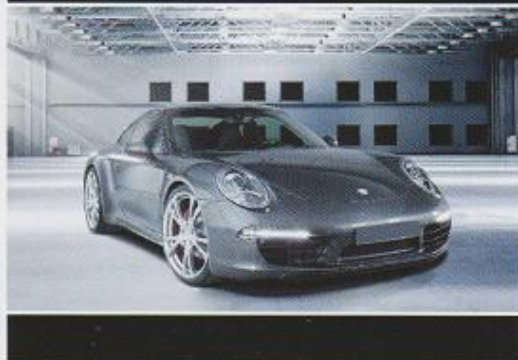
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# HYPNOTHERAPY HELP

My own journey with hypnotherapy started many years ago following a riding accident. I had a lot of anxiety and fear about getting back to riding, something I have enjoyed since childhood. This is when I sought help to overcome my fears with hypnotherapy, which was incredibly successful, and meant I was confident to go riding again, and I've used self-hypnosis throughout my life since.

Having previously trained in a number of different treatments, I decided to add to this and train to be a clinical hypnotherapist myself, and Crystal Hypnotherapy was born!

Going through the menopause, I had a particular interest in the benefits of hypnotherapy to assist with treatment for the symptoms of menopause and completed a specialist course to work in this area. I also offer hypnotherapy for stress management, performance anxiety, smoking and vaping cessation, and of course, rider confidence.

Hypnotherapy is trance and we are in trance many times each day. Think of when you are perhaps out walking and you have a little daydream about something or perhaps when you drive somewhere but can't really remember how you got there, as you were on 'autopilot' i.e., a trance. Our unconscious mind is much more powerful than our conscious one, and by using suggestion while someone is in trance their thought process and behaviour can be altered. When I work with someone, I treat the 'whole' person and do not use predefined 'scripts'. I am a qualified life coach and incorporate this into my treatments.

It is important to know during hypnosis that: you're not unconscious; you can leave a trance at any time; you're aware of what's going on around you; you won't do or say anything you don't want to.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful place to live in Bollington with the amazing countryside, which I enjoy walking

*If you have any questions about treatments, please contact me for a chat.*

*debby@  
crystalhypno  
therapy.co.uk*

*Photo:  
Debby Wyer*



in. In addition, we have some fantastic shops and businesses at our disposal. I met Siobhan at Mother Nature Sanctuary, chatted about what she offers in her beautiful premises on Palmerston Street and discussed the treatments and classes for women at all stages of life. I was delighted when she offered her wonderful space for me to work from and I now offer treatments in the upstairs therapy room. In addition to working with individuals I'll be offering some group sessions for women who are experiencing the symptoms of the perimenopause or menopause.

*Debby Wyer*

# TOWN HALL SURGERIES

**Bollington Town Council has been running monthly Councillor surgeries so that residents can meet their Councillors and raise any local concerns and we do our best to resolve issues and/or contact relevant agencies. Surgeries are currently held on the first Saturday of each month with the next surgeries being 5 March and 2 April with a rotation of Councillors across the rota.**

Roads, traffic, and potential congestion have loomed large in our surgeries. After worries were shared about weighty vehicles colliding with residents' properties in Hurst Lane, we were able to work with Cheshire East to address this. We are expecting improved signage

and the installation of a bollard to protect against further damage in this spot.

The start of road works on Wellington Road/Henshall Road to install the loading bay and crossings by the Tesco/Bayleaf site has naturally caused concern. The most recent surgery was an opportunity for residents to express their concerns and for the Council to respond by providing regular communications on social media as this situation develops.

Early on in our surgeries we spoke to two residents who requested we address the current waiting list for allotments. We approached Cheshire East and were able to

persuade them to start the process of transferring some land to Bollington so that we can reduce the allotment waiting list this year.

We also received a request for support on a thorny planning matter on the Waterhouse Mill estate. A resolution was eventually found with the renovation of a damaged natural stone decoration. At the same time, the Civic Society was able to complete the decoration in the area with the installation of a historic plaque, supported by a council grant, so that residents and visitors can celebrate our town's industrial heritage.

See you next month!

*Judy Snowball*



# EGGCITING STUFF!

With Easter just around the corner, I am sure we are all looking forward to better weather and getting outdoors a bit more. In the meantime, if you are stuck in the house, especially with children, how about trying out egg painting! I loved this as a child. It was always exciting to see if dad could get the egg out of the shell without breaking it!

So, take your egg and make a small hole with a needle at the top and



bottom of the egg. Now the tricky bit – try to blow out as much of the egg as possible from its shell, without breaking the egg. Once done you are ready for painting! Any paint will do – perhaps plan out colours or a pattern before you start and just have fun. Balancing the egg in an egg cup helps when painting or for the more daring you can try skewering the egg shell. You can add patterns using stickers or fine marker pens for more intricate details.

Once decorated I suggest you varnish your egg to give it a nice sheen and protect the paint. You can either arrange the painted eggs in a basket with some tissue paper 'straw' or carefully thread a ribbon into one of the holes you made earlier and hang up the painted eggs.

Miriam Beck



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# WHAT BIT HAS BEEN UP TO

**BIT is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and a registered charity (no. 1110683) which helps to preserve Bollington's unique environment and heritage, for the benefit of our local community, through the acquisition and management of land and buildings which might otherwise be lost or developed for private-sector housing.**

BIT is locally rooted and has supported the community to deliver crucial community projects and businesses, to build a stronger community, protect its heritage and support enterprise in the town. Our projects have saved three community assets, supported two local businesses, created twelve jobs in Bollington and provided access to woodland for thousands of people every year.

Our current properties include:

## Tinkers Clough Wood

This delightful area of mixed woodland is in community hands through the efforts of BIT who restored the Clough, returned it to public use and maintains access.

The Bollington Neighbourhood Plan has now produced a map of local wildlife sites and maps of habitat distinctiveness. Five areas are identified as local wildlife sites of high value. One of these five areas is Tinkers Clough. In addition, community feedback gathered for the Neighbourhood Plan identified Tinkers Clough as the fourth most important specific open space in Bollington.

Our focus has been on maintaining the watercourses, pathways and bridge through the Clough and ensuring the trees within it are properly cared for.

In September 2021, the KRIV (Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Project) volunteers turned out in force to clean out all the drains, cut back

vegetation at the entrance and, importantly, carry out repair work to the steps, replacing many of the risers which had deteriorated.

We are very grateful to Bollington Town Council for a grant which covered the cost of the materials purchased to do this work and, of course, to the KRIV volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Tinkers Clough remains an important natural asset for use by the local community, as previously indicated in the responses to the Neighbourhood Plan. It continues to be used by thousands of people each year including families, dog walkers, joggers and those just out for a stroll in the open air. It is also used by some groups on an organised basis and in 2022, an innovation has been its use by a group for open-air meditation.

## Turner's Lodge

The disused toilet block in Bollington stood empty and had been deteriorating for several years. BIT identified its potential and value locally, secured an asset transfer and restored the building, which is now leased by Simply Granite. The emphasis for the year was on ensuring the relationship with the existing tenant, Simplicity Granite, remained good and we continue to support a local business to remain in Bollington.

## The Water Street Centre

Our largest property is the Water Street Centre. Had BIT not taken the property into community hands, it is most likely that the building would have been sold and turned into flats, thus removing a vital space for community use.

The centre now hosts a thriving, charitable, pre-school on the ground floor and very successful troops of Rangers, Girl Guides, Rainbows and Brownies meet on the first floor. During the pandemic, the pre-school has managed to



*Photo:  
KRIV volunteers  
in Tinker's Clough*

remain open for the vast majority of the time, continuing to offer its vital childcare services to the community. This has been greatly appreciated by many families.

The Rangers, Girl Guides, Rainbows and Brownies were advised by their national organisation to halt indoor face-to-face meetings and, at different times, move to either online or outdoor gatherings. In September 2021, however, we were delighted to welcome them back to Water Street for meetings in person.

Through public consultations – the last in May 2021 – BIT has responded to local demand and is aiming to create an accessible and vibrant family hub in Bollington. The family hub will be created over two floors at the Water Street Centre. The building does, however, require refurbishment and reconfiguration to create a quality, inclusive and fully accessible community facility.

*continued on pg22*



# A BIT MORE BIT

The ground floor will continue to provide space and services for families, including childcare (pre-school, and a crèche including specialist sensory facilities). The first floor will provide quality space to support children and their extended families, with a focus on family activities to support child development and reduce isolation of parents and carers. This will include the continuing use by the Rangers, Girl Guides, Rainbows and Brownies and the space will also be available to be used for training, community events and social activities, with a focus on family activities to support child development and to develop local people's skills and confidence.

Various grants and financial support have been given to the centre and in 2021 BIT was able to carry out the first phase of the necessary work refurbishing and replacing the toilets and boilers on the first floor. This was completed in May 2021 and provides much needed upgraded facilities for the Rangers, Girl Guides, Rainbows and Brownies.

From December to early February 2022 we undertook a crowdfunding project on 'Spacehive' in conjunction with the Cheshire East Crowd initiative. This project aimed to raise money towards the cost of installing a lift at the Water Street Family Hub to give full accessibility to the first floor. The much-needed lift is not just for people who have physical disabilities, but for parents or grandparents who have young children with buggies, and all the other paraphernalia that comes with getting out and about with a young family. We await results of this project.

Further important stages of work need to be done to maintain and develop the Centre. The additional phases that are required are to sympathetically replace the Victorian roof using the existing roof



tiles and the refurbishment of the remaining first-floor space. These projects will require significant additional funds and fundraising is the main focus for the Trust in the year ahead.

As Chair of the Trustees, I would like to thank all those in the community who have supported BIT in many ways. This is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank the trusts, foundations and individual donors who have seen the potential in the properties BIT is managing. Without their trust and confidence, we would not have the resources we need to make progress. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees and members of the management committee, all of whom offer their time, energy and commitment on an entirely voluntary basis. Without them, we could not have come so far in acquiring, developing and maintaining the three properties for which the charity is responsible.

**Will Spinks**  
*Chair of Trustees*

## HORT. SOC. NEWS



**Members of Bollington Horticultural Society** are looking forward to their new programme of talks and outings. Unfortunately, this has been made a lot harder due to the death of Sheila Franks, who carried out an enormous amount of work as secretary and programme secretary and will be really missed by everyone.

Also Wendy Stoddard, who has been chairman for many years, has resigned. Fortunately, Wendy is still willing to help the committee and Steven Fry has stepped up to become the new chairman, so the society is on a good footing.

The Spring Show will soon come around on Saturday 12 March. Anyone can enter and there are lots of cups and prizes to be won. A schedule of the classes is available from Mrs Joyce Burton on 01625 572668.

Other members are involved in organising the Bollington Open Gardens Scheme which will be held again this year. It is always a great weekend.



# H O L M E S ~ N A D E N

I N D E P E N D E N T E S T A T E A G E N T S



## CONSULT HOLMES NADEN

For Property Sales and Letting Advice

**It is almost 30 years since Edward Naden opened his Estate Agency in Bollington. This year also marks the 25th Anniversary of Holmes Naden Prestbury Office.**



**Whether you are selling purchasing or renting we are still the agent to be with. Our extensive local knowledge and expertise is well established tried and trusted.**

Janet Johnson, the Branch Manager at our Bollington office has been involved in the property market for over 35 years, 22 of which have been with Holmes Naden.

She has a dedicated team of long serving colleagues who are hardworking, understanding and all of whom will always go 'that extra mile', which has been a huge part of our success.

Ellis Pembrey, the Lettings Manager has worked in lettings for 16 years – 9 of which have been at Holmes-Naden. He deals with both landlords and tenants and can match high quality

rental properties to suit every need. His extensive experience and knowledge is second to none and invaluable.

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.

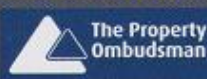
*We provide a wide range of services for Rental and Sales. Please contact either Prestbury or Bollington office for a no obligation appraisal of your property.*



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## ROWING NOWHERE



Discovering a new way to keep fit when things have been quite restricted is something that perhaps a lot of us have been looking for. Here in Bollington, of course there's walking, running, hiking, cycling in the hills, which is great for fitness, but when it's cold and dark the more reluctant amongst us might struggle to put outdoor exercise at the top of the list! And what about the person who doesn't want to leave the house to go to the gym?

Here's when investing in, borrowing, or dusting off an old rowing machine comes to the rescue! Inspired by a friend who had recently purchased a rowing machine, one now graces my landing at home. From never having been on a machine before, using websites to teach me technique (British Rowing website was one of them) and You Tube videos to do beginners follow-along workouts I've cracked it! I can row!

I row along with my new best friend Shane (Dark Horse rowing) using his You Tube videos which include technique drills as well as plain rowing. I'm learning a new vocabulary around the different phases of the rowing stroke – drive and recovery phase – and I'm watching the kilometers rack up.

Now I bore my husband with split times – the time it takes to row 500m – which appears on the monitor after every stroke, as well as stroke rates and calories burnt! But on a serious note, having the machine where I trip over it, and wanting to lose a bit of weight and get stronger without the effort of leaving the house, over the last 2 months, I have watched my split times drop from 3 mins 50 secs to 2 mins 35 secs. I am stronger, fitter and now look forward to my morning row and I am super grateful to the friend who inspired me to start rowing nowhere.

*The Reluctant Rower*

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

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