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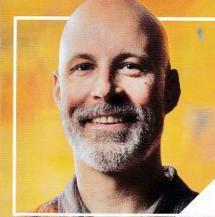
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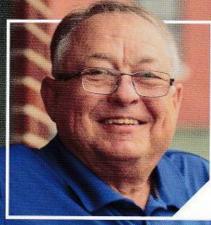




"Being able to pull up your phone to make a quick adjustment is incredible."

MusicVenue Owner

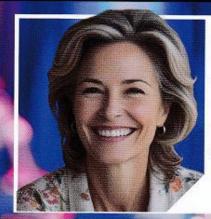




"I can understand everything my granddaughter is saying again."

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Sherry. K Property Manager

## BOLLINGTON HEARING CENTRE

61 Wellington Road, Bollington, Cheshire, SK10 5JH

01625 409792

www.bollingtonhearingcentre.co.uk www.thehearingcentres.co.uk



A big thank you to the team for this issue, which I hope you enjoy. A big thank you too to all our advertisers and sponsors who make the publication of the magazine possible and to you all - our loyal readers!

When people send in their articles I'm still amazed at what happens in Bollington. In this issue I learned all about Seido Karate and the club Mark and his wife Helen have set up; Mark is a sixth Dan black belt - I never knew there were so many levels.

Also, in this issue we hear about Chris Cromer, who succeeds Donald Judge as conductor of the Bollington Festival Choir - if you fancy singing or going to the choir's concerts, check out the lovely article.

It's great to hear success stories and this issue is no exception. Rootstock is now 5 years old - hard to believe it - I still remember visiting the very cold shed where Sophie and Meg started, and now they have two shops! One of our editorial team

has written about Jinny Chivers and her cooking classes - from first-hand experience - and a Christmas recipe is included, too. We had an article about 'Jinny's dream' of cooking classes a few years ago and now that dream is a reality. Jinny also provided our lovely cover this time.

With Christmas around the corner, do have a look at the what's on pages for concerts, pantomime, jazz, comedy, exhibitions and so much more. Also there is a list of all the church services in and around Bollington over Christmas which might be good to have to hand. These two pages of the magazine are probably the most difficult to put together, so I'd like to say a big thank you to Claire who creates these pages without complaint each issue. This involves, sending many emails to request event information, checking the info and then collating it into the incredibly useful list we have here. I did it once while Claire was away and I said 'never again!'



Thank you also to our newest committee members and new writers who have added their different opinions, styles and interests to the magazine. Topics I never dreamt of have been written into great articles and this ensures we remain current and fresh for you our loyal readers!

> Date for next copy: 9th Jan '26

Would you like to write something for the next issue of the magazine? Please email me: liveeditor@happyvalley.org.uk

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

## FROM BOLLINGTON TO HENRY'S

It was lovely to hear of a young family's journey to fulfilling their dream when Molly who, together with her husband Christian, are now proud owners of Henry's café in Prestbury shared their story.

Molly's connection with Bollington runs deep. Her parents were born in the village and she spent her early years attending St Gregory's Primary School and then continued to live in Bollington until recently.

Molly and Christian's love story began just up the road at Hollin House Hotel, where they met while both working there. They married in 2023 and have three daughters – Dotty, Nancy and Orla, aged 1, 2 and 3, who all attend Bollington Pre-School.

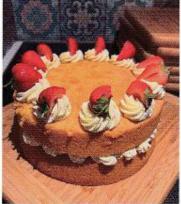
Christian trained as a chef and worked in and around Manchester for a number of years. He also worked at Savio House, the youth retreat centre, in the village. In October last year he was working at Henry's café when an opportunity to buy the business arose. In May this year the couple became proud owners of the café and in just a short time have transformed Henry's and have enthusiastic plans for the future.

So far Christian has resourced many of the food items, buying good-quality produce from trusted local suppliers, including Heathcotes. Also, they have started hosting special events, such as an Italian evening, as well as continuing to serve the loyal customers of Henry's.

Molly is a gifted cook, making delicious cakes in her parents' kitchen (while looking after small children) which she used to supply to Henry's café before they bought the business. A few years ago, the couple also launched a 'meals at home' business, with Christian cooking and delivering home-made meals to the local community. This is on hold at the moment while they settle into their new café, but they plan to restart the deliveries soon.

Bollington Live! wishes them every success in their new venture.









## **SEIDO KARATE - THE BOLLINGTON WAY**

It's easy for us long-time residents to take for granted this verdant space, this green valley nestling in the foothills of the Peak National Park that we call home.

Then you meet someone like Mark Eade, who moved here from London in 2014 with his wife Helen and runs Seido Karate Bollington, which he says encapsulates 'The inclusiveness that is reflective of the community and lifestyle in Bollington.'

Seido Karate has been part of Mark's life since he was a child, when his mum took her shy boy to the local club in his home town of Dover to try and improve his



confidence. She succeeded, and that boy is now a humble, patient and gentle guy who travelled to New York earlier this year to grade with Seido's founder, Grand Master Seido Karate Bollington trains every Thursday at Bollington Cross Primary School and is currently welcoming new members, seidobollington @gmail.com Kaicho Tadashi Nakamura. Mark is now a sixth Dan black belt and is one of only eight Seido Karate exponents in this country who have attained that level of expertise.

After teaching in London for 12 years at Seido Chiswick, the move to Bollington became an opportunity for Mark to open his own branch of Seido Karate and in 2018, purely for the love of the sport, he started a small afterschool club at Adlington Primary.

This has since grown into an active and inclusive club based at Bollington Cross Primary School, teaching both adults and children.

## **ROOTSTOCK - FIVE YEARS ON**

It's been almost five years to the day when Sophie and Meg met me on a bench on the Rec to talk about Rootstock, which they had just registered as a business, operating out of a shed behind Bollington Brewery! Their hopes were high, but probably even they would never have dreamt of Rootstock in October 2025.

The shed was only ever going to be temporary, and it was freezing cold in winter, but their dream of offering Bollington a local organic grocery, reflecting ethical, good living and community values, clearly took root. Eighteen months later, in February 2022, they were sharing the Bollington Yoga premises, which importantly enjoys a very visible presence on the main thoroughfare of Bollington next to Broadheads Garage and the Bridgend Centre. The footfall increased exponentially, and Meg and Sophie soon realised they needed a place of their own.

In July 2023, after a full six months'worth of shopfitting, Rootstock opened in what had been The Village Florist. The new interior was meticulously planned by interior architect Polly North of Lande Design Studio, championing natural materials and sustainable architecture.

What have Sophie and Meg learned along the way? They narrowed down the initial range to concentrate on what people want most – fresh, organic goods, alongside the highly successful refill business. They are now 6 months into their second shop, in Alderley Edge, which will shortly be launching a deli with a chef and a backyard as an event space for in-house catering, with a total commitment to cut down on food waste even more than they do already.

Rootstock now has a payroll of 8, all of whom are local women who share the vision and ambition to be part of a creative Five-Year Plan, which still upholds the



original people-centred principles of accessibility and affordability Photos by Anna Hornby, Folk and Tale



within the organic market, while remaining totally rooted in the local area. They have wonderful local suppliers and plan to start an organic produce subscription service. Also there are plans afoot to expand the Bollington premises downstairs by Christmas!

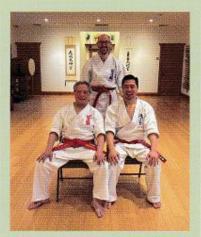
Warm congratulations to Meg and Sophie, and here's to the next 5 years!

Claire Moreland

The project even survived the Covid hiatus with imaginative online sessions, and some of the children who attended Mark's very first class at Adlington will soon attain their brown belts as their reward for 7 years of dedication.

This grading will form part of Seido UK's fortieth anniversary celebrations. Mark and Helen are looking forward to welcoming students from across the UK to Seido Bollington. It will be a wonderful opportunity to show visitors from London, Buckinghamshire, Devon and beyond how Seido reflects the spirit of our community.

Seido literally means 'the Sincere



Way' and Mark explained that its main ethos is – 'Technique before strength. Spirit before technique'. Mark aims to equip his students with a strong spirit towards karate Photo left: Mark (centre) earlier this year, receiving his Sixth Dan black belt at the World Seido headquarters in New York from Kaicho Tadashi Nakamura (left) and Nidaime (Kaicho's son and deputy) and life to encourage and instil respect, resilience and self-belief.

It's all about fostering selfassurance and confidence. This pursuit goes beyond individual achievement – those who show up consistently, week after week, do so not only for their own development but for their community in sport. This is Seido Karate: karate the Bollington way.

Graham Halll

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## SINGING PRAISES

Christopher Cromar, the new conductor of the 60-year-old Bollington Festival Choir, is passionate about amateur music-making.

'It sounds a bit corny but one of the best feelings I've had as a professional is when something is going well with people who are not being paid to perform but are singing and playing for the love of it,' he said. 'It's a quite unbeatable feeling.'

Christopher succeeds Donald Judge, who served as accompanist, conductor, composer and arranger for almost fifty years. Because he had heard of Bolly choir but had not actually heard the choir sing, Christopher decided to go to the annual Messiah for All last year to have a listen. Before the event, however, he was asked to take over as conductor because Donald was seriously ill in hospital. He wasn't too well himself that night, with something like a nasty bout of flu. 'I don't remember a lot about that Messiah,' he said, 'except sweating and sitting down on the podium and drinking lots of water."

Now he's in charge, he's doing a lot of listening. What I can do here is take as a starting point the natural brilliance that already exists.' (At this point, I had to ask if he had heard me sing; no one has ever referred to my singing as brilliant.) 'There are a lot of good voices in this choir and a lot of enthusiasm and dedication. I don't think the choir could have sustained itself in a relatively small geographical area for as long as it has without that. My philosophy is to harness all the good things that are here, try to keep the enthusiasm and build on that rather than say, "Right, this is my way of doing things.""

Christopher intends to continue the choir's tradition of singing less well-known pieces as well as standard much-loved choral works. 'In this, the first season that I have planned for the choir, I've been encouraged to go down the byways,' he said. So at our Christmas concert on

30 November, he'll conduct a setting of the Magnificat by Pergolesi (or, more likely, by a littleknown composer named Francesco Durante) and a Christmas cantata by the English composer Geoffrey Bush. The Magnificat is a most glorious piece. I know it only because I sang in a performance when I was in the junior department at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama at the age of 12. I've been itching to do it ever since. I've done the Bush cantata before; it's very interesting and I love it. It's very approachable for both choir and audience.'

Christopher hopes the choir can recruit more singers; that would help expand the range of music to be performed and also bring greater financial security (more people = more subscriptions). He also wants to find a bigger, loyal audience that will begin to trust that it will hear good performances, whatever is on the programme. 'We need to let people know that there is this great choir here in Bollington,' he said.

Christopher grew up in Dundee and first experienced choral music when he joined the choir of St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in the city. There he was soon distracted by a lot of pipes: 'I just wanted to play the organ and very quickly lost all interest in being a chorister,' he said. He had lessons in Scotland, then moved to Manchester to study piano and organ at Chetham's School of Music. After further study at the Royal Northern College of Music, he spent four years in Paris, then lived in London before moving to Aberdeen to be director of music at its cathedral. And then he came to Macclesfield, where 'it's very nice to be somewhere where it's not winter for ten months of the year'. As a freelance, he had worked often as an accompanist for choirs, which can be quite a lonely job. 1 thought I might fancy having a go up front - and occasionally I used to think I could do better than the person conducting."

Now, as well as the Bolly choir, he

Photo: Chris Cromar conducting



conducts the Macclesfield Male Voice Choir and the town's Oriana Choir, plus another male choir in Staffordshire. He has a plan, details of which are still forming, to join Bolly's singers with the Oriana Choir and another group for a performance of a major work. The Berlioz Requiem? Mahler's eighth symphony? Havergal Brian's enormous two-hour Gothic, the longest symphony ever written?

He's not telling.

David Ward

We welcome all singers, both the experienced and those thinking of joining a choir for the first time. Please contact us at bollfestchoir@gmail.com



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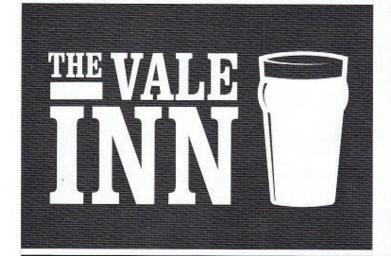
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## **COOKING UP THE DREAM**

Just under four years ago, we featured an article in Bollington Live! about Jinny Chivers, who had been connecting people through cooking classes via sessions on Zoom.

That article ended with the vision that 'Jinny would dearly love to hold sessions in person ... in her own wonderful large well-equipped kitchen where people can come and learn to cook with their friends and family.'

Well, that dream became a reality and for the last three years Jinny has been running small-group classes at various locations for the public as well as community classes, corporate events and private groups. Her cooking workshops are hands-on and get people making, laughing, tasting and talking together. The shared meal at the end seals the sense of connection. She's always on the lookout for funky venues with a difference, keen to collaborate and create new experiences around food.

Jinny says, 'I absolutely love what I do. For me, it's about sharing flavours and techniques from different cultures, and showing how a simple class can turn into a delicious meal. I love guiding people through new tastes and skills – and watching the table fill with variety and flavour for everyone to enjoy together.'

I've attended many of the classes on my own as well as with family and friends and loved every minute. The classes make ideal presents – gift vouchers are available – and the shared experience with my sister (her birthday present!) where we made dim sum dumplings and then sat down as a group and ate together as well as taking some home was a fabulous experience!

You're welcomed with drinks (mulled cider and mince pies at Christmas!), don your 'Jinny Pinny' and take your place in the kitchen. Everything is laid out for you and all the ingredients for the class are



provided, most of them already weighed out, with a magical little helper (who you want to take home with you!) hovering around who clears up and washes the dishes as you go along! Jinny is very patient and attentive, and with expert guidance and help every step of the way, you always leave with something delicious as well as having a fun time!

As well as dim sum, other classes available through the year include Handmade Pasta, Nikuman and Bao Buns, Sushi, Thai cookery and Buddha Bowls.

A recent addition to the offering this year has been breadmaking classes with Dan Hunter (Great British Bake Off finalist in 2023). Dan says, 'I love doing my classes with Jinny; we joined forces after my appearance on Bake Off. Both our eldest kids are in the same class at Dean Valley – who knew we would end up working together!'

At this time of year, Jinny's Edible Christmas Gifts classes are always popular – and I've attended all of them, with this year's already booked! We normally make four different festive sweet treats – ranging from jars of preserved festive fruits, florentines, truffles, peanut brittle and nougat to stuffed dates and chocolate salami (with or without alcohol)! The cooking smells in the kitchen are divine and the shared learning experience trying out new recipes with like-

Photos by Anna Hornby, Folk and Tale

Book classes via cookingwithjinny. com minded people really gets you in the mood for Christmas!

When we've finished making all things delicious, we sit down together at a table laden with all manner of festive wrappings and produce delightful homemade gifts anybody would be thrilled to receive. The gifts don't have to be given away; in fact they are so tempting that most of mine end up with a label 'To me, from me' – why not, we're worth it!

Julie Close



#### **FESTIVE PRESERVED FIGS**

A symphony of flavours, marrying the natural sweetness of figs with the aromatic warmth of cinnamon and spice, all elevated by the zest of orange, creating a luxurious treat that tantalises the taste buds. Perfectly versatile, they shine on their own as a delectable snack, or can be paired with ice cream, yoghurt or granola for a culinary experience that is nothing short of divine.

- 22 dried figs
- peeled zest and juice of 1 orange
- 200g granulated sugar
- · 2 x star anise
- 1/4 vanilla pod
- 240ml water
- · 2 sterilised jars
- Cut the figs in half.
- Place all the ingredients into a pan and simmer for 15 minutes to infuse and hydrate the figs.
- Fill your jars.





#### ORDERS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR CHRISTMAS.

Local reared Beef - from Tabley Brook Farm, Knutsford
Lamb - from C Dumbleton, Rainow
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 13th DECEMBER

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

## **LOCAL JUSTICE?**

Macclesfield's Old Court house on Hibel Road has now been converted into flats, with picture windows replacing the scrum of defendants outside the front door pulling nervously on cigarettes whilst awaiting their appearance before the magistrates.

In 2005 I was proud to be appointed to the Macclesfield Bench of Magistrates. By then selection was diverse, open to all and followed a rigorous vetting process. It was no longer a societal reward by appointment through the local political parties or trade unions. As unpaid volunteers, our class of 2005 was made up of 16 men and women from a variety of backgrounds, all of us driven by a sense of justice and a desire to make a difference and to fulfil our vow to 'do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of the realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will'.

So what happened? The banking crisis of 2008 followed by the coalition government and George Osborne's austerity is what happened. The Department of Justice is the smallest government department and there are no votes in Justice. So in the ensuing years Justice suffered continuous and severe cuts.

The magistrates' courts have existed since the twelfth century and the principle of swift local justice has continued through the centuries until now. In 2005 there were local Cheshire magistrates' courts in Macclesfield and throughout the county. Today only Chester, Crewe and Warrington remain and nationwide over 200 courts have been closed. In 2005 there were 36,000 magistrates in England. Today there are fewer than 15,000.

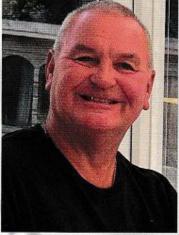
The court maxim was: 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. A wait for court time of even 3 months was unacceptable. Today 12 months is a normal delay for a trial in a magistrates' court and up to 3 years is becoming the norm in the Crown Court.

This matters! The magistrates' courts are our society's first line of defence against crime. The first hearings of any prosecution take place there. Ninety-five per cent of all cases are resolved by the magistrates directly, those being all the minor offences. The remaining 5 per cent and most serious offences are sent to the Crown Court for trial by judge and jury. The magistrates' sentencing powers are limited to fines, community sentences and a maximum of 12 months' imprisonment.

Delaying justice penalises the victims of crime by denying them closure. Add to this full prisons, an under-resourced police force and the once efficient and effective National Probation Service privatised and reduced to a dysfunctional rump and you have a justice system on the point of collapse and with it, the nation's law and order.

In addition we have the evisceration of court resources, buildings and staff from judges to ushers and consequential delays for up to three years for a trial - law and order is the casualty. Perpetrators believe that they can get away with crimes. A trial delayed by these lengths of time still requires a guilty verdict of 'beyond reasonable doubt' to convict. Who can accurately remember in forensic detail what happened 3 years or even 12 months ago? Victims too often lose the will to continue a prosecution after such a long wait and many will want to move on. Also some defence advocates will 'game' the system and advise obviously guilty clients to plead not guilty and elect for Crown Court and jury - and a long delay hoping that fading memories will deliver an acquittal.

Sir Brian Levison has proposed a controversial solution to the court backlog which proposes a new Intermediate court between magistrates' and Crown Court to hear those 'either-way' offences – those too serious for the magistrates but not so serious to require a jury. Photo: Graham Hall



Consequently this removes the traditional right of some plaintiffs to opt for jury trial.

He proposes that this Intermediate Court would be conducted by a judge and two magistrates. This innovation should help reduce the court backlog not only by removing the incentive to game the system but because judges and magistrates are trained to consider evidence. They are used to the rigours of decision making so it should speed up the trial process.

Critics argue that this proposal will remove a thousand-year-old right to trial by jury. However, magistrates come from and represent the community, so they are peers and will outnumber the judge two to one. This reduces the perceived danger of racial or class bias or even state control. My own experience of colleagues on the Bench is that they are very independent and socially aware and take their vow 'to do right by all' very seriously.

I retired from the bench and sadly left a once proud, fair and efficient service struggling to function. Perhaps Lord Levison's proposal will reverse the trend of decline and dysfunction so that we can all feel safe in our homes and streets again. We may have lost local justice for good but a functioning fair justice system is the benchmark of a civilised society. It's a basic human right which we all must preserve in order to keep us safe.

Graham Hall, JP (retired)

## WHAT'S ON

#### NOVEMBER

Sunday Oct 12 - Sunday 9 Nov 2-4pm Exhibition by Intastitch textile group Arts Centre

Saturday 1 November

Bonfire Night

Pott Shrigley Cricket Field. Gates open 5.30pm, bonfire lit 6.30pm, fireworks 7.30pm

Saturday 1 November 7.30pm

Jazz Club Adrian Cox Trio

Arts Centre. Doors and bar open at 6.30pm. Card only payments for tickets and bar. To reserve tickets (£13) and for further information call 01625 574410

Wednesday 5 November

Luncheon Club

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Open for coffee from 10.30am, with lunch served at 12 noon. All ages welcome Book with Win 07815 672413

Friday 7 November 8pm

Comedy Club

Arts Centre. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £15 (Early Bird £12) from rockcentralpromotions.com/ Bayleaf Indian special deal on comedy nights - £20 for a 4 course meal if you show your ticket!

Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Sunday

Further details on bollington-tc.gov.uk

Monday 10 November 6.30pm

SciBar: Improving outcomes in stroke: Is targeting inflammation the answer?

Speaker: Stuart Allan, Professor of Neuroscience at University of Salford. Vale Inn No charge, all welcome bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 11 November 10-12 noon Men's Probus Cheshire Historic

Houses

Speaker Tony Bostonian Civic Hall. Guests are welcome contact Mike Rotherham on 01625 576736

Sunday 16 Nov -Sunday 14 Dec 2-4pm

Art Exhibition by Incubation Arts Arts Centre Tuesday 18 November 10-12 noon Ladies' Probus Northern Humour Part 2

Speaker: Rob Mason Civic Hall. Guests £2

Thursday 20 November 7.30pm Bollington and District Gardening Club

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Full details on the website www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture and on Facebook – search for Bollington & District Gardening Club

Saturday 22 November 7.30pm

Chamber Music concert: Dudok Ouartet Amsterdam

Arts Centre. Tickets from bollington-chamber-concerts. org or 07535 892436

Friday 28 November 8pm

'There will be Tinsel'

Festive stories and poems in a magical event with theatre-maker and Radio 4 regular John Osborne Arts Centre. Doors and bar open 7.30pm. Tickets £12 from bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Saturday 29 November

A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel

Arts Centre. More information and tickets at £18 from bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Sunday 30 November 7.30pm

Bollington Festival Choir: Concert: I Sing of a Maiden

St Oswald's Church. Tickets £15 from 01625 575554

#### DECEMBER

Wednesday 3 December

Luncheon Club

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Open for coffee from 10.30am, with lunch served at 12 noon. All ages welcome Book with Win 07815 672413

Friday 5 December 8pm

Comedy Club

Arts Centre. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £15 (Early Bird £12) from rockcentralpromotions.com/ Bayleaf Indian special deal on comedy nights - £20 for a 4 course meal if you show your ticket! Saturday 6 December 7.30pm Jazz Club Richard Leach's Street Band

Arts Centre. Doors and bar open at 6.30pm. Card only payments for tickets and bar. To reserve tickets (£13) and for further information call 01625 574410

Sunday 7 December 11-3pm Christmas Fayre on the Rec With Bollington Brass Band and carol singing

Saturday 13 December Bollington Brass Band Christmas Concert

Arts Centre bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Sunday 14 December 3pm

Bollington Festival Choir Carol Service

St Oswald's Church Carol Service. Tickets £15 from 01625 57554

Tuesday 16 December 7.30pm Bollington Festival Choir Messiah For All

Arts Centre Tickets £15 from 01625 57554

Wednesday 24 December

Carols around the Christmas Tree Bollington Town Hall Details on bollington-tc.gov.uk

#### JANUARY

Wednesday 7 - Saturday 10 January Snow White panto from Bollington Festival Players

Arts Centre, Tickets from bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Monday 12 January 6.30pm

SciBar: Fading fertility Speaker: Dr Michael Carroll, University of Manchester

Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 13 January 10am-12 noon

Men's Probus The Liverpool and Manchester Railway Bi-Centenary

Speaker: Peter Elson Civic Hall. Guests are welcome contact Mike Rotherham on 01625 576736

Tuesday 13 January 7.45pm

Bollington Festival Choir Rehearsals resume for Spring Term

Arts Centre

## WHAT'S ON

Thursday 15 January 7.30pm **Bollington and District Gardening** Club

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Full details on the website www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture and on Facebook - search for Bollington & District Gardening Club

Sunday 18 January - Sunday 15 February 2-4pm

Art Exhibition of paintings by Beverley Robson Arts Centre

Tuesday 20 January 10 -12 noon Ladies' Probus My Life in Crime Part

Speaker: Simon Michael Guests Civic Hall. Guests £2

Saturday 31 January 7.30pm

Chamber Music concert The Sacconi Quartet

Arts Centre. Tickets available from bollington-chamber-concerts. org or 07535 892436

#### **FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 4 February

Luncheon Club

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Open for coffee from 10.30am, with lunch served at 12 noon. All ages welcome. Book with Win 07815 672413

Friday 6 February 8pm Comedy Club

Arts Centre. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £15 (Early Bird £12) from rockcentralpromotions.com/ Bayleaf Indian special deal on comedy nights - £20 for a 4 course meal if you show your ticket!

Monday 9 February 6.30pm SciBar

Vale Inn. No charge, all welcome bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Tuesday 10 February 10am-12 noon Men's Probus

Civic Hall, Guests are welcome contact Mike Rotherham on 01625 576736

Tuesday 17 February 10am-12 noon Ladies' Probus Medical Detection Dogs

Speaker: Ruth Smith Civic Hall. Guests £2 Thursday 19 February 7.30pm **Bollington and District Gardening** 

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Full details on www.happyvalley.org.uk/ horticulture and Facebook - search for Bollington & District Gardening Club

Saturday 21 February 7.30pm

lazz Club Washington Whirlygig

Arts Centre. Doors and bar open at 6.30pm. Card only payments for tickets and bar. To reserve tickets (£13) and for further information call 01625 574410

Sunday 22 February - Sunday 22 March 2-4pm

Art Exhibition by Stuart Mollison and Lynne McPeake

Arts Centre

Club

Saturday 28 February 7.30pm

Chamber Music concert The Minguet Quartet

Arts Centre. Tickets from bollingtonchamber-concerts.org or 07535 892436

#### COMMUNITY CENTRE **LUNCHEON CLUB**

Did you know that everyone is welcome to join a monthly Luncheon Club at the Community Centre?

First Wednesday of every month from 10.30am to 1pm. Tea and coffee served from 10.30am followed by a two-course lunch at 12 noon.

Cost £8 per person

Booking is required

Contact Win Gleave: 07815 672413

#### ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT

If you would like to advertise an event in March, April, May or June please email livedates@happyvalley.org.uk

Deadline for the next edition is 9 January.

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



#### ST. OSWALD'S BOLLINGTON

Friday 28 November Christingle Service 3.30pm

Sunday 7 December Celtic Communion with Advent Carols 10.30am

Thursday 11 December Sing-along Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies 10.30am

Sunday 14 December Carol Service Bollington Festival Choir, 3pm

> Sunday 21 December Communion with Carols 10.30am

> > Christmas Eve

Crib Service with Carols for all ages 10.30am Christmas Communion with Candlelight, Carols and Choir 11.15am

Christmas Day Christmas Day Communion with Carols 10.30am

New Year's Day New Year's Communion with Bring and Share Party Lunch 10.30am

#### ST CHRISTOPHER'S POTT SHRIGLEY

Sunday 14 December Holy Communion 8.30am Christingle 10.45am Carols by Candlelight 4.00pm

Thursday 18 December Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Sunday 21 December Holy Communion, 8.30am Carols by Candlelight 10.45am Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Holy Communion 11.15pm

Christmas Day Family Communion 10.00am

Sunday 28 December Holy Communion 8.30am Morning Worship 10.45am

#### ST GREGORY'S BOLLINGTON

Sunday 21 December Advent Masses 8.30am and 10.30am

Sunday 21 December Christmas Carol concert 6.30pm

> Christmas Eve Family Mass 4pm 'Midnight Mass'10.30pm

Christmas Day Morning mass at 10.30am

St Stephen's Day Boxing Day Mass 12 noon

Saturday 27 December Mass 6pm

Sunday 28 December Masses at 8.30am and 10.30am





## BOLLINGTON YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOU

Hello, Bollington Live! readers; most of you will have received the leaflet from Bollington Youth Group (BYG) which was delivered to your homes. You may wonder why, having told you about BYG then, we are asking for your attention today. What do we want or need from our community?

#### WE WANT:

To open a drop-in facility for young people, to offer an alternative to hanging around on the streets, the Rec, or outside the shops

To offer a safe, warm space where young people can spend quality time

To offer this service on at least one evening a week, and ideally two

To start with young people aged 13-16, and extend the age range when possible

To invite more enthusiastic local people to join our working group and help get things going, as we are a very small group

To hear the opinions of young people

who would use such a service - we want fresh ideas from our target age group!

#### WE NEED:

Community-minded volunteers who like to be with young people and could offer a little of their time when we do have a service running

At least one or two qualified Youth Workers for at least three hours per week, to be responsible for safeguarding and the overall running of the facility

A safe venue, ideally fairly central, which can be hired in the evenings at reasonable rates

Money! To hire a venue, provide snacks and activities, and pay Youth Workers.

#### WHY ARE WE PURSUING THESE WANTS AND NEEDS?

A summary written by a dedicated member of our group, who has pursued this dream for a long time, ends with these words: 'All young

Our website will be up and running soon and meanwhile you can contact us by email at bollington youthgroup

@gmail.com

people need a space to explore themselves, question their behaviour, test ideas, and learn for themselves what is best for them as they navigate from the enclosed river of youth to the open sea of adult life."

We are grateful for the donations we have received and have raised £7,000 through funding applications, but we need about four times as much to cover the first year's running costs. Phew! If you can suggest any sources of funding, or even make a donation yourself - no matter how small-we would be so grateful. (Some members of the BYG committee are so committed to making this dream a reality that they have already donated money from their own pockets in order to get things started.)

With the evenings drawing in and early darkness already on the way, we would love to be operational as soon as we have the funds and the people. If you can offer time, money or practical advice, Bollington Youth Group would love to hear from you.

Susanne Leeson



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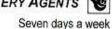


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## **BOLLINGTON BY TOM MURPHY**

In this Bollington Live! edition I'd like you to meet one of our younger residents, Tom Murphy.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I'm 18 and have just completed A-levels at Fallibroome Academy. I was born in Bollington and went to primary school here. I love Bollington; it's been a great place to grow up.

#### So, where to next, Tom?

In January I received an offer to read Law at Brasenose College, Oxford. My A-levels were good enough for a firm offer. I'm still buzzing and really looking forward starting university.

#### I know you're a talented musician. Can you tell us a bit about the music in your life?

Music is a great love of mine. I play bass guitar and have played in several bands. I hope to be able to join a band at university. I also play

in my church music group. I enjoy practising and find it's relaxing. My tastes in music are wide and include Steely Dan and the Beatles.

#### What other hobbies do you enjoy?

I enjoy lots of sport, including squash. I like to swim and I teach swimming at the Leisure Centre. As a family we enjoy walking in the countryside and Bollington is perfect for this. I enjoy public speaking and was a member of the debating club at school. I like to chill with a few video games and I enjoy bell ringing too.

#### What do you like about Bollington?

I love Bollington. It's a great place to live. Here there's a strong sense of community and you know so many people. When the community comes together for the festival every few years it's amazing. The surrounding countryside is beautiful and there are lots of pubs and cafés to enjoy. A great place to grow up.



#### What would make it even better?

Not much needs to change. Perhaps a petrol station, more frequent buses and fewer parked cars and congestion at busy times.

#### Who do you admire?

My parents, who are very supportive, kind and generous. And Paul McCartney, a bass guitarist like me, and a great songwriter.

#### Where's your favourite place?

Although I'd like to travel and see more of the world, I think I'll always want to come back here. So home is my favourite place. Hoved visiting Rome, and the Llyn Peninsula is always a place I will return to often and I'm sure I will love my next few years in Oxford, a lovely city, but Bollington is home.

## If you had a superpower, what would it be?

I think I would like to be superspeedy, to get more out of the day and whizz through tasks.

#### What does a good day look like?

I'd have a leisurely start, not grabbing a quick breakfast or having a rush for a bus. I might go for a run, perhaps a swim and a game of squash. After lunch I would play a little music and practise on my guitar. In the evening a meetup with friends for a drink and a catch-up sounds good.

#### What is your favourite food ?

We do go to the Viceroy, and I enjoy the food, but my favourite food is pizza.

## And which football team do you support?

Manchester United, of course!

#### Tea or coffee?

Coffee.

#### Messy or tidy

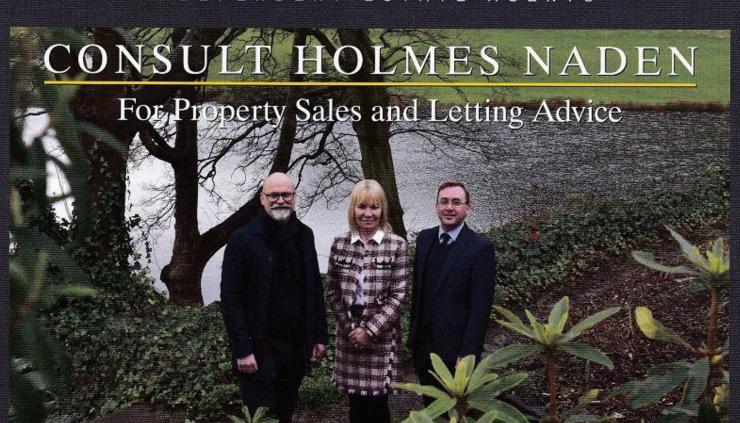
Tidy – but it depends on the day of the week!

Thankyou, Tom, for sharing this with us, and we wish you well in the future.

Sandy Milsom

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Our lettings manager, Ellis Pembery, has extensive knowledge of the field having worked in lettings for 21 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 30 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 41 years. He would like to thank all his clients both past and present for their continued loyalty.

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



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## **CRYPTO - ACADEMY**

Bollington has long been recognised for its natural beauty and welcoming community. It offers an inviting environment for both residents and businesses, with scenic surroundings that many travel far to experience. For these reasons, among others, we chose Bollington as the ideal place to raise our growing family.

Since moving here, we have established a business dedicated to educating people about Bitcoin and advising companies on leveraging blockchain technology to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.

Our journey to this point has been anything but conventional.

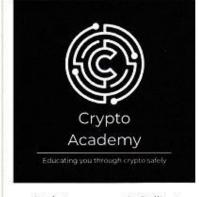


We began by investing a modest sum in stocks, which performed well, leading us to explore cryptocurrency. While Robert was initially hesitant, Anna was determined. Within three months, we transformed an initial investment of a few thousand dollars into a significant sum. Our success garnered attention, with features in Fortune magazine and coverage by BBC, CNN and various other global news outlets.

This rapid and unexpected achievement was a turning point. Ourgoal became clear: to continue on this path while supporting our friends on their own financial journeys. Since then, we have helped many friends either leave their jobs or pursue their dream careers - an accomplishment we consider our greatest success. Some of these friends are now considering Bollington as their new home as well! We recognise that our success in crypto has been a combination of luck, hard work and determination.

We'd like to extend our sincere

Photo: Anna and Robert with their children



Contact us:



gratitude to everyone in Bollington for their warm welcome. Robert, in particular, wishes to thank the local pub landlords for their hospitality. Additionally, we've developed a passion for Bollington Cricket Club and the vibrant community it represents. We look forward to watching our family grow and thrive in this beautiful town that we now call home.

Anna Royle and Robert Hughes

## **BOLLY DEFIBS NEED YOUR HELP!**

When someone has a cardiac arrest, CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) significantly improve that person's chance of survival. Without these, the patient, who is clinically dead, will remain so.

I know of residents in the Bollington area .who have been directly affected by this and my thoughts go out to you. I also know of people whose lives have been saved by the use of an AED.

In Bollington and Kerridge, we have ten public access AEDs for which I have a guardianship role on the national database (BHF's The Circuit). Initial installations from 2012 placed six Lifepak CR Plus AEDs, one of the units of choice at the time, with ambulance services. These were later discontinued and this year the batteries and pads have

also been discontinued.

Now we need to replace all these AEDs – at a cost of approximately £900 each – starting with four required this year.

Bollington has been extremely generous over the years supporting fundraising events to maintain our AEDs. Thanks go to Midge and Kathryn – you both know just how valuable and appreciated your efforts have been/are. I'm now launching a GoFundMe page for this project, aiming high, targeting that the page will fund all six units and also start to replace some of the older cabinets.

GoFundMe takes a small fee for each transaction. If anyone would like to donate directly into the account, please contact me directly. I'm also restarting the free CPR sessions that many readers ian.stoner.aeds@ gmail.com

GoFundMe page: Bollington AED may have attended. Donations at these are extremely welcomed and are used only to cover room-hire costs and provide funds to maintain our AEDs. Please contact me to for details of forthcoming sessions.

lan Stoner

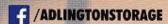




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## **BOLLINGTON AT ITS BEST: 15-25 MAY**



It's no secret that community support is a Bollington speciality. From the Bridgend Centre to

Canalside Radio, and from the Bollington Initiative Trust to the Bollington Borrowers, supporting each other is an important part of Bollington's DNA.

Many attribute this famous Bollington community spirit to the late and inimitable Dr John Coope, MBE. Back in the 1960s, Dr John realised that the root of many of his patients' ailments was a lack of social engagement, and in response he created the Bollington Festival as a vehicle to bring the community together through musical, scientific, choral, theatrical, athletic and artistic activity.

In 1974, at the time of the third Festival, Dr John observed: 'Bollington has two groups: the new residents and the old core

of Bollingtonians, and one of my aims has been to get them to work together, because there is great strength there.'

More than fifty years later, this ethos still rings true: whether you've been involved in many past Festivals, or if this will be your first, WE NEED YOU!

If you're able to offer a few hours as a steward at the Bollington Arts Centre, or on the Rec (checking tickets, litter picking, selling tote bags, handing out programmes) or washing up in the tea tent, do please drop us a line at info@ bollingtonfestival.org.uk.

We are also on the lookout for sponsors. If you're a local business willing to support the Festival, either financially or 'in kind', we'd love to hear from you.

THANK YOU, BOLLINGTON!

Rebecca Roth-Biester

## BOLLINGTON FESTIVAL, 15–25 MAY 2026: HIGHLIGHTS

In 2026 we're extending the Festival to ten funpacked days.

Starting in the Bollington Arts Centre, the fabulous events will include comedy, a Welsh Twmpath (barn dance), and Sunny Ormonde's One Woman Show (Sunny plays Lillian Bellamy in The Archers).

From Thursday 21 May the action will shift to the Rec – evening ticketed concerts will include local legends The Screaming Beavers and old favourites Oasish, as well as new stars Ultimate Coldplay and Pet Shop Boys, Actually.

Daytime events on the Rec are free and will include our own Bollington stars Red Sky Dawn and Bollington Brass Band, as well as several Festival first-timers, such as Rock Choir, Geronimo and Smugglin' Budgies.

The Festival culminates in the Family Day on 25 May, Bank Holiday Monday, when all the activities continue to be completely free, including a dog show, street performers, balloons, face painting, the much loved children's potting table and a fantastic family concert by Abba Fever to round off the Festival.

## **BOLLINGTON BORROWERS**

In 2021, Bollington Borrowers was born from the dedication of a small group of locals passionate about reducing waste and preventing perfectly good items from ending up in landfill.

What started as a small but determined initiative has grown into a thriving community resource. In May 2025, the Borrowers proudly moved into their new home behind Bollington Town Hall—a milestone made possible thanks to our amazing volunteer base and the invaluable support of Bollington Town Council.



Over the last four years, borrowing has become a regular part of life for many local residents. Each week, around fifty items pass through our doors - borrowed, enjoyed, and then returned for the next person to use. Our collection is as varied as the people who visit us: from camping equipment to power drills, tiling kits to party sets, wallpaper steamers to lawnmowers, churro makers to gazebos. The joy of sharing is that no one needs to buy something they'll only use once or twice, and everyone saves money while helping the planet.

Our volunteers are the beating heart of Bollington Borrowers. Without them, none of this would be possible. They greet borrowers, keep our items in tip-top condition, run our admin behind the scenes, and generally keep everything running smoothly. Like many small community organisations, we're always looking for more hands on



Photo left
Left to right:
Claire, John
Weston
(Mayor),
John, Rosie,
Fabienne, Lucy,
Louise and
Katie

Photo right: Stacey, Fabienne, John, Alistair



deck. At the moment, we'd love to find someone who can help us spread the word on social media and inspire more people to borrow instead of buy.

Whether you can give an hour a month or a few hours a week, there's a role for you – from running the cabin, preparing items for loan on Fridays, PAT testing and maintenance, to helping with finance, grants, IT or communications. Together, we make a brilliant team, and we couldn't be prouder of what we've built for our community.

Laura Doherty



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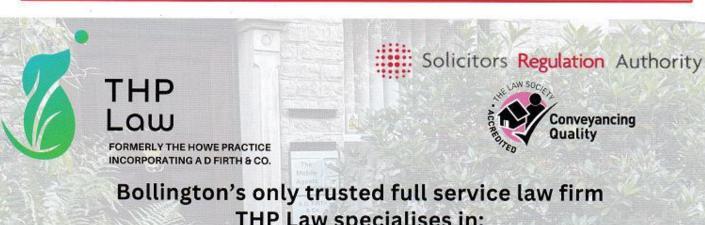
Thank you for your continued support



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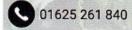
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## **GRAHAM BARROW**

It was a privilege recently to learn about the life and career of one of our Bollington residents who has been the driving force in many local initiatives.

#### **EARLY LIFE AND CAREER**

Graham Barrow has been a Bollington resident for over forty years. He was born in Uxbridge, west London, but when he was young, his parents moved to Gosport, Hampshire where his dad was pursuing a career as a photographer for the Admiralty. Graham left there aged 19 for university in Liverpool and has never lived in the south since.

A lifelong learner, Graham has several degrees. His first was in Geography, then a Master's degree in Conservation. This led him to his first job as a geography teacher at the Brathay Field Study Centre in the Lake District, where he also became involved in organising and leading youth expeditions with the Brathay Exploration Group to the Canadian Rockies, the Ecuadorian jungle, remote Scottish islands, Tibet and China.

At the age of 27 Graham moved to Scotland to work for the Countryside Commission and later went to Edinburgh and then Glasgow to work for a landscape design and architect consultancy. He undertook an MPhil in Urban Design and Regional Planning at Edinburgh University. His thesis involved spending time at the University of Edmonton, Alberta, comparing the Albertan parks system with that in Scotland.

After 14 years in Scotland, Graham sawa postadvertised as a Director of the then newly established Centre for Environmental Interpretation at Manchester Polytechnic, partfunded by the Carnegie Trust. Moving south. Graham was attracted to Bollington because of the transport links to Manchester from Macclesfield, the architecture of the buildings and the easy access to the Peak District.

#### **BOLLINGTON INITIATIVE**

Graham quickly became involved in several Bollington activities. The first of these were the Festival Choir and the Civic Society. He was also a member of the Social Democratic Party and stood in the Cheshire East Council elections. Although he was unsuccessful, Graham became known in the town and formed friendships with other residents, one of whom was the doctor and philanthropist Dr John Coope. Dr John produced a small regular pamphlet which was delivered by hand to emerging Arts Centre members from which Bollington Live! was born, and Graham was one of the founder members.

When Graham first moved to Bollington he was walking in the Ingersley Valley area, and with his conservation planning background, thought it would be good to recognise the valley as a special project area, so he formed and chaired a group called the Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Project. This group successfully attracted a £750,000 Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Grant and Graham chaired that partnership for the 5 years of the project. The project tackled such activities as repairing stone walls and historic trod paths and the traditional laying of hedges. A volunteer group to carry out training and practical work in the project area was also formed and the current highly active Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale Volunteers (KRIV) had its origins in this initiative.

Parallel to this activity, Graham became Chair of the Civic Society, and floated the idea of a Discovery Centre to celebrate Bollington's rich heritage. The owners of Clarence Mill were planning to convert the mill into flats, with shops and a café on the ground floor next to the canal. Eventually the café and apartments became reality, and the Discovery Centre was opened in the mill with a grant of £80,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Photo: Graham and wife Pauline in Patagonia in Argentina



and rent-free space provided by the mill owners. Graham has been the chair of the Discovery Centre committee for over twenty years. When a footbridge over the canal was needed to improve public access, Graham was instrumental in persuading Macclesfield Borough Council (as it was then known) to help fund it.

## PRIVATE CONSULTANCY AND THE CHINA CONNECTION

For the last 20 years of his career Graham became self-employed as a countryside and heritage consultant and worked all over the UK on specific projects often connected with parks and reserves or historic sites and buildings.

In 2008, he was given the opportunity to work on a major park project in Xi'an and this led to a series of projects throughout China. For 8 years he travelled to many places in China, which he found fascinating. This fascination led him several years later to take a small group of friends on an overland Silk Road trip of a lifetime from Xi'an through north-west China to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The group visited places off the tourist trail. Incidentally, to this day Graham still loves planning trips abroad and in the UK to places (often off the beaten track) for him and his wife Pauline.

## THE FRMATION OF BOLLINGTON INITIATIVE TRUST

In 2000, on a study tour to Vermont in the USA, Graham was impressed by how groups of volunteers had joined together and attracted funds for developing various community

## **GRAHAM CONTINUED**

initiatives involving land and buildings. This led to Graham thinking that this would be a promising idea for Bollington. Returning home, Graham, together with Ted Clunn, a local businessman, assembled a board of interested parties to form the Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT). This involved merging with an existing youth initiative led by John Kershaw, BIT was initially chaired by Ted Clunn, then by Graham and now by Will Spinks. The Trust then acquired Tinkers Clough, Turner's Lodge and eventually, after much negotiation with Cheshire East Council, Water Street School, Graham has been a trustee of BIT since its formation and is still very committed to it today.

#### NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MARKER

In his retirement Graham volunteered for the Friends of the Peak District working on identifying electricity lines that could be moved underground. But closer to home this involvement with the National Park led Graham to organise the construction of the millstone plinth at the bottom of Blaze Hill, which indicates the boundary of the Peak District National Park. Graham actually sourced and bought the millstone himself, but fortunately was able to obtain £4,000 in funding to get the project completed and his £500 back!

#### **OTHER INTERESTS**

Currently, Graham is a trustee of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks, and nearer to home, helped form the Bollington Destination Forum to promote and manage tourism in the town. He has also until recently been a trustee of 'Make it Macclesfield' and for a few years was a trustee of the Macclesfield Silk Heritage Trust. He's been responsible for promoting the concept that Macclesfield could brand itself as the western end of the Silk Road, and now acts as a consultant to the newly formed Silk Road Foundation in Macclesfield.

However, when asked what he was most proud of, Graham responded immediately: 'helping to bring up two stepchildren'. This, I felt, was a very heartwarming response from a man who, as well as supporting his family, never stops thinking and working on new initiatives and projects which improve our town ... watch this space for the next one, Bollington!!

Kate Gooding

#### **BRIDGEND CENTRE**

Mondays

Walk for Health, 10.00-11.15am See website or separate leaflet for details. £2 Tai Chi, 2-3pm £5

Tuesdays

Crafts, 10.30am-12noon. £5 Art, 10.30am-12noon. £4

Wednesdays

**Guided Walk,** 10.15am-1pm £3 see website or separate leaflet for details.

**Beginners Spanish** 

11.30am - 12.45pm £5

Intermediate Spanish

1.30-3pm. £5

Mah Jong

2-4pm. £4

Shuttle to the shops

Fortnightly bus trip to local shopping destinations. See website or seperate leaflet for details. £5

Thursdays

**Beginners German** 

10.30am-12noon £5

Talk and Games

2-3.30pm £4

Brew with the guys

2-3.30pm £4

Fridays

**Community Choir** 

10.30am - 12noon £5

Dance exercise class

Seated/standing, 2-2.45pm £5

01625 576311 www.bridgendcentre.org.uk

## BOLLINGTON LIBRARY REGULAR EVENTS

For Pre-schoolers 10.15-10:45 All free and drop-in Stories and Songs Tuesday

Rhymetimes

Wednesdays and Fridays

**Baby Bounce** 

Thursdays for under 12 months

For school-age children Please contact the library to book a place

7-11 years Book Club Monthly on a Tuesday

12+ years Book Club Monthly on a Tuesday:

For everyone!

Lego Club

Every Saturday 10-12 free and drop-in

For adults

Please contact the library to book a place

Story & Tea

Monthly on a Thursday to talk about books read

Reading Groups

Monthly on a Tuesday discussing the same book

And pop in to find out what else we offer!

Please contact Bollington Library for more information on 01625 378266

Opening hours: Tuesdays 10-6 Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10-5 Saturdays 9.30-1



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# Bollington Live!

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## KEEP ON RUNNING

Jerry Smith and Jenny Miles are a married couple who are keen runners. They started 23 years ago when Jenny entered a Race for Life 5K. She ran it with their daughter, then aged 9, but they trained together as a family, following a Couch to 5K programme.

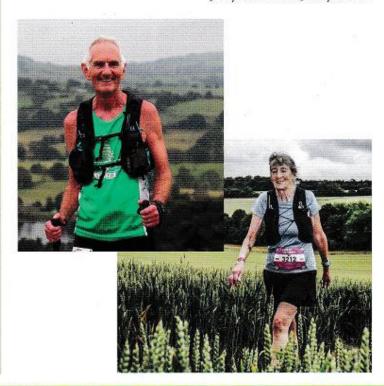
Since then, their love of running has led them to races in Barcelona, Malta and Germany as well as all over the UK. Jenny was the first to tackle the marathon, running in London in 2007, and since then they have done 25 marathons between them. One of the toughest races was the Manchester Marathon in 2012, in torrential rain and wind, but where they both won their age categories and received elegant slate trophies plus £100 in vouchers!

More recently Jerry has managed to qualify to run for England in his age category and he's had the honour of wearing the England vest on three occasions. Jenny's career was interrupted by hip replacement surgery, but through dedication she was able to return to running.

In 2021 they moved to Bollington from Manchester, one of the best decisions they've ever made. They joined Bollington Harriers, which has been a fantastic way of getting to know the location and meeting lots of lovely people. Although now in their seventies they're determined to keep up their active lifestyle and take on challenges, and last year they both completed their first ultramarathon. For Jenny this was the Race to the Stones 50K and for Jerry the Gritstone Grind, 35 miles from Kidsgrove to Disley.

For anyone thinking of taking up running, their advice is just do it! Having company can be really helpful and Bollington Harriers is a very welcoming and encouraging club. And who knows where your journey will take you!

Jerry Smith and Jenny Miles



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