

BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

**Bridging Social
Isolation
Edition 47**



Photo by Andy Stott

Who would have believed this time last year that we would have produced a year's worth of the 'Bridging Social Isolation' newsletter by now! It has been great fun to do over the last year and I have very much enjoyed being Editor, it has given me purpose every week. Going forward, the newsletter will continue as people have fed back to us how much they enjoy it and we consider it to be a hugely positive thing to come out of this unique situation we have found ourselves in.

Thank you so much to everyone who has made such interesting and thoughtful contributions to the newsletter over the last 12 months, we couldn't have done it without you. Don't forget if you would like to contribute to this newsletter in some way, please do bob us an email at info@bridgendcentre.org.uk.

Becky, Bridgend Centre Manager

Results of survey on use of the upstairs at Bridgend

You may recall that a few weeks ago we sent a survey out regarding the potential use of the upstairs of the Bridgend Centre. Nearly 200 people responded, which is brilliant and we received some great feedback about what services the people of Bollington think is needed in the town.

The results show a clear need for the space for more activity and social groups, one-to-one professional services and small exercises classes.

People also made some great suggestions that we hadn't considered including a hire service of essential household items such as lawnmowers and strimmers; mum and baby groups; coffee mornings; more space for the drop-in café; an exhibition space (not art) and a venue for acoustic gigs.

We will now use these ideas and feedback to formulate our long-term strategy for renovating the upstairs and will keep you posted on progress.



New £50 note unveiled

The Alan Turing £50 note features a photo of the mathematician taken in 1951 by Elliott and Fry, which is part of the National Portrait Gallery's collection. It also has a quote from Turing, given in an interview with *The Times* in 1949: "This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of what is going to be."

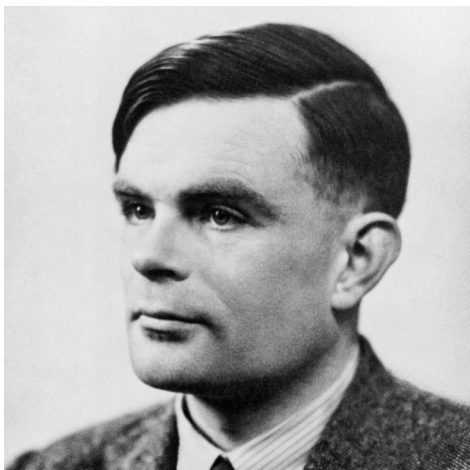
It will enter circulation on 23 June, which would have been Alan Turing's birthday. The note features a ticker-tape depicting the mathematician's birthdate (23 June 1942) in binary code. The concept of a machine fed by binary tape was featured in Turing's 1936 paper "On Computable Numbers, with an application to the Entscheidungsproblem" – a foundational text for modern computer science.



Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, told *Sky News* that as well as honouring Turing for his codebreaking work, which helped end the Second World War, the new £50 note celebrates his efforts in advancing mathematics, pioneering modern computing and his identity as a gay man.

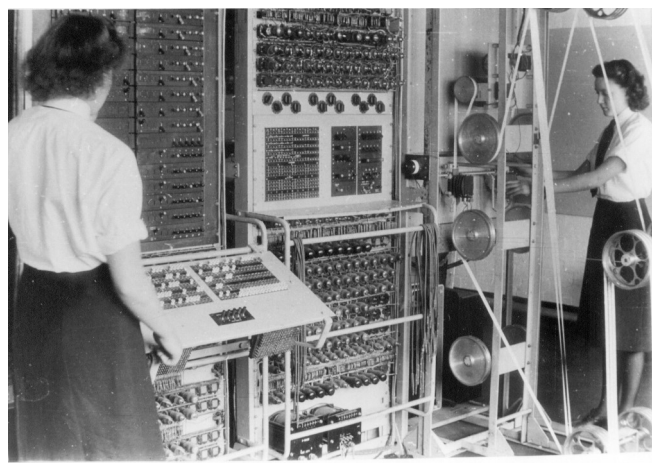
"He was a leading mathematician, developmental biologist and a pioneer in the field of computer science," Bailey explained. "He was also gay and was treated appallingly as a result." By putting Turing on the note, Bailey said: "We are celebrating his achievements and the values he symbolises."

The new Alan Turing £50 note will be the last of the Bank of England's collection to switch from paper to polymer. But, as with the old notes, the paper £50 will still be accepted in shops for some time to come. He now replaced the steam engine pioneers James Watt and Matthew Boulton who are on the current £50 note, issued in 2011.



www.pinknews.co.uk

More information and Alan Turing's life story can be found on the Pink News website





Last week we were very much saddened to hear about the passing of one of our much-loved volunteers, Phil Jennings. Phil was a wood worker and master craftsman who volunteered at Bridgend for many years. He was always to be seen creating beautiful new items from wood, mending old ones and putting up shelves for the staff team. He attended on a Wednesday for many years with his right hand man, Louis Haugty and never was one seen without the other. He will be very much missed. This account of Phil's life was originally written by Ann Mayer in 2017 and has been adapted for this newsletter.

Phil was born in 1947 and was the second son of three boys. Phil and his brothers were brought up on a farm at Allostock near Knutsford, a town about 15 miles from Bollington.

'My Dad was a farmer. It was a small-holding with cows, sheep, pigs and poultry. It was my Grandfather's before him and then my Father took it over. Part of our upbringing, we worked on the farm. School holidays we didn't like really, cos it was just hard work. You were up at 6 o'clock in the morning and that was it. I had to look after the poultry first off and my brother looked after the pigs and when that was done for the day, we'd be in the fields in the summer-time, thinning turnips and all that sort of stuff. Winter-time was cutting kale and potato picking. I used to help Dad do the milking and clean out the shippons, settle the cows down at night – it was such hard work, really hard.



Phil aged 3



When I came to leave school, I didn't want to do farming cos I'd had enough of it! My eldest brother, he stuck it for about 18 months after he left school and then he went working for a landscape gardener. None of us ended up in farming. When my Father left the farm it was taken over by another farming family, but then it was like all the rest of the farms round here – buildings knocked down and just a fancy house now.'

Phil loves the outdoors and has always been skilled with his hands but the academic side of school life was not something he enjoyed.

The three brothers, Ken, Mick and Phil

'School wasn't top of my list! You'd do anything to have a few days off school cos even doing farm-work was better than school. Not the best part of my life! I did enjoy metal-work, woodwork and rural studies though. Technical drawing, I used to like that. Anything that was practical or outside, but when it came to doing History, Geography or English – that was a no-go area!'

Phil left school at 15 and immediately started working for a firm nearby, that constructed farm buildings. After 18 months he had a request he couldn't refuse.

'This other bloke who was doing joinery work, he asked me to go and work with him, so that's what I did. I finished my apprenticeship off with him, making coffins. I'd go with him, laying people out and boxing them up. Sometimes you'd have three or four funerals in a week.'

When Phil was still a teenager, his father decided that the farm they rented through the Council at Allostock wasn't big enough. A larger one was coming up to let at Gawsworth, a village about six miles from Bollington. The family's move over there changed the course of Phil's life.

'The farm was next door to where Margaret lived. The first time I ever clapped eyes on her she was pushing a barrow-load of muck! I was looking over the back of a cattle truck cos we were moving all the furniture and taking it into the farmyard, where we were going to live. I said a few weeks ago, "I don't know if it was the barrow-load of muck that was the attraction, or you! I think it was love at first sight and for her as wellthat was it.'



Elizabeth and Arthur Jennings, Phil's parents

Continued on page 4....

Phil Jennings 1947—2021 continued....



Phil & Margaret on holiday in Wales

For a while Phil worked for Margaret's father, who was a haulage contractor, and it was during this time that he and Margaret started going out together. In 1969 they got married and after a while their son, Richard, was born, followed three years later by their daughter, Sarah-Jane. The family was complete when, after another three years, baby James arrived.

After another stint at making coffins for the undertaker, Phil then gained more experience through working as a bench-joiner for a couple of building firms in Macclesfield. Unfortunately, with three children to support, his wages were not enough to pay the bills, so Phil made the decision to go it alone and set up by himself, doing general joinery work.

'I had a workshop and made windows, stairs, fitted wardrobes – I measured up and did everything on my own. I just had a chap if it were a two-handed job. I'd help him out and he'd help me out and then we'd go our separate ways again.'

The skills Phil had gained from working alongside craftsmen throughout his working life, together with his self-taught knowledge, all helped to ensure the success of his venture. From being very small, Phil always knew he wanted to work with wood and his visits to his Grandparents, who lived near the village of Goostrey, six miles from Knutsford, were an inspiration.

'Oh, I was always messing about with bits of wood, when I was at Junior School, making little sailing yachts and that. My Granddad Jackson - he was always tinkering about with wood. I've still got at home the replica of Goostrey Railway Station he made for me, when I was a lad. He spelt 'Goostrey' wrong! He had a love of wood and I think that's where I got it from, cos there's no-one else in the family and I've got dozens of cousins – none of them worked in wood.'



Richard 8, Sarah-Jane 5, James 2

Phil remained self-employed until he was forced to take early retirement. *'I finished work about 12 months before I first came to Bridgend. That was after my second stroke – 15 or 16 years ago. I finished work a lot earlier than I should have done. Going to the doctor, he said, "Well, if you carry on working, you won't live long!" I pulled myself together, though it was a big knock-back really. Coming to the Bridgend Centre was a gain, cos I couldn't get used to things.'*



Phil and family on his 40th birthday

With the support of Margaret, his family and friends, Phil made a remarkable recovery from his strokes. Phil is always looking for new projects to test his skills and a few years ago he and two friends decided to build a plane!

Over the years, Phil has enjoyed many airborne trips, but one could have had very nasty consequences.

'About three years ago we flew to Yorkshire and spent the day at the aircraft field. Came back to the plane and it wouldn't start. We couldn't jump-start it. This chap came and said, "I'm authorised to hand-crank it." I wouldn't even attempt it, but he stood in front of the prop and started it up. We just got up in the air and Alan says, "Radio's not working!" We got to a point of no return – had to go round a military airbase using SatNav on the phone to guide us! – but when we came to land, the flaps

wouldn't work. I thought, "We're going a bit quick now and the end of the runway's getting near", when BANG – we hit a rut and there we were hanging up-side down in the cockpit!' Luckily, the pair escaped with only cracked ribs and bad headaches from landing on their heads, when they released their seat-belts!

When Phil first arrived at the Bridgend Centre all those years ago, little did he realise it would ignite a new wood-inspired passion. *'I'd never done any wood-turning until I came to the Bridgend Centre and saw that wood lathe. I then bought one of my own. I don't know what the fascination was of it really, but I just wanted to do some woodturning.'*

Continued on page 5....



Phil & Alan with their home-made plane

Results of survey on use of the upstairs at Bridgend

The Centre may be closed currently but we are very much working hard behind the scenes to prepare for re-opening. Whilst case numbers are reducing and people are getting their vaccinations, unfortunately Covid is still with us and we have to do everything we can to prevent the spread. In addition to our stringent covid-safe procedures, we will be adding an extra level of protection by introducing lateral flow testing for our staff and volunteers.

All staff will be testing twice a week and our fantastic team of volunteers have agreed to testing before their shift, in order to keep all the centre users safe. We know that the thought of the swab is not terribly appealing so we have endeavoured to make the testing facility as calm and pleasant an environment as possible.

We have completed the comprehensive training course and are being supported by the Cheshire East 'Swab Squad' to make sure we are carrying out the tests safely and efficiently. The testing area is separate from the centre itself and has everything we need.

Volunteers will come straight to the testing area before their shift where they will be met by a member of staff to guide them through the process of self swabbing. We will then complete the test and after the 30 minute development time hopefully get the all clear and head off into Bridgend safe in the knowledge that we are all clear (hopefully!)



Phil Jennings 1947—2021 continued....

By adapting a lifetime's worth of skills and knowledge about the properties of different woods, Phil created beautiful products, each one unique in its own right. *'The bowls and pens were all my own creation but I also got ideas from woodworking books – how to do different things. It's all about wood and I think, unless you know something about wood, you wouldn't be able to do things like that, particularly the bowls with all the segments in.'*

Phil's help and expertise have proved invaluable to the Bridgend over the years, especially as a member of the 'A' Team, which was created in 2002, at the start of the construction of the first permanent walking trail around Bollington. This team is a group of craftsmen whose individual input has been vital in setting up a variety of projects at the Centre since that then.

'What times we had with the 'A' Team! It's a shame we aren't all that same age still. Anyway, Louis and I are still working together and Harold comes in from time to time, so we carry on!'



Phil exhibiting his bowls and other craftwork at a fair

Assisted by other willing volunteers, Phil designed and constructed a great variety of wooden objects for the Bridgend Centre, ranging from benches, plaques and bird boxes for the trails or sold in support of the Centre, to any type of furniture they were requested to create.

Thank you for the memories Phil, you will be much missed at the Bridgend Centre. Much love xxx



Phil working on a project in the Bridgend workshop

Exploring Isolation

Week 8—Robert Falcon Scott. The *Terra Nova* expedition. Antarctica. 1910-1913

As part of his brilliant account about intrepid polar explorers, Ian Walker moves onto one of the greatest of all explorers, Robert Falcon Scott.

Chronologically this is out of order, as it came before both Mawson's *Aurora* and Shackleton's *Endurance* expeditions. I hope that I will be forgiven for keeping the best until last. Captain Sir Robert Falcon Scott RN. Scott of the Antarctic.

Scott's first expedition, *Discovery* (1901-1904), saw the first real journey deep into the interior of the Antarctic continent. He shared the trek with Edward Wilson and Ernest Shackleton.

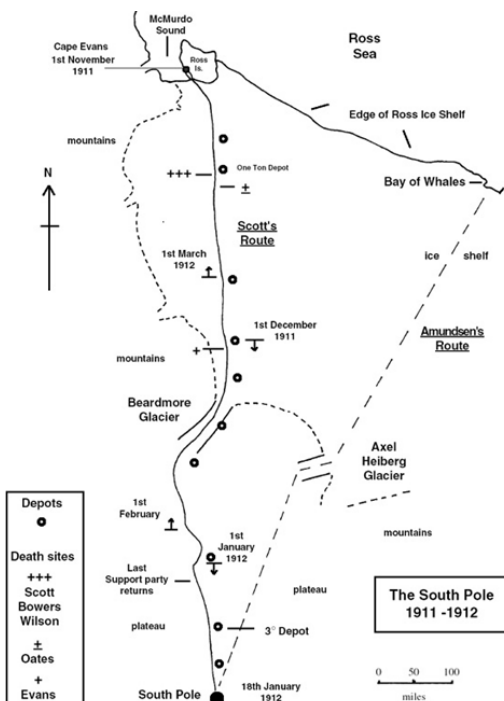
Now it was time to go all the way to the South Pole.

So much has been written about the *Terra Nova* expedition. Contemporary accounts by members of the expedition include the astounding account of 'The Worst Journey in the World', by Apsley Cherry-Garrard, diaries by ERGR Evans and Edward Wilson, including some of his beautiful watercolours, and the stunning photographs of Herbert Ponting. In more recent times, Scott's reputation has been attacked by Roland Huntford and defended, in response, by Sir Ranulph Fiennes.



As I write this essay, I am taken by how many threads were gathered together in this expedition. Scott was a regular officer in the Royal Navy. His Polar exploration was almost wished on him by the service, at a time when the Great Powers were seeking to extend their influence around the world. Scott regarded his *Discovery* base on Ross Island almost as his own personal fiefdom and argued with Shackleton over its use for his *Nimrod* expedition. Some of his team had been with him on *Discovery* and with Shackleton's *Nimrod* expedition. Four would go on to join Shackleton on *Endurance* and Mawson on *Aurora*.

Most notably, Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian polar explorer, was simultaneously mounting an expedition – but to the North Pole. Amundsen's ship was *Fram*, which we last met with Nansen in the Arctic. As he sailed from Norway, in June 1910, Amundsen learned of claims by two American expeditions to have reached the North Pole. So he sailed south instead, only telling his crew when they were at sea. He also sent a telegram to Scott: "Beg to inform you *Fram* proceeding Antarctic – Amundsen."



Scott was the natural choice to lead Britain's next major exploration of the Antarctic. It was a large expedition, whose objective was to be mainly scientific, according to Clements Markham, Scott's sponsor, in his 1913 preface to 'Scott's Last Expedition'. He goes on, "It was also part of Captain Scott's plan to reach the South Pole by a long and arduous journey, but here again his intention was, if possible, to achieve scientific results on the way, especially hoping to discover fossils which would throw light on the former history of the great range of mountains which he had made known to science."

Now, with Amundsen's telegram, the journey to the South Pole had become a race.

Terra Nova sailed from Cardiff on 15 June 1910, having picked up the last of her stores and, especially, coal. Final preparations were made in New Zealand, and she eventually departed for the Antarctic on 26 November, arriving at Cape Evans on Ross Island on 4 January 1911. It took a week to get all the equipment and stores ashore and erect their hut. All did not go according to plan – one of their motor sledges found a weakness in the ice, plunging through to be lost to the sea bed. By 24 January, they were ready for the first major task of the expedition, the laying of One Ton Depot, out on the Ross Ice Shelf. The weather was appalling, and Scott was faced with delays and ever-weakening ponies, which he had chosen to use rather than dogs for this part of the expedition. He made what turned out to be a fatal decision, and One Ton Depot was established more than 30 miles short of its intended location.

Continued next week!

Lockdown outing poem and a wish for the week ahead

Pam Vickerstaff sent us this brilliant poem, which reflects on getting all dolled up for the simplest of errands out. I am sure I can't be alone in that at the moment!

The day dawns bright and early
Excitement is in the air
The frost lies sparkling on the ground
A lovely day to share

My phone is pinging constantly
As I relay the happy news
The rifle through my wardrobe
Wondering what to choose

Smart trousers and a T-Shirt
No scruffy clothes today
I even put on makeup
What will my husband say?

I'm ready for my trip out
Pleased I don't look drab
Where is it I'm going?
To have my Covid Jab!

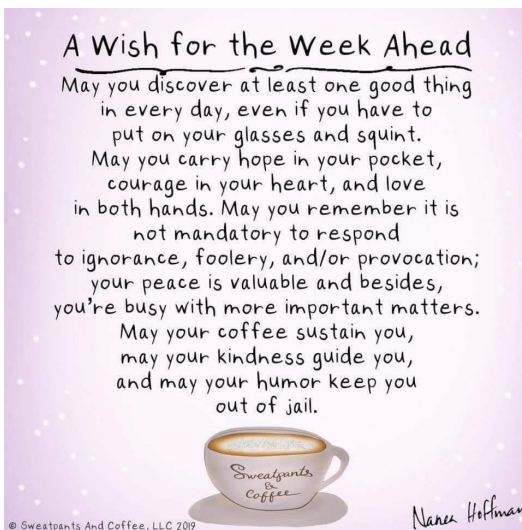


Photo taken at Kerridge courtesy of Jenna Richardson

Recipe— Sesame Salmon and sweet potato mash



Ingredients

- 1 ½ tbsp sesame oil
- 1 tbsp low-salt soy sauce
- thumb-sized piece ginger, grated
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tsp honey
- 2 sweet potatoes, scrubbed and cut into wedges
- 1 lime, cut into wedges
- 2 boneless skinless salmon fillets
- 250g purple sprouting broccoli
- 1 tbsp sesame seeds
- 1 red chilli thinly chopped

Method

Step 1

Heat oven to 200C/180 fan/ gas 6 and line a baking tray with parchment. Mix together 1/2 tbsp sesame oil, the soy, ginger, garlic and honey. Put the sweet potato wedges, skin and all, into a glass bowl with the lime wedges. Cover with cling film and microwave on high for 12-14 mins until completely soft.

Step 2

Meanwhile, spread the broccoli and salmon out on the baking tray. Spoon over the marinade and season. Roast in the oven for 10-12 mins, then sprinkle over the sesame seeds.

Step 3

Remove the lime wedges and roughly mash the sweet potato using a fork. Mix in the remaining sesame oil, the chilli and some seasoning. Divide between plates, along with the salmon and broccoli.

Letter Sudoku

This week's brainteaser is a double dose of a spin on the classic sudoku. Instead of numbers, each box, row and column must contain the letters A to I only once. Enjoy!

Puzzle 1

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | | | | | D | | B | H |
| H | | | | G | B | | | |
| | | C | A | | | F | | |
| E | G | | | C | | A | | |
| | I | | H | B | G | | C | |
| | | B | | F | | | I | G |
| | | E | | | C | B | | |
| | | | G | H | | | | A |
| D | C | | B | | | | | I |

Puzzle 2

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | G | | H | C | | D | I | |
| D | | | | | G | | | C |
| C | B | | D | | | A | | |
| H | | | | | | C | G | |
| I | | | | | | | | B |
| | F | B | | | | | | E |
| | | I | | | E | | F | D |
| B | | | I | | | | | H |
| | E | D | | H | A | | C | |

Answers to last week's lyrics quiz

1. White Cliffs of Dover - Vera Lynn
2. Mama Mia—Abba
3. Green Green Grass of Home - Tom Jones
4. That's Amore - Dean Martin
5. He'll Have to Go - Jim Reeves
6. I will survive—Gloria Gaynor
7. Return to Sender - Elvis Presley
8. I'd like to teach the world to sing—The New Seekers
9. Save The Last Dance For Me - The Drifters
10. Stand By Your Man - Tammy Wynette



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I am Print printed the paper copies 'at cost', which are delivered to the homes of isolated and vulnerable people in Bollington. An anonymous donor sponsored the printing of this edition.

Thank you so much to both supporters, it means the world.



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