

## BRIDGING SOCIAL ISOLATION



*Photo by Sarah Leadbetter*

Welcome to June 2024's edition of Bridging Social Isolation, the newsletter for the Bridgend Centre in Bollington.

We have a great edition for you, with photos of both an unprecedented display of Northern Lights over Bollington and the Bollington Festival Diamond Jamboree which took place this month. Plus the usual collection of articles on all things Bridgend and Bollington! A big thank you to our guest contributors this month, we really appreciate their articles!

## Consultation on closure of Bollington tip

As we have reported on in previous editions of this newsletter, Cheshire East council are proposing to close Bollington tip (along with Poynton's tip) over the next few months. It was originally scheduled to be temporarily closed on 1st April, but this was postponed. Here at the Bridgend Centre, we are very concerned about this as it reduces the level of waste disposal service available to the people of Bollington. The nearest tip to our town will be Macclesfield, which involves an eight mile round trip to access, and so increases costs and carbon emissions associated with disposing our rubbish. As a result it is likely that fly-tipping will increase in our beautiful area.



Cheshire East Council are currently carrying out a consultation on various elements of its medium term financial strategy (2024-2028), including the closure of Bollington and Poynton tips. To get your voice heard on this, you can respond to the consultation. The strategy and the consultation can be found on the Cheshire East Council website: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/council-and-democracy/budget-report/appendix-c-mtfs-2024-2028.pdf>

The point in the strategy relevant to the Bollington tip closure is number 96 (on page 101 of the strategy):

**[96] Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres [Revised] Permanent rationalisation of HWRC provision within the borough, as identified through the outputs from the now established HWRC Review, the scope of which was confirmed by the Environment and Communities Committee in September 2023. The Review is aligned to the need to procure a new operating contract to be in place by April 2025 at latest.**

The online consultation about Bollington tip can be found here: [https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/HWRC\\_Consultation\\_2024](https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/HWRC_Consultation_2024)

There are other ways to complete the consultation. You can complete a paper version of the survey which is available at all local libraries, or which can be obtained by contacting Cheshire East Council on 0300 123 5500, you can email the consultation team at [ceconsultation@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:ceconsultation@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or you can call Customer Services on 0300 123 5500, who will send Cheshire East Council your feedback on your behalf. The consultation will close on 16th June 2024.



**WEEKLY Lottery**

To play £1

# PLAY OUR WEEKLY LOTTERY

Support the Bridgend Centre and win up to:

**1ST PRIZE**  
**£25,000**  
Match 6 numbers

**2ND PRIZE**  
**£1,000**  
Match 5 numbers

**3RD PRIZE**  
**£25**  
Match 4 numbers

Ask a member of our team how to join or visit..  
[www.unitylottery.co.uk](http://www.unitylottery.co.uk)

**Bridgend Centre**  
at the heart of our community

**unity**

## Friends of Bollington Library

**Friends of Bollington Library (FoBL)**, founded at the turn of this year, aims to raise awareness and use of our Library by supporting the staff & the service. We plan to run events and activities to raise funds to achieve these aims. We've already hosted a popular literary quiz and talk about the 200 year-old history of a library in Bollington.

At the end of April we learned that Cheshire East Council may be planning consultations about the possible closure of a quarter of the public libraries in the Borough, including the Bollington Library.

FoBL acted immediately to tell people about this potential loss of one of Bollington's key assets. Since then we have placed articles in local media outlets to promote the value of this very valuable community resource.

A library is a warm, safe space at the heart of a community for meeting together, education and entertainment. Staff at the Bollington library offer a welcome and informed guidance on how to apply for Blue Badges, bus passes and much more. A Dementia group meets there regularly and four reading groups source their book-boxes from the library. A library is NOT just about books. A library is a community's source of authenticated factual information to inform and enlighten people of all ages.

We now boast over 300 followers on our Facebook group and only a slightly smaller number of people have become members of the Friends of Bollington Library group. (Just email [fobollib@gmail.com](mailto:fobollib@gmail.com) to join us). Also, a very practical help is for everyone to join the Bollington Library itself, because statistics count; they demonstrate usage and support. It's FoBL's aspiration to boost official library membership by 30%. We will be working over the coming months to promote the value of our library and our clear wish for it to stay open for the community.

**Jose Spinks (Secretary) Tel 01625 573413**

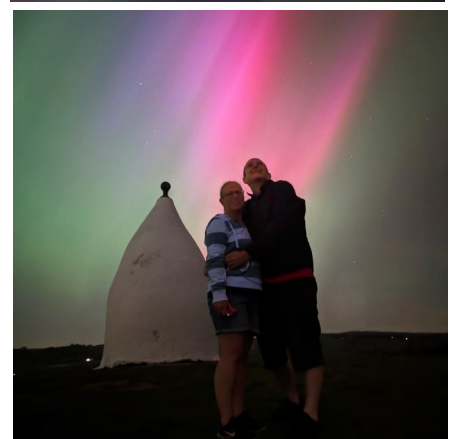
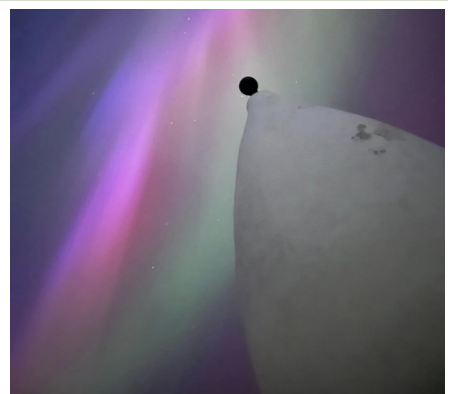


## Aurora Borealis



On the night of 10th May, the people of Bollington and indeed most of the northern hemisphere were treated to a wonderful display of Aurora Borealis, or 'Northern Lights' as they are also known. It came as somewhat of a surprise to many people and a lot of people (including me!), went to bed and missed them. However our area was clearly treated to an unprecedented visual display in the night's sky and many photographers were present to record the occasion for posterity.

The northern lights are created when energized particles from the sun hit the Earth's upper atmosphere at speeds of up to 45 million mph (72 million kph), but our planet's magnetic field protects us from this. As Earth's magnetic field redirects the particles toward the poles — there are southern lights too, the dramatic process transforms into a cinematic atmospheric phenomenon that dazzles and fascinates scientists and skywatchers alike. *Photos by Rik Hodkinson and Sarah Leadbetter*



## Celebrating 60 years of the Bollington Festival by Gill Redin



Being a newcomer to beautiful Bollington, this year's Jubilee Jamboree was the first Bollington Festival I have attended. I bought my early bird tickets for the three evenings and despite the odd shower or two, I thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend. I managed to see a few things each day over the weekend and it was great to see so many people getting together to enjoy and support the festival.

A huge well done and thank you to all the festival organisers and volunteers, the people who appeared on stage, and those that were backstage keeping everything running smoothly. Another huge thank you to Nick at Canal Side radio for being there day and night to entertain us for the whole Bank Holiday weekend and the Vale pub for your beer tent. Last but not least the Bollington yarn bombers for the post box toppers and the fabulous knitting and the local schools for decorating the knitted White Nancys that decorated the rec and for the wonderful



Painted banners around the fencing on the rec.



You were all fantastic, the community spirit in Bollington is second to none and I feel very privileged to be living here and being part of such a friendly and caring community.

Oasish on the Friday evening pulled in a good crowd, their gig created a fabulous atmosphere and was a great start to the weekend.

I'd heard a lot about how good the Screaming Beavers have been at past festivals, so I was really looking forward to seeing them on the Saturday evening. They lived up to their reputation and were truly amazing. We danced and sang all night and I went home feeling I'd just been to the best party.

Then on Sunday night it was the turn of Flash to take the stage for the evening. Their gig was fantastic, the crowd were amazing and

again I felt I'd been to another great party.

Monday afternoon Justin Moorhouse entertained us all with laughter in the sunshine and brought the festival to a fabulous end, leaving all who attended looking forward to the next Bollington Festival.

**Gill Redin**



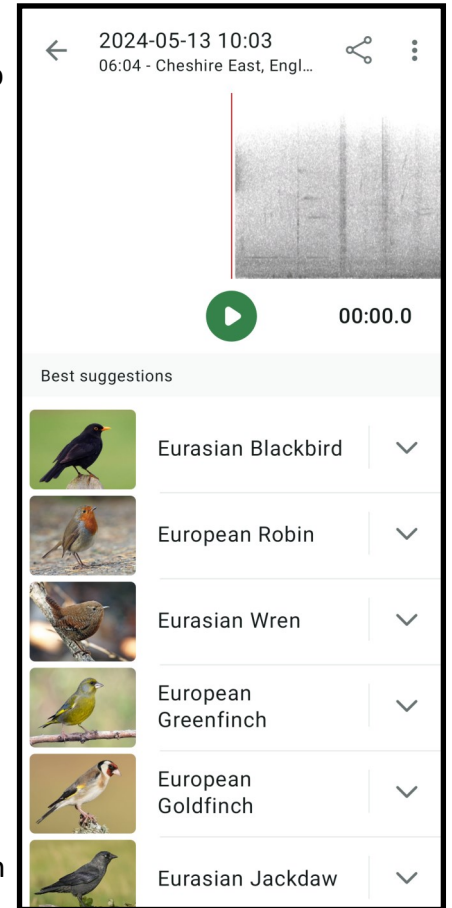
## Merlin - a great app for Twitchers!

A new toy we have been getting endless fun out of recently is the Merlin bird app created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The app's main mission is to help people identify what that bird you have spotted is, either by its appearance or by its song.

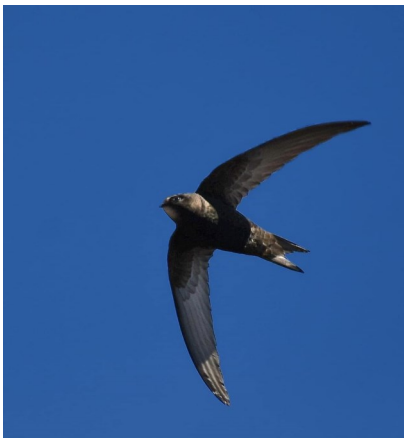
In terms of a sighting of a bird, Merlin asks you a few questions about its characteristics (such as size, colours and behaviour) and location, as an expert birder would. It then tells you what bird you have seen, using 800 million descriptors submitted to them from birders all around the world. When you have identified a species and clicked on 'this is my bird', Merlin saves your response in order to improve the data for future performances.

Another great feature which I love is the 'Sound ID'. Just press record in a location of your choice and the app identifies what bird song it can hear. The graphic here shows what birds could be heard in my garden in urban Macclesfield one evening, I was very surprised!

Sound ID in the Merlin Bird ID app is currently available for 1,054 species of birds. This includes comprehensive coverage in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Western Palearctic, and coverage of more common and widespread species in the Neotropics and India. Anyone with a smart phone can make recordings and all the data contributes towards research into what birds



are present in which locations.



*Photo of a Swift over Bollington by Paul Beech*

We will be trying this app out in various locations in Bollington to see what wild birds are present. I wonder what birds we would hear/spot.



*Colin the Heron at Adelphi Mill by Andy Langdon*

**Bridgend Centre**  
at the heart of our community

- Learn basic woodworking skills
- Make your own small coffee table/ stool
- Make friends in a safe space



## Introduction to Woodcraft



Bridgend Centre,  
Bollington

**Friday** am classes  
10:30-12:30  
5th July - 2nd August  
£30 for 5 week course  
Places limited

Suitable for those who have previously attended an Introduction to Woodcraft workshop, or have a small amount of woodworking experience, or are generally good at working accurately on a practical project. This workshop will introduce a couple of different types of woodwork joints.



Contact Rebecca 01625 576311  
info@bridgendcentre.org.uk to  
book your place and discuss  
any additional requirements

## Action for Happiness Calendar - June

**Joyful June 2024**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 3 Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it	 4 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it	 5 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down	 6 Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings	 7 Do something healthy which makes you feel good	1 Decide to look for what's good every day this month	2 Say positive things in your conversations with others
10 Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them	11 Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it	12 Write a gratitude letter to thank someone	13 Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side	14 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you	15 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it	16 Speak to others in a warm and friendly way
17 Take time to notice things that you find beautiful	18 Look for something good in a difficult situation	19 Get outside and find the joy in being active	20 Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity	21 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement	22 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh	23 Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to
 24 Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for	25 Show your appreciation to people who are helping others	26 Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it	27 Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy	28 Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people	29 Share a friendly smile with people you see today	30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** **Happier · Kinder · Together**




## Happy Valley in Bloom spruce up the trees opposite Bridgend

🌸🌸🌸 What a challenge that was!!! 🌸🌸🌸

🌸 Today Happy Valley in Bloom volunteers decided to spruce up the trees on Palmerston street along by Throstles Nest. It has been overgrown for a while and was causing visibility issues along the road.

👁️ We found .....🏠 a beautiful stone wall, ☁️ 4 buried storm drains 🚗 another 2 foot, to add to the width of Palmerston Street.

😊 We would like to thank .....

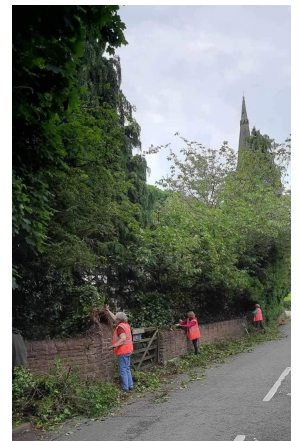
🚗🚚🚲🚴🚶♂️ all the traffic that slowed down to pass us safely, while we were working along the roadside 🌸

📷 Andrew from Bollington Photographic group (who just happened to be passing with his camera) for taking some great action shot pics of us all 🌸

☕️ Bridgend Centre Bollington for brewing up 11 teas to keep us going 🌸

👥 all the kind passers by, for thanking us for our work 🌸

🌸🌸 Bolly community spirit, at its best 🌸🌸



## Recipe - Asparagus Risotto

### Ingredients

1 bunch of asparagus	chopped)
800ml vegetable stock	175g risotto rice
1 tablespoon olive oil	100ml wine (optional)
25g butter	25g Parmesan cheese
1 small onion (finely	

### Method

1. Cut off the woody ends of the asparagus and put them in a saucepan with the stock. Put on a low heat and gently simmer. Meanwhile cut off the tips of the asparagus and add to the stock for exactly one minute. Scoop out with a slotted spoon and set aside. Finely slice the remainder of the asparagus stalks.
2. Heat the oil and half the butter in a wide, heavy pan. Cook the onions gently for 5 minutes until soft, stirring often. Add the chopped asparagus stalks and cook for 2 minutes more. Add the risotto rice and stir continuously for a few minutes until it is semi-transparent and making a hissing sound.
3. Stir in the wine, if using, it will evaporate almost immediately. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer. Add the stock, a ladle at a time, stirring with each addition until it has absorbed. This should take 15 minutes.
4. Try the rice, it should feel just cooked with a slight bite to it. Stir in the asparagus tips and any last dregs of stock and cook for 1-2 minutes more. Remove from the heat and top with the remaining butter and most of the parmesan. Season generously, cover and leave to settle for a few minutes.
5. Give the risotto a stir through to incorporate the butter and cheese and serve straightaway. Sprinkle with the remaining parmesan to serve.



Saturday 6th July  
10:30-12:30 £10  
Places limited

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No prior  
woodworking  
experience  
necessary!

Learn basic woodworking skills  
Make your own **book trough** in one morning  
Make friends in a safe space

**INTRODUCTION TO WOODCRAFT**

**BRIDGEND CENTRE, BOLLINGTON**

**All Welcome!**

Contact Rebecca  
01625 576311  
info@bridgendcentre.org.uk  
to book your place and discuss any  
additional requirements

**Bridgend Centre**  
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Cheshire & Greater Manchester  
Community Rehabilitation Company  
An Interspace-led company

Bollington  
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£4 per car

**CHARITY CAR WASH**

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email info@bridgendcentre.org.uk

At the Rec  
Tuesdays  
10am - 3pm

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## Puzzle—Northern Lights Wordsearch

J G M A G N E T O S P H E R E J B  
 N N Z N N O I T A T I C X E F D L  
 L O D P S I L A E R O B J W E X A  
 J R A M H D I S T U R B A N C E S  
 L T X K B S C R M A N L L P D C C  
 U H L A S Y D C F I S Q R U U G H  
 F E C R E A A S G C K E T F P F D  
 I R R O Q U L H H Y C I W G N N N  
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NORTHERN LIGHTS	MAGNETOSPHERE	HIGH ALTITUDE	DISTURBANCES
PRECIPITATE	EXCITATION	SOLAR WIND	IONIZATION
BEAUTIFUL	NIGHT SKY	PARTICLES	EMISSIONS
COLORFUL	HYDROGEN	BOREALIS	OPTICAL
CHARGED	ALASKA	AURORA	POLAR

A huge 'thank you' to the Theodore Maxxy Charitable Trust for funding this newsletter. We greatly appreciate it!

I am Print printed the paper copies 'at cost', which are delivered to the homes of isolated and vulnerable people in Bollington. Thank you so much to I Am Print, it means the world.



### Bridgend Centre

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T: 01625 576311 [www.bridgendcentre.org.uk](http://www.bridgendcentre.org.uk)

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