

Bollington Live!

ISSUE 96 SUMMER '26



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Bollington Live!

ISSUE 96 SUMMER 2026

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Summer issue has come around very quickly and Summer did finally arrive in time for the school holidays and the Bollington Festival. What a great sight – the stage, the tents and of course all the good folk of Bollington enjoying everything from beer and hymns to Abba! Well done to the festival committee!

We have had a number of new eateries open in Bollington recently and Sandy went to sample two of them and chat to the owners – if you haven't been yet you can read all about Coupe and the Little Coffee Shop here.

In pub news – Scibar has a new home at the Cock and Pheasant – have a read about the other events happening there too – Carl, the landlord, is keen to support the community as are the new owners of the Poachers also featured in this issue. Supporting all our local pubs, shops, cafes etc means they survive and thrive – so why not try somewhere new this Summer.

The Cotton Tree Quizzers were new to me! Perhaps because I am not very good at quizzes – the idea of trivial pursuit sends shivers down my spine! I was interested to read that not only has the quiz team won a lot of trophies, some of them have been on Mastermind, The Chase and other popular quiz shows. I need a better memory for quizzing!

With the closure of a few pubs the Bollington Photography group is looking for a new home so if you can help out please contact Simon Nottage (email below).

KRIV is 20 years old and there is a lovely article about how their work has evolved over the years with some great photos. And we have a new 'resident group' at the Arts Centre in the form of The Talking Newspaper. Have a read – you might know someone who would benefit from the service or perhaps you would like to volunteer to read the news.

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

Date for next copy:
12 Sept '26



Once again thank you to all our advertisers and sponsors, all who contribute to the magazine and the Bollington Live Committee who make this magazine happen for all our readers!

Annette

YOUR TEAM

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Bollington Live! is an independent publication. It was established in association with Bollington Arts Centre & Bollington Civic Society. 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



TALKING NEWSPAPER

On 4 April 1974, the Macclesfield Talking Newspaper was born, enabling those who were blind or partially sighted to have access to local news. The first issue contained encouraging messages from the then Prime Minister Harold Wilson, Prince Charles (as was), Robin Day, Ted Heath and many others. To be strictly accurate, their voices were all provided by local Prestbury resident Mike Yarwood, the famous impersonator, who was then at the height of his fame. But it was, nonetheless, a memorable birth!



Since then the Talking Newspaper has been recorded and distributed in Macclesfield, first at Queen Victoria Street and more recently at 11 Market Place. Throughout those years the Talking Newspaper coexisted with the East Cheshire Eye Society, so space was always in



short supply. The Queen Victoria studio had to be reached via a steep and narrow staircase, which on one unforgettable occasion required all the volunteers to be tested on their ability to escape via a small upstairs window, in the event of a fire – not an easy task!

No such problems at Number 11, which possessed a wide staircase and a lift, though lack of space still made life difficult for the recording technicians, readers and copiers. So you'll not be surprised to learn how delighted we are to be able to spread ourselves out at our new home in Bollington Arts Centre. We moved in, and on 2 April 2026 edition number 2,586 was recorded. We hope it will remain our home for many more editions.

Over the years we've seen many changes. We've progressed from recording on tapes (a laborious procedure) to CDs and latterly onto memory sticks. Our technicians fervently hope that eventually more of our listeners may graduate to receiving the Talking Newspaper online.

We get our news from in and around Macclesfield, but the Talking Newspaper has always contained much more than just news. Thanks to contributions from local writers and poets, and additional articles we are allowed to download from national newspapers and magazines, a typical edition may well amount to one and a half hours of listening. And since we now reside in

Bollington, we hope to benefit from yet more local talent.

We're now a fortnightly newspaper where we were previously a weekly one, partly because of the onset of COVID and partly because of having fewer volunteers. So we're eager to recruit more readers and technicians; if you are able to offer your services, please contact us on 01625 708718.

At the time of writing this we didn't yet have an email address, but if you pop into the Arts Centre to see us we'll be more than happy to chat about volunteering opportunities or how our services can be accessed.

John Franklin



COUPE!

The Green in Bollington is the location of several good eating establishments and, in addition to The Lime Tree and The Green, there are two new businesses on the block. Filling the space vacated by Tapa, Coupe! is a bar and café serving fine wines, craft beers, cocktails, coffee and good food. I wanted to try this out so visited with a group of friends.

The cuisine that night was a varied menu of delicious small plates. We shared a selection of dishes, all very tasty. The restaurant was very busy, probably because there's a 20 per cent discount on Wednesdays! We all enjoyed the meal, and I wanted to find out more about this little gem of a bar.

I met up with Jacob Thrasher who talked to me about the how Coupe! came about. Jacob's wife Hope is



the inspiration behind the business and used to run a bar in Holmes Chapel but had always wanted her own place. Jacob and Hope came for a meal at Tapa and learnt that the business was for sale. Hope was interested and opened it as a bar initially. The dining side of the business has grown and offers a range of different cuisines on specialist pop-up nights, Mexican, pizzas, Malaysian street food, Thai, Sunday roasts and burgers, an innovative take on casual dining. The kitchen takeovers by local talented chefs and food vendors are proving very popular and the excellent Facebook page keeps people informed about what's happening. The well-stocked bar offers a variety of beers and wines and there's a monthly quiz.

I spoke to Iain Neuman, Head Chef at Coupe!, who has a passion for Mexican food and loves working as part of a team. A trip to Oaxaca in Mexico made him fall in love with the culture and cuisine of Mexico and he's brought this love to his Beale's Meals pop-ups. *'It's a way to experiment and share the food I love with others.'*

Photo:
Jacob and
Hope



I asked Jacob why 'Coupe!' 'At our wedding we drank champagne out of glasses called coupes, hence Coupe!'

The bar/café's certainly worth a visit and the changing cuisines offer a new experience on every occasion.

Sandy Milsom

THE LITTLE COFFEE SHOP

Across the road from Coupe is a small coffee shop, called, appropriately, The Little Coffee Shop. I popped in just after it opened. The sun was shining, tables spilled out onto the street outside and the space inside was full too. Delicious cakes were on offer, and the coffee was very good. I talked to Beth, the proprietor of the café, who grew up in Kerridge and has lived in the area for most of her life. She feels very much a part of the community,

'Since opening up here in Bollington,' Beth says, 'one of the highlights for me is the people who have been in to support us. We're very lucky to have a such a strong community here in Bollington.'

Beth has worked in hospitality for the last ten years and says she was excited to open her own coffee shop with her partner Tim. They wanted to make a really warm welcoming space at the heart of Bollington and serve the most delicious coffee and cakes they could find. They feel very lucky with their location on The Green. Beth remarked, *'there are some other great food businesses around with their own specialities, so there's a lovely buzz to this little corner of Bollington.'*

They're looking forward to the summer when people can sit outside to enjoy their coffee and cake in the sunshine. The area does have a very continental vibe to it and the café is a welcome addition to the gastronomic treats that Bollington eateries can provide.



Beth expressed a big thank you to everyone who's supported them so far and looks forward to meeting more visitors and residents in the future.

Sandy Milsom

Bollington

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FOR INFORMATION :



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20 YEARS OF KRIV

It's hard to believe, but 2026 marks the twentieth anniversary of the KRIV volunteers. It all began with 4 volunteers in 2006 and we now regularly have 10 to 15 out every Friday. Over those 20 years we have also changed our focus. During the Heritage Lottery-funded project years 2006–2010 it was largely about heritage conservation. These days our focus is much more towards wildlife conservation.

In 2010 we moved into a new era without the guidance of a project manager or training officer and formed ourselves into a not-for-profit 'Unincorporated Association'. For the next few years we continued to carry out the work we had done before within the KRIV project area.

In 2018 we started working with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT), who were leading a 'Slowing the Flow' project for the South West Peak Landscape Partnership. It took us outside the old KRIV area, to the headwaters of the Rivers Dean and Bollin, with a highly knowledgeable CWT Project Manager who was not only an expert in wildlife conservation, but all things riverine.

Primarily we were building 'leaky dams' constructed from nearby felled trees placed across a stream, which don't affect the normal base flow, but restrict the flow during

storm conditions. Construction of a series of such dams along a stream provides sufficient temporary storage to reduce downstream peak flow and reduce the risk of flood events. The work was new to us, with plenty of opportunities to get wet and very muddy! Putting the logs in place was extremely heavy work, as a typical log might be 3 metres long and require 6 or 8 people to lift it into position on a steep and slippery stream bank.

In addition to the benefits in reducing flood risk, leaky dams (and all large woody debris introduced into streams) have now been shown to lead to greater macroinvertebrate biodiversity with less silt downstream of the dams. As part of the project we also planted many trees and hedges in the south-west Peak area – excellent for both wildlife and natural flood management.

At Wincle Grange we supported the CWT and the landowner on a major agroforestry project. We helped plant some of the 11,000 trees in 2024. These will increase biodiversity, provide shelter for cattle and a commercial crop of fruit and timber. In 2022 KRIV planted over a kilometre of hedges here.

2023 marked the start of KRIV working with the National Trust (NT) on the Styal Estate (Quarry



PHOTOS
Hedge laying
Clearing grass from a local trod footpath
Path repairs
Step repairs
Another repaint of White Nancy completed

Bank Mill). Since then, we've immersed ourselves in the millpond, planted wildflowers and trees, restored paths, installed post-and-wire fencing, coppiced trees and completed a long stretch of hedge-laying.

In addition to continuing to work with the CWT and NT we've also spent a few days in the last two years with 'Moors for the Future', planting sphagnum moss high up on the Goyt moors near the Cat and Fiddle pub. Sphagnum mosses play an incredibly important part in restoring upland peat bogs. They are vital for retaining water up on the moors, reducing fire risk, locking in carbon and stopping peat erosion as well as helping the wading bird population (curlew, lapwing and snipe in particular) which have been in steep decline in these moorlands.

KRIV has certainly changed over the last 20 years. We now have many more volunteers and also benefit from working with wildlife experts in the CWT and NT.

However, locally we still repair footpaths, dry stone walls and of course continue to repaint White Nancy every year. Each year we do a day or two in Tinkers Clough, repairing the footpath and carrying out woodland management. Using our 'Slowing the Flow' skills we have installed a series of small leaky dams in the stream. Last year we also helped the CWT plant trees in Pott Shrigley and on the Tullis Russell land below White Nancy.

If you're out for a walk on a Friday and come across a group of people leaning on spades whilst watching one person actually working, you will have found us.

You can find more photos and information on our Facebook page, or if you're interested in wildlife conservation and would like to sample a day with us, please email kriv.volunteers@gmail.com

Lester Humphreys



BOLLINGTON IN A BOOK

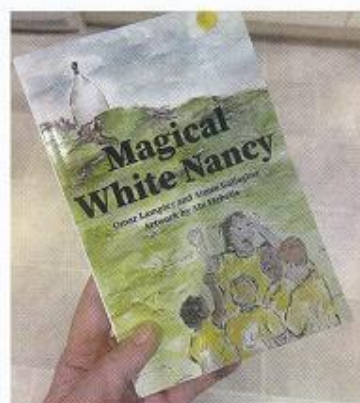
The **Magical White Nancy** is a multi-purpose book. It is co-written by myself and my wife's cousin (Aimee Gallagher), and illustrated by extended family (Abi Etchells) who also has a local art business (Crafty Tinks).

The book is based on real-life football tours that the Bollington United Bees went on to Mablethorpe. The players used are all based on real Bollington United players. The link with myself is that I manage the Bees, with the previous support of Ash Wallen and Neil Wallace, and currently with the support of Sean

Sutton and Rob Hasler. The purpose of the book is to indirectly address diversity, using the local community to achieve this.

The team itself is rich in culture and ethnicity, and the book also subtly addresses gender and disability. The star player is a blended theme – a combination of two patients I worked with at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital – Lizzie Andrews and Dylan Samuels, who had Cystic Fibrosis (CF). They both passed away in their early teens. The book is a tribute to these and many other children

My book is available at:
mybook.to/WHITENANCY



and adults who navigate life with CF. When I worked in paediatrics it was apparent there were not enough children's books which reference CF, and the condition is still relatively unknown. So I thought I could try and correct this! Importantly, we didn't use Copilot or similar AI programs to write the story, to keep it natural!

I hope people will be able to relate to something from the story, be it White Nancy, football, CF, or even Mablethorpe!!

Omar Lamptey



CANALSIDE

My name is Lily Hampson, and I am a 20-year-old Broadcast and Digital Journalism student at Leeds Trinity University. Earlier this year, I completed two weeks of work experience at Canalside Community Radio under the guidance of Nick Wright.

I first discovered the station after my mum recently moved to Bollington. While visiting home, I came across the station and decided to get in touch with Nick to ask about possible work experience. He could not have been more welcoming.

From the moment I walked through the door, the station had a real sense of character. Surrounded by shelves of records and CDs, it felt like stepping back in time in the

best possible way. You can hear that personality in the station itself – it's a genuine community radio station run by people who clearly care about local broadcasting.

During my time there, I recorded and edited several 'What's On' voice pieces promoting forthcoming local events, some of which are still being played on air now. I also gained experience using audio editing software, formatting music for shows, and even writing a radio advertisement script for a local business.

Nick was incredibly knowledgeable, patient and enthusiastic throughout. There were also plenty of laughs along the way, including a few occasions where I forgot to press



record while doing voiceovers, and introducing Nick to Shazam for the first time.

The experience helped build my confidence behind the microphone and strengthened my passion for radio and local journalism. I'm very grateful to Nick and everyone at Canalside Community Radio for such a unique and valuable opportunity.

Lily Hampson

IT'S A WUNDERBAR LIFE

Seventeen years ago, on the way to a wedding in Pott Shrigley, I had my first glimpse of Bollington. 'This would be a lovely place to live', I commented to my then-boyfriend whilst wondering what the white triangular thing was, perched on a hill.

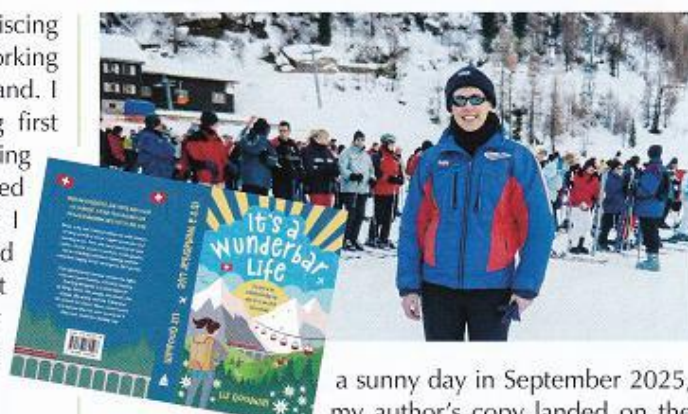
At the time, we were living in Surrey after leaving behind our holiday-rep jobs in the Alps. After living and working in Switzerland for three years, Surrey was just too flat. So when, five months later, a new job opportunity arose, we jumped at the chance of moving into a rented stone cottage on Chancery Lane. We were soon making flattering comparisons with everything we loved about Switzerland – the hills and trails, the festival, the smell of woodburning stoves and the sound of babbling brooks. As we waded through snowdrifts on Bakestonedale Moor during our first winter, we gleefully talked about investing in snowshoes.

During Covid, I was mostly on furlough from my tour-operator job that had bought us here. On one of my daily walks up to White

Nancy, I found myself reminiscing about my three-plus years working as a holiday rep in Switzerland. I recalled that nerve-racking first coach journey to the training course in the Alps. Then, I tried to imagine how devastated I would have been if Covid had hit and sent me home just as I was finally realising my childhood dream of learning to ski.

The next morning, continuing my internal monologue, as I recalled long-forgotten details, I had the sudden urge to write them all down. Suddenly, my furlough had a purpose. I relived each episode of my repping memories as I strode along Kerridge Ridge, then returned home to type them all out. I soon realised I had enough material to write a book.

Furlough became a distant memory, yet the number of drafts on my laptop kept growing. At times, it felt like an impossible feat. Learning how to edit an unwieldy manuscript and then publish it as an e-book and a paperback took me almost three years. On



a sunny day in September 2025, my author's copy landed on the doormat, making it all worthwhile.

It's a Wunderbar Life tells the tale of an unlikely holiday rep who fell in love with Switzerland. The story begins in Switzerland, where I met my then-boyfriend, now-husband, but it very much finishes in Bollington, where I found the headspace and inspiration to turn my recollections into a book.

Liz Goodwin

It's a Wunderbar Life: The tales of an unlikely holiday rep who fell in love with Switzerland can be ordered via bookshops or available in paperback or e-book format on Amazon.



DEFIB UPDATE - GREAT NEWS

In October 2025, through an article here in Bollington Live!, I launched a funding campaign to support the replacement of five obsolete defibrillators in Bollington, the maintenance of others and, if it went well, the installation of further units.



The response over the first few months was amazing, and together with a generous grant from Bollington Town Council, we quickly raised enough funds to replace three defibrillators. A fourth was also replaced from our reserves.

The project now needs to fund the fifth unit and rebuild reserves for critical annual maintenance costs. The initial target also included being able to replace several older cabinets as well, and install at least one new defibrillator, but we're currently far from that.

So, while I sincerely thank you, our amazing community of Bollington, for your generosity to date, can I also please ask you all to scan the QR Code in this article to donate



in support of this potentially life-saving campaign. For a cardiac arrest, every second counts; for this campaign, every pound counts.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions about defibrillators, CPR or this campaign in general or would like to donate directly (thus avoiding GoFundMe's small fee being taken): ian.stoner.aeds@gmail.com.

Many thanks once again for your generosity, and I look forward to providing another 'good-news' update soon.

Ian Stoner

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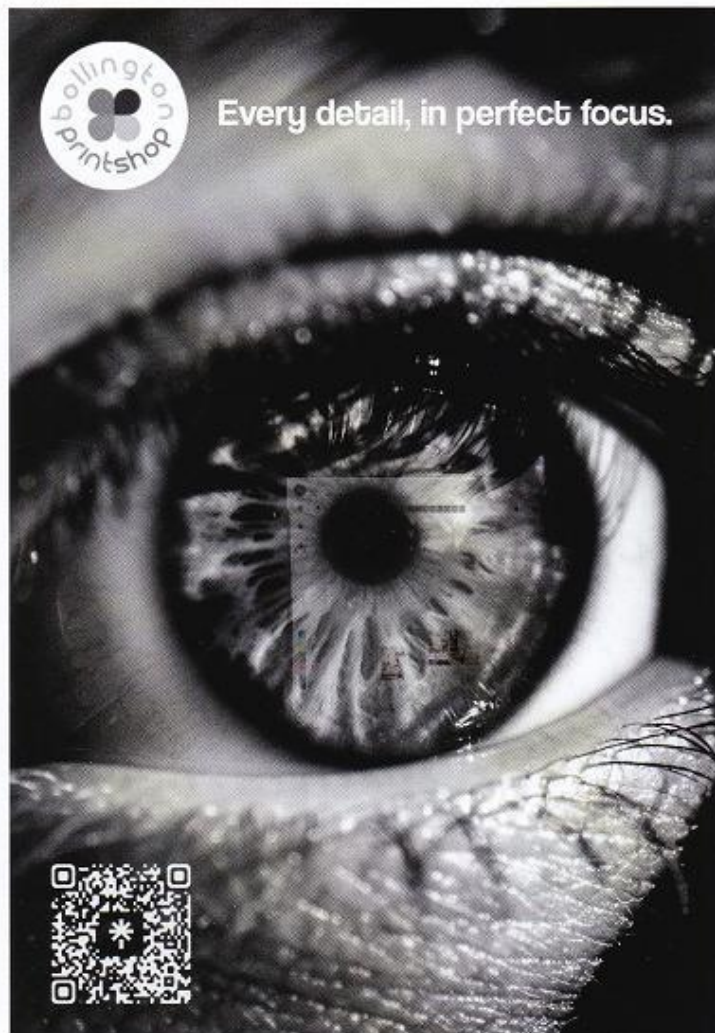
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SCIBAR HAS A NEW HOME

From March 2026 Bollington SciBar has relocated to the Cock and Pheasant pub, with huge success. For those who don't know, SciBar – or science in a bar – grew out of the 2009 Bollington Festival and has continued in Bollington ever since. Its popularity hasn't waned, most probably due to the careful selection of speakers and topics by the SciBar team.

The premise of SciBar is to make science accessible to as many people as possible – and very importantly, after the 40-minute talk, 'no question is too silly to ask'. The talks are varied and interesting, from 'Acoustic Aberrations in Architecture' to 'Fading Fertility' to 'the Discovery of the New Higgs Particle' (whatever that is!).

Back to SciBar's new home. Carl Bromley, the landlord of the Cock and Pheasant, now a free house, has worked brilliantly with the SciBar team to make the 'science in a bar' evenings run effortlessly. The pub offers food before the SciBar starts and it's handy to have a

separate eating area, so people can reserve a SciBar seat near the big screen, more commonly used for showing Premier League football games, and eat in the dining area.

Carl, who grew up in Macclesfield, first joined the Cock and Pheasant in 2011 and became General Manager in 2018. In summer 2025, he and his business partner Brigg took over the lease from Vintage Inns. 'We had the opportunity to put the Cock and Pheasant back at the heart of the community, rather than operating as a company owned business. It's been exciting and incredibly rewarding.'

Since becoming independent, the team has introduced a host of positive changes. Sports TV remains a popular draw, especially for families, and darts has returned – with the pub once again home to a team and hosting the monthly Bolly Bully darts competition, open to all.

Community involvement is central to the pub's ethos. The Cock and Pheasant proudly sponsors a Bollington United team, who

finished an impressive joint top in their league this season. The pub has also supported events for the Bollington Cross PTA, including their Christmas Bake-Off.

Weekly activities now include a Thursday quiz at 8pm, plus the Silk Cat Rescue Charity Quiz every fourth Thursday. Fridays feature live entertainment every week from 8pm, and the first Friday of each month brings Bollington's own Nick Wright from Canalside Community Radio to host the pub's lively karaoke night.

With food being served daily from 12pm, the pub is committed to supporting local suppliers, using Barrows for all meats and the Great North Pie Co. in Wilmslow for the pies.

SciBar certainly has found a great new home, and we thank Carl for his support.

Annette Hurst



BOLLINGTON SINGERS TO PERFORM AT THE BUXTON FESTIVAL

Bollington Singers is joining two other community choirs, High Peak Singers and Didsbury Singers, to perform a new piece, *Voices of the Peaks*, which is being written by Hannah Brine and Jenni Watson.

The choral suite marks the 75th anniversary of the Peak District becoming the UK's first National Park. This amazing opportunity is building upon our other performances, notably our end-of-term concerts, which normally take place in Bollington or nearby.

If you're interested in finding out more, you can sign up for a taster session at our website, www.bollingtonsingers.co.uk.

Buxton International Festival, Saturday 11 July, 11.30 am, St John's Church, Buxton.

WHAT'S ON

JULY

Wednesday 1 July, from 10.30am

Luncheon Club

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

Thursday 2 July 7pm

Bollington Photographic Group

Venue tbc. 'AI part 2 - an insight into how AI can help your photography' No membership or fee required. bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

Friday 3 July 8pm

Comedy Club

Arts Centre. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £15 (EarlyBird £12) from rockcentralpromotions.com/

Sunday 5 July 7.30-10.30pm

Folk Club

Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge, £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Thursday 9 July 7.30pm

Bollington and District Gardening Club meeting

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Speaker: Maggie Mees 'Holebird Garden: a Lakeland Garden for all seasons. www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture and Facebook - search for Bollington & District Gardening Club

Saturday 11 July 8pm

Bollington Brass Band 'Bierkeller Night'

Arts Centre. Doors open 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (no under 18) from bollingtonartscentre.co.uk/events/bierkeller Raising funds for transport costs to the National Brass Band Finals in York. You can help also by visiting their GoFundMe page...[gofundme.com/f/bollington-brass-band-2nd-section-finals-fundraiser](https://www.gofundme.com/f/bollington-brass-band-2nd-section-finals-fundraiser)

Saturday 11 July 11.30am

'Voices of the Peaks'

St John's Church, Buxton. Tickets from £12 buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

Sunday 12 July 2.30pm

Kerridge War Memorial March with the Bollington Brass Band

Sunday 12 July

Bloomin' Bollington Garden Party

Recreation Field - to include the presentation to the business floral display winners, refreshments, tombola, plant sales and stalls run by local traders and organisations

Monday 13 July 7.30pm

Happy Valley (Bollington) WI Community Centre

We welcome guests and attendance is free of charge for first meeting. Further info: happyvalleybollwi@gmail.com

Tuesday 14 July 10am-12noon

Men's Probus

Speaker Jon Baddeley 'The Lancashire Lad and his Uke' Civic Hall. Guests welcome to attend contact Mike Rotherham 01625 576736

Thursday 16 July 7pm

Bollington Photographic Group, Venue tbc.

'6-in-10' Bring six photos you like and join a discussion about them over 10 minutes. Always a lively meeting. No membership or fee required. bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

Sunday 19 July 7.30-10.30pm

Folk Club

Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge, £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Tuesday 21 July 10am-12noon

Ladies' Probus

Speaker: Anna Rains 'East Cheshire Hospice' Civic Hall, guests £2.

Thursday 23 July 2pm

Bollington Photographic Group,

Photo walk: exploring Tinkers Clough. No membership or fee required. Visit bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

AUGUST

Sunday 2 August 7.30-10.30pm

Folk Club

Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge, £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Wednesday 5 August from 10.30am

Luncheon Club

Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Open for coffee & biscuits from 10.30am, with lunch served at 12 noon. Book in with Win on 07815 672413

Tuesday 11 August 10am-12noon

Men's Probus

Speaker: Tony Bostock 'Cheshire Historic Houses. Civic Hall. Guests welcome to attend contact Mike Rotherham 01625 576736

Sunday 16 August 7.30-10.30pm

Folk Club

Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge, £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Tuesday 18 August 10am-12noon

Ladies' Probus

President's Coffee Morning in aid of Bollington Dementia Group. Community Centre. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 20 August 7.30pm

Bollington and District Gardening Club meeting

Speaker: Maureen Sawyer 'Perfect Pots - using pots and containers in the garden' Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane. Full details on www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture and Facebook - search for Bollington & District Gardening Club

Sunday 23 August 7.30-10.30pm

Folk Club

Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge, £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2 September from 10.30am

Luncheon Club

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

Wednesday 2 September 7.30pm

Flix in the Stix

Pott Shrigley Village Hall SK10 5RT Doors and bar open 6.30pm Tickets £4 in advance, £5 on the door from Anthea Wilkinson (01625 573538) or email: pottflix@gmail.com Film details sites.google.com/site/pottflix

Saturday 5 September 7.30pm

Jazz Club The Adrian Cox Trio

Arts Centre, doors and bar open at 6.30pm. Tickets £13 at bollingtonartscentre.co.uk Payments on the door and bar are card only. For further information call 01625 574410

Sunday 6 September 2-4pm

Art Exhibition

Arts Centre. Sundays, and during other events

Sunday 6 October September 7.30pm

Folk Club

Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge, £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Tuesday 8 September 10am-12noon

Men's Probus

Speaker: Gary Conley 'From the Earth Cometh Light' Civic Hall. Guests welcome to attend contact Mike Rotherham 01625 576736

Thursday 10 September 2pm

Bollington Photographic Group

Photowalk: Poynton Pool. No membership or fee required. Visit bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

Friday 11 September 7.30pm

Mikron Theatre presents 'Wensleydale Whey'

Arts Centre

WHAT'S ON

Monday 14 September 6.30pm
SciBar. Speaker: Dr Michael Carroll,
University of Manchester 'The
Evolution of the Penis'
 Cock and Pheasant. No charge,
 all welcome. bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Monday 14 September 7.30pm
Happy Valley (Bollington) WI
Community Centre.
 We welcome guests and attendance is
 free of charge for first meeting. Further
 information [happyvalleybollwi@](mailto:happyvalleybollwi@gmail.com)
[gmail.com](mailto:happyvalleybollwi@gmail.com)

Tuesday 15 September 10am - 12noon
Ladies' Probus,
 Civic Hall, Speaker Richard
 Slater 'Working in the Travel
 Industry'. Guests £2

Thursday 17 September
Bollington Photographic Group
 7pm. Venue tbc. 'Post production'.
 Manipulation of images. No
 membership or fee required. Visit
bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

Thursday 17 September 7.30pm
Bollington and District Gardening
Club meeting
 Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane.
 Speaker: Cliff Books 'An introduction
 to alpinism'. Full details on www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture and
 Facebook - search for Bollington
 & District Gardening Club

Saturday 19 September 7.30pm
Chamber Music concert (Aestus
Quartet),
 Arts Centre Tickets available
 from [bollington-chamber-](http://bollington-chamber-

<a href=)
[concerts.org](http://bollington-chamber-concerts.org) or 07535

Sunday 20 September 7.30 - 10.30pm
Folk Club
 Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge,
 £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910
 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Thursday 24 September 2pm
Bollington Photographic Group
 Photowalk: Holmeschapel Zoo. No
 membership or fee required. Visit
bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

Thursday 24 September 7.30pm
Fun Pub Quiz
 Cock and Pheasant. Assemble
 7pm If you're planning to eat a
 pre-quiz meal, please book ahead
 if possible on 01625 573289. All
 proceeds to Bollington-based animal
 welfare charity, Silk Cat Rescue

OCTOBER

Saturday 3 October 7.30pm
Jazz Club The TJ Johnson Band
 Arts Centre, doors and bar at 6.30pm.
 Tickets £13 at bollingtonartscentre.co.uk
 Payments on the door and bar are card
 only. For further info call 01625 574410

Sunday 4 October 7.30-10.30pm
Folk Club
 Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge,
 £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910
 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Wednesday 7 October from 10.30am
Luncheon Club
 Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane.
 Open for coffee & biscuits from 10.30am,
 with lunch served at 12 noon.
 Book in with Win on 07815 672413

Wednesday 7 October 7.30pm
Flix in the Stix
 Pott Shrigley Village Hall SK10 5RT
 Doors and bar open 6.30pm Tickets
 £4 in advance, £5 on the door from
 Anthea Wilkinson (01625 573538)
 or email : pottflix@gmail.com Film
 details sites.google.com/site/pottflix

Thursday 8 October 2pm
Bollington Photographic Group
 Photowalk: Adelphi or Clarence Mill.
 No membership or fee required. Visit
bollingtonphotogroup.org/#whats_on

Saturday 10 October 7.30pm
Brass Band Autumn Concert
 Arts Centre. Doors open 7pm.
 Tickets £12 adults, £3 children
 from bollingtonartscentre.co.uk

Sunday 11 October - 8 November 2-4pm
Art Exhibition
 Arts Centre. Sundays, and
 during other events

Monday 12 October 6.30pm
SciBar
 Speaker: Prof. Chris Parkes 'The Large
 Hadron Collider and the new Xicc+
 particle' Cock and Pheasant. No charge,
 all welcome. bollingtonscibar.co.uk

Monday 12 October 7.30pm
Happy Valley (Bollington) WI
 Community Centre. We welcome
 guests and attendance is free of charge
 for first meeting. Further information
happyvalleybollwi@gmail.com

Tuesday 13 October 10am-12noon
Men's Probus.
 Speaker: Dave Walmsley 'Post War Britain
 - 1945 to 1959'
 Civic Hall. Guests welcome to attend
 contact Mike Rotherham 01625 576736

Wednesday 14-17 October 7.30pm
Festival Players October Play
 Arts Centre. Matinée on
 Saturday 17 October

Thursday 15 October 7.30pm
Bollington and District Gardening
Club meeting
 Speaker: Kathryn Robey 'Trees and
 shrubs for the smaller garden.'
 Community Centre, Ovenhouse Lane.
 Full details on www.happyvalley.org.uk/horticulture
 and Facebook - search for
 Bollington & District Gardening Club

Sunday 18 October 7.30-10.30pm
Folk Club
 Upstairs in the Dog and Partridge,
 £2. Enquiries to James Dennis 07910
 251331 or visit bollyfolk.com

Monday 21 October 11am-3pm
Antiques Valuation Day
 Arts Centre

Thursday 22 October 7.30pm
Fun Pub Quiz
 Cock and Pheasant. Assemble
 7pm If you're planning to eat a
 pre-quiz meal, please book ahead
 if possible on 01625 573289. All
 proceeds to Bollington-based animal
 welfare charity, Silk Cat Rescue.

Friday 30 October 7.30pm
'Old Red Eyes' by Andy Johnson
 - a tribute to Paul Heaton and the
 music of The Housemartins and
 The Beautiful South. Arts Centre

Saturday 31 October 7.30pm
Chamber Music concert
 Gould Piano Trio Arts Centre. Tickets
 available from [bollington-chamber-](http://bollington-chamber-

<a href=)
[concerts.org](http://bollington-chamber-concerts.org) or 07535 892436

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT

*If you would like to advertise an event
 in November, December, January or
 February please email [livedates@](mailto:livedates@happyvalley.org.uk)
[happyvalley.org.uk](mailto:livedates@happyvalley.org.uk)*

*Deadline for the next edition is
 19 September 2026*

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

FOLLOWING THE SIGNS

It's not a major gripe I wish to air. Nothing to set beside parking, the shortage of nursery places or waiting times at A&E. That said, in a spirit of improvement, here goes ... Bollington has long been a great place for walking, from heavy-duty hiking to the casual stroll.

This year the Bollington Walking Festival will take place from 5 to 13 September. The sixteenth of its kind, this surely merits applause. Local guidance will be given throughout this event, but for the rest of each year the demand remains. Walkers come year round, by bike or on foot, beside the canal



or on the former railway, known to us now as the Middlewood Way.

It's on the Middlewood Way I see these visitors myself, often as not, beside the signboard at the viaduct's northern end. There, on an upright face of the sign, is an historical explanation. On the reverse is a map of our area. There are similar set-ups elsewhere; two of them beside the canal near Clarence and Adelphi mills; the other elsewhere along the Middlewood Way where the railway station used to be.

Quality work has been done here, on both map and text. So far, so good, but a difficulty remains, something that freezes the mind. Viewers glaze over, then wander off, their curiosity unfulfilled. Having lived in Bollington, off and on, since the 1950s, I am as qualified as anyone to proffer help at these moments. But when the map gets involved I'm as disorientated as the rest.

PHOTOS:

Left: Confusion sets in: visitors look at the map at the northern end of the viaduct on the Middlewood Way. Historical details appear on the reverse face

Right: The sign near Clarence Mill could similarly benefit from a switch



The problem isn't hard to overcome. The board part of each installation has been installed the wrong way round. Were we to lower any of those maps, hypothetically, to a horizontal position, we would find south at the top and north at the bottom, which is a nonsense, contrary to all convention.

Please, could this be changed? In time for the Walking Festival, perhaps? The boards need touching up, anyway. 'YOU ARE HERE' arrows would be useful, too.

Let 'Signs of Sanity' be our slogan.

John Liley

FREEDOM OF THE TOWN FOR BEN MOORHOUSE

'It gives me enormous pleasure, on behalf of Council, to honour and award Mr Ben Moorhouse with the Freedom of the Town of Bollington.

This honour represents Ben's outstanding service and dedication to the Bollington Community over many years. Ben is widely known for his tireless volunteer work, always stepping forward to help residents in times of need.

From assisting during severe Winter weather with snow ploughing and clearing blocked drains, to supporting vulnerable members of the community, Ben has consistently shown exceptional commitment to helping others.

Ben has also been recognised for his bravery and quick actions in helping to save the life of a local lady, demonstrating the care and selflessness that have made him

such a valued member of the community.

Many of us have been in that moment in a crisis in the Town, when someone says, 'Don't worry, I'll call Ben'. And the shoulders drop, the stress eases, knowing that Ben will give his time, skills and dedication to help aid the situation and solve the problem.

The Council is proud to recognise Ben's continued contribution to Bollington and the difference he has made to so many residents. He is a truly remarkable man.

Just a word on the rights that this gives Ben.

The rights of a Freeman, such as carrying a sword in public, driving your sheep across bridges without paying a toll, being exempt from the Press Gang and the right to be hung with a silk rope, have thankfully fallen out of use.

Excerpt taken from Mayor's speech on presentation of the award on 2 June



However, there is one tradition that Ben might find useful to bear in mind. That is the Freeman's right to be taken home drunk rather than being arrested. I trust our PCSOs will bear this in mind when doing their rounds.'

*Cllr Dickie Fletcher
Town Mayor*

NEW IN TOWN

It was Easter 2025 when I first seriously thought about setting up home in Bollington. Until that point, my fiancée's home town had been a nice place to spend a few days on a long weekend with her parents – something different to our busy Manchester suburb, where our efforts to find something roomier than our attic flat had hit the obstacles of big-city house prices, parking and pollution.

So, when this small town with its pretty stone cottages and impressive variety of drinking establishments still felt like a good bet long after the effect of the Easter glasses of wine had waned, the search for a house began in earnest and, after a handful of viewings, bore fruit.

Exciting as that was, switching city



living for a rural setting in your twenties is daunting. Moving in this January, there was a lot to get used to – winding roads, shorter shop-opening hours and paying for a pint in cash – but four months in Bollington have been more than long enough to confirm we made a great choice.

First on my to-do list was finding a gym – and what a gem AW Muscle and Fitness turned out to be. The owners, Alex and Emily, have managed to create a facility that suits everyone from the gym novice to the hardened competitive bodybuilder, with top-of-the-range equipment, cleaning stations and a clientele that looks after the space with mutual respect.

Another favourite is Knowles Green, whose Montagnolo cheese was an instant hit (and my mum now requests a bottle of their Lambrusco ahead of my trips home). Next door, the Mulberry Leaf's Welsh rarebit is so good that it made a recent lunch over the border in Holywell rather underwhelming. Pork pies and pizza at the Bulls Head in Kerridge are other welcome additions to our lives.



What's surprised me most is just how much pleasure I've taken from living closer to nature; all of a sudden, I've become someone who routinely walks up the hill after work to see the lambs running around in the field. The Peaks and its hikes are on our doorstep and my soon-to-be-wife can now grow herbs in a garden that doesn't double as a communal car park.

As summer approaches, I've a few goals: put up a basketball hoop in my garden, grow my own chilli peppers and live at a slower pace – all of which are much easier to do when you live in Bollington.

Cameron Pope

CIVIC HALL FOR HIRE

Bollington Civic Hall is ideally situated in the centre of town – if you don't know where, look above the library!

Perfect for meetings, performances, parties and functions, the venue is licenced for live music and entertainment until midnight and can be set up to accommodate the hirer's needs. The Hall boasts Bollington's only retractable tiered seating which accommodates 107 people. If a stage is required, one can be assembled and customised to suit the event.

The Town Council is presently investing in long-awaited and much needed improvements to the venue and has already commenced with refurbishing the railings at

the perimeter of the building. The old inefficient strip lights have been replaced with LED bulbs to improve energy efficiency and lighting quality.

Next on the agenda is a facelift of the entrance and foyer and redecorating of the ladies toilet, with the sound system under review for potential upgrade. And our newest Town Warden has been busy making minor repairs to keep the venue in good order.

If you would like to book the venue, we would be pleased to show you around.

Pricing can be viewed at www.bollington-tc.gov.uk/venues/bollington-civic-hall/.



Contact civichallbookings@bollington-tc.gov.uk for more information and availability.

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NEW AT THE POACHERS

We'd like to introduce ourselves as the new owners of the Poachers Inn, Bollington – Chris, Katie and Jack.

Chris has many years of experience in the pub industry, having travelled around the UK in the early 2000s helping transform pubs into the heart of their local communities. After a successful career in construction, he decided it was time to return to hospitality and take on a new challenge alongside his wife, Katie. (photo below)



Katie has spent the last 18 years raising four children as a stay-at-home mum. Recently, she decided the time was right to return to work and started at the Poachers under the previous management. She quickly fell in love with the pub and enjoyed making sure every customer felt welcome and looked after.

Jack was the manager at the Poachers under the previous owners and became well-liked by many of the locals. He's now

joined the new team and, with further training and experience, is continuing to grow into not only a strong manager but also a valued part of the Poachers as well as locally sourced staff.

Chris and Katie moved to Bollington 16 years ago to raise their family and have always loved being part of the community. Taking on the Poachers was a chance to give something back to the village while using their previous experience to create something special.

Our aim for the Poachers is simple – to provide a friendly, clean and welcoming pub that feels like a second home for the community. We want to keep prices fair, while serving fantastic homemade fresh food, sourced locally wherever possible.

At the same time, we believe in keeping a traditional pub atmosphere alive. At weekends, especially in the evenings, many people simply want a proper local pub where they can enjoy a drink and good company. Finding the right balance between quality dining and traditional pub life is important to us.

We serve food throughout the day, with evening dining available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, while weekends continue to focus on creating a lively and welcoming pub atmosphere for everyone.

The pub already hosts quizzes and will soon be introducing more weekend entertainment and community events. Please



take time to visit The Poachers – everyone is welcome.



We'd also like to encourage everyone to support not just us, but all local pubs and businesses in Bollington. Pubs are not only for sunny days, Christmas or special occasions. They are an important part of the community, and without regular support they risk disappearing altogether. Even if it's just one drink a week, every visit helps keep local pubs alive.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Poachers Inn!

The new team at the Poachers Inn



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QUIZZING AT THE COTTON TREE

I'm part of the Cotton Tree team which has just won the Macclesfield Quiz League (for the fourth successive season) and the League's Cup Competition (for the second time in three years).

The league is highly respected across the country but I doubt many people in Bollington know a lot, if anything, about it. It may surprise readers to know that the league has two regular players who have won BBC's 'Mastermind', including Alice Walker, who won the title as recently as 2022. Plus, there are several who have made it to the semi-final stage (including two of our players) and who have played in other national competitions such as 'Eggheads' and Radio 4's 'Brain of Britain'. I appeared on 'The Chase', but alas, won no money!

All the teams in the league are from the Macclesfield area but we are the only one based in Bollington.

So how does our league work? There are currently 16 teams divided into an A and B league. We play on Tuesday nights, typically between the end of October and the end of April. Teams don't play every Tuesday and on one or two of

those nights a season a team will be responsible for setting that week's questions, which are then asked across the league. As everyone gets asked the same set of questions it's easy to compare your performance against all other players.

In the league matches there are four players on each team and each player is asked a question in turn. Answer correctly (against the clock), and that's 3 points to the team – or the individual may choose not to answer and instead confer with the team, in which case a correct answer is worth 1 point. Answer wrongly and the question goes over to the opposition for a potential bonus point. The Cup Competition has a slightly different format, but broadly that's it.

Our team has its origins in the Church House Inn, where we played for many years before relocating to the Poachers and, more recently, the Cotton Tree. Jayne and Christina, the landladies, are very supportive of us (Jayne recently attended our Cup Final win) and we appreciate their fantastic hospitality, as do all the visiting teams.



The four regular players at our Presentation night. All our season's winning trophies are there - plus a shield, the cup winners cup plus a few of our individual trophies. Left to right - Christina Blackshaw (landlady), Ed Baron, Bob Gratton and Jayne Blackshaw (landlady)

My team mate Ed Baron and I are both true Bollingtonians and are proud to represent our local pub. Our winning streak over the last four years makes things all the better! The quiz is great for your mental health. It gets you out over the darker months, you make new friends and it's good fun.

I've found that although I'm now officially a pensioner my scores trend upwards each year. I'd recommend it to anyone with an enquiring mind who wants to keep their memory sharp and their brain agile. You're never too old to learn something new!

Our league is always welcoming to new players and teams, whatever their ability and age. We're not all Masterminds – far from it! If you're interested in joining, we have an excellent website at maccql.com, complete with contact details. Why not give it a go?

Bob Gratton
The Cotton Tree



Left to right is of regular players Bob Gratton, Greg Spiller, Ashton Davies and Ed Baron. All our trophies are there plus a couple of pints of Guinness!

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PARKING CHOICES

Some may recall I wrote a short article a couple of years ago asking the question: Do drivers really remember the Highway Code? My conclusion was that they probably don't. Am I also one of those? Guilty!

But this time I put pen to paper to ask the question of whether drivers understand the hazards they create in their parking choices? About a third of households in the UK own more than one vehicle – this will typically be a family car and maybe also a work car or van. Car ownership has increased massively since the 1970s. For places like Bollington and indeed across the country, this obviously means that far more vehicles need parking, but here in Bollington, with car-park spaces for houses at a premium, the popular solution seems to be to park on the road, the pavement or the corners of junctions. In fact, you have to park just about wherever you can.

In practice, I understand the need to leave a vehicle somewhere, but what I can't abide is the number of driveways I see that are empty, when the family car or work van is parked on the road. Why?

Parking on the corners of junctions causes a series of hazards that other people have to navigate. For example, parked vehicles, near and on junctions, will reduce visibility for other road users, turning into or out of roads, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic, particularly pedestrians or cyclists. It can also create an unsafe environment for pedestrians as it may force them to cross the road in more dangerous places.

Where a vehicle is mounted on the pavement, the hazard now imposed on pedestrians can be disastrous. You may be forcing walkers, parents with pushchairs, individuals in mobility scooters and children to walk in the road, to circumvent your vehicle. And



what about the impact a vehicle on the pavement has for those who are visually impaired?

I realise some people will read this and ask the question, where should we park, then? Well, from my observations, much of what I have seen isn't just related to people leaving vehicles on roads, outside their house. It's often related to people leaving cars and vehicles on roads near the shop they are calling at, or visiting friends or family.

Road safety is something I take an interest in personally, in my professional capacity, but also on a social and personal level. I've been developing a road-safety app and I'm looking for people who would be willing to help test it. If you want to know more, just email eos.hsc@gmail.com, putting 'Safe Road App' in the subject box.

Luke Stark

HOPE PRESS

I'm amazed at the number of small businesses in Adelphi Mill, many of them small creative units. I met up with Ben Darlington, who has a studio in the Mill with his Hope Press, which provides art-making opportunities to people of all ages.

Ben's a graphic designer, garden designer and painter who lives in Bollington with his family. He opened his studio early in 2025, specialising in printmaking.

Although the studio is a commercial project, what makes it special is that Ben is also motivated by helping people living with chronic pain

and long-term illness. Ben went through this himself and found that creativity helped his recovery, so he wanted to share what he got out of art with others.

The Hope Press was set up as a Community Group, with a Board, Committee and AGM. It offers a ten-week Introduction to Printmaking course to give people a start in art.

The group aims to create a welcoming and supportive space for people with chronic pain and illness to get absorbed in the joys of creativity. Ben has also made sure it's affordable by allowing people to pay what they can. He says this works well.

The studio also offers courses on a commercial basis for those who'd like to learn new creative skills. He also does sessions for birthday parties, T-shirt printing and social evening groups. All materials are non-toxic. 'People are looking to do



creative things in their spare time,' says Ben, 'and involving oneself in creative things help with pain, fatigue and mental health.'

Sandy Milsom



EXHIBITION SPACE WANTED

Since its founding in 2007, **Bollington Photographic Group** has brought together local people with a shared passion for photography.

Welcoming everyone from smartphone beginners to experienced DSLR users, we are a friendly, informal group dedicated to capturing and celebrating life in Bollington. We meet regularly for inspiring talks, photo challenges, and seasonal walks, while also supporting the community by photographing local events and social gatherings. Our mission is to document the people, places, and spirit of Bollington. Until its recent closure, we met at the Turners' Arms, where we maintained a professional 'photowall' showcasing the best of our members' work.

While we now have a new meeting venue, the group is urgently seeking public-facing spaces to host their ongoing exhibitions.

We are looking for cafés, pubs, restaurants, or shops willing to display our work - ideally as a full collection or in small groupings across multiple venues. Every other month, we hold a photographic contest and print and display up to 12 high-quality winning images, creating a regularly refreshed and visually engaging showcase.

Visitors are encouraged to engage by voting for their favourite images, adding interest and interaction to your space. In return, we offer regularly refreshed, eye-catching displays, potentially leading to increased footfall, and on-going promotion through our active social media channels, providing valuable free publicity and a genuine win-win partnership.

Simon Nottage

*Right:
A previous photo-
wall exhibition:
'Birds'*



*Scan the code to
view their latest
contest winners:
'Architecture'*

*If you are able
to partner with
Bollington
Photographic
Group by hosting
all or part of their
exhibitions, please
contact: simon.
nottage@icloud.
com*







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Sunday: 10am - 3pm

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Friday & Saturday: 4:30pm - 9pm

Sunday: 4:30pm - 8pm



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WATER SAFETY

As the weather gets warmer, more families spend time outdoors near rivers, canals, lakes and other open water such as the beach. These places are lovely to enjoy, but it is important to know how to be water safe.

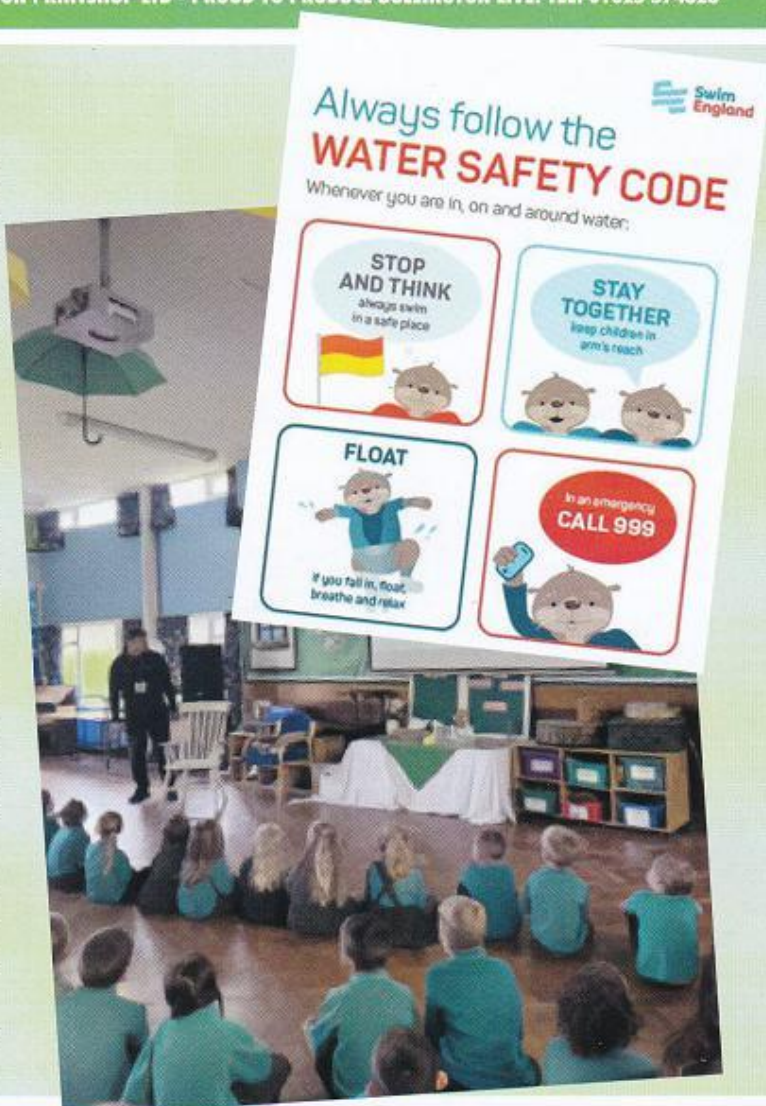
At Bollington Health and Leisure, water safety is an essential part of our learn-to-swim programme. It's integrated in our lessons from as young as 6 months.

Our pre-school lessons, for children aged 6 months to 4 years, help build water confidence from an early age. Our Stage 1 to 10 lessons, for children aged 5 and over, develop swimming strokes, skills and water-safety knowledge. Each term, all swimmers take part in a dedicated water-safety lesson, where they learn how to make safe choices around water, including spotting potential risks and what to do should they fall in.

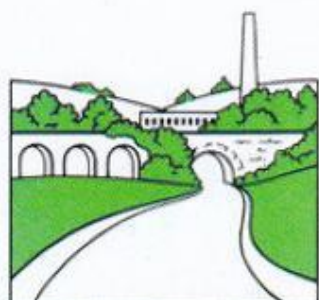
For older swimmers, our Rookie Lifeguard lessons introduce basic rescue skills and the fundamentals of lifeguarding. We also like to get the water-safe message out to the community and deliver water-safety talks in local schools, focusing especially on open water such as canals and rivers which are found throughout Bollington and the local area.

Some statistics: the Royal Life Saving Society UK reports that over 1,600 people have accidentally drowned in the UK and Ireland in the last five years. Don't become a statistic – sign up for swimming lessons now and help build a skill for life, for you or your child.

George Hodgkinson



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