



BOLLINGTON

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Issue 84 Summer 2022

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BLAZE HILL

PEAK DISTRICT
NATIONAL PARK

UKRAINE SUPPORT

BOLLINGTON MEMORIES

FRITZ VON KERRIDGE



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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.

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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.

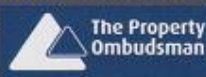
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What a feast of articles this time! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue – I'm sure there's something for all to enjoy inside.

Editing Bollington Live is real privilege. I learn so much about our lovely community, but more importantly I 'meet' all the authors, albeit virtually on email, and share in their wonderful stories. This issue I was particularly touched with the articles about support for the Ukraine at this terrible time and the generosity of people and local businesses was humbling to read about.

Very exciting news is the launch of the count down to the Bollington Festival in 2024 – 60 years after the first one. Have a look at the centre pages and see if you can offer your skills or time in any way by getting involved. The festival committee have already been working hard behind the scenes to lay the groundwork for greater volunteer involvement from now. I must say I love the new logo and colours used for this festival, all designed by Matt Butcher who is on the festival committee.

The article about Fritz the cat made me laugh out loud in contrast to the story about the plight of many

dogs in Thailand told by Robert Cooper in his lovely article. It's also heartening to see our community emerge from a couple of years of 'hibernation' with a few popular events advertised, for instance a new table tennis group and jazz and comedy at the Arts Centre.

Thank you to all our advertisers and our sponsors without whom publication of this magazine would not be possible. A big thank you this time to Bollington Town Council for their very generous grant which was very gratefully received and has ensured we have enough in the coffers to carry on for a while longer!

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

Annette



As ever, if you have any ideas for the next issue, please email me: liveditor@happyvalley.org.uk

**Date for next copy:
16th Sept 2022**

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

UKRAINE SUPPORT

Since Russia invaded Ukraine and the Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid Collection point was set up we have received over £250,000 in donations. We are so grateful to the local community for all their donations and for taking the time to volunteer. Since we set up the collection point we have sent five 40-foot lorries, two vans and five pickups to Ukraine filled with aid – both medical (defibrillator, burns dressings, bandages, painkillers) and civilian (food, sanitary ware, nappies, baby food/formula, toiletries, etc.).

One day, out of the blue, we were contacted by Alison Geary from the Adelphi Group, who have offices in Adelphi Mill in Bollington, as the company wanted to support our efforts and donate £1,000 to buy



essential items to send to Ukraine. I almost fell off my chair! We compiled a list of large and small items, including important medical equipment, and a few days later all the items on our list arrived ready to be dispatched to Ukraine. The generosity was overwhelming, and we can't thank the Adelphi Group enough. We would also like to thank Sally Aspin of Goostrey WI, Tesco, Halfords and Gradus in Macclesfield, Bury & Hilton in Leek, Buxton Mountain Rescue, Glossop Mountain Rescue, Hartington Farm Shop and Café and Ambulance Aid.

Now from the generosity of the general public and local businesses to the grim reality of the situation in Ukraine. I wanted to share the following story from one of the

Photos:

Right: Drivers Rick Mobbs, Thomas Jackson, Martin Taylor, John Hancock, Paul Chauveau, Craig Rice, Andy Harrison and Darren Hunt setting off for the Ukraine (Bob Anslow and Nolan Reid joined the convoy in London)

Left: Jeanette Rice packing much needed supplies for Ukraine

Below: Drivers walking with an armed guard from Ukraine back into Poland

Find us on Facebook for the latest information – Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid Collection Point.

Email macuacp@gmail.com

We're open for donations from 10am to 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, at Unit 2c, Sutton Mill, Gunco Lane, Macclesfield SK11 7JL



volunteers who went on the last trip.

'With an armed guard, walking back to the border crossing was traumatic. To see the desperation on peoples' faces (mostly women and children), you just wanted to hug them all and tell them it's all going to be OK. But it's not OK. Many have left behind their dad, husband or son to fight and to protect their country and many have refused to leave.

We were led to the main checkpoint, which meant we had to walk through the tents which have been used as makeshift homes the night before.

Getting through to the last checkpoint so easily made me feel sad for all the Ukrainians I had left behind who now had to endure another night in a long line in the hope of safety. With only 600 yards left to go behind wire and guns (this had not gone how I expected) while waiting for our passports to be processed, we were offered food by the Polish fire brigade, which we

ate with the Ukrainians trying to flee this war. It was a very emotional moment, I have to say, as I did get all choked up and shed a tear.

I had just finished eating when I was approached by a young Ukrainian lad. He asked if I was English. I said yes. He then went on to ask what I was doing there. I told him about delivering donations of aid and the pickups. He took me in his arms crying telling me I was strong and he loved us for what we were doing for his country. I wasn't very strong at that moment as I cried with him.

Driving back to our hotel we were told by our driver that they had a report of another group delivering aid who were stopped, tied up, and all their goods ransacked before they were let go. I walked out of Ukraine into Poland as a different person; I won't take life for granted and I aim to help others in the future.'

If you can make a donation please visit us on Gunco Lane in Macclesfield.

Nicola Regan



WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS

The Bollington Walking Festival team are working hard behind the scenes putting together a programme of walks for the next Bollington Walking Festival which takes place from 10 to 18 September 2022. After a breather in 2020 and a lower-key festival in 2021 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!

For our twelfth festival we have more than thirty walks planned, and all the regular favourites are here, including the children's Bear Hunt for pre-school children led by the Bollington Library staff, the Mayor's Boundary Walk and a Nordic walking taster session, as well as a variety of new excursions. Lengths range from half a mile to twenty miles, so there's something to suit all abilities and interests!

Why not explore the history of the place where you live, or visit a local brewery? Maybe you want to get your walking confidence back? You might want to develop your creative skills in art or photography or want to have fun with your children or grandchildren. You'll be sure to find some appealing walks in the

programme for the next walking festival.

We have a few new walks for this year including a Mindfulness Walk, a walk featuring folk and ghostly tales, and a walk organised by the young people's charity Just Drop In, and we've brought back some old favourites – the popular canal walk, which includes either a return or outward trip on a narrowboat, and a trip to the Alderley Edge mines.

Many of the walks are themed and include heritage walks looking at the history of Bollington, but of course, what the festival is really all about is walking, so there are plenty of opportunities throughout the festival 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 variety of walks in the popular 5–7 mile category, some of 7–18 miles, and a 20 mile walk, plus a sensory walk organised by the East Cheshire Eye Society and short history-themed routes as well.

As ever, the festival relies on the contributions of the volunteers



www.bollingtonwalkingfestival.co.uk

For more details contact the Bridgend Centre, on 01625 576311, www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/library/

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 Outdoor Group (ECOG) and the Cheshire East Rangers. They would welcome you 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 regular walks, and of course you are welcome to visit the Centre for any of the myriad of activities which take place there.

Bollington Walking Festival Team



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WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

What does football mean? And is it really only a game? Over the last few years, I have been witnessing what football as a sport can do for our children.

The Bollington Bees were formed in summer 2020 and have competed amazingly from the start. They have had many wins but have definitely learnt more from the difficult losses. Playing in the Alderley Edge league for the first year allowed them to get a taste of the game, and the move to the Stockport Metro league this season has enabled the Bees to step

up, developing their skills whilst still enjoying and competing.

As a team they are developing socially, mentally, emotionally and physically. They are setting roots down for life, yet they don't even realise it!

Although the Bees have had a tremendous two years, the real success is going to be keeping the team going – occupying the children as they get older and come across more temptations – and still playing the game they love.



The Bees have met their match this year, and games against Poynton Blacks, Adswold, Stoke City, Port Vale, Irlam FC and Cheadle and Gatley have all kept them grounded. It's also important to mention local clubs like Tytherington Juniors, who are doing a sterling job of raising the grassroots profile and developing players of all abilities.

After winning a very tough and well-run Macclesfield Football Club tournament and collecting their Stockport Metro League Cup at the Stockport Metropolitan Junior Football League presentation in June, the Bees are now ready to move on to the next chapter.

Wearing the Bollington United badge with pride, playing in the colours of Brazil, they will continue representing and expressing themselves individually and collectively to make us all proud!

A big thanks to Carolyn Jones and the Committee, to our sponsor Consilium Financial Services, to the parents, and most importantly – thank you to the Bees for making these special memories. Keep up the good work!

Omar Lamptey

PING PONG? DING DONG!

We had a great turnout for our table-tennis taster session, with players of all ages in attendance. Table tennis was a big passion of mine during my teen years, where I represented the county and played in the British League.

I then decided to obtain my coaching badges and teach the sport in the local area, feeding children into the local league once they were ready. Having not coached for many years, and finding out that the local league was no longer operational due to lack of participation and the recent pandemic, I wanted to bring table

tennis back to our local community.

Whether you are a beginner or experienced, and are interested in playing, get in touch! Not only is table tennis good for your physical health, but it improves your mental health as well, sharpening up those reflexes, helping with balance and keeping the brain sharp.

We have qualified coaches on hand to help you learn the fundamentals, tweak that side-spin serve or get that extra kick on your forehand loops!

Table tennis is a social sport that can be played by people of all ages

Facebook page
@bollingtonttc

bollingtonttc@gmail.com

Telephone:
07939 296063



and offers a great way to bond. Bollington Table Tennis Club will give you the opportunity to meet and play against other people in the local community.

We currently have an adults' club night on Thursday and are offering courses for children. The club is based at Bollington Leisure Centre with the aim of increasing participation in this great sport. Our ambition is to provide a club that Bollington can be proud of by entering teams into a local and district league.

Dave Billington

INTRODUCING: JOSEPH RILEY

Hi! I'm Joseph Riley and I'm a songwriter and musician from Bollington. I started releasing my songs two years ago during the pandemic and my latest single, 'Pretend', is out now on all platforms.

Being a young songwriter is nothing new or original, but I often like to think that, because I do everything myself, I am set apart from the rest. Yes, I write and record, but I also mix and master my songs and have learnt how to distribute to streaming platforms.

Expanding out from the music, I taught myself how to film and edit music videos, how to become registered for a verified-artist channel and built an interconnected social platform to promote myself. I am also teaching myself how to build and run an e-commerce system so I can sell merchandise. I've never paid someone else to do something for me that I couldn't do or teach myself regarding my music, and that is something that I will always be proud of.

My biggest achievement with my



music was when Blue Peter asked me to appear on television. Initially, I'd only sent my work off for a music badge, so being given a small feature was incredible. It was very surreal having an entire film crew crammed into my tiny little studio in my room, but the whole process was so much fun.

I've played the piano since I was 4 and also play violin and trumpet. The pop music I write definitely isn't Mozart, but I do think having classical training is very useful to me when it comes to my songwriting. A lot of people ask me how I came to

songwriting in the first place. I think it was about four or five years ago, when I first started recording things into an app called GarageBand and messing around with lyrics. I found some of my old music a few weeks ago and it sounds really awful, but it's nice to have a reminder of how far I've come and that the hours of YouTube tutorials and pages of practice lyrics were worth it. Never did I think four years ago that my music would get me on television. I guess perseverance really does get you somewhere!

Joseph Riley

THE BOLLINGTON ART GROUP

On 25 May 2022, two members of Bollington Art group, Jennie Gaywood, chair and Jan Appleyard, treasurer, gave a cheque for £660 to Claire Gorton, Community Fundraising Assistant at East Cheshire Hospice. The money was raised from the Art Group annual exhibition. This was a combination of receipts from the pop-up café, sales of catalogues and commission from the sales of paintings and cards.

Bollington Art Group is a local society which is run for and by its members who meet twice weekly for much of the year in the Civic Hall and the Arts Centre. Classes are taught by professional artists,

www.bollingtonag.org for information about classes and events

covering a wide variety of media and styles, often leading to members producing excellent pieces of work. Prior to the pandemic this work was displayed, on an annual basis, at our exhibition. However, as for most others, normal life, including art classes and exhibitions, stopped. Life for the art group began anew in September 2021 when classes resumed. So, Bollington Art group held its first exhibition since 2019 in April 2022 at the Civic Hall. It was a great success, with an excellent standard of entries by members and good footfall by visitors.

We held a preview evening where the exhibition was opened by Dr Debbie Maxwell, a recently



retired GP from Bollington Medical Centre. In her retirement she has taken on the role of a trustee of East Cheshire Hospice, the charity to which the group chose to donate the profits this year. Dr Maxwell gave an informed and interesting speech about the hospice and thanked the Art Group for their generosity.

Jan Appleyard

FRITZ VON KERRIDGE

I can truly say that this article represents my first celebrity interview for Bollington Live!, even though the feline subject was (unsurprisingly) nowhere to be seen. So my 'scoop' was in persuading Lee Russell, publican of the Bull's Head in Kerridge, to grant me an audience on behalf of ... you've guessed it ... the most famous creature in the whole of Bollington ... Fritz von Kerridge!

Lee told me that even Cheshire Life expressed an interest. Next stop will be the BBC's North West Tonight, obviously.

Lee has been the publican of the Bull's Head for thirteen years, and the (slightly bemused) owner of Fritz for a mere two, over which period of time Fritz has developed his own wide-ranging taxi network as well as his eponymous Facebook page ... 850 followers at the last count (including me).

Why? Fritz's fame and high social-media profile lie in his incredible friendliness and even more incredible daily roaming. (How many cat steps is 10 human miles?)

Two years ago Lee welcomed as the pub cat a kitten from a home in Higher Poynton. I am admittedly biased, but Fritz is a simply gorgeous



neutered male cat – cross-bred (you can tell from his fluffy tummy, apparently). Shortly after Fritz's arrival Lee started noticing that the cat loved the local pub customers so much that he would follow them home.

That was just the start. Lee gradually started getting phone calls, Facebook messages and so on, as Fritz's wanderings grew ever wider, towards Bollington Cross and beyond.

Fritz acquired a tracker on his collar three months ago. His furthest known destination is the Weaver pub, on the other side of Macclesfield. He has also been seen relaxing outside Prime Cut, the steak house on Churchill Way in Macclesfield town centre. Increasingly, he can call on his bespoke Uber service to give him a ride back to Kerridge.

One lookalike (weirdly also called Fritz) has been spotted as far afield as Austria, and of course Fritz bears an all too uncanny resemblance to the Downing Street cat, so uncanny that he has received at least one fixed penalty notice for partying on the table in the Cabinet Office. In March Fritz was also seen chatting up the camera operators on The

Green in order to secure a walk-on part in Granada TV's new series Ralph and Katie, a spin-off from the BBC's The A Word.

Fritz clearly has a hectic schedule, but he always returns home at night and always has a hearty breakfast in the morning before heading off again, if it's not wet. There is huge envy amongst Bollingtonians (including me) towards their fellow townfolk who have actually met Fritz in the flesh (fur?). But may I suggest that you still head for the Bull's Head, even though it's highly likely Fritz won't be there? Because you will be almost guaranteed to meet another four-legged friend in the shape of Kia, the pub's ten-year-old Border terrier – equally friendly, but insanely jealous of all the attention her friend Fritz has been getting.

Claire Moreland



FUNDING SUCCESS

Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) are absolutely delighted to announce that they now have sufficient funds to carry out the repair and renovation work on the roof at the Water Street Centre. Work will start in July and will be carried out over a period currently estimated to be around four months.

The total cost of the work on the roof will be around £170,000 and has been made possible by a very generous donation from someone who wishes to remain anonymous.

If you'd like to contribute, you can do so online by going to the Bollington Initiative Trust website and clicking on 'Donate'

www.bollingtoninitiative.org/make-a-donation

We are very grateful for this fantastic support.

Fundraising efforts will now turn to the next stage of work, which is to refurbish and redecorate the remainder of the first floor, with the aim of making the Centre an attractive and vibrant family hub in Bollington. BIT aims to do this work immediately following the work on the roof. So the previous crowdfunding activity for the lift will now go on hold until the first-floor refurbishment is complete. Funds of approaching £10,000

were raised in the lift initiative and many have now very generously redirected their donations to the first-floor refurbishment.

The exact specification for this refurbishment will depend upon the amount of funds raised.

A huge thank you for all the generous support for BIT's efforts to retain this important building for the people of Bollington

Will Spinks (Chair BIT)

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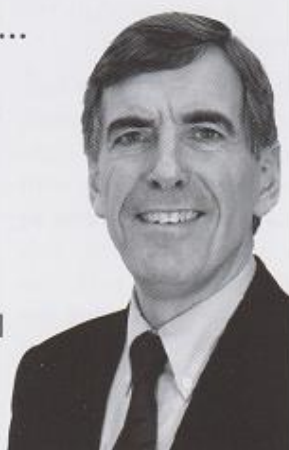
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WHATS ON

JAZZ AT THE ARTS CENTRE

3 Sept - Mike Hall's Boplicity

Many in Bollington will remember Mike as the Musical Director of the RNCM Jazz Collective, from their appearances at the last three Bollington Festivals. He's now retired from the college, but during his time there he was an inspiration to a great many young musicians who went on to make a career in jazz.



1 Oct - The Wabash Jazzmen

This will be the eighth time that Mark Challinor has brought his drum-free quintet to Bollington, and they are as popular now as they were sixteen years ago. When you have Mark's driving banjo and Richard Vernon on bass, who needs drums?

5 Nov - Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants

One of the victims of the pandemic, having had his April 2021 gig cancelled, Kevin returns eighteen months later as full of enthusiasm as ever. As well as being a superb musician, he is a great man to have on the mic, with his wealth of musical anecdotes and his ready wit.

3 Dec - TJ Johnson Band

One of the most popular jazz musicians in the land, TJ paid his first visit to the Arts Centre in 2003 and has been a regular ever since, also playing at three of the last four Bollington Festivals. A measure of his popularity is that he is a regular at Ronnie Scott's, even playing solo on New Year's Eve.

All tickets are £12 and are available by tel. only on 01625 574410

BOLLY COMEDY CLUB

The next Comedy Club Dates at the Arts Centre are

7 Oct 4 Nov 2 Dec

Tickets are all £12 and available online at bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

CHAMBER MUSIC 2022/2023 SEASON

Normal service returns!

Bollington Chamber Concerts - our local classical music society - have announced their 2022/2023 season which sees six top classical ensembles from the UK and abroad performing a wide variety of both well-loved and more modern music. It promises to be an outstanding series and aptly marks the return of the regular concert programme.

Now that a full house is again possible we are expecting the full return of our regular audiences but there will be seats available for newcomers and for people who are now thinking about renewing or expanding their musical interests.

Ian Brammer

Visit www.bollington-chamber-concerts.org for tickets



17 September 2022

The Fitzwilliam Quartet

22 October 2022

Tom Poster, piano & The Maxwell Quartet

26 November 2022

The Consone Quartet

21 January 2023

Jack McNeill, clarinet & LePage Trio

18 February 2023

The Dudok Quartet (pictured)

18 March 2023

The Heath Quartet

THE ARTS SUPPORT UKRAINE

The developing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has shaken many of us and there have been many expressions of support for Ukrainians throughout Bollington. Bollington Arts Centre has recently hosted two events in support of refugees from Ukraine; Bollington Brass Band concert and an art sale.

In normal times, the brass band perform one concert a year to raise funds for the Arts Centre. The concert was already scheduled, but late on, with support from the band, the Arts Centre decided to donate all proceeds to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

An opportunity to hear the band perform is always welcome to both loyal followers and newcomers to the band's music. In view of the cause, the audience for the concert were especially generous and the total income from tickets, raffle and donations raised over £1,000 and was forwarded to the fund.

Through Facebook, members of Bollington Art Group and Bollington residents were asked to donate any original paintings, framed and ready for hanging, to be sold in aid of Ukraine. It was all done very hurriedly so there was only a week or so between the idea and the sale taking place, in order to raise the funds quickly.

It was a great success and visitors were extremely generous with their donations as well as buying paintings. £700 was given to the British Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

One of the paintings donated was a beautiful blue-and-gold silk painting of sunflowers, the colours and emblem of Ukraine, and now a recognised symbol of that country worldwide. This painting was given to hang in the house which has now been furnished and is ready for a Ukrainian family to move in.

Geoff Atkin



The Bollington Festival is back!

It's official! The next Bollington Festival will take place on 10 – 27 May 2024. Pencil the date in your diary and prepare for an awesome 60th diamond anniversary.

For those new to Bollington, the Bollington Festival is an important and much-loved part of Bollington's DNA. We believe it is the largest, entirely volunteer-run festival in the country.

The very first Festival took place in 1964 and was established by the late Dr John Coope, MBE. John Coope was born in Bollington in 1928, one of seven children. His parents were GPs in the village and he carried on the Bollington Medical Practice together with his wife, Jean, brother, Maurice, and later, his son, Gerald.

Dr John was mindful of the tolls on society and family structures during the 1960s and preferred to prescribe social engagement rather than pots of pills. He created the Bollington Festival as the vehicle for this and was responsible for starting, and in many cases leading, major community artistic, musical, and social activities in Bollington.

Many of these continue to flourish to this day and are part of our community's weft and weave. Just think of the central role the Bollington Brass Band occupy around the Town Hall Christmas tree or on White Nancy on Christmas Day. Think of the Festival Choir, the Bollington Festival Music Theatre and so many other local hubs of creative, busy activity. They all trace their roots to the vision of one extraordinary man.

Sixty years on, the festival, which became a registered charity in 2017, is still a key part of our tight-knit community culture. It is organised by a small committee of volunteers, who, nearer the time of the festival, are joined by an army of yet more volunteers. It takes place roughly once every four years across the whole of Bollington, with the focal point being the 1000-seat Big Top on the Recreation Ground. The Bollington Festival is a much cherished feature of local life. You won't want to miss it!

In 2024, in recognition of the festival's diamond jubilee, the programme will be influenced by the themes of diamonds and anniversaries. We have plenty of venues to fill with events to suit all ages, all interests and all walks of our community life.

The Bollington Festival works best when we all get a chance to share ideas or participate in some way. Keep an eye out for lots of exciting fund-raising activities in the months ahead.

And do please join us at the **Bollington Arts Centre on 28 October for the Festival FLASH!** An opportunity for you to come along and share your diverse and exciting ideas and contacts. You will also be able to sign-up to volunteer and help in whatever way you like. The bar will be open and we will be ready to capture your energy, thoughts and enthusiasm for our Diamond Jubilee Festival.


We look forward to seeing you!
The Bollington Festival 2024 Committee



BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL 2024 MAY 10 - 27

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Meet the 2024 Bollington Festival Team!

Chris Bennett – Chairman

Chris has lived in Bollington all his life. He was born in Oldham Street, in September 1963, eight months before the first festival in 1964. Both his mum and dad were involved in organising festivals down the years and Chris has many happy memories of helping out. For Chris, the festival brings out the best in Bollington and shows what a fantastic community spirit we have. In his view, if one person, of whatever age, after seeing a festival event, decides to pick up a musical instrument for the first time, try a new sport, get involved with a community group, or try anything new, and by doing so, has fun and keeps an open mind as to what they can achieve, then the festival has been a tremendous success.



Richard Gay – Vice-Chair and Legacy

Only a short while after moving to Bollington, Richard and his four year old daughter watched the 1995 festival parade pass. It was an inspiring event and a superb demonstration of the interests and passions of the people of Bollington. Persuaded to take on a role at the 2019 event, Richard loved the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the delight of the audiences. His position on the 2024 festival board is broad, but he aims to ensure the festival adapts to the evolving interests of Bollington folk. With this in mind, he is working on several ideas for new and exciting events for 2024: no certainties yet, but look out for updates!



Matt Butcher – Brand, Comms and Marketing

Matt grew up in Bollington and after a short stint of living in Macclesfield, he finally moved back to Bollington in 2018 with his family. Matt runs his own graphic design business and enjoys everything the town has to offer, from countryside walks and taking the family to the Rec, to enjoying the various pubs and restaurants! Matt has been a part of the past two festivals helping out with the design and branding.



Vera Marten – Programme

Born in Yorkshire, Vera is relative newcomer to Bollington. She moved here with her husband Tim in 2018, when they sold their family home in Macclesfield, where they had lived for nearly 40 years and raised their three daughters. Vera had enjoyed bits of the Bollington Festival in past years as a visitor, but didn't discover the pleasure of being part of the festival family until she joined the Visual Arts Team for the 2019 festival. Vera was hooked and now she is looking forward to forging more friendships as she works with her fellow trustees and an army of volunteers to contribute to the next Bollington Festival.



Rebecca Roth-Biester – Brand, Marketing and Stewarding

Rebecca was lucky enough to grow up in the Vicarage on Shrigley Road until the age of seven. Her dad, Rev Peter Hunt (now retired) was Vicar of Bollington when Dr John first launched the festival back in the 1960s and the Vicar and the Doctor were fast friends! Having returned to Bollington after living abroad for more than 20 years, Rebecca volunteered at the last festival, as a way to get to know people and become more embedded in the community. She is delighted to once again, have the opportunity to give something back by serving on the board for festival 2024.



Steve Loxam – Treasurer

Steve is a retired Senior Programme and Company Director, who has lived in Bollington for the last seven years. His interests include cycling, running, hill walking, travel and DIY. Bollington has such a community spirit and as a newcomer to the village, Steve thought it would help him to get to know people if he volunteered to help with the last Festival. He ended up organising all the stewarding! As the Treasurer of the 2024 festival, he is responsible for everything to do with the festival's finances as well as ensuring we meet all the Charity Commission requirements.



LEARN TO RIDE / RIDE TO LEARN

Switching rides for strides, Bollington school kids tackle climate change one step at a time.

In an attempt to address their carbon footprint by walking and cycling to school, a group of children from Bollington have found health, happiness and so much more through a connection with nature.

Kids from Adlington Primary School who live in Bollington – ranging from 5-11 years – have been walking or cycling to school every day together for over 6 weeks now, and they see no sign of stopping. In fact, they're keen to spread the word and help more children join the movement.

One child noted, 'I love paying attention to nature on the way to school.' Another said, 'I love it, and I want the group to get bigger and bigger.'

What began as a simple act to reduce the number of cars on the road, has resulted in the kids having noticeably more



energy, confidence and self-esteem. Alongside increased exercise, it provides each child with opportunities for greater independence and resilience; to explore and be creative along

the paths of the Middlewood Way. It also helps improve their social skills, building better relationships with family and school friends. And the adults love it too!

A parent mentioned, 'It's magical to watch our children interacting, imagining and immersing themselves in the great outdoors. Change always requires a little convincing at first, but as soon as a few started doing it more began to join in; momentum builds. Now they wonder why we didn't do it in the first place! The kids feel like that they are part of something, that they're making a positive difference and fond memories to go with it.'

In the UK, it is estimated that the school run alone is responsible for generating half a million tonnes of

CO2 per year (which is more than some small countries!). Walking or cycling to school reduces congestion, traffic and pollution.

The 'Carbon Free Commuters' group meet by the viaduct on the Middlewood Way each morning. Parents coordinate activity through a WhatsApp group, with everyone appreciating each other's work commitments, striving to help each other so their kids can join. The group are also working with Cheshire East and Transition Bollington to improve the accessibility of the route.

If you want to find out more about how to initiate your own school group – or join the Carbon Free Commuters – contact Rich on 07740 350 050.

You can also contact Transition Bollington, who have their last remaining 'White Nancy' bikes racks that they are keen to donate, to encourage a more self-sufficient and sustainable community.

Richard Jones



THE TREEHOUSE

The Treehouse is a new planting and environmental group with some fresh ideas and considerable gardening skills.

About a year ago discussions between a group of friends led to the formation of the Treehouse, a band of volunteers with a shared vision. They started to get together regularly, bringing their children of all ages to work on Bollington's green spaces working as a team and having



fun in the open air.

One of their recent initiatives was at Bollington Leisure Centre where volunteers regenerated a piece of waste land and re-planted it with wildflowers to maximise the space for pollinators. Since then, they have transformed green areas on Grimshaw Lane and St Gregory's Primary School.

The Treehouse also publishes a

BOLLINGTON BY JUDY SNOWBALL

There are so many of you Bollington people out there who work so hard in our community. We like to give you a chance to introduce yourselves to Bollington Live! In this edition we meet Judy Snowball, one of our Town Councillors.

When did you come to Bollington?

I've been coming to Bollington since 2010 when my partner, Phil, moved from Nottingham to work at the Macclesfield Astra Zeneca site. I was working in London and commuted. I moved here permanently in 2016 when we bought a new house on the Waterhouse Mill estate. I fell in love with the countryside around, the walks and the wildlife.

Tell us about your working background.

I have a legal background, working in Criminal Law. I have recently begun an MSc in psychotherapy, which I am finding very interesting.

Why did you become a Councillor?

I like people and being involved with the community I live in. I've felt welcome here and know I can give something back. I want to listen to people's concerns and represent their views.

What do you like about Bollington?

Initially it was the countryside, walks and wildlife, but living here I have discovered a vibrant community with a diverse cultural heart. I

think the festival is wonderful and it's impressive that our small community can put something like that together with volunteers' groups, organising such an eclectic mix of events. It is truly amazing.

Is there an aspect of Bollington that is not so good?

I think the town has many challenges as we fight to retain our green spaces. It is a challenge to meet demands for housing with fighting the encroachment on the Green Belt.

How green are you?

I'm trying to cut down waste and plastic use and support Treehouse (a recent green initiative which encourages wildlife-friendly gardening) and Transition Bollington. I'm looking forward to seeing some of their new suggestions.

What do you do to relax?

I like to cook, and read biographies. I enjoy history and visiting historical places. I love just walking locally. I once had some French visitors, who came to the town on a lovely sunny day during the festival, and they compared Bollington to the village in Midsomer Murders. The setting, I think, not the murders!

I believe you have an important countryside role; can you tell us about it?



Photo by
Lauren Stout

I have a great love of wildlife, which has led me to taking up a role as an accredited badger vaccinator. The Cheshire Badger Vaccination Programme offers farmers and landowners free vaccinations. Many National Trust sites take up the offer, as do many local farmers.

Thank you, Judy, for taking the time to talk about your Bollington life, which is so busy.

Sandy Milsom

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regular newsletter, which enlarges on their vision of living well and consuming less while connecting with nature and the open air.

Personal wellbeing is high in their priorities, as is getting children outside to get muddy, enjoy nature and the soil and learn about growing plants. They have now invested in several sets of small gardening tools to make the experience more rewarding for children. The emphasis



is very much about having fun and having breaks to relax, chat and eat cake.

The Treehouse is very much aware of our responsibilities in the move

If you would like to join the group, suggest a green spot that needs attention or write for the newsletter please contact treehouse.ecohub@gmail.com or visit www.the-treehouse.org.

towards a carbon-neutral future as well as the Climate and Environment Emergency declared by Bollington Town Council in 2019.

It has a long-term mission to create a Green Hub with a garden site and meeting and workshop areas where people can get together and experiment with growing, repairing, cooking and eating together.

Judy Snowball

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KOH SAMUI TO BOLLY

In all my years of travelling around the world, my first visit to Koh Samui, Thailand completely changed my life, in a way I would never have expected. Being a dog lover, I immediately became concerned about the number of stray dogs wandering along Chaweng beach.

Phil and I decided to buy bags of dry dog food at the only supermarket and proceeded to distribute the food to as many dogs as possible in the two weeks we were there. We loved the island so much that we chose to return the following year. The situation was still the same for the dogs except there was now an animal clinic establishing itself performing small operations and medical procedures. We became involved there and helped wherever we could. On this holiday, a dog decided to adopt us and followed us everywhere, even being sneaked into our hotel room whenever possible. Unfortunately this caused several problems with the management!

It was unthinkable at the time to even consider bringing a dog to England, so sadly and reluctantly we left her behind. We paid a third visit over one year later and several days into the holiday, we were reunited with her on another beach! She recognised us straight away and literally went berserk with excitement. We could not believe this miraculous moment, but it immediately posed a problem. How could we possibly leave her there for a second time?

We called her Gypsy and spent most of our holiday with her, whilst delving into the possibilities of transferring her to the UK. This was not easy, as you can imagine, but we found all the necessary information we needed for her to travel on our flights with us. Unfortunately, a last-



minute administrative error meant she still had to stay on Koh Samui for another week.

I was booked to film a wedding at Shrigley Hall the following day, so we returned home, dejectedly thinking it would never fall into place. However, people working behind the scenes in Bangkok managed to arrange the correct documentation and exactly one week later she flew to Heathrow and was then collected and taken to a quarantine kennels in Chesterfield. She was resident there for six months, then in November we brought her to Bollington!

What an exciting time when she was introduced into our family of three other dogs. She adapted very well to the climate and spent many happy years wandering the hills, dales and canals of Bollington with us. She always very kindly took us to the Poachers whenever we wanted and am pleased to say lived with us for thirteen years, which was considerably longer than her life span would have been in Thailand.

I've recently completed a book about Gypsy's adventures in Thailand and in Bollington and am in the process of contacting literary agents. I'm hoping one of them will assist me in getting it published! Wish me luck!

Bob Cooper

YOUTH X

Youth X Project Bollington has been set up by Chesney Orme and Heather Cann, District Commissioner Girl Guiding Bollington, after they were unsuccessful in acquiring the Methodist Church, Wellington Road for the Girl Guides and other youth movements to use.

Now they have secured a piece of land, adjacent to the viaduct in Bollington, from the Rock Foundation. Pending planning permission, this will enable the construction of a facility for the young people of Bollington to carry out their activities in a long-awaited designated building fit for purpose.

Chesney and Heather are looking forward to this new and exciting project, which is going to cost a great deal of time, effort and money to complete. They will be looking for support from local businesses and the people of Bollington to help in any way they can in supporting their fundraising activities over the forthcoming years.

More details will become available once planning permission is granted and a detailed prospectus will be available to be viewed by everyone. Chesney and Heather look forward to your support and hope you like the artist's impression below.

**Chesney Orme and
Heather Cann**



A NEW MARKER

The Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) is delighted to have completed the project to erect a new National Park boundary marker at the foot of Blaze Hill, just outside Bollington.

Ever since the National Park was established in 1951 there has been no marking of its boundary so close to Bollington, and this has now been rectified. The plinth is made with local Kerridge stone and has a 3ft-diameter millstone on the top. It is three-quarters the scale of the park boundary markers on the main roads, to reflect its minor road location and setting.

The project originated as a proposal in the Bollington Tourism Plan prepared by Bollington Destination Forum and is designed to raise the profile of the National Park in the minds of Bollington residents and businesses, as well as visitors. Using BIT's charitable status it has been possible to assemble the necessary finance.

BIT wishes to thank in particular the Peak District National Park Foundation and the Peak District Communities Small Grant Fund, whose grants made the project possible. We also wish to thank landowner Andrew Stubbs as well

as local contractors John and Stuart Drabble, and William Warrington, stonemason of Rainow, for the high quality of their work.

An unveiling event took place in May at which Councillor Andrew Gregory of Cheshire East Council and the Peak District National

*Photo by
Patrick Scanlon*

Park Authority board said a few well-chosen words and Graham Barrow, the main promoter of the project and BIT trustee, explained the process of getting it built and thanked everyone involved.

Graham Barrow



SAM THE CHEF

Local-born chef Samuel Lomas recently competed in the BBC2 programme Great British Menu. He won his round and went on to represent the North-West in the national finals, becoming the youngest-ever finalist. The competition was eventually won by the Head Chef at the Ritz!

Twenty-six-year-old Sam was born and brought up in Kerridge and was one of the fourth generation of his family to attend Bollington Cross School. Aged 18, Sam won a competition for a year's

apprenticeship at Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage in Devon. This was intended to be a gap-year project, but Sam enjoyed the creative nature of the work and became so involved with the ethical and campaigning side that he didn't look back.

In the competition Sam was keen to promote our quality local products. His high-scoring dish – a honey tart – was made using local Forest Whisky and our own Happy Valley Honey.



Sam is at present working as Head Chef at a guest house/ restaurant back in Devon.

Kathryn Lomas

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Chesney Orme was a 2021 recipient of the Bollington Town Council Mayor's Commendation for Long Service in the Community Award. Bollington Live! magazine thought it would be interesting to find out more about this Bollington 'celebrity'.

Chesney grew up in Bollington with his mum, dad and sister on Hurst Lane. He attended St John's Primary School followed by the King's School Macclesfield.

Chesney has always had an entrepreneurial streak. Before he was 10 years old, he had a firewood round selling chopped-up sticks from offcuts collected from Needham's Woods Yard. With the money he saved he bought and sold old motorbikes he had tinkered with in his dad's garage.

When he was 12 years old, he could be found serving petrol at Broadheads garage, where he was paid a shilling per hour. After 2 years working at the pumps and washing BC Transport's wagons he was trusted with the keys to the garage, so he could open up the pumps on Sundays, also allowing him access to the garage facilities so he could further his skills in car repairs.

Then in 1968, at the age of 16, he left school and went straight to work at Adelphi Mill as an office clerk. This only lasted a year as Courtaulds closed down the mill. He then took a sales job in the office at Ashton Vernon builders' merchants in Macclesfield for a year before becoming self-employed, working with Chris Wainwright at Hammonds Brickworks, Pott Shrigley, helping Chris in his motor-body repair shop.

At the age of 19, he started his own motor body repair shop at the brickworks, where he was incredibly conscientious, working most days, including weekends, from 6am till 10pm, then going to the Queen's Arms for a drink,

before going back to the garage to work until 1am. On Mondays he never went to bed! This hard work paid off and Chesney recalls that with the money he saved from Broadheads, together with his savings from his car-body repair jobs, he bought his first property on Lord Street, Bollington for £1,250. He made a quick profit on selling this house and this tempted him to start buying, doing up and selling further properties.

Over the next few years, he moved from property to property, making a profit each time – these properties included Rainow Mill, Ingersley Vale, the Coach House on Shrigley Road and then Berristall Hall Farm.

Chesney then went on to pursue his interest in plastic recycling with the knowledge he had learnt from traveling shotgun in BC Transport's wagons in the school holidays.

He formed a company called Co Gran in Hammonds Brickworks in Pott Shrigley and shortly afterwards acquired buildings in Nab Quarry where he expanded the recycling business by buying Granulating Service from the Vinyl group in Bollington. He continued in plastic recycling and one of his achievements was to invent the world's first bottle-recycling facility – after being commissioned by European Vinyl Corporation around 1990. At the time no plastic bottles were recycled in the UK. This was filmed for Blue Peter and featured on television. He has since carried out many processes in plastic recycling and his latest is an invention to enable all the mixed plastics deemed non-recyclable to be converted into useful end products, using his Pro-Tig patented technology at his company Chestnut Polymers Ltd in Winsford. He now intends to sell licences worldwide.

However, Chesney is not only an expert in the plastic recycling industry, but has been a great



advocate for the Cub and Scout movement over the years. He has also raised sums for various charities, not only as a member of Macclesfield Lions but as a supporter for individual local enterprises, especially ROAR (Reach Out and Recover) in Macclesfield. One remarkable fundraising success took place in 1985, where together with the help of his friends, he staged a Live Aid concert on his farm in Pott Shrigley. Here he had a live satellite link-up with the BBC and raised £10,000 for the Ethiopian appeal in Uganda. Check out YouTube to watch the event!

However, Chesney is not a man to sit still, and during lockdown he decided to write his first children's storybook, *The Animals' Environmental Protest*. It is about the 'two-leggers' leaving all their plastic waste around, which interferes with the habitat and wellbeing of wildlife. Profits from the book are going towards a new charity he has set up together with Heather Cann, District Commissioner Girlguiding, Bollington called Youth X Project Bollington.

It was a really pleasurable experience to talk to Chesney. He is a great raconteur, so I encourage anyone who meets him to ask him to tell you more about his fascinating life!

Kate Gooding

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BORROWERS BUSINESS

It's just over a year since the Bollington Borrowers team held their first meeting. They came together as a group of volunteers interested in reducing waste and saving money and so created a 'library of things' – a collection of everyday lesser-used household items and equipment that members of the public can borrow, as we found out in the last issue of Bollington Live!

A year on, and they have a cabin from which to operate, a grant from players of the Postcode Lottery and a thriving community of members with an ever-increasing inventory of items available for hire. Look out for their open days too, they have held some fun, free and interactive sessions making birdboxes and planters out of waste materials ... and there will be more to come!

Some testimonials.

'We borrowed the mug library from the Borrowers for our wedding and it was a huge success! It saved so much waste and faff, everyone was delighted with their mugs of fizz and we were really proud to be part of this great community initiative.'
(Zoe and Dave)

'The marble run was a godsend for the school holidays – the kids spent hours playing with it and it was great to have a new toy in the house that we didn't have to buy and could easily return.' (Katie)

'I only have a small patch of grass that needs mowing infrequently and don't have a lot of storage space for my own kit, so it's ideal to be able to borrow a mower from the Borrowers to get this job done.'
(John)



To find out more and for information on how to join, visit the Borrowers' Facebook page at 'Bollington Borrowers', or pop down to the Borrowers' Cabin to meet the team. The cabin's next to the Life Church on Hawthorn Road, Bollington and is open between 9am and 10am every Saturday.

Emily Bartram

STACEY'S ART

I grew up in West Yorkshire, the daughter of a policeman/detective, and have a sister with severe learning difficulties who now lives in a care home. As a child my dad would take me out sketching; he taught me how to paint watercolours. We went walking a lot around the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, and for my then O- and A-levels I painted landscapes and buildings.



In my early twenties I worked as a nanny in Boston, USA where I also took various art evening classes. I also lived in Germany, then moved back to the UK in 2000 and lived in London, where I met my husband. My art was then put on hold as we had two children and life took over! But I always enjoyed art projects with the children when they were small and it was a hobby I did to relax. We moved up to the North-West 17 years ago.

Fast-forward to the pandemic: I was mum to two teenagers and home schooling took over. My daughter also loves art, so I started painting again as a way of coping with the lockdowns, and rediscovered my passion for it. As a family it was a challenging time, with my sister living in a care home, so I found my art helped me cope mentally. We did lots of walking and photographing local landscapes; I did some paintings of White Nancy and the journey to Stacey Art began!



I then had the idea of turning my paintings into greetings cards and selling them locally, so I contacted Matt at Bollington Printshop, and the venture was born, but I never really thought any of the cards would sell! I also rediscovered my love of drawing buildings, and had cards made from those, and I also do commissions. I've done paintings of Macclesfield Town Hall, the Heritage Centre, and some local churches and pubs.

I usually start by doing a detailed pencil sketch, especially with my buildings, then watercolours, and I then add detail with ink fineliners and use a few different-coloured pens.

You can find my Stacey Art cards in The Flower House, the Bridgend Centre and the SK10 Salon in Bollington; and also the Macclesfield Visitor Information Centre.

Stacey Douthwaite

Email stacey.douthwaite@gmail.com

Facebook @[staceyartmacc](https://www.facebook.com/staceyartmacc)

BOLLINGTON MEMORIES

We first arrived in Bollington in the summer of 1976, moving into Ashbrook Road on one of the hottest days ever recorded. The house had a steep drive, and by the end of the day we felt as if we had run several marathons.

It had been an eventful week, as at work at ICI I had given my first presentation to the research board and been asked several searching questions by the research director, Dr Brian Newbould. Imagine my surprise when on the Sunday morning I answered the door to Brian collecting newspapers for the swimming pool fund, my first example of recycling in action.

We got involved in many fundraising events and it was a great occasion when, after many setbacks, the swimming pool opened, thanks to the determination of the hard-working committee and the generosity of the people and businesses in the area.

I was delighted when squash courts were added to the project to help fund the running costs, and for several years had the dubious honour of being second-team captain. My main duties were to find late replacements for players called up to the first team and to arrange the playing order so that the big drinkers were the last on court to cut down the bar bill! On many occasions cars had to be left on site to be collected the next day, and we all remain indebted to the wonderful barmaid/taxi driver Rose Davies for getting us home safely.

Mary used to work most Saturdays, so it was my responsibility to do the shopping. After a few weeks

collecting the meat from Barrows I was pulled to one side as I had become a great puzzle. They knew all their customers and could not fathom, with my Welsh accent, where I fitted in. I think this was typical of the strengths of the community and one we developed when we subsequently bought the village pharmacy.

We subsequently moved to Oak Bank Drive and one evening I caught the bus into Macclesfield from the terminus at the Cotton Tree. I was the only one on the bus and the first stop was Pool Bank. Imagine my surprise when, with all the seats to choose from, the new passenger came and sat next to me. I never met that person again, much to my regret, as by the time we got to Tytherington we had sorted out all the country's problems!

I regularly delivered oxygen cylinders from the pharmacy – ungainly things, weighing 20kg-plus. The patients were normally housebound and often so pleased to get visitors. A particular favourite became Mr Webster, who loved talking about cricket, and when the test match was on would give me almost a ball-by-ball account of the day's play. On another occasion I delivered to Clarence Terrace, and unknown to me, they did not use the front door. I thus had to carry



Photo:
David and Mary
Bowen on Red
Nose Day in the
pharmacy

the cylinder all around the block to the back entrance and down some steep steps, but still could not get an answer, though I saw there was a light on upstairs. I was determined to make the delivery and eventually got an answer by knocking on the bedroom window with a clothes prop! On another day we had a request for a delivery to a canal boat moored by Adelphi Mill. I parked on Grimshaw Lane and lugged the cylinder up the steep twenty or so steps to the canal, only to be horrified to find the boat was moored on the other bank!

Though we thoroughly enjoyed living and working in Bollington, we do not regret retiring to Llandudno, but enjoy keeping up with local news via Bollington Live! and friends. We have many happy memories and are so pleased to find that the special community spirit remains alive.

David Bowen

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BOLLINGTON BIKEFEST

Wheels are in motion for the 11th annual Bollington Bikefest. This event will take place on Sunday 18 September starting and finishing at The Adelphi Mill, Grimshaw Lane, Bollington SK10 5JB. Riders can choose from one of three routes.

The Bolly Bash – 46 miles

The Bolly Bash returns to the Cheshire Plains this year. The heads out towards Prestbury then Nether Alderley, Lindow End, Goostrey, and then back through Marton, Gawsworth, and Henbury. A feed station will be available at The Davenport Arms near Marton.



The Grimshaw Grueller – 72 miles

There has been a slight change to the Grimshaw Grueller route with the riders now heading straight over to Wildboardclough, on to Rudyard for the first feed station up to Flash for the second feed station, back via Buxton and the Goyt Valley, Lamaloads, Pym's Chair, Bakestonedale, then a final flat section out to Upper Poynton before returning to Bollington.



Twenty is plenty – 12 miles

The Twenty is Plenty Event (12 miles) along the Middlewood Way will be the same as last year.

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.

To register for the Bollington Bikefest please follow this link to the British Cycling page www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/259229/Bollington-Bikefest-2022 Riders registering for the event before 31 July get a 25% discount and there is a special family rate for the Twenty is Plenty Ride.

We hope that you will join us and make Bikefest 2022 a memorable community occasion that will also 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 the 18 September.

Deborah Hughes

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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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