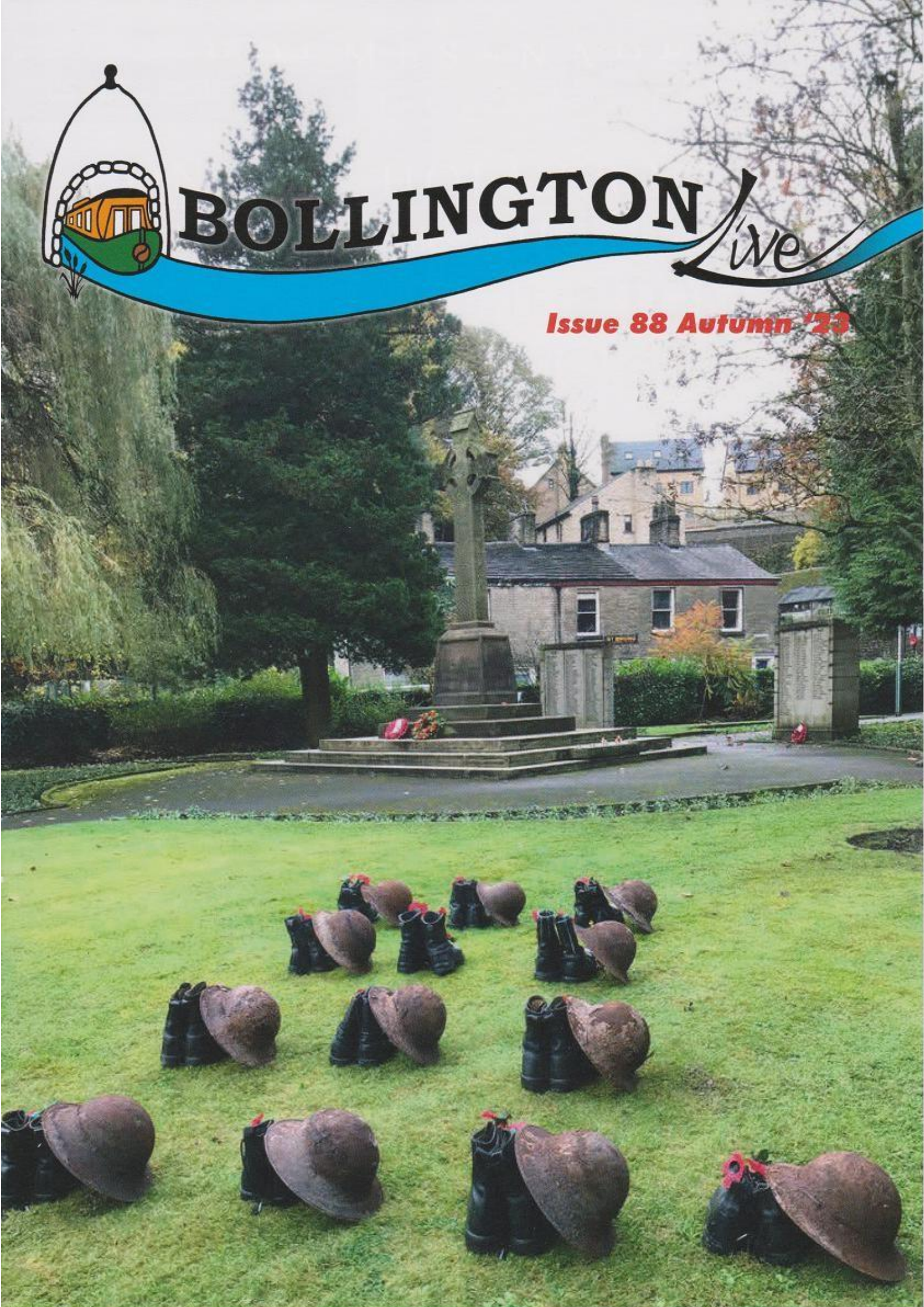




BOLLINGTON

live

Issue 88 Autumn '23



For **Servicing** **and MOT's**, think Autotech Cheshire

ALL VEHICLE REPAIRS •

ELECTRICAL REPAIRS •

AIR-CONDITIONING •

DIAGNOSTICS •

SERVICING •

MOT'S •



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE FALLEN

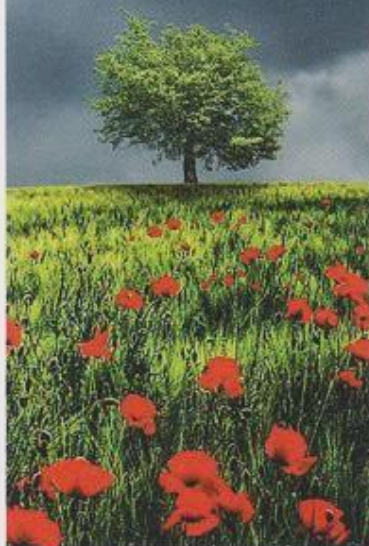
They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning

We will remember them.

Excerpt from For the Fallen by
Laurence Binyon



Before I tell you about this issue, there's 30th anniversary news to report.

It's our 30th anniversary next year (2024) and we are asking residents to send in any reminiscences they have. This time we have a lovely article from Linda West who was on the very first Bollington Live committee – it's great to read how the magazine started and see where it has got to today. If you have a story to tell, please get in touch.

Also, for our 30th anniversary we are having a bit of a redesign of the Bollington Live! heading on the front cover (coming in 2024) and the eagle-eyed amongst you might have noticed that Matt (from the printshop) has already redesigned the back cover to include the logos of our sponsors.

Now here's where you come in – can you design a 30th anniversary 'emblem' for us to use next year on the front cover and possibly inside the magazine too? The 'emblem' needs to include the number 30, 1994-2024 and the words 'Bollington Live!' but the rest is up to you. Anything from hand-drawn to computer-designed ideas welcome. Please email me or drop



your designs off at the printshop.

What a bumper issue this time! Thank you to everyone who wrote an article.

We have some of our usual favourites – the Bollington Horticultural Society now the less formally named Gardening Club has shared their news. Being quite a keen gardener, I went to their last meeting, and we were treated to a fabulous demonstration on how to make a winter hanging basket.

We've got a bit of a theme of plants in this issue with a lovely initiative by a resident on Cedarway who grew lots of sunflowers and shared them with her neighbours who all planted them in their gardens. Emerson and Will our youngest contributors have been out to eat again – this time at the Vale. I just love their enthusiasm and commentary on the menu!

Have you got a story to tell? Would you like to write something for the February issue of the magazine? Please email me: liveditor@happyvalley.org.uk

Date for next
copy:
12th Jan '24

Annette

YOUR TEAM

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Printed.....	Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)	
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Front Cover.....	Bollington Memorial garden by Janet Beech	

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

Bollington Live! is an independent publication, published in association with Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society. The copyright of all articles and images submitted remain with the respective owner(s) and all submissions are reproduced with grateful thanks. No part of **Bollington Live!** may be reproduced in any form without the express permission of the editor.

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



MAY '94 THE FIRST ISSUE

When my husband David West and I first moved to Bollington in 1993 the previous owner had left behind a pile of magazines. Looking through this I found the little red Arts magazine that was produced by Dr John Coope for subscribers only.

The magazine contained articles and events that were on at the Bollington Arts Centre. In this magazine was a notice from John Coope calling for any editors and interested volunteers to produce a more general magazine to go to all Bollington householders free of charge. The meeting was to be at John Liley's house to discuss what to do.

I went to this meeting. There John Coope explained that he felt it was time for his 'minority arts magazine' to be incorporated into something more general that would cover all Bollington interests as well as acting as publicity for the Bollington Arts Centre. John would coordinate the main Bollington events listings.

Penny Liley and I volunteered to go to the then Town Clerk, Claude Harlington, to ask if we could borrow the Town Council computer. His answer was, 'Yes, of course,' but at this point David said, 'Well, sooner or later we'll have to

get a computer so I'll buy one now and we can use that.' So we did, and I went on a computer course at Macclesfield College to learn how to use it. I remember coming home to David and saying, 'I'm never going to get my head round this!' But David said, 'Keep at it!'

Not long afterwards John Coope came over to our house with his Bollington events listings. David and I typed and set out the events page and David did some basic page-layout work. All we had in those days was Ami Pro, an early word processor. Walter Menzies and Graham Barrow produced other feature material which Walter laid out. Together we managed to put together the first issue of Bollington Live! which came out in May 1994. By the time of the next edition John Liley had returned from France to edit it and subsequent issues.

In those days we all had to do a bit of everything to produce our first community magazine, including distribution and financing. I remember going round with Mark Stedman and Denis Caulfield to get advertising to pay for its production. Mark and Denis continued doing a heck of a lot of hard graft to get advertising long after David and I



moved to France for work reasons. A variety of people continued to write articles on Bollington topics and people.

Over the last thirty years many others have worked extremely hard as a labour of love to pool their talents to keep Bollington Live! going and expand it into the polished production you see today.

Linda West

KENYA BELIEVE IT!



Hello, I'm Eleanor Davies, I am 15 years old and attend Tytherington School. I was born in Bollington and have lived on Shrigley Road for most of my life; it's such a lovely place to be. I love the outdoors and adventuring, which Bollington makes easy. I also really enjoy being part of the community and helping people. I've been a Scout in Bollington and now an Explorer, and I also work in the Lime Tree, which I love.

Stemming from my love of adventure, when Camps International came to my school telling us about an opportunity to work with communities in Kenya in summer 2024, I knew it was something I would really like to be part of.

The expedition's sole purpose is to improve the lives of people in local Kenyan communities, including building homes and community centres, helping on natural wildlife

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Bollington is a dog-friendly place, with its access to lovely country walks, miles of canal towpath and the Middlewood Way and pubs and cafés where our furry friends are welcome. During lockdown many of us were grateful to have a reason to exercise, as we covered the walks around Bollington.

Carolyn (or Cal as she is known) Thorpe's dog-training business, Off Leash, now thriving, survived through these times and was a help to many new dog owners. I met Cal at a popular venue for dog owners, Café Waterside, and she explained her reasons for starting the dog training business. She said she saw of lot of people on the Rec with their dogs and many were struggling with recall and lead work. People asked her how she managed to recall her own dogs and remarked at how good they were. So, she handed out dog treats to the dogs and advice to the owners.

Cal could see a need for dog training, so she got some qualifications and registered as a trainer. She wanted to make sure she was doing it properly and joined the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers. She volunteered with another dog trainer, set up Off Leash and it has grown from there.

After three years Cal left her job as a housing manager for a homeless charity and focused on her dog training. Off Leash grew and developed through Covid by Cal providing online training. She produced lots of videos of herself illustrating various strategies and

ways in which dog owners can change practices. It was a good way for her business to develop.



She diversified, built up her business base and linked up with Woofingtons. This is the franchised part of her business, specialising in healthy food and treats for dogs. The food is not ultra-processed. Cal strongly believes that this is bad for dogs and that healthy food is linked to a well-behaved dog.

Off Leash has a base at Rainow Mill, with space for indoor training, and a rented field which often has sheep in it. The sheep present Off Leash with a training opportunity to encourage responsible dog ownership around livestock. Cal offers shared sessions with six to eight dogs and their owners or one to-one sessions. With problem behaviour, Cal advises a visit to a vet to rule out any pain, which may impact on their behaviour.



[offleashdog
training.co.uk](http://offleashdogtraining.co.uk)

*[Left]
Carolyn at the
Woofingtons
stall at the Love
Bollington Market*

*[Above]
Cal with her dogs*

Cal will deal with low-level problems but will refer bigger problems on to a qualified dog behaviourist, so the owners can get in touch with the right people. She runs classes five days a week, two classes each day and four training session on a Saturday. She also fits in one-to-one in between.

Cal has a good relationship with the Bollington vets, works closely with Windyways Charity and offers two free spaces on the courses to Windyways carers. She has three working spaniel dogs of her own, beautifully behaved and full of energy.

Sandy Milsom

preservations, and even deworming goats!

To be able to take part in this expedition it is up to me to raise a total of £4,500, which isn't an easy feat as this is my first experience of fundraising at this scale. I am fundraising in a variety of different ways, including producing a T-shirt that I will be wearing on the trip carrying the name of any sponsors.

Any local businesses that sponsor me will have their logo on the

T-shirt and I will be doing social media shoutouts to celebrate their support. If any people or businesses would like to sponsor me and be carried with me to Kenya on my T-shirt please email me on elsveronicadavies@icloud.com or donate directly by visiting GoFundMe and searching for Camps International Kenya Trip 2024 by Eleanor Davies.

I would also really love to hear from anyone who has any fundraising

ideas and opportunities in the community. If that's you please email me on elsveronicadavies@icloud.com.

Thank you so much for reading this article and taking an interest in this cause.

Eleanor Davies

Bollington

CHRISTMAS OFFER

15%
OFF

SOFT PLAY PARTY

BOOK ANY PARTY DATE UP TO 30TH JUNE 2024

BEFORE WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023

PHONE 01625 574774 OR

VISIT ARE WEBSITE TO ENQUIRE ABOUT AVAILABILITY



ORDERS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR CHRISTMAS.

Local reared Beef - from Butley Town

Lamb - from Sugar Lane

Pork - from Chesterfield

Fresh Farm Turkeys - from Garnetts of Goostrey

Fresh Turkey Crowns - from Holmfirth plus Geese and Ducks

Please note, due to heavy season demand
LAST DATE FOR ORDERS WILL BE 11th DECEMBER

Merry Christmas from all the team at J.J.J. Heathcote

Palmerston Street, Bollington E: jjjheathcote@btconnect.com T: 01625 572202

OLIVER SICK NURSING TRUST

In 1882 Edmund Lomas Oliver entered the firm of Thomas Oliver & Sons at the age of 17. He was the second son of Thomas Oliver, who owned Waterhouse Mill, a steam- and water-powered cotton mill. Sadly, the mill finally closed in 1960 and was demolished two years later, the site now being home to the new Co-op and housing estate on Wellington Road.

It was said that Oliver's Mill spun the finest cotton thread in the world, and during the First World War it was in great demand for making the material used on the wings of aeroplanes. Two of Edmund Lomas Oliver's sons, Ian and Gordon, served in the war, Ian being wounded while fighting with the South Staffordshire Regiment, and Edmund himself made several journeys to the Continent to ensure Oliver's thread was up to the required strengths, so he would have had first-hand experience of the devastation of war.

It appears that the Oliver family had always shown concern for their workers. Before the American Civil War of 1861-65, Thomas Oliver had the foresight to lay in stocks of cotton, ensuring his workforce still had jobs, whereas many other local people became unemployed, creating much distress in the village.

The aftermath of the war created similar hardships and Edmund would have been only too aware of the poverty endured by so many. To help alleviate this in 1826 he founded the Oliver Sick Nursing Trust, 'for the benefit of the sick poor of Bollington', using the income from £500 of War Stock and £500 of shares in the Manchester Ship Canal. Assistance was also given to those in the Services who had returned from the war, together with regular donations to the British Legion.

The Trust must have been a godsend to many local folk during the Great

Depression of the 1930s, when industrial towns like Bollington were plunged into grinding poverty and unemployment ran at over 20 per cent. This was a time before the wonders of our free National Health Service, where men and boys even resorted to diving into the canal in search of coal fallen off the barges, in a desperate attempt to keep their families warm.

It is recorded that in 1963 the Trust could give non-recurring grants to residents of Bollington to:

1. Supply bedding, comforts, food, fuel or medicine.
2. Help with the expense of recuperative holidays or of obtaining domestic help.
3. Donate towards costs for staying in a convalescent home.

In present times the philosophy of aiming to improve physical or mental wellbeing through practical means remains the same. Over the last few years grants have been given towards the purchase of a variety of items such as a washing machine, a vacuum cleaner, school clothing and a reclining chair for a person with mobility issues. Help has also been given towards gas and electricity bills and the purchase of food vouchers during crisis situations, house repairs and short-term taxi costs for an isolated person to attend weekly reminiscence sessions at the Bridgend Centre. One recurring request has been for funding towards the installation of stair-lifts to enable individuals to stay in the security of their own homes as their health deteriorates.

If you feel that you, or anybody you know who lives in Bollington, could benefit from a grant, please contact the Trust by writing to the Oliver Sick Nursing Trust, c/o Bollington Town Hall, 36 Wellington Road, Bollington SK10 5JR.

Ann Mayer

Photos

*Waterhouse Mill
1910*

*EL Oliver in the
1950s*

*Macclesfield Canal
at Hurst Lane*

*Photographs
courtesy of the
Discovery Centre*



WHITE NANCY AND THE MOON

She sits there in white,
Watching over the town,
But every so often
She changes her gown.
The fields like green blankets,
Lie close to her feet,

As she drinks in the view,
From her comfortable seat.
The sky azure blue,
Paints rings round the moon,
As it floats overhead,
Like a summer balloon.

Bob Cooper

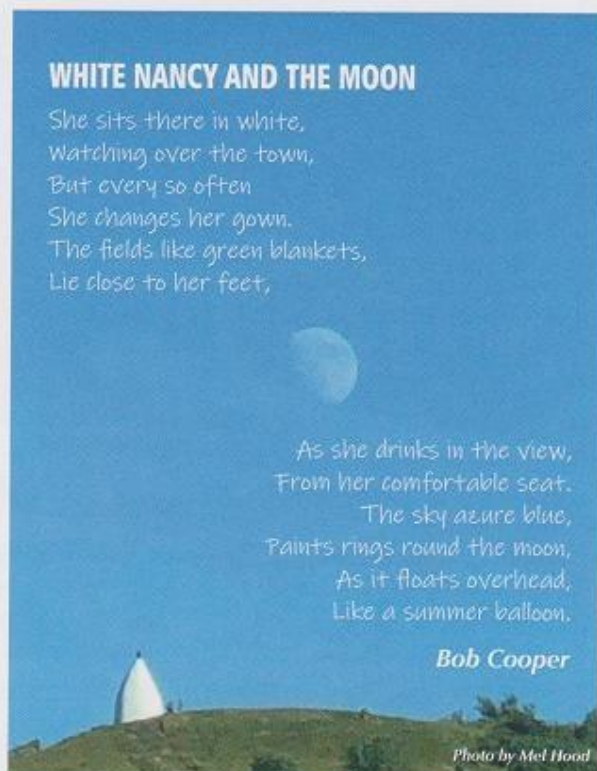


Photo by Mel Hood

SUNFLOWERS STILL BLOOMIN'

I first met Alice Dahlstrom from Cedarway when she signed up for Bollington Festival's Bloomin' Bollington trail last June. I then discovered she had a broader horticultural goal than simply planting-up pots for Bloomin' Bollington trailers to enjoy: Alice had already put into action her plans to fill her street with row upon row of sunflowers.

Despite being a relatively novice gardener, Alice burns with enthusiasm and her garden is full of pots and troughs bursting with fabulous plantings. In 2022, she bought a pack of sunflower seeds, grew the plants, and harvested the seeds. Earlier this year, helped by her two children (Harriet, 5 and Jasper, 2), she sowed those seeds and grew about 400 seedlings. By giving these away to friends and neighbours on Cedarway and encouraging donations in return, Alice made £40 for the Christie annexe at Macclesfield Hospital.

In addition to raising money for a good cause, the sunflower project has been a wonderful community effort, inspiring friendship and fun. Twenty-five neighbours planted Alice's seedlings and Cedarway has consequently been a sight to behold this summer with its glorious display of golden heads. On sunny, blue-skied days, the scene has been reminiscent of a Van Gogh painting. Even on rainy days (and we've had a few this year), while less romantic, the scene has been cheerful nonetheless.

As might be expected when you work with nature, not every seedling turned into a magnificent bloom. Somewhat ironically, Alice had an entire trough of plants that thrived in terms of growing tall and leafy but produced deformed and stunted buds. A bit embarrassing, admits Alice with a rueful smile, explaining that the problem was too much fresh compost in the trough. No matter, when things don't work, gardeners simply tweak



things the following year and carry on undaunted.

Alice is definitely going to carry on and do it all again next year. However, she isn't going to rest with just sunflowers. There is a very attractive pink hollyhock in a garden opposite her house and Alice is already eyeing up its seeds. Next year, thanks to a local resident's green fingers and community spirit, you can be confident of once again enjoying Bollington's very own version of Van Gogh's Provence – this time with a creative pink hollyhock twist.

Vera Marten

HORT SOC NEWS

It's been a busy summer for our Gardening Club, with talks in April and June on 'Gardens Well Worth a Visit' and 'Do Your Roots Need Doing?' – a fascinating insight into what's going on below soil level and how to promote good root growth. In addition, club members enjoyed two wonderful trips to the RHS Bridgewater Garden and Southport Flower Show.

The highlights at Southport were the floral marquee, the floral art (it was amazing to see how the arrangers interpret a theme), the show gardens – which are compact and therefore a good source of ideas for our own gardens – and the talk by BBC Gardeners World presenter, Frances Tophill, which included aspects of her career in horticulture and filming Gardener's

World, followed by an interesting and informative Q&A session.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, helped massively by sunny and warm weather, which back then was far from what we had been experiencing here in Bollington!

Our Gardening Club has around fifty members, meets at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Centre and has a full programme of interesting talks. Coming up are: 'Pruning Knowhow' and 'The Plant Hunters'.

The society is open to everyone, so why not come along to learn tips and tricks on how to help your garden bloom? Full details are available on our website, www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture, and you can also find us on

Facebook – search for Bollington & District Gardening Club.

Martin Simmons



BOLLINGTON IN BLOOM PERMANENTLY

Like me, you can't have failed to notice the beautiful planters and hanging baskets around the town and like me, you may be mistaken in thinking it is the Council who employ people to plant them out. Well, you may be surprised to hear they are all the work of volunteers, long-term Bollington residents Edwina Wood and Wendy Butterworth and, more recently, by a newcomer to the town, Gill Redin.

The 'project' initially started when friends Edwina, Wendy and Debra Nixon noticed that Bollington was starting to look in a sorry state. Weeds were growing everywhere, and the town had a general air of neglect, so rather than just talk about it, they decided to do something to try to enhance the environment for everybody, visitors and residents alike.

They began by weeding and tidying around the area around the aqueduct and as the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2022) was approaching they purchased red, white and blue flowering plants to put in the areas above street level. They then set their sights on the area around Ashbrook Road, clearing the weeds from there.

Bollington Town Council heard of their endeavours and a meeting was held with the Council where Wendy and Edwina volunteered to take on the planting of all the lamp-post planters and the large black planters that were, at the time, situated by the railings at the recreation ground. With the help of their partners and

permission from the Council it was agreed to move the two largest planters to Ashbrook Road, and more recently the other planters have been moved to various locations throughout the town to brighten things up and give a more even spread. The resplendent tubs can now be found near the Turners Arms; on Pool Bank car park; by the aqueduct; by the two entrances to the Recreation Ground and at the Gregg Fountain.

An addition to the planters this year have been the four hanging troughs on the railings opposite the Co-Op. The purchase of these by the Council was enabled by Edwina and Wendy, who travelled to Chelford Plant auction, bidding successfully to purchase plants to sell at their stall at the Love Bollington Market.



Using the profits from these sales to totally fund the autumn/ winter planting in 2022 gave the Council the funds to purchase the troughs.

With a small council grant the volunteers now aim to plant all these tubs and baskets twice every year – in spring and autumn. Recent



donations from the Carnival fund and Love Bollington Market have been put aside for another trip to the auction to buy plants for this year's autumn planting.

But this small group of dedicated volunteers would now like others to help maintain and, possibly, expand the scheme. First, are there any businesses, organisations, groups, schools or individuals that would like to donate towards a hanging basket or a large tub? A donation of £10 per year is suggested (more if you're feeling generous!) for two plantings in spring and autumn.

Secondly, Edwina, Wendy and Gill find the planting is the relatively easy bit, and they can currently manage this between themselves. However, what is really needed and would be the most helpful is a working group of volunteers who could meet up maybe once a month to weed, clear and tidy up areas throughout the town, or maybe if you live near one of the planters you could offer to water it in hot weather, deadhead and remove slugs and snails!

Please contact Edwina on edwinawood62@gmail.com or Wendy on Wbutter62@yahoo.com if you would like to make a donation or help in the working group. Edwina, Wendy and Gill would be delighted to hear from you.





CLOUGH BANK, BOLLINGTON SK10 5NZ


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
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TERRATOURA A/T

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DAVANTI TYRES
LEADING THE WAY

GULLY FOR YOU!

Keep your cars off the gullies, please, so they can be cleared!

During elections local and national candidates traditionally go out through the community knocking on doors and talking to people. There are several reasons for this. First to make sure people see you and get a first impression – hopefully favourable; by talking to as many people in the community as possible you get a good idea of what issues are important to them and finally, if you get time, you can put forward your ideas to improve the community to test them out to see if there is support for them.

This last election was no different, and out on the doorstep one issue was quite simply blocked gullies



that leave great puddles on the roads in Bollington.



On one canvassing trip we found four gullies blocked in one place that caused a garage to be flooded and threatened a house. This situation had to be dealt with, and quickly. So I commissioned a local, private gully cleaner to do the work. Mr Clewley offered his services freely and the next morning I watched those four gullies being cleared.

Election over – what could be done? We discovered our gullies are due to be cleared next March, 2024! Too late for this winter. The Town Council launched a brave experiment. Councillors went out across the whole of Bollington, checking the gullies and noting every one that was blocked. Not as easy as you think.



Julie, our Town Clerk, gathered the information to send to Ron Henderson, the man in charge, and he has promised 2 to 3 days of special clearing for Bollington to clear as many of those gullies as possible.

Let's see if this new cooperation between Bollington Town Council and Cheshire East Highways works.

The key is getting to them. We'll do our best to let you know when the clearers are coming so please, please keep your cars off the gullies so they can be cleared!

Ken Edwards

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

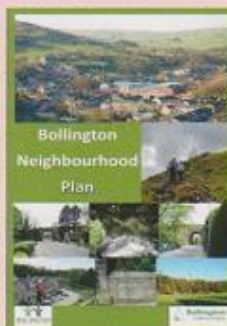
Neighbourhood plans provide a means for local communities to shape and develop sustainable development and land use in their area as part of the overall National and Local Authority Planning system.

The Bollington Neighbourhood Plan was completed and adopted in 2018 and, like the Cheshire East Local Plan, it covers the period up to 2030. With further developments since 2018 Bollington Town Council has now agreed that it is an appropriate time to review and update the plan.

Among the developments since 2018 are the publication of Cheshire East Council's Site Allocations suite of documents including a specific

Bollington Settlement Report, changes in completion and plans for housing developments in the town and increased emphasis on the effects of climate change. Also, Cheshire East Council is beginning to review its local plan – which provides the overarching umbrella over the Bollington plan – with the intention of extending the review period to 2040.

To carry out the review, the Steering Committee needs to involve as many members of the community as possible to ascertain their views on the future development of the town and whether the objectives and policies of the present version are still appropriate. For example, is the 'Overall Vision' in the



If you'd like to join one of the working groups considering the detail, please contact us

www.bollington-tc.gov.uk/about-the-council/neighbourhood-plan/

present plan still the view of the community?

'Bollington will continue to be a picturesque working town with industrial heritage roots. It must capitalise on its gateway location to the Peak District to support a high-quality, vibrant and inclusive community life. It must retain a level of services and facilities appropriate to the size and mix of its population.'

Look out for a short questionnaire dropping through your letterbox and appearing via a website devoted to the Neighbourhood Plan Review and for notice of a public meeting.

Mike Burdekin, Chair of the Bollington Neighbourhood Plan

WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1 November 7.30pm
Flix in the Stix A Man called Otto
 Pott Shrigley Village Hall
 Doors and bar open 6.30pm,
 film starts 7.30pm
 £4 in advance, £5 on the door.
 Tickets from Anthea tel 01625 573538
 email : pottflix@gmail.com

Friday 3 November 7.30pm
Comedy Club
 Arts Centre. Line up and tickets on
 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Saturday 4 November 7.30pm
Jazz Club: TJ Johnson Band
 Arts Centre. Doors and bar open
 6.30pm, tickets £12 available only
 from 01625 574410

Saturday 4 November from 5.30pm
Pott Shrigley Bonfire Night
 Pott Shrigley Cricket field. Fireworks,
 Bar, BBQ, Games. Bonfire lit 6.30pm,
 fireworks 7.30pm
 Family (2 adults, 2 children) £22;
 £11 adult; £5 child. Pay at the gate

Sunday 5 November 2-4pm
Art Exhibition: Incubation Arts
 Arts Centre
 All Sundays throughout November

Thursday 9 November 3-5pm
Bollington Photographic Group photo walk to Waulkmill Waterfall
 Free. Meet at Pool Bank carpark,
 and bring a tripod if you have one!

Saturday 11 November 7.30pm
Bollington Chamber Concert: the London Bridge Trio
 Arts Centre. Tickets from bollington-chamber-concerts.org/2023-24/

Sunday 12 November 10.30am
Remembrance Day parade

Monday 13 November 6.30pm
SciBar: Passive Home Electronics and Low-Carbon Appliances: Development Considerations for a Future Green World,
 Dr Sunday Ekpo, Manchester Metropolitan University
 Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome.
 Mailing list sign up bollingtonscibar@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday 14 November 10am-12pm
Men's Probus
 Speaker Andrew Rowe 'Are we burning the wrong Guy? Civic Hall

Saturday 18 November 5pm
Knowles Green Wine Fair
 Arts Centre

Sunday 19 November 2.30pm
Bollington Festival Music Theatre (children)
 Arts Centre
 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/events or
 email bfmt@bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Saturday 25 November 8pm
Angie Palmer concert
 With Richard Curran on mandolin,
 guitar, violin and cello
 Arts Centre. Doors and bar
 from 7.30pm
 £15 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Sunday 26 November 7.30pm
Bollington Festival Choir Concert
 Celebrating Winter Sacred and Secular
 Arts Centre. Tickets £10 01625 575554

Tuesday 28 November 10am-12pm
Ladies' Probus
 Speaker Rob Carroll 'Songs and their Stories'. Civic Hall

DECEMBER

Friday 1 December 7.30pm
Comedy Club
 Arts Centre. Line up and tickets on
 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Saturday 2 December 7.30pm
Jazz Club: Wabash Jazzmen
 Arts Centre. Doors and bar open
 6.30pm, tickets £12 available only from
 01625 574410

Wednesday 6 December 7.30pm
Flix in the Stix 'Empire of Light'
 Pott Shrigley Village Hall
 Doors and bar open 6.30pm
 £4 in advance, £5 on the door. Tickets
 from Anthea tel 01625 573538 email :
 pottflix@gmail.com

Friday 8 December 7.30pm
Bollington Brass Band Concert
 Arts Centre. Tickets from
 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Saturday 9 December 7.30pm
Bollington Chamber Concert: the Victoria Quartet, with John Bradbury on clarinet
 Arts centre. Tickets from bollington-chamber-concerts.org/2023-24/

Tuesday 12 December 7.30pm
Bollington Festival Choir - Messiah for all
 Arts Centre. Tickets £10 01625 511881
 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/events

Sunday 24 December 6pm
Carols around the Tree with Bollington Brass Band
 Town Hall

JANUARY

Monday 1st-Saturday 13 January
Bollington Players Pantomime
 Arts Centre

Wednesday 3 January 7.30pm
Flix in the Stix
 Check website for details
 Tickets from Anthea tel 01625 573538
 email : pottflix@gmail.com

Monday 8 January 6.30pm
SciBar: Congleton Hydro - a community energy project
 Paul Guymer, chairman of Congleton Hydro. Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome

Tuesday 9 January 10am-12pm
Men's Probus
 Speaker Prof. Nigel Ling 'The Internet of Things'. Civic Hall

Tuesday 16 January 10am-12pm
Ladies' Probus
 Speaker Anna Rains 'Ghosts and Fortune Telling'. Civic Hall

Saturday 20 January 7.30pm
Bollington Chamber Concert: The Piatti Quartet
 Arts Centre. Tickets from bollington-chamber-concerts.org/2023-24/

Saturday 27 January 7.30pm
Jazz Club: Jools and the Jazzaholics
 Arts Centre. Doors and bar open
 6.30pm, tickets £12 available only from
 01625 574410

Sunday 18 January 2.30pm
Bollington Festival Music Theatre
 Free Taster for Get in the Queue James!
 All 7-13 year olds welcome.
 Arts Centre. bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/events or email bfmt@bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

FEBRUARY

Friday 2 February 7.30pm
Comedy Club
 Arts Centre. Line up and tickets on
 bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Wednesday 7 February 7.30pm
Flix in the Stix
 Check website for details
 Tickets from Anthea tel 01625 573538
 email : pottflix@gmail.com

Saturday 10 February 7.30pm
Bollington Chamber Concert: The Innsaei Quartet
 Arts Centre. Tickets from bollington-chamber-concerts.org/2023-24/

WHAT'S ON

BRIDGEND CENTRE

Mondays

Walk for Health, 10.15-11.15am
see website or separate leaflet for details. **FREE**

Tuesdays

Creative writing, 11am-12.15pm
over Zoom. **£4**
Crafts, 10.30am-12noon. **£4**
Art, 2-3.30pm. **£4**

Wednesdays

Guided walk, 10.15am-1pm see
website or separate leaflet for
details. **£3**
Spanish conversation -
Intermediate, 1.30-3pm. **£5**
Mah Jong - ancient strategy game,
2-4pm. **£3**

Thursdays

Talk and Games (TAG), 2-3.30pm -
quizzes, games, guest speakers and
the occasional outing. **£3**

Fridays

Community Choir, 10.30am-
12noon. The ability to sing is not a
requirement. **£4**

bridgendcentre.org.uk
01625 576311

Tuesday 13 February 10am-12pm
Men's Probus
Speaker: Roger Browne 'The King's
Tiger Rag'. Civic Hall

Tuesday 20 February 10am-12pm
Ladies' Probus
Speaker Nicky Loveday 'Guilty Your
Honour'. Civic Hall

Saturday 24 February 7.30pm
Jazz Club: Frog and Henry
Arts Centre. Doors and bar open
6.30pm, tickets £12 available only from
01625 57441

Sunday 25 February 2.30pm
Bollington Festival Choir Concert
celebrating the Choir's 60th Anniversary
Arts Centre. Tickets £10 01625 575554
bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/events

CHRISTMAS 2023 IN OUR CHURCHES

ST GREGORY'S BOLLINGTON

Sunday 17 December
Christmas Festival of Carols and
Benediction by Candlelight 6.30pm

Saturday 23 December
Advent Mass 6pm

Sunday 24 December
Advent masses 8.30am and 10.30am

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24 December
Family Mass 4.30pm
'Midnight Mass' with carols 10.30pm

Christmas Day
Christmas Day Mass 10.30am

For usual Mass time: www.stgregorysbollington.org.uk

ST CHRISTOPHER'S POTT SHRIGLEY

Sunday 10 December
Holy Communion 8.30am
Christingle, 10.45am

Sunday 17 December
Holy Communion 8.30am
(no 10.45am service)
Carols by Candlelight 4pm & 6.30pm

Thursday 21 December
Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion 8.30am
Carols by Candlelight 10.45am
Holy Communion 11.15pm

Christmas Day
Family Communion 10am

New Year's Eve
(no 8.30am service)
Family Communion 10am
Service of Reflection, 9pm

Or join us online:
www.pottshringleychurch.org.uk

ST. OSWALD'S BOLLINGTON

Sunday 3 December
Christingle 4pm

Sunday 10 December
Carol Service 3pm with
Bollington Festival Choir

Thursday 21 December
Singalong Carols 10.30pm

Christmas Eve
Crib and Carols 10.30pm
First Communion of Christmas 11.15pm

Christmas Day
Christmas Family Communion 10.30am

Further details
stoswaldsbollington.org.uk

ST JOHN'S ADLINGTON

Sunday 10 December
Brass Band Family Carol Service 4.30pm

Friday 22 December
Carols by Candlelight 6pm

Christmas Eve
Grown Up Nativity 4.30pm

Christmas Day
Christmas Family Communion 10am

For more information: www.stpetersprestbury.org.uk/

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT

Don't forget...if your organisation would like to advertise an event in March, April,
May or June please email livedates@happyvalley.org.uk

Deadline for the next edition is 9th January

All dates and times were correct when we went to print.
Apologies if things have changed and we made a mistake

CHECKING OUT BOLLINGTON LIBRARY

We are lucky in Bollington to have a well-used and vibrant library service. Many of us have grown up taking this service for granted, but public libraries owe much to the generosity of philanthropic factory owners. In the 1830s the owner of Lower House Mill, Samuel Greg, opened a library for his mill workers. It can still be seen on Moss Lane.

In 1903 Andrew Carnegie, the American philanthropist, offered the Bollington Urban District Council £1,500 towards the cost of erecting a public library, but eventually the Council turned down the offer because of difficulties finding a site and meeting Carnegie's requirements. The library today is housed below the Civic Hall on the site once occupied by the Sunday School. It opened in 1974.

The older generation will remember libraries as being places of hushed whispers and stern-faced librarians. This is no longer so. Libraries are welcoming buildings for all, a place for the youngest to share the joy of books and the sound and rhythms of words and music. It is where the book lover can discuss with other readers why or why not a novel impressed them, at the regular four reading groups held in the library. It is where people can begin to trace their family history and access information online, with helpful guidance along the way.

In fact, it is probably fair to say that very many residents are unaware of the full range of services that our library offers – from Rhymetime and Storytime for pre-schoolers held twice a week to access to computers and online magazines and articles.

You can install Borrowbox on your device and gain access to eBooks and audible books. If you pop into the library, you can learn about all the services they can provide.

Our library here in Bollington is a wonderful resource that we cannot take for granted when we look at what's happening nationally. The fate of libraries has become precarious. Since 2010, 773 branch libraries have been closed and many more have had their hours reduced. In 2017 Cheshire East tried to close Prestbury, Disley and Alderley Edge libraries but had to retreat owing to public pressure, but Prestbury is now only open two days a week, compared to Bollington's four and a half days. I suspect many residents do not realise the depth and range of what our library offers. The worry is that if we don't use it, we may lose it.

After Bollington Town Council discussed the reductions to library hours in Bollington it was proposed that a Friends of Bollington Library should be set up. A steering group has come together, with Sandra Edwards, Councillor Nigel Macartney, Sandy Milsom and Jose Spinks as founding members. The group aims to support the library and its staff, and promote the library to other bodies in the town and the citizens of Bollington.

The group will engage with the Bollington community at large to encourage awareness and use of our library through events and publicity. It will assist in making the library even more of an information centre for the town, covering events, activities and local resources. It will be a group independent of the library service while working closely with library staff. It is envisaged that activities such as quizzes, coffee mornings, talks on local history, books and literature will be promoted alongside the library's existing programme.

Sandy Milsom

If you would like to become a friend of our wonderful library, we would love to hear from you. Please contact either of us.

Jose Spinks jose.spinks@ntlworld.com Telephone 573413

Nigel Macartney nmacartney@gmail.com Telephone 07989 350297

Bollington Library
Palmerston Street
SK10 5JX 01625
378266
Bollington.
library@cheshireeast.gov.uk

WHATS ON AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesdays

Stories and Songs for under-5s and their grown ups (C) - 10-10.30am

Monthly Adult reading groups
11am and 6pm

Monthly Children's Book Club (C)
4.15pm

Bollington Writers (E) £3
5.30-6.30pm

Wednesdays

Rhymetime for under-5s and their grown-ups - 10-10.30am

Dementia Alliance (E) - 2-4pm

Thursdays

Story and Tea (C)
First Thursday 2-3pm

Fridays

Rhymetime for under-5s and their grown-ups - 10-10.30am

Saturdays

Lego Club - 10am-12 noon

All events are free, drop-in and no booking required unless the entry above is followed by a letter:

C Please contact the library for details

E External group Please contact library for details

Other library services

eBooks / eAudiobooks /
eMagazines
Printing
Homework resources
WiFi
BBC Micro:bits
Computer Use
Jigsaw Swap
Starting School Book Bags
Bookstart Bear Club
Summer Reading Challenge
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subscriptions
Home library service
Large print books
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Blue Badges
Bus Passes
Local Information
Coffee, newspapers,
AND Books!

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Kerridge War Memorial Exhibition – Past, Present and Future is currently on at the Bollington Discovery Centre. Organised by the Kerridge War Memorial Committee, it will run throughout the autumn and until Christmas.



The exhibition includes items from the personal archive of Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Hillier Swindells, the highest-ranking serviceman whose name appears on the Kerridge War Memorial. His archive was anonymously donated to the Bollington Discovery Centre during the COVID-19 pandemic and this is the first time it has been on public display.



Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Hillier Swindells was the commanding officer of the 4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment and was killed in action in Grand-Rozoy, France on 1 August 1918, aged 44. Prior to this he was wounded at Suvla Bay in the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915 and, once he had recovered, also served in the Palestine advance. He was a local man and considered to be 'one of Bollington's finest sons' (the Macclesfield Courier and Herald's tribute at the time).



Born in 1874, he was educated at Macclesfield Grammar School and then afterwards at the famous Roman Catholic public school, Stonyhurst College. He joined the firm of George Swindells & Son Ltd, which was founded by his grandfather, the late George Swindells of Pott Hall, Pott Shrigley, and then came under the management of his father, Mr George Cawley Swindells. The mills prospered under his control. He was active in the local community, including St Gregory's Church, the Urban District Council and Bollington Cricket Club. He married his wife Sybil in 1908.



What we can see in the exhibition is a small snapshot of the hundreds of items (letters, sketches, paintings, telegrams, photographs, diary entries, newspaper articles, and so on) in this archive. It is a deeply moving collection of artefacts and showing them publicly for the first time allows a hitherto unparalleled look at the life, service and inner thoughts of a local hero during the Great War.

Photos in order of appearance:

Army officers photograph

Members of my tent

Our dug out

Geoffrey Hillier Swindells from Stonyhurst memorial article

Sulva Bay, Gallipoli painting

Sulva bay sketch

Also included in the exhibition are artefacts on loan from the descendants of other men who served and whose names are on the Kerridge War Memorial. We hope that this exhibition helps to tell their stories too – the brave men of our community to whom we are forever indebted.



Finally, there are some photographs of the Kerridge War Memorial from around the time it was first built in 1919 to the present day. It was made by local stonemason Joseph James Broster, using Kerridge stone, and was designed by Percy Hodgkinson of Kerridge. The Kerridge War Memorial is owned by the people of Kerridge and, since it was built, a small committee of local people maintain the memorial and garden. The committee also organises an annual parade and service on the second Sunday in July to commemorate the fallen.

The Bollington Discovery Centre is located beside the canal at Clarence Mill, Clarence Road, Bollington SK10 5JZ. It is open Wednesdays 1:30pm–4:00pm, Saturdays 11:00am–4:00pm and Sundays 11:00am–4:00pm. All are welcome.

Becky Green and Sue Poynton

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MEET THE TEAM - SI



Simon has lived and worked in Bollington for nearly all his adult life. After all this time he hopes he is well on his way to being accepted as a 'Bollingtonian'!

After leaving college in his late teens, he moved 'up north' for a job as a plastics injection moulding engineer and settled in Bollington soon after meeting his wife Louise (a Bollington lass) when they were tied together in a charity three-legged football match just off Black Road in Macclesfield (in a snowstorm!).

At that time, Louise was working for Eric Brittons in Kerridge, and when it closed she used her artistic talents designing greetings cards and bespoke commissions.

Simon took the plunge, left the world of engineering, and they both started the Bollington Printshop, with Louise juggling running the business and family life with two small kids to bring up.

Back in 1994 Adobe was in its infancy and those were the days before computers were commonplace. The entire magazine was hand-produced.

The headlines were made using rub-down lettering (Letraset) and photos were 'screened' using a dotted film to break up the image to render it printable. The editorial content was typed onto special paper with a 'daisy wheel' - (to change the font, you swapped the wheel for a new one!). Finally, all the pieces were assembled and

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Canalside, Clarence Mill, Clarence Rd. Bollington

MON AND PETER

glued to a board for photographing in a giant 'process camera' the size of a filing cabinet. This made a negative film, which was transferred to a metal printing plate, one for each page. Don't I sound ancient!

Having printed the sheets, we stacked piles of paper in page order on tables, and enlisted friends and family, who walked for miles around the tables, picking up each sheet, collating them together and finally hand-stapling, folding and trimming the finished magazine! Happy days – or just grindingly hard work!

Fast forward to today: Simon has retired and sold the Printshop to his indispensable right-hand man, Matt, who is a worthy successor. Both Matt and Vikki continue the process to produce our unique community-focused magazine, one that we can all be immensely proud of being associated with.

Simon's retirement passion is for woodwork and joinery, which keeps him busy, but photography is his first love – he helps run the Bollington Photo Group along with Janet Beech.

Simon continues; *'Of course I couldn't let all that involvement with Bollington Live! magazine just stop. I willingly stepped into Mark Stedman's shoes as our advertising co-ordinator, thus helping to ensure that the magazine stays solvent and able to provide Bollington's residents with its unique blend of content, both now and well into the future.'*

Here's to the next 30 years!

Peter is originally from Shaw, near Oldham, and after spending several years in Longsight, Manchester decided he would like a taste of the country life. He met his wife at school and they have four children. He and his family moved to Bollington in 2003, their youngest child being a born-and-bred Bollingtonian.



He has worked for Tuckers, a criminal law firm, as Finance Manager for 25 years and his finance skills have been put to good use as treasurer for St Christopher's Church in Pott Shrigley for many years. He has always been an avid reader of Bollington Live! and was happy to volunteer for the treasurer role when it became available. Peter enjoys being part of a team that unites, promotes and enables the community, local organisations and businesses to share their achievements, news and ideas.

Music is one of Peter's biggest passions and he still attends an eclectic mix of live gigs, from major headliners to up-and-coming new artists. He also enjoys the theatre and is a regular visitor to the Royal Exchange in Manchester as well as enjoying the wealth of culture we have on our doorstep with productions from Bollington Festival Players, Bollington Live Opera Group, Fringe Theatre and the Comedy Club at the Arts Centre.

He enjoys real ale and likes to visit Bollington pubs and restaurants to meet people from different walks of life and share a pint and stories, and feels this is a good leveller and an important aspect of community living.

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INTRODUCING BENMO

You may have noticed stirrings of activity at the old printworks opposite the Post Office on Wellington Road.

Bollington Borrowers have made their home there, along with Bolly Bikes and a local joinery workshop, Sawdust and Soul. I am an artist called Benmo, and I have my studio on the site.

With the support of the Life Church, who is the landlord, we are slowly restoring the building to make it habitable and an affordable place for small businesses, charities and artists to work. Last month we ran a small event together, raising over £120 for Life Church's partner charity 'World of Worth'.

When I first rented the space, I was running my garden design-and-build business 'The Wild Gardener'. Last year, however, I was very unwell and was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome, a



www.benmo.info,
Instagram Benmo,
Art, and search on
Facebook

little understood illness similar to long Covid.

As my health has recovered, having some space outside the house has been a godsend, and I've spent the last year focusing on oil painting as a vehicle for my recovery. Happily, I've made great progress health-wise, and little by little I've adapted the space into a fantastic studio with some room to show my paintings too.

I've always been interested in landscape – as a gardener, countryman, walker and wildflower enthusiast – and so our local countryside is the focus of my painting. I particularly love the wild, uncluttered hills we have on the doorstep. I try to capture the spirit of the landscape at specific moments and bring back something of my own wonder to share with other people.

If you'd like to come and see my



work, I'm planning an open studio on Saturday 4 November between 10am and 2pm at 80 Wellington Road. You're also very welcome to drop me a line and arrange a visit. My email is bybenmo@gmail.com and the kettle is usually on!

Ben Darlington

BRICKWORKS POTTERY

I chat to the potters, Rachael Clarke and Jane Ewington, as they shape the clay in their pottery at the Old Brickworks in Pott Shrigley. Today they are enjoying a time to experiment with the clay, to try new things and have time to develop their own art before the next classes begin.

It is peaceful here, a far cry from the bustling brickworks and colliery once here on this site. Where clay once was dug from the hillside and came down by train to the shed to be made into bricks, the hillside is now full of wild flowers.

Underneath Bakestonedale Moor there are three seams of coal and two of clay, which were mined for almost two centuries. In the early nineteenth century a small brickworks was started by George Lambert and Abraham Bury, using clay and coal and firing the bricks

in a small kiln. In 1870 William Hammond joined the Gardiner family in working the clay and coal seams.

In 1886 William Hammond took over the business and at the time they were manufacturing white glazed bricks. A run of bad luck with a fire burning down the glazing shed and a fault in the pit-winding engine led to a change in direction and the company discontinued glazed bricks and changed to firebricks, firebacks and fireclay tiles.

The brickworks continued to thrive during the two world wars and at this time women were employed to fill the roles of the men fighting at the front. Coal production was stepped up in the Second World War and woodlands were chopped down to make pit props. After the war Hammonds Brickworks were

selling their bricks worldwide.

As brickmaking declined and mining ceased, the company refurbished the Old Brickworks and the sheds are now let out to diverse small businesses. Under the current management of Colin Hammond, the company has undertaken to replant the woodlands. It is a busy again with many thriving ventures, and here at the pottery Rachael and Jane feel proud to be part of the rich history of the brickworks. They would love to extract the clay once again from the clay seam next to their pottery and use it in their work. Their small unit at the Brickworks will then have come full circle.

Sandy Milsom

ONE-STOP SHOP

It must be a brave step to change your career and turn your passion into a full-time business, but this is what Chris Bateson has done recently.

A qualified mechanical engineer by trade, Chris has always had a love of cycling, whether it be road or downhill racing, and is a keen active member of the local cycling community.

What started as a small business in Macclesfield, helping people build the bike of their dreams, Chris has now developed a business that is offering so much more. He is now the face of B Spoke, a bicycle business, which has recently relocated to a brand-new workshop in a building



situated behind Clarence Mill in Bollington.

Chris's role is twofold. Not only does he perform custom builds, he also caters for the recreational 'fun' cyclist with the mantra 'If it has wheels, we can look after it'. Either way, he takes great pride and pleasure in building and looking after bikes tailored precisely to all the needs of the individual amateur cyclist.

Chris is a self-confessed perfectionist, as his organisation of the tools of his trade in his workshop shows. Chris says, 'I service, maintain, repair and build every bike like I am riding it myself, and I wouldn't have it any

Why not call in
and say hello to
Chris, email
chris@
bspokecycles.
co.uk or telephone
07734 208529.
www.bspokecycles.
co.uk

Photos:

(Far Left)
Chris Bateson

(Left and Right)
Chris's Workshop



other way.' With over a hundred returning clients, this is testament to his skill and commitment.

As a newcomer to Bollington, Chris is enamoured by the friendliness and welcome of the town's residents. He has already contributed to the local cycling community by donating an emergency tool kit to Kickback Coffee, at the Old Brickworks.

Chris is a very personable man, and extremely knowledgeable about his specialised subject – bikes! But he promises not to blind you with science and will talk you through any of your requirements, whether it is for a customised new bike or a repair of an old one.

Bollington Live! wishes Chris every success for his new business.

Kate Gooding



**BOLLINGTON
FESTIVAL 2026
MAY 08 - 25**

Diamonds are FOREVER – just like the Bollington Festival!

As you'll be aware, in November 2022 we made the incredibly difficult decision to postpone the next Bollington Festival to May 2026. However, in lieu of a full-blown Festival, preparations are well under way for a long weekend of community fun on the Recreation Ground, to mark sixty years of the Bollington Festival in style.

We will have all sorts of sparkling activities for all ages. The highlight will be a covered stage featuring some of Bollington's highly talented artistes and musicians and also picks from amongst the best-loved

Festival performers, including the Bollington Brass Band and, of course, the inimitable Screaming Beavers.

Mark your diary – Saturday 25 to Monday 27 May – and brace yourself for the Bollington Festival Diamond Jubilee Jamboree!

Thank you

The festival is a charity run entirely by local volunteers. Sponsorship and fundraising activities are vital to ensure the continuation of this wonderfully unique event which promotes civic pride, community spirit and inclusivity. If you have any fundraising ideas, or would like to support the Festival in any way at all, please email info@bollingtonfestival.org.uk.

Calling all KNITTERS!

We need knitters of all ages! The wonderful Bollington Yarn Bombers

are busy making knitted creations to adorn the Jubilee Jamboree, but they need your help. If you enjoy knitting do please contact Janine Holmes branstons4pickle@gmail.com or bring your needles along to The Cotton Tree pub at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Enter the Festival Lottery!

If you join the Festival Lottery, for just £1 a week you would win the weekly prize draw, while also contributing much needed funds to the festival coffers. To enter: www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk.



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A HOUSE FOR THE FUTURE

We all know Bollington is a great place to live – a town of character with traditional stone houses. Perhaps not the place to find the latest advances in eco-friendly building? Think again!

New houses continue to proliferate around us but most still use the energy-guzzling materials and time-wasting building methods of the last century. Really innovative houses seem to be built only on upmarket sites in affluent areas, but in Bollington's Albert Road there is one which is truly modern as it was constructed from sustainable materials, is carbon neutral, and was built in days rather than months.

Owner Ben Meggitt moved to Bollington with his family seven years ago and bought a typical brick property he thought could be altered to become his family home. When it proved impractical to extend the house, which was in a poor state, other options were explored, one of which was to knock the existing house down and build a sustainable house in its place.

Having looked at Scandinavian, Scottish and German firms, the family chose Baufritz – a Bavaria-based outfit with fifty years' experience of developing and producing advanced timber-framed modular homes. Although relatively small in the UK, they did have some British customers and a UK base in Cambridge.

Baufritz offers carbon-neutral, energy-efficient houses whose prefabricated parts are made from sustainable materials, used with twenty-first-century construction techniques. Timber accounts for around 85 per cent of the material used in a Baufritz house, with an average house capturing 50 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere after deducting the environmental impact from construction and transport. That's more than the carbon emissions an average mid-range vehicle with an annual mileage of 10,000 kilometres produces over twenty years.

The house was designed and built in Germany and then transported to the UK in a series of modules. Everything was designed in advance and planned in detail – windows, internal walls and outer doors are all pre-installed in the factory. The installation of all the electrical, plumbing and other services is also made through pre-planned conduits so that existing surfaces are left undisturbed, and the installation is simplicity itself. The whole house shell – apart from the concrete base – took seven days to fabricate in Germany and was erected by the Baufritz engineers in three days. Ben says the accuracy of the components impressed him, with everything fitting precisely into the planned spaces. Even the oak staircase arrived in one piece and was lowered into place with millimetre precision.

The result is a property which is ultra-modern but fits into its

location and doesn't shout about its modernity or unique features; even the roofing tiles match those of neighbouring houses.

So far, so ideal. But what is the Baufritz house like to live in? It's not obviously different as most of the innovations are integral to the walls and floors, but differences become apparent. Thanks to effective insulation the house is protected from both winter chill and summer heat and it feels comfortable. Rooms are noticeably quiet thanks to the substantial internal wall insulation and also feel fresh, thanks to the constant gentle circulation of warm or cool air. The temperature is easily controllable automatically when needed via underfloor heating and energy costs are around half those of a similar sized conventional building. And this is with a conventional gas boiler, as a heat pump was discounted at the time on the basis of cost. Throughout, the absence of window catches and fabric curtaining is obvious as the triple-glazed windows and their integral blinds can be operated remotely. And those blinds really work; if you want total darkness, you can have it! Absence of radiators or low-level heating grilles means furniture can be placed anywhere and decorating is simple. Rooms are large and conventionally furnished and the house is light and spacious.

Ben's hope was for a comfortable, spacious family home, and the house has more than matched those expectations and lived up to Baufritz's promises!

Ian Brammer



BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

A good governing body is really important, and you only have to look at Ofsted reports to see that. But for all its seriousness, being a governor doesn't take up a great deal of time. I was planning to write 'a day in the life of'-type article but the typical day doesn't include much governor activity. Instead, it's filled with my usual busy life: full-time work, the school run, exercise and the general hubbub of family life.

Looking at a school term (three per year) is more helpful. Every term, each governor attends at least one sub-committee meeting that focuses on a specific element of running the school. We also link up with a member of staff about our specific area of responsibility (more about this later). Aside from these two termly commitments, all governors also attend the full governing board meeting, where we share what we have been doing and review overall progress.

So aside from 6-8 planned governor meetings a year, most governor involvement takes place on your own terms. But a governor who does nothing apart from reading the agenda and carrying out basic training isn't going to be a very effective governor because they are unlikely to know enough to ask good questions. Being a good governor comes down to asking really good questions.

How do you know what questions to ask?

Knowing the right questions to ask is a mixture of training, common sense and an inquiring mind. Although it varies from school to school, most governors will be assigned specific areas of responsibility. I am assigned to Safeguarding, but it could be Health and Safety, or SEND (special educational needs and disabilities).

It is in these assigned areas that your training is particularly important. Training is provided by the local authority. Personally, I prefer the tutor-led live sessions but there are pre-recorded modules and click-through training options too. Alongside the theoretical stuff you must actually visit the school as well. This is where you get a real understanding of how everything fits together. Assuming your training has equipped you, you'll have the knowledge to ask the right questions, and your visit will be the opportunity to ask them. A visit report follows, is submitted to the governing board, and at the next appropriate meeting you will be ready to discuss the visit.

Why should I get involved?

As a governor I've been able to bring my specialist-interest topic to the school: gender equality. While gender equality is a strategic imperative, I am so enthusiastic about the topic that I sometimes get

Photo Left to right: Tim Hudson (Governor), Vicky McPherson (Head Teacher), Anna Harris (Governor)



involved in more hands-on events in school. To me, that's what being a school governor is all about: being able to influence areas that matter to me, caring about the community and having the chance to make a difference in children's lives.

Dean Valley is looking for more governors from the local community. If you're interested in being a governor at the school, please email aharris@deanvalley.cheshire.sch.uk for more information or visit www.deanvalley.cheshire.sch.uk/page/our-governors/8183.

Anna Harris

DINING OUT

We were dining out in Bollington again and as usual we were hungry. This time we went to The Vale, one of the traditional pubs in Bollington. As we walked in, we had a very warm welcome.

Unfortunately, it was too dark and chilly for us to sit in the beer garden, which has its own menu and is a great place to watch the cricket on a summer's day. For those of you who don't know, the Vale is part of a group of amazing pubs run by Bollington Brewery. You can book a



tour of the brewery, which includes a meal at the pub afterwards! They have a very good choice and range of beers. One parent gave a very favourable comment on the Eastern Nights IPA. There was a chilled atmosphere in the pub with great music. It is also dog friendly.

On to the food. As well as a main menu there is also a specials board which included this week's 'wings of the week' (we shared Cajun wings), roast dinners, which are served on a Sunday, and desserts. We were both fighting over the last wing and the risotto special was amazing! The roast dinners must be very good as they had sold out of both options by the time we got there. There was a great choice of food which included pies, burgers, homemade chilli, sandwiches, fish



and chips and lots more. They can do smaller versions of some of the mains for children.

None of the adults had room for pudding but we chose chocolate and salted caramel fudge cake with ice cream. This was delicious! Everyone was really friendly, and the service was great. We will definitely be back! Thank you to everyone at The Vale.

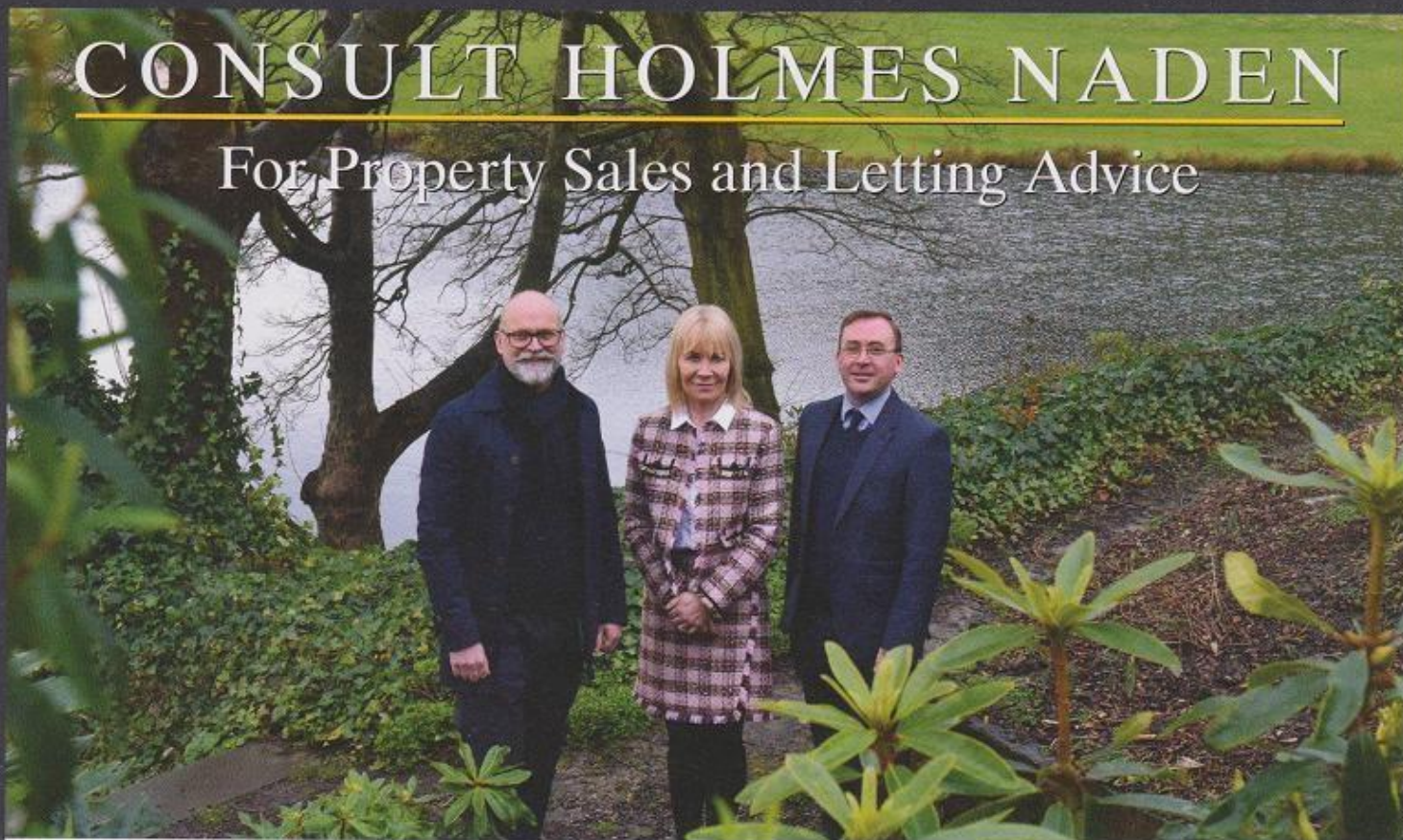
Emerson and Will, Year 8

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Our lettings manager, Ellis Pembery, has extensive knowledge of the field having worked in lettings for 18 years. He and his

colleagues are competent and caring and will provide a high quality service whether you own a rental property or are looking to rent one.

Edward Naden followed on from the success of his Bollington branch by opening a branch in Prestbury that now celebrates 28 years in business. His colleague there, Jackie Marchant, is personable and popular and helps get that important sale through. Both Prestbury and Bollington branches offer a bespoke service with attention to detail and customer care that is second to none. Edward has a wealth of experience in all aspects of Estate Agency having worked in the industry for over 36 years. He would like to thank all his clients both past and present for their continued loyalty.

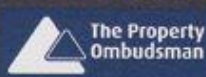
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DANCEDANCEDANCE

Bollington-based DanceTech Ballroom Academy is celebrating ten years in business this year. It was established in 2013 by Peter Bailey, offering Ballroom, Latin and Sequence dance lessons to adults and Ballroom, Latin, Freestyle and Street Dance to children.

Peter, who has lived in Bollington all his life, is a Professional Ballroom Dancer qualified with the International Dance Teachers' Association. He has been dancing for over forty-five years, both as an amateur and professional, and previously taught at a dance school in Cheadle, until the owner of the school decided to retire. So Peter made the decision to open his own school in Bollington.

After opening the school in Bollington Peter continued with his own professional training, making him one of the most highly qualified teachers in the area, and was appointed as a Dance Examiner in June last year.

Dance is the UK's fastest growing activity. Almost five million people regularly attend community dance groups each year in England alone. Regular dancing is great for losing weight, maintaining strong bones, improving posture and muscle strength, increasing balance and co-ordination and beating stress.



One of the best things about dancing is that while you're having fun moving to music and meeting new people, you're getting all the health benefits of a good workout.

Dance Tech's classes are held at the Civic Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings, with classes for beginners through to more advanced dancers. Peter and his staff pride themselves on running the classes in a friendly social environment with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment.

As well as classes, Dance Tech run regular monthly social dances and practice nights, allowing their pupils to socialise, and put into practice what they have learnt in class, together with having something to eat and drink. They also run one-off special events during the year, such as trips to Blackpool Tower Ballroom and a twice-yearly private dance event at the magnificent Stockport Town Hall Ballroom.

So, if you want to take up a new hobby or social activity that is going to keep you fit where you can meet new people and enjoy yourself (having a laugh is compulsory!) then one of DanceTech's classes is certainly for you.



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