

Bollington Live!

ISSUE 89 SPRING '24

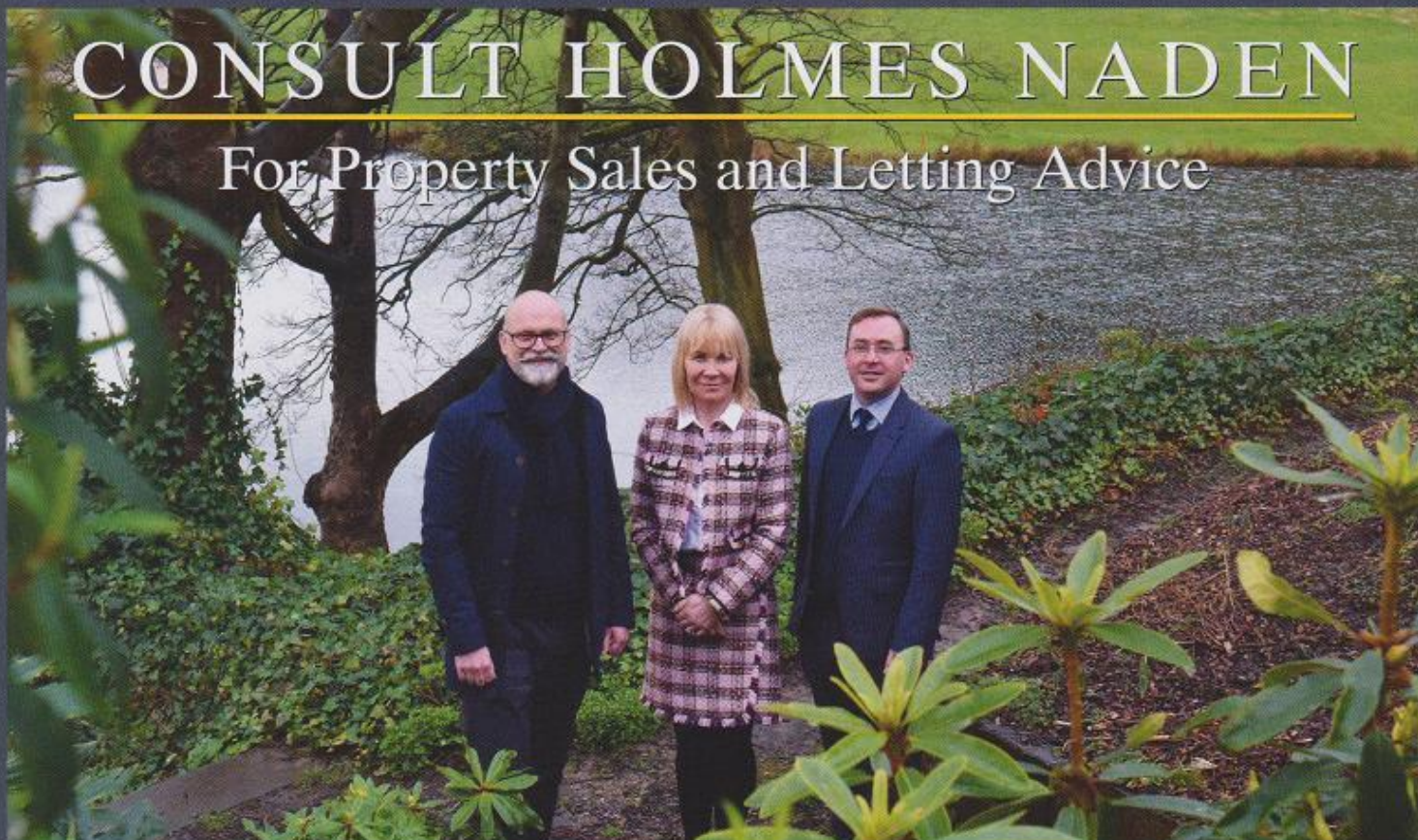


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colleagues are competent and caring and will provide a high quality service whether you own a rental property or are looking to rent one.

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.

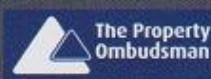
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Bollington Live!

ISSUE 89 SPRING 2024

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This year 2024, is a wonderful year for Bollington Live as we celebrate 30 years of the magazine and I feel incredibly privileged to be the editor for our 30th anniversary. For a volunteer magazine to grow, develop and thrive for 89 issues is testament to the hard work of all the volunteers over the last 30 years and for this massive volunteer effort, the current committee says a huge thank you!

Of course, Bollington Live could not exist without the generosity of all our advertisers and sponsors who pay for the production and printing of the magazine. Again, an enormous thank you to all the businesses that have supported the magazine over the last 30 years. Indeed, some have been with us since the beginning.

For our 30th anniversary we are having a bit of a redesign of the Bollington Live! heading on the front cover 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.

I never quite know what's going to land in my inbox with regard to the

articles each issue. As a committee we do plan some articles each issue, but many just spontaneously arrive on email. This time many people must have been thinking about new or existing clubs and societies as we have a lot of information about what's on in the town, from science (Scibar) to church in a pub!

Our young food critics have been out and about again – I really look forward to seeing where they have been and reading what they thought of the ambience and the food of their chosen eatery.

The Gardening Club has provided their programme for the year and it looks as if you don't need to be an expert to enjoy their events. Bollington Singers who meet at St Oswald's school are a fabulous new singing group open to new members – no audition necessary!

Checkout the Bollington Festival Diamond Jubilee Jamboree pages advertising a whole host of events for all the family during the May bank holiday weekend. There are 3 main evening events which will be held on an outdoor stage on the rec, as well as many free daytime events to attend. There's also an



invitation to make a scarecrow in your garden.

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

Annette

Date for next
copy:
12th MAY '24

YOUR TEAM

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
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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



THINK YOU CAN'T REALLY SING...?

In our first full year of being a choir, Bollington Singers wants to keep on attracting newcomers. Why not come along on to one of our 'taster' rehearsals on a Wednesday night to see and hear what we're about?

You don't need to be the undiscovered Alfie Boe of SK10 to fit in. It's a waste how many of us think we're not good enough for a choir because, in reality, so many of us are! The real bonus of group singing is that you don't have to be of soloist standard. Every choir member gets to reap the satisfaction, and claim the credit, of creating a fabulous collective sound.

We're a mixed community choir which actively seeks all abilities and types of voices. No experience is required to join, in other words,

no scary auditions are involved, and although we do follow sheet music, you don't necessarily have to be able to read music. Plenty of our first-timers have coped by listening to and practising with the MP3 version supplied online once you sign up. Leaning in and listening to adjacent, experienced singers at rehearsals is another seamless way of improving week on week.

At our launch two terms ago a good half of us had never belonged to any choir and we've astounded ourselves at what we've been able to achieve together in so short a time under the leadership of our conductor Hannah Brine. A former winner of the BBC Unsung Hero Award and founder of four other choirs, Hannah is, without a doubt, this choir's USP. Her previous start-ups have wound up performing on platforms as prestigious as the



www.bollingtonsingers.co.uk/join/

Proms and the Royal Variety Show.

Singers now with us but who have belonged to other choirs over the years all agree we are lucky to have her at the helm. Hannah's teaching is professional, her aims for us ambitious, but most importantly, she simply makes rehearsals feel like fun. A wicked mimic of our more wayward efforts, Hannah has us laughing whilst learning without realising it.

Throughout the term we work towards performing a live concert at the end, which is always a diverse showcase of pieces ranging from classical and pop to jazz, folk and everything in between. One final guarantee: Choir's a brilliant mood-shifter. Whatever was on your mind when you arrived at rehearsal, by the time you leave you'll be thinking about something entirely different. Test us out!

Kate Lowe



FOODIES ABOUT TOWN

Your favourite Bolly food critics are back for more, and this time we are at the Viceroy for a lovely curry! Wow, where do we start?

The overall atmosphere was amazing for a cold Sunday night but we were not cold as it was lovely and warm inside. The staff were very friendly and happy to have us there. We didn't have to wait long for a table even though it was packed with people.

Now, on to the fun part, the food: for starters, we had ordered lots of onion bhajis (which were divine) and the mixed starter that was to

die for. They gave us time to let it go down before the mains, and these were magnificent. We had the Chicken Tikka Masala, which 'was like a party in my mouth'. The Chicken Makhani had a great coconut flavour and the Lamb and Chicken Tandooris, which came out of the kitchen sizzling, were amazing. It definitely added to the experience we had. We didn't have enough room for dessert as the mains and starters were so delicious.

We would like to say a big thanks to the Viceroy for giving us such a good night and for making such



tasty food. We'll be back soon for more in the coming weeks!

Emerson and Will, Year 8

FOOTBALL FOR THE GIRLS

Do you know a girl who loves to play football for fun and would like to be the next Beth Mead or Mary Earps?

Over the last two years, Bollington United Football Club has developed an exciting opportunity for girls under the age of 11 to join a club that encourages fun and friendship through the game of football.

The group of 5–11-year-olds, called the Wildcats, are part-funded by a Football Association initiative. Sessions are run on behalf of the club by Bollington-based coaching company, Goal Coaching, and are held every Wednesday during term time for one hour, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, at All Hallows School in Macclesfield. From this group of Wildcats the club has been able to form their first-ever all-girls team, the U10 Nancy Whites, named in tribute to the town's pride and joy, White Nancy. Proudly, the team have been accepted into the Stockport Girls Football League, where they play matches on a Saturday morning.

The Wildcats and Nancy Whites are sponsored by three local firms, Aerofoil Energy Ltd, Williamson Safety and the 61508 Association. The club is very grateful for all the sponsorship that they receive.

The Nancy Whites team are managed by the enthusiastic and passionate local mum, Claire Alkaya, along with assistant manager, Andrew Morris, and are coached by head coach Plamen Pantev and assistant coach Ria Horsley. After every game Claire reports back to

Coach P, citing the highs and the lows, describing what the girls did well and what they need to work on. The girls themselves have formed strong friendships, and win or lose, they always enjoy the games and celebrate together.

Claire Alkaya says, *'Seeing them develop and building their confidence week-on-week is amazing. I feel like a mother hen and the girls are my extended family.'*

Freja Salthouse, aged 8, says, *'Watching the Lionesses on TV and my dad's love of football made me want to learn to play. I like playing in the striker position and eventually want to learn how to score using the Scorpion Kick technique.'*

There are twenty-three Wildcats girls now registered. However, the club would be delighted to welcome more players to enable them to form more girls' teams of different age groups.

To help group bonding and further their friendships the girls are given frequent additional treats, such as tickets to watch Manchester United Women, and the annual club Christmas trip to watch a film at Cinemac.

Eleanor Rowley, aged 8, says *'I'm really enjoying making new friends from other schools and playing on the team. I feel proud to be representing the girls of Bollington.'*

Niamh Lee, aged 9, says, *'My mum and dad got me into football by playing in the park together. I now like practising the skills I've learnt*

**Bollington United
Nancy Whites
team photo**

Top left to right:
Claire Alkaya
(Manager),
Andrew Morris
(Assistant
Manager), Ria
Horsley (Assistant
Coach). The girls:
Tilly, Niamh, Ava
F, Ava B, Freya B,
Freya S, Freya W,
Eleanor, Grace,
Lila, Alice, Evelyn
and Matilda



in training with my dad. I've made so many new friends and I love playing on the team every week in matches.'

Football-loving adults wanted too!

Are you an adult who would like to be a coach or manage a local girls' or boys' team?

Bollington United Football Club currently have two ladies who together manage one of the boy's teams, so the club now has three female managers and one female assistant coach who is just starting out on her coaching journey, learning the ropes and taking courses in the hope of achieving a qualification.

Therefore, as well as encouraging more girls to play football, the club is also keen to encourage more women to become managers and coaches too. The FA are helping with this by offering funded places on courses to encourage diversity into Grassroots Football.

Claire says, *'I feel incredibly well supported by the club as a female manager and would like to encourage more women to get involved with the club.'*

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have children interested in learning to play football, please email chair@bujfc.uk. The club will be delighted to hear from you. You can also keep up with the latest news on the Bollington United Football Club website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

Bollington Live! wishes the girls every success in their new venture in the league but, more importantly, hopes they continue to enjoy the friendships they make and the fun they have playing football.

Kate Gooding



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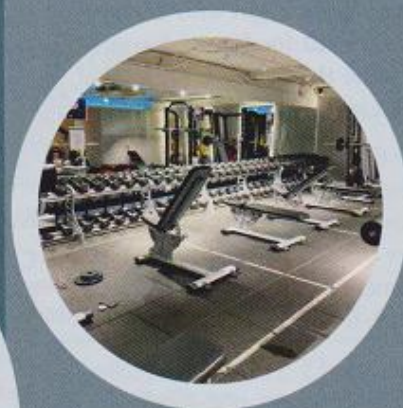
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A MUSICIAN'S LIFE

Have you ever watched a concert and wondered what a musician's life is like? Well, after watching a very successful performance from the Alandale String Trio at Bollington Arts Centre as part of the Chamber Concert series, I realised how little I knew about the life of a classical musician and decided to find out more from the trio's lead violinist, Bollington-based Andrew Harvey.

When I contacted Andrew after the concert, I got a message saying he couldn't meet up for a few weeks as he was touring in Switzerland. Lucky man, I thought, enjoying some holiday sunshine in one of my favourite places. Little did I know that the tour was actually a hectic series of concerts playing with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), spending several hours most days travelling from place to place before performing the next concert at a new venue. I began to get an appreciation of the life of a professional musician!

Most of us imagine musicians work with one orchestra, and knowing Andrew has a role as assistant leader of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (RLPO) I'd assumed this job and playing with the Alandale Trio occupied him full time. This is far from the true picture. As a leading performer he works with many other orchestras, including regular performances with the Sinfonia of London, the English Chamber Orchestra and the CBSO. These orchestras appear in their home cities but perform in many other places, and they have international tours, too.

Andrew also performs as a soloist and in smaller groups around the UK and is in demand to work in recording studios in London. You may have heard him playing on soundtracks for TV series and films. This sort of work adds to the excitement and challenge of the job; with the different demands of very varied venues and ensembles the professional has to adjust his playing to match – something

amateurs might not think about.

Most classical musicians are freelance, and for many this involves a lot of travelling. Managing all the varied and potentially conflicting demands calls for great personal organization – a career as a successful performer isn't easily arranged. Some musicians like to work through an agent, who acts as a contact point and makes all the bookings. Andrew uses the Musicians Answering Service. This independent company keeps track of his assignments and manages his diary. This way Andrew's skills and experience can be put in front of potential new clients, clashes of date are avoided, and he can maintain his freedom to take or decline assignments. Andrew tries to limit the time away from his home and family but being willing to travel is all part of the job.

Looking back on Andrew's early life, it's clear that music was his pathway from a very early age. The son of a medic in the British army, he arrived in England from Germany at the age of 3, and first picked up a violin at the age of 4. His musical training took off when he specialised in music at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset, which preceded a move to the Purcell School for Young Musicians in Bushey, Hertfordshire. From there, the logical choice was the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he spent six years of tough study acquiring the skills his career choice made essential.

And how did he end up in Bollington? The choice was almost a no-brainer. Being located close to a railway station with a fast line to London was essential, as well as being close to a motorway for travel to his main job in Liverpool and the rest of the country. His wife, Eleanor, had also secured a job in Manchester. But it was visiting a friend here which convinced Andrew that Bollington was somewhere he could see himself settling. He says, 'it was the right area, with the countryside feel we



Photo:
Andrew Harvey

were looking for', where he could find fellow spirits and enjoy the abundance of good walks; the pubs were also an attraction! Andrew and his wife decided on Bollington when their first child was imminent, and the house move saw the new arrival start life as a Bollingtonian!

Bollingtonians can keep an eye out for Andrew's future performances at the Arts Centre with the Alandale Trio, or even venture to Liverpool to watch a symphony orchestra in action!

Ian Brammer

WATER STREET CENTRE

Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT) is a registered charity. Our purpose is to help preserve Bollington's unique environment and buildings, for our local community.

One of our major projects has been to renovate the old secondary school in Water Street so that it can be used for the benefit of local children, parents and carers, family-orientated groups and organisations.



Now called the Water Street Centre, the major renovations have been completed, as the photos show, and the upper floor of the Centre is open for use. So, if you want somewhere to hold a parent/

grandparent and toddlers' group, a children's party, or need a venue for training, seminars, conferences and meetings or just simply want to meet with others who share the same interests, then we have some great spaces available for hire.

The upper floor of the Centre is ideal for all these activities and more as there is a large hall, two smaller self-contained rooms, a kitchen and toilet facilities. The rooms are available to hire at modest rates and can be hired in multiples of one-hour blocks (from 8am until 10pm, subject to availability). All setting-up and clearing-up times must be included in the booking times and are chargeable.



- Main hall: £20 per hour
- Medium-sized room: £15 per hour
- Small room: £10 per hour
- Use of the kitchen is free

The Centre is easily accessible by bus or on foot but there is car parking at the rear of the building for a small number of cars.

If you would like to see the Centre before booking or wish to book now please contact BIT through our website: www.bollingtoninitiativetrust.org or via our Facebook page.

We look forward to welcoming you to the newly refurbished Water Street Centre soon.

Kate Gooding

SCI-BAR

As a member of the volunteer team for Bollington SciBar I occasionally stand in front of a pub full of people and bring their evening conversations to a halt. Fortunately, these customers are here for science as well as to enjoy a drink or meal, and all eyes turn to the invited speaker at the front.

SciBar is literally a science talk in a bar. Local SciBars are set up and run by volunteers. Bollington SciBar grew out of a hugely successful series of science events during the 2009 Bollington Festival, when interest was shown in a regular meeting. Happily, Lee Wainwright was very happy for SciBars to continue at the Vale Inn. Bollington SciBar now generally happens once a month, on the second Monday

(we take a break in August and December).

At January's talk we heard from a group of three retired engineers about how they set up the Congleton hydro scheme, which has generated over 410,000 kW-hours of green electricity since 2021 and now involves thirty volunteers. Previously we have had speakers from Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Jodrell Bank, AstraZeneca, Rolls Royce, Cheshire East Rangers, Manchester Museum, Macclesfield Astronomical Society and Save Danes Moss.

Once the speaker's presentation is over the floor is opened to general questions and discussion. Any level

of question is welcome. SciBar is open to anyone, you don't have to be a member and there's no charge.

Details of our current programme can be found at bollingtonscibar.co.uk. Talks begin at 6.30pm prompt.

If you'd like to be added to our mailing list to receive details of forthcoming talks, please contact us at bollingtonscibar@hotmail.co.uk. We're also on the lookout for volunteers to help plan talks, set up a Facebook group and run SciBar!

Gillian Lindsey

GARDENING CLUB NEWS

As I sit here writing this in early January, it's reassuring to watch the long-tailed tits and blue tits flitting about the garden and visiting the bird feeder, as the first of the snowdrops, early daffodils and hellebores poke through, reminding me that spring is just around the corner.

Our 2023 programme ended with a delicious Christmas dinner and quiz, with excellent and plentiful food – a lovely social occasion; and in November, a fascinating talk by Steve Halliwell, 'Gresgarth Hall Gardens Through the Seasons', whetting the appetite for what promises to be an enjoyable visit there at the height of summer on Sunday 11 August 2024, when the gardens should be looking superb.

We have an exciting line-up of speakers for the year ahead,

including 'Low-maintenance Techniques' from Darren Rudge in April and 'Myths and Mysteries of Organic Gardening' by Sally Smith in June.

Saturday 16 March sees the return of our ever-popular Annual Spring Flower Show at the Civic Hall, this year in its 57th year! There is a huge range of plant and flower categories to enter, as well as categories for children, crafts and baking. Free for anyone to enter, each category is judged, and the lucky winners presented with certificates and a trophy by the Mayor, Cllr Helen Ellwood of Bollington. Full details, the category schedule and entry form are available on our website.

We also have some wonderful trips planned, including RHS Harlow Carr Garden in May, Wollerton Old Hall Garden in July and of course,



*Photos: Above:
Gresgarth Hall
gardens*

*Left: Wollerton
Old Hall
gardens*

Gresgarth Hall Gardens as well as Holden Clough Nursery in August.

Our Gardening Club is open to everyone and meets at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane, 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 and District Gardening Club.

Martin Simmons



ARMCHAIR DANCING

Hello! My name is Lewis Bailey and I have created a fun and inclusive dance class which is adapted for adults of all abilities and can be taken seated throughout if required. The class includes lots of stretches for the body, exercises to help with coordination, and movement to music.

Moving to music is brilliant way to participate in physical activity and

the Bridgend centre is a great place to meet new people and become part of the local community. Come along and join the fun!

This is a fabulous new group aimed at improving your health and wellbeing is on Friday afternoons at 2pm at the Bridgend Centre. The class lasts for 45 minutes and costs just £4.

Please give us a call on 01625 576311 or email us at info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

bridgendcentre.org.uk for more information or to book a place in the class.





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BRIDGEND BUDDIES

Newcomers to Bollington may not know that the Bridgend Centre was established in 1990 as a place where everyone is welcome. It's a local, independent charity that plays an important role at the heart of our local community, working to enhance the quality of life for residents and community members by fostering a caring, inclusive and supportive environment. The centre provides a wide variety of activities and resources as well as having a friendly café and charity shop.

The Bridgend Centre offers friendship, company and someone to talk to in an accessible and disability friendly space. It helps those who are going through a time of crisis and who need some trustworthy, non-judgemental support to cope and thrive. They particularly support those with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and older people, who without the Centre, might feel especially isolated or vulnerable.

One of the many services offered is the Bridgend Buddy service which, over the years, has been very successful. The centre is now looking for more volunteer buddies, as there are now many more people waiting for a buddy than buddies to support them.

Here's a short resumé of the Bridgend Buddies – perhaps you might like to be a buddy?

What is Bridgend Buddies?

Bridgend Buddies is a befriending service provided by the Bridgend Centre, aiming to combat social isolation in our local community.

We could not hope to run this service without our wonderful volunteers. We team up volunteer buddies with an individual who has become socially isolated as a result of their personal circumstances. The volunteers provide companionship and non-judgemental support. This could be in the individual's home for a cup of tea and a chat, a walk or a small outing somewhere local.

The meetings are normally for an hour or so, once a week.

Who is this service for?

We provide this service for any member of our local community who is feeling lonely and socially isolated. Many people are referred via their GP, although people can self-refer.

Why is it important?

Social contact is a basic human need. Loneliness and isolation can have a severely detrimental and damaging effect on mental health, overall well-being and quality of life. This service really does make a huge difference to the people we help! Just one hour per week can have a transformative impact on someone.

How can I volunteer?

If you'd like to become a Bridgend Buddy and have an hour or so per week to spare, please give us a call on 01625 576311 or email us at info@bridgendcentre.org.uk for more information.

There is a short form to fill in, and references are required as well as a DBS check.

Bev Henderson

A WORD FROM OUR BUDDIES

I became a Bridgend Buddy shortly after arriving in Bollington a few years ago. After a careful 'matching' process I was paired up with a gentleman who had dementia. He and I used to meet every week and attended one of the regular clubs at the Bridgend, which we both really enjoyed. This came to an end with COVID but during the pandemic I was able to be useful with shopping, etc. Very sadly my buddy passed away a couple of years ago but I am delighted to say that I remain in friendly contact with his widow and extended family, and the whole Buddy scheme has brought me just as much benefit as anyone else!

My friend was a Bridgend Buddy and she inspired me to apply. I was impressed with the careful matching process where my needs and time constraints were considered as well as the needs of the person wanting a buddy. I was worried the commitment might be too much as I am quite busy already, but my worries were unfounded. I meet my buddy most weeks to catch up for a chat and cuppa and now I don't think of it as me offering a service but us both benefiting from each other's company.

Photo below of a walk organised by the Bridgend Centre



WHAT'S ON

MARCH

25 February–24 March

Art Exhibition 'Progression II'

by Stuart Mollison and Andy Jeffrey
Arts Centre

Tuesday 5 March 7pm

Yarnbombers

Bollington Knitting Network meet first Tuesday of every month
Info from branston4pickle@gmail.com
Cotton Tree

Wednesday 6 March 7.30pm

Flix in the Stix: The Great Escaper

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

Monday 11 March 6.30pm

Bollington SciBar: 'The Catastrophe of Bare Peat' Robert Carnegie

For 20 years, the Moors for the Future Partnership has been restoring the moorlands of the Peak District and South Pennines, bringing areas of degraded peatland back to life on a landscape scale. How did this area become so damaged, why is it important to repair it, and what is the Partnership doing to bring it back to life? Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 12 March 10am–12 noon

Men's Probus

Chris Cherry: 'War on the Western Front 1914–1919'
Civic Hall

Saturday 16 March

Bollington and District Gardening Club Spring Show

Civic Hall

Saturday 16 March 7.30pm

Bollington Chamber Music Concert, 'Perpetuo' by the Abbate Quartet

Arts Centre. Full details and tickets from bollington-chamber-concerts.org/2023-24/

Tuesday 19 March 10am–12 noon

Ladies' Probus

D. Eccleston: 'Mrs Pankhurst and the Suffragettes'
Civic Hall

Saturday 23 March 7.30pm

Jazz Club

Arts Centre. Doors and bar open 6.30pm, tickets £12 available only from 01625 574410

APRIL

31 March–28 April

Art Exhibition 'Sketchers'

Arts Centre

Wednesday 3 April 7.30pm

Flix in the Stix

Check website for details: sites.google.com/site/pottflix
£4 in advance, £5 on the door
Tickets from Anthea tel. 01625 573538 email pottflix@gmail.com

Monday 8 April 6.30pm

Bollington SciBar 'Biofabrication Strategies in Human Tissue Regeneration'

Dr Marco Domingos from the School of Engineering, University of Manchester, will discuss how advanced manufacturing techniques, including 3D bioprinting and polymeric inks, are being used to develop artificial implants. Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 9 April 10am–12noon

Men's Probus

Henry Bucket: 'Painting in the Bob Ross style'
Civic Hall

Saturday 13 April 7.30pm

Jazz Club

Arts Centre. Doors and bar open 6.30pm, tickets £12 available only from 01625 57441

Tuesday 16 April 10am–12noon

Ladies' Probus

Simon Michael: 'My Life in Crime'
Civic Hall

Thursday 18 April 7.30pm

Bollington and District Gardening Club meeting

Speaker Darren Rudge: 'Low Maintenance Techniques'
Community Centre

Friday 19 April

Theatre production 'The Long Run'

with Katie Arnstein
Arts Centre

Saturday 20 April

Bollington Brass Band

Arts Centre

Saturday 27 April 7.30pm

Spring concert with the Epiphany String Quartet

Pott Shrigley Church. Tickets £15 from Mary Currell (01625) 573735 or Sandy Milsom (01625) 573850

MAY

Wednesday 1 May 7.30pm

Flix in the Stix

Check website for details: sites.google.com/site/pottflix
£4 in advance, £5 on the door
Tickets from Anthea tel. 01625 573538 email pottflix@gmail.com

Saturday 4 May–Sunday 5 May

Bollington Festival Diamond Jubilee

Art Trail

bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Sunday 12 May 2.30pm

Bollington Festival Musical Theatre Concert

Arts Centre
bollingtonfestival.org.uk

Monday 13 May 6.30pm

Bollington SciBar 'Where would we be – without Vitamin T?'

Speaker is Professor Francis McGlone, a neuroscientist from Liverpool John Moores University. Relatively recent research has discovered a novel class of gentle touch-sensitive nerves in the skin, that could be as important to our mental well-being as Vitamin D is to our physical. Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 14 May 10am–12noon

Men's Probus

John Stirling: 'From Toytown to Buckingham Palace'
Civic Hall

Friday 17–Sunday 19 May

Bollington Festival Diamond Jubilee

Scarecrow Trail throughout Bollington

Sunday 19 May 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Choir performs Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and other baroque delights

St Oswald's Church

Tuesday 21 May 10am–12noon

Ladies' Probus

Ladies' Luncheon
Civic Hall

Friday 24–Monday 27 May

Bollington Art Group's Art Exhibition

Arts Centre

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT

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 12th May

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

WHAT'S ON

JUNE

Wednesday 5 June 7.30pm

Flix in the Stix

Check website for details: sites.google.com/site/pottflix

£4 in advance, £5 on the door

Tickets from Anthea tel. 01625 573538
email pottflix@gmail.com

Monday 10 June 6.30pm

Bollington SciBar 'OSIRIS-REx – The Journey to Bennu and back'

Sarah Crowther from the University of Manchester will give an overview of the OSIRIS-REx mission, NASA's first sample return mission to an asteroid, and talk about some of the initial findings from the first few months of sample testing. Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome
bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 18 May 10am-12noon

Ladies' Probus

Keith Warrender: 'Underground Manchester'

Civic Hall

Thursday 20 May 7.30pm

Bollington and District Gardening Club meeting

Speaker Sally Smith: 'Myths and Mysteries of Organic Gardening'
Community Centre



DIAMOND JUBILEE ART TRAIL

On Saturday and Sunday 4 and 5 May, as part of the run-up to the Diamond Jubilee Jamboree, there will be an Art Trail in and around Bollington. Some of you might remember the last Art Trail, which took place in May 2019.

Nearly twenty local artists will be showcasing their work along the Trail this year. Many of the artists are painters and use a wide variety of media, but others are potters and weavers, and may well be delighted to demonstrate their skills in person too.

The participants will mostly be opening their own homes for the Art Trail, but some will be based in their own separate studios, for example in Adelphi Mill. Others will be sharing space in the Arts Centre, the Leisure Centre, the Old Brickworks and the Cotton Tree Inn.

We are fortunate as a community to have such a thriving art scene and indeed, our own Bollington Art Group, of course, which regularly stages its own exhibitions. And Northern Makes, our very own art gallery in Clarence Mill, is a wonderful platform for local work as well as for contemporary British pieces from further afield.

All this year's participants are hoping for your support on the first weekend in May, so watch out for posters nearer the time, and get ready to buy your Art Trail map!

Claire Moreland

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

EASTER ON WHITE NANCY

Bollington Parish Church has revived a community tradition of celebrating Easter Day on White Nancy. In the last couple of years lots of people have gathered on White Nancy early on Easter Sunday morning to light the Easter Fire at 7am and celebrate. This year Easter Day falls on 31 March, so do come along if you can.

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER - JUST LIKE THE F

The Bollington Festival (a charity run entirely by volunteers) will mark its sixtieth anniversary in style. This fantastic milestone will be celebrated with a sparkling four-day Bollington Festival Diamond Jubilee Jamboree over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 24-27 May 2024.

In view of the difficult economic climate, the Diamond Jubilee Jamboree will be more modest than the usual 10+-day extravaganza. However, with your support, it will be a unique, magnificent and memorable community event! A magical celebration of sixty years of community tradition and collaboration.



All activities will take place on the Bollington Recreation Ground. The highlight will be a covered stage with dramatic lighting and superb sound system. This will form the focal point of the celebrations, surrounded by a beer tent, merchandise stand, food stalls, old-fashioned tea tent and lots of surprises!

During the mornings and afternoons, we will host lots of glittering activities, for all ages, to promote civic pride, community spirit and inclusivity. The daytime events, which will include live music, creative activities and dance performances, will all be absolutely FREE!

The highlight of the Jamboree will be the ticketed evening concerts on the covered stage, featuring some of the best-loved Festival performers from down the years.

EVENING OPEN AIR CONCERTS



Oasish

Friday 24 May, 8pm, £25

We're thrilled to welcome back Oasish, the UK's premier Oasis tribute band, to kick off our sixtieth anniversary celebrations in style. When asked about Oasish lead singer, Paul, Liam Gallagher said: 'Yeah, he's all right, man!' High praise indeed! The last time Oasish played in Bollington almost 800 tickets were sold, so grab yours quick before it's too late!



Screaming Beavers

Saturday 25 May, 8pm, £20

The much-loved local band, Screaming Beavers, is one of England's finest soul bands. Everyone loves their retro funky soul sound with popular music from the 60s and 70s. Opening with a complimentary soul warm-up from DJs Tim and Carole, the evening will be a soul sensation!



Flash - A Tribute to Queen

Sunday 26 May, 8pm, £25

The Jubilee Jamboree closing act will be Flash - A Tribute to Queen. One of the most sought-after Queen tribute bands in the country, their energy and iconic repertoire will bring a huge rousing climax to the last night of celebrations.

Get your tickets via the website now and take advantage of the early-bird rates until the end of March.

www.bollingtonfestival.org.uk

FREE DAYTIME EVENTS DURING THE JUBILEE JAMBOREE WEEKEND



Saturday 25 May

11am Podilya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Known throughout Europe, Podilya will delight and dazzle you, with traditional folk dances from across Ukraine, dramatic cossack dancing, acrobatics, elaborate costumes and passionate folk melodies.

2.15pm Steller

Returning to the Festival for the third time, Steller is a local band playing a wide variety of original covers, live and loud!

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL

Sunday 26 May

9am Community Thanksgiving Service

Celebrate and give thanks for sixty years of the Bollington Festival: a reminder of Bollington's strong sense of fellowship and community spirit.



11am Red Sky Dawn

This alt-rock band of young adults from Bollington and Macclesfield honed their skills on Zoom during the pandemic before coming together to write and perform original material inspired by bands such as Big Country, U2 and The Beatles.



2.15pm Dr Joe's Medicine Show

A popular feature of the Bollington Beer Festival, Dr Joe's will get your feet tapping with great covers from across the decades, from The Who and Queen to Kings of Leon and Oasis.



Monday 27 May

10am Joseph Riley

At only 16 years old, Joseph has already written, recorded and released two albums from his bedroom studio. Drawing influence from a sea of talent, from the

soulful sounds of Kali Uchis to the stripped-back storytelling of Men I Trust, Joseph's sound evolves with every song.



Bollington Brass Band

Tracing its roots right back to the 1890s, our very own award-winning brass band needs no introduction! (Time to be confirmed – please check the website)



Bollington Festival Choir

Founded in 1964 by Dr John Coope MBE, the choir has performed at every Bollington Festival. We are proud to share our sixtieth anniversary with the choir. (Time to be confirmed – please check the website)

BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL DIAMOND JUBILEE SCARECROW TRAIL

To mark sixty years of the Bollington Festival, you're invited to make a scarecrow and join the Scarecrow Trail between 17 and 19 May 2024 (the weekend before the Bollington Festival Diamond Jubilee Jamboree).

The theme is 'Diamonds or Anniversaries'. Please check the website for more information nearer the time. We look forward to seeing your creative masterpieces!

Please check the website for final details as times of events may be subject to change



OTHER FREE EVENTS MONDAY 27 MAY

Dog Show – organised by the Bollington Veterinary Centre

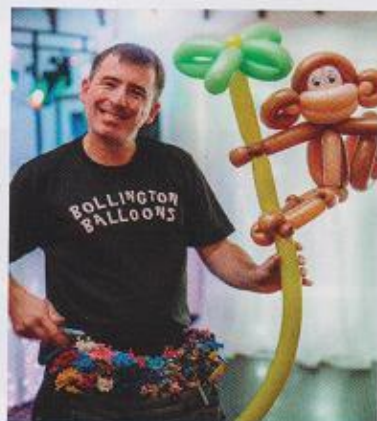
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MUSIC IN BOLLINGTON

Two long-established local music groups who share their musical director are preparing for performances on successive Sundays in May. Bollington Festival Choir and Bollington Festival Music Theatre also hope to be on stage at the Festival's Jubilee Jamboree on Bank Holiday Monday, 27 May.

The Festival Choir, 60 this year, will be performing Dido and Aeneas, acknowledged as the first English opera, written in 1695 by arguably the greatest English composer, Henry Purcell, to a libretto by Nahum Tate, whose words for While Shepherds Watched are known by everyone.

At the time, almost every opera throughout Europe took a story from classical mythology. Dido, named for the doomed Queen of Carthage, is no exception. It was written for a girls' school in London, but they must have had male singers on hand! The most famous number is Dido's Lament, 'When I am laid in earth', often played out of context. But the opera, in three short acts, has astonishingly varied solos, choruses and dances that tell the story of Dido's love for her erstwhile enemy, Aeneas.

Courtiers encourage the relationship and the happy couple go hunting in the sunshine. But in their gloomy cave, witches are gleefully plotting their downfall. As a storm breaks, a witch disguised as Mercury tells Aeneas he must leave Dido to find the city of Rome. Sailors prepare for the voyage as Aeneas tries to explain his predicament. Dido is furious. 'Away, away!' she commands him. 'Great minds against themselves conspire', the chorus tells us. Grief-stricken, Dido applies a venomous asp to her bosom and expires after singing her great Lament. Rosebuds are scattered on Dido's tomb.

It will be a concert performance, but a dancer will add colour and movement to Purcell's evocative dances and will certainly scatter



rosebuds! Dido will be sung by Katy Allan, a local soprano who trained at the RNCM in Manchester, and who has an impressive career as a soloist, director of the Hallé Children's Choir, and a choral trainer working especially with those with dementia. Aeneas is sung by the Choir's own Mike Bell, who has wowed Arts Centre audiences with song recitals by Schubert, Schumann and Brahms.

All the other solo roles are taken by members of the Choir. Dido is a mere 45 minutes long, so in the first half, choir and soloists including Katy sing more beautiful baroque music: Monteverdi's thrilling Beatus Vir and Amor Dicea; more Purcell, including Fairest Isle; and scenes from Carissimi's Jonah, portraying Jonah inside the whale and converting the people of Nineveh. Accompaniment is from a string orchestra led by Nicola Bright. The performance is at 7.30pm on Sunday 19 May in St Oswald's Church. Tickets and further information at www.bollfestchoir.org.uk.

The Festival Choir's conductor since 2002, Donald Judge, has directed Bollington Festival Music Theatre for even longer, since 1986.



Photos:

*Katy Allan by
Kirsty Prince
Photography*

*James Chadwick
public domain,
[https://picryl.com/
media/james-
chadwick-9de85c](https://picryl.com/media/james-chadwick-9de85c)*

The unique group for 7–13-year-olds has performed many unusual musical stage works at the Arts Centre and in every Bollington Festival. Most of their shows have been specially written by Donald, and many of those set in an historic or imaginary Bollington.

They last wowed a Festival audience with *Buccaneers of the Bollin* in 2019. *Get in the Queue, James!* will still take place on Sunday 12 May. It'll be the group's first public performance since COVID struck and will take place at the Arts Centre that afternoon if enough talented youngsters are at rehearsals as this Bollington Live! goes to press.

So who was James, and why wasn't he in the queue? At Bollington Cross School there's a blue plaque to probably its most famous pupil and maybe Bollington's most famous son. Born to weavers on Clarke Lane in 1896, James Chadwick showed phenomenal ability in maths, winning a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School, from where he went to Manchester University. Unfortunately – or maybe not – he got into the wrong queue, was told he was studying physics, and was too shy to protest. But he found an equal talent at a time when hugely important discoveries were being made about the atom.

James identified the neutron at the heart of every atom, for which he won a Nobel Prize – a seismic discovery that led to nuclear power, medical applications and, as science often has a downside, the atomic bomb. If this sounds heavy going, it won't be. The musical play will imagine James's childhood in Bollington – the Bollington of busy cotton mills, canals and the railway, school, shops, pubs and churches, in which he often gets into the wrong queue, with hilarious results. Watch local noticeboards and www.bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/ events for confirmation of the public performance.

Donald Judge

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KRIV ON FACEBOOK

Recently Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Volunteers decided it was time to embrace social media! One of the group, Nick Bamberger, volunteered to give us a presence on Facebook. This has brought KRIV's activities into a more public focus. Nick continually updates the page, posting photos of the group's work.

We meet most Fridays and some weeks there are two groups at work, one locally and one further afield. Recently, while one group planted saplings at a farm in Wincle, the second group cleared weeds and leaf mould from the viaduct in Bollington. The week before, the whole group tidied and relaid

a hedge in Pott Shrigley. There is also a small group that repairs short sections of dry stone walls occasionally on other days.

KRIV has developed relationships with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the Middlewood Way Rangers and the National Trust at Quarry Bank, Styal, as well as the Mersey Rivers Trust. We've planted thousands of saplings and wildflower plug plants with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. We've also developed steps and a millpond at Styal, and steps and ponds have been improved on the Middlewood Way.

If you've walked along the bridle path beneath the eastern side of Kerridge Ridge, you'll have noticed some sections of stone

pitching in what were some very muddy areas. The four tons of stone required was funded by the South West Peak Landscape Partnership. It was delivered at Kerridge End, transported by barrow and quad-bike trailer to where it was needed and pitched into the path. No mean feat!

Another volunteer, Steve Charles, monitors our new email address kriv.volunteers@gmail.com for anyone who might like to enquire about joining the group on a Friday, or who might need our help with a conservation project. Please be patient if you do contact us – we might not reply immediately.

John Gooding



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CHURCH IN THE PUB

Walking home from a Bollington pub last winter, after a friendly conversation in the bar about the existence of God and how people experience prayer, I wondered if, for Bollington, our warm and cosy pubs were easier places for people to have chats than in our churches.

So developed the idea for Church in the Pub. It is simply a place and time when people can meet and chat about anything they choose.

There is a set of question cards that people can use to get going; for example: 'If you won a million pounds what would you do with it?'; 'Is it ever acceptable to tell a lie?'; 'When would you pray for someone or something?'

It works exceptionally well as a social get-together and is liked by people who enjoy company but wouldn't go into a pub on their own. People tend to chat in small groups and buy their own drinks.

The churchy bit is very gentle – I bring along copies of the Macclesfield Express and ask people to find some news about

the local community to talk about and maybe pray about, but it's optional.

In some ways it isn't Church in the Pub at all, more Chat in the Pub, but there are usually folk who go to St Gregory's, St Christopher's, Adlington Church and other churches as well as the parish church, St Oswald's.

It's a great way for a vicar to continue to have friendly conversations in a warm and cosy bar about the existence of God and how people experience prayer!

Church in the Pub is on the last Wednesday of every month, at 8pm, in The Cotton Tree.

Rev Nancy Goodrich



VISITING?

In September 2022, my parents and I decided to open up one of our properties – The Breckland – as a short-term holiday home to welcome guests visiting family in the area or simply as a getaway to see this beautiful part of the country.

Since opening in June 2023 we have had guests staying for these reasons and more, including pre-wedding accommodation, business stays and special occasions to celebrate with family who are scattered across the country. One couple even got engaged during their stay, which was lovely to be a part of.

Something we knew would be a bit hit with guests are the views. Every room overlooks fields and/or the canal, giving a welcoming sense of being in the countryside without feeling isolated. These views, especially the ones at the back of the house, are views no one else sees, making it feel like your private peace of bliss.

As we used to the live in the property ourselves, we really do have a passion for it and we're always looking for ways to improve. This year we plan to add an extra bathroom and enhance the hot-tub area.

Our guests enjoy being near the Vale Inn and the Windmill pub, which are both walkable from the property. So far, just looking at occupancy, this venture has been a great success and we've enjoyed hosting visitors to area from far and wide.

Emma Sheldon

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PROGRESSION II ART EXHIBITION

Following on from their successful exhibition in autumn 2022, Stuart Mollison and Andy Jeffrey present an update, together with some of their favourite pieces from the recent past.

In this exhibition Andy and Stuart show their progression over a period of time, guided by mutual encouragement and their mentor Anna Riordan of Wilmslow Guild.



Stuart Mollison

Stuart trained as a horticulturalist and often uses landscape and plants as a source material and is fascinated by their shapes, forms, textures

and colours. Urban sketching, buildings and architecture are other recurring themes, and pen-and-ink wash, watercolour, mixed media and acrylics are his materials of choice. Recent exhibitions include MODA Manchester, 'The Stockport Open', Blue&Berry, Chelford and The Manchester Open at Home, Manchester.

Mobile 07505 254306
Email rsm898@gmail.com

Andy Jeffrey

Andy largely takes his inspiration from the countryside around him, the people he meets and fellow artists. Recently interiors have started to feature. His current interests focus on the hard time families are having during the cost-of-living crisis.

One of his Lockdown pictures, 'The Covid Captive', was selected by Grayson Perry during the second series of his Art Club.

The recent series of 'Wood' pictures was inspired by the way that light filters through windows in early spring and late autumn, with the wood-patterned items leaning on Braque and Picasso

Images

Right: Autumn Flowers By Andy Jeffrey

Left: Peony in Bud By Stuart Mollison



during their early collage phase. One of the pieces on display ('Autumn Flowers') was chosen by The Bath Society of Artists for their most recent Open Exhibition at the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath.

Recent exhibitions include MODA Manchester, Macclesfield Art Trail at The Park Tavern and Bristol City Art Gallery, together with the two-man show at Bollington Arts Centre with Stuart.

Mobile 07943 749208
Email ap.jeffrey@btinternet.com

SPRING SEASON AT THE ARTS CENTRE

As the days begin to lengthen into the spring, the Arts Centre's regular classes have resumed. With art groups, dance for children, yoga and fitness classes, stitchwork and bridge groups and, for those looking to improve their language skills, French and Spanish conversation groups have their regular and enthusiastic followings. All classes are informal and friendly and continue over spring and summer. www.bollingtonartscentre.org.uk

Although the Arts Centre is busy most of any week, if anyone is looking for a location for a weekly class then a few mornings and afternoons are available in the main hall, and there are smaller

rooms available also. Enquire at venuehire@bollingtonartscentre.org.uk.

The 2024 season of events has featured 'Both Sides Now', a celebration of the songs of Joni Mitchell, and the sixtieth anniversary of the Festival Choir, one of many groups set up as part of the first Bollington Festival in 1964.

On 9 March the Festival Choir hold their Public Singing Day, which features music by English composers depicting foreign climes. The Choir welcomes singers of all abilities to explore the music in a convivial and supportive atmosphere.

On 19 April the Fringe Theatre visit

the Arts Centre to perform The Long Run. In this production we see how cancer transforms lives and how it makes people commit to life-changing goals, and we'll be party to probably one of the most disarmingly poignant storytelling experiences you could get. Laugh one minute, cry the next, The Long Run is joyfully sensitive and soulfully hilarious.

On 20 April the Brass Band Patrons Concert is to be a family-focused evening of music. Details will follow on the Arts Centre website. The concert is free to patrons of the Band. If you are interested in being a patron email bolllingtonbrassband@gmail.com.

Geoff Atkin

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BOWLED OVER AT THE REC

Last April I spotted a Facebook post by the Bollington Bowling Club for taster sessions at the Rec. I'd thought about playing bowls, especially since I retired, and often walked past the clubhouse. That Sunday I was invited in to try some bowling.

Several people were playing. They'd all been loaned a set of bowls for the afternoon and were enjoying their first session, guided by a club member. I soon found that it was something that I was going to have fun learning to play.

Members can practise on the green during the week, which was good fun, as we found out about the intricacies of the crown and picking bowls out of the gutter. I sprained my ankle practising one afternoon, but that was nothing to do with bowls; I kicked a lad's football back into the park! At my age, I should have known better.

There is no better way to learn than by playing for real, and my first encounter was in Wilmslow, where I played against a lady veteran who, despite being asked to treat me gently, beat me mercilessly.

The new bowlers all had degrees of success, but we all enjoyed the season. This was due in no small part to the welcome we received, and the support and encouragement given by the existing team members.

Bowling terms also needed to be learned, for example Jack or Block, thumb or finger, a bit of a push, change weight or length or line, nice shot. A combination of any or all of these would be shouted during a game to give advice and confuse newcomers in equal measure.

The season ended with an in-house competition that took place on a sunny Sunday afternoon, where the newbies found out how much more we needed to learn.

If you would like to learn to play Crown Green Bowls with a friendly bunch of people, then watch out for this year's taster sessions advertised on Facebook later this year or contact Roger at rognbabs20@gmail.com.

John Gooding



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