

## BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

**Bridging Social  
Isolation  
Edition 49**



*Photo: Three Crosses on the corner of Clarke Lane and Bollington Road by Terry Heathcote*

**Well the day is nearly upon us, the Bridgend Charity shop is re-opening on Monday 12th April! We are excited and a little nervous too. All the Coronavirus safety measures that were in place before this lockdown will be in place again when we re-open so that we can hopefully ease our way safely back to normality.**

**As we are taking a step in the 'Roadmap' to Recovery, the frequency of this newsletter will now change to every two weeks. We will most definitely still be around for all our readers and Bridgend regulars.**

**Thank you all for the amazing support we have received over this lockdown and the previous twelve months. You have been fabulous and we couldn't have got through without all our supporters. We hope to see you all soon at Bridgend!**

## The Bridgend Shop

We are so excited that we are re-opening our shop again after so many months and will be opening our doors to you guys for a good old fix of retail therapy after so long.

Here are a few guidelines to keep us safe over the first few weeks. We are sorry we will be so much more restricted during this time, but these measures are to reduce the risk of catching Coronavirus and allow us to re-open our shop safely.

In order to maintain social distancing, please maintain a 2-metre distance between you and other customers. A one-way system will be put in place and entry will be through the side door (fire door). Anti-bacterial hand gel will be available as you enter to clean your hands. Payment will be in the front kitchen near reception and exit will be through the main front door. You will be provided with a basket. Please use it to put your purchases in.

As ever, please do not come into the Bridgend if you are feeling unwell or have the symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, high temperature or the loss of sense of smell or taste).



Also it is worth bearing in mind that we do not currently have any changing or trying on facilities available, this includes shoes. We will give you a full refund on items you wish to return that still have their Bridgend tag on it or if you have a receipt

Donations will be by appointment only from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Please book your slot online at [bridgendcentre.org.uk](http://bridgendcentre.org.uk). We expect to receive quite a lot of donations after so many months away and all that time to tidy our houses! Therefore we are unable to accept large volumes

of donations (no more than 4 large bin bags or boxes) or large items such as bikes, prams and furniture

Good quality and clean items we can accept:

- Clothes – Ladies', men's and children's
- Handbags
- Books
- CDs and DVDs
- Bric-a-brac
- Clean, intact toys
- Household items
- Bedding, curtains and towels
- Fabric, material, wool and sewing materials

When you arrive with your donations, someone will be available to show you where to put your bags. If you know your Gift Aid number please write it on the sticker provided and stick on all your bags. If you have informed us of your Gift Aid number upon booking, we will be able to inform you what it is.

In order to maintain social distancing, please maintain a 2-metre distance between you, staff and/or other customers. Thank you for your support and understanding in these strange times.





## A day in the life of a Primary School teacher in lockdown

**By Frances Hunt, Year 5 teacher at St. Christopher's RC Primary school, Romiley.**

On the eve of schools due to return back to some normality, it seems only right to reflect on what has been the hardest year of my 15-year career. I am very fortunate to teach at a warm, caring, 1 form entry catholic primary school in Romiley. I love being a primary school teacher, developing relationships with inquisitive, bright-minded, kind, funny and positive children. However, this past year has proved to be the most challenging and demanding on all of us in the profession. Those face-to-face relationships have at times been lost to interact with our children through a screen. Something none of us ever wanted, but has been a necessity. Today, I hope tomorrow brings a sense of normality for all of our children and families.

This day in a life details what my daily teaching has been like in the most recent lockdown 3 – unusual, strange, lonely (at times) and equally hilarious!



### Sunday-- 10 am

I begin my day preparing and planning for the week ahead - this takes a couple of hours. Once this is done, I start the joy of recording my lessons! I have set up a 'recording studio' in our home study – this consists of a laptop, a second screen, a video camera and an ironing board holding up a whiteboard!

Lockdown 3 has been different for *all* teachers as the expectation has moved to **good quality** pre-recorded or live lessons for our pupils. The shift has been for teachers that in their working day, we are to concentrate on making the online content good and to ensure we're not teaching both online and in school. This has been a massive learning curve for all of us. We have had to learn how to be YouTube sensations overnight (with Boris only giving us a days' notice to set things up)! Some of us have been more competent in this area than others. I have found myself getting more confident over time performing in front of a camera. At first, I found myself very self-conscious - aware of EVERYTHING I said and paranoid about making the tiniest mistake! Now, I'm much more relaxed and more 'myself' in front of the screen and I've even found myself saying the children's names when I ask a question and waiting for a virtual reply!

I think lots of teachers would agree that we have felt very exposed and open to criticism, whilst being projected into the homes of all our families. We've really tried to do our best and meet the needs of our children to the best we can, given the time we've had to prepare. The families in our school, have been nothing but positive and understanding as we have got to grips with this new way of working.

"Please be quiet everybody, I am about to start recording" is what I shout to my husband and 3 children before I start my recording for the next day. The house goes silent. I record maths, literacy and another subject each day. This usually takes about an hour. Once the videos are recorded, I upload them to our online learning platform – Google Classroom. They are scheduled to come on the next Monday morning at 8:30 am. By 1 o'clock, I am relieved I've set up the work for the children for Monday. Now for family time!



### Monday

**7.15am** – I've started to bike to work on a Monday as I don't need as much 'stuff' with me as I'm not teaching a whole class every day. Come rain or shine, I have saddled up and set off on my 5-mile journey to Romiley. On my first day of biking to work, on the way home at 5 o'clock, the heavens opened, I got absolutely soaked by a huge passing truck driving at speed through a deep, dirty puddle! When I got home, my mascara was

streaming down my face like a clown's tears! Didn't put me off though!

***Continued on page 4...***

## A day in the life of a Primary School teacher in lockdown continued...

**8 am** – I arrive at school and my TA arrives too. We have a quick catch up about our weekend and then we chat through the plans for the day. Our TAs roles have also changed through all 3 lockdowns – responding to the needs of our children and of the school. During lockdown 3, our TAs are with the vulnerable and key worker children in the school day, helping them with the online learning set by the teachers on google classroom. This leaves us to be free to plan, prepare, record, respond and mark the children's work throughout the day.



*Frances and her girls, Sadie, Evelyn and Phoebe*

**8.45am** – Our school has been open for all vulnerable and key worker children throughout the pandemic and at 8.45 these children start to filter into school. In Year 5, we have between 6 and 10 children in each day. We welcome them in, register them and 'check in' with them through number scaling. Then the children wash their hands and sit down in their socially distanced places.

'Morning children, I am an 8 today – I'm feeling positive and I'm happy to be here, but I'm feeling a little tired as it's Monday morning.' We go through the day with the children and then they head off on their forest school's activity. The children are doing forest schools every morning as part of their outdoor learning and then they complete their online learning through Google Classroom throughout the rest of the day.

**9am** – I begin my preparation for recording Tuesday's lessons in my classroom. At first, we used IPADs to record our lessons, with them propped up on a music stand! We've adapted now though and we use a little webcam attached to our computer screen. We now have all learnt how to record ourselves whilst talking through power point slides which makes things much easier.

**10.30 am** - Playtime. The teachers do playtime duty to give the TAs a break from being with the children. We love this time! We play tennis with the children, do smile for a mile, skipping etc. Whilst making sure the children maintain social distancing and remain inside their 'bubbles'. A chance for us to have a brew and a little catch up and chat with other teachers!

**11am** – Back in from playground duty and more lesson prepping and recording. Over time, I've worked out its best to get the videos recorded and set up for the next day by lunchtime which leaves the afternoon for us to respond and mark the children's work.

**11.30 am** – our class virtual circle time. This is a highlight of all of our Monday as we get to see the children. The children all log onto our google meet and we check in with each of them and ask them how they're doing. We usually have a chat about anything that's going on at the moment (masked singer, football, world book day, films they would recommend) their work and anything that needs clearing, up etc. Then we play a game. I've been playing boggle with my class and they have loved it! Countdown is another favourite – the target number game. The children love this time and you can tell they're really enjoying virtually seeing each other again. It usually lasts half an hour and we all finish on a lovely good bye!

**12.30pm** – lunchtime. Myself and my TA's lunch slot is at 1 o'clock as the staffroom is on a Rota to make sure not too many staff are in the staffroom. We go outside and do a few laps of the playground to get our steps in! We both have fit bits and are always in competition with each other! My TA always beats me at the minute as I'm so sedentary at the moment staring at a screen and filming all the time! I am not happy about this! She, on the other hand, is!

**1pm** – lunchtime! Yes! I'm hungry and I love food! Again, it's only me and my TA in the staffroom to ensure we're not mixing with other adults. As I've mentioned earlier, this pandemic has seen us separate from many other adults in the school as we maintain our bubbles and ensure no potential spreading of infection occurs. We have at times, felt a little lonely and separate from our colleagues. It's those interactions that help you through your day and keep you going! We have been very fortunate at our school as we haven't yet had to close a bubble – we all want this to continue! Our head teacher has been very safety conscious and has set up brilliant routines, which I'm sure has helped us stay safe and keep all of our bubbles intact!

*Continued on page 5*

## Scrabble Go

### *Kate Gooding tells us about her new lockdown hobby*

I have always had a love of literature and have found during this pandemic year, like many, I have read more books than ever. However, during this latest lockdown, I acquired a new addiction related to words.

A few months ago, my eldest son invited me to play him at scrabble online. As a family we have always enjoyed playing the game and would frequently take a travel set on our family camping holidays. Therefore, I was keen to give it a try.

I downloaded the free app through google play, choosing not to pay for 'no adds'. Although it is a bit of a nuisance as an advert comes up after each move, I have learnt to wait a few seconds before pressing the x which is displayed in one of the top corners. I also changed my username and my Facebook photo to an abstract one rather than have a picture of me, which would be on display to people I did not know.

I have found it is quite a different game, in many respects, from the board game. For example, you get the opportunity to try a few words out and/or spellings before pressing the submit button. Also adding letters to words already played is a must and it is no longer about playing the longest word possible. Who knew QI or OO were acceptably words and yes, they are in the Collins dictionary!

You can play with strangers but as I shared my phone contacts (there is added security as a code is sent to verify it is you!) I have found to my delight there were several people I know but have not been in contact with for some time already playing the game. So, I now play against old friends, relatives, and ex education colleagues as well as my eldest son (who frustratingly I have yet to beat!!)

I also occasionally play against the computer just to improve my skills as I am finding I am losing more games than I would like at present. Not good for someone with a competitive nature such as mine!

The only downsides are, firstly, it is addictive and secondly some people like play incredibly early in the morning or late into the night neither time are when I am at my best!

However, if you love words, I urge you to give it a go. It is fun; keeps your mind active and puts you in contact with people in a quite different way than ZOOM or What's App.

**Kate Gooding**



## A day in the life of a Primary School teacher in lockdown continued

**1.30 pm** – I stay out of our classroom now as my TA is in the classroom with the children and it is too distracting with them in there to get work done! I set myself up in the staffroom and begin my afternoon tasks. This usually consists of marking the children's work and responding to any of their comments or questions. We also phone parents and children every other week so I begin to work through those. It's lovely speaking to parents and finding out how they are coping – lots have found this very difficult, juggling home schooling, work commitments and we praise them for their efforts! I am a parent myself and have found it challenging despite being a teacher! Hats off to all of the parents who have coped juggling all of this – they have done a wonderful job and we make sure we tell our parents that.

**3.10 pm**– The children begin to go home and I go back to the classroom to finish off for the day. I usually use this time to set up for tomorrow and mark any other pieces of work on google classroom. I make sure my work is all present and correct and scheduled for Tuesday's day of home learning.

**5pm** – I get ready to cycle home after another virtual day of teaching! Another day done and I feel proud at being able to help society function in these unprecedented times. We have enabled our critical worker parents go to work, enabled our vulnerable families to cope, enabled families to stay together, enabled our children to continue learning and enabled our children to have a sense of normality. Job well done Mrs H!

**Thank you to Frances Hunt for writing this article for our newsletter.**



## Queen Street

We love this painting of the cottage opposite Bridgend on Palmerston Street by David Steeden. You can just about see Queen Street peeking through the back.

Since retiring, David has been enjoying painting 'en plein air' in the local area, and over the past year has completed over forty sketches of Bollington alone, some of which have been reproduced as prints for the locals.

He is a member of High Peak Artists who exhibit at the Gallery in the Gardens, in Pavilion Gardens at Buxton. He is also a member of local Art Societies and Urban Sketching Groups.

To see more of David's work visit @davidsteedenart on Instagram or David Steeden on Facebook.



One of the prettiest streets in Bollington, the lower part of Queen Street (left) was once part of the main road through this end of town, before much of Palmerston Street was built.



*Defiance Mill, down Defiance Brow, Bobbin Mill*

In the lower part of the street the stone cottages have survived. In that part there is also a terrace of modern houses (left in top picture) which replaced Ambrose Wood's metalwork factory. Adjacent to this is Sheldon Place (left), a terrace of three stone cottages at right angles to Queen Street. Named after Stephen Sheldon, b.1777, who is thought to have built them.

To the left at this point is Beeston quarry, one of two large (worked out) quarries in this part of the valley, the other being behind Water Street.

On the corner between the lower part of Queen Street and the upper part, originally called Defiance Brow is Defiance Mill which has been restored for domestic use. On the same side all the way up to Palmerston Street there are two terraces of modern cottages. These replaced the back side of Oak Bank mill which had been built in very ugly concrete in the mid-20th century. Prior to that a Bobbin mill (left, and where the cottages are in the bottom picture) stood next to Defiance Mill (furthest building, left and bottom).

Queen Street was refurbished in the 1990s and setts were used to surface the street – just part of the traditional finish. Except that Defiance Brow never did have setts; the historic picture (above) proves the point. This is an example of modern heritage and conservation of the never was.



*David Steeden—Sunshine on Queen Street*

***Thank you to [www.happyvalley.org](http://www.happyvalley.org) for the historic information and photographs.***



## Exploring Isolation

### Week 10—Robert Falcon Scott continued. The *Terra Nova* expedition. Antarctica. 1910-1913



#### *Ian Walker's account of Robert Falcon Scott's iconic journey continues...*

On they struggled, reaching the next depot, Mount Hooper, on 9 March. Supplies were short all round. Scott had left instructions for dog teams to come out and look for them at the beginning of March. The depots should have been checked and, possibly, the Polar Party could have been assisted back to base. In the event, none of this happened. Oates was getting steadily weaker. One Ton Depot was about 55 miles away and the weather was still getting worse. 16 or 17 March, and Scott is losing track of the dates. Oates is so poorly that he asked to be left behind, but the others refused to abandon him. They camped again, in a blizzard. Oates said, "I'm just going outside and may be some time." He went out into the blizzard, and was not seen again. His body has never been found.

Even at this stage of their journey, Scott's journals record their feelings towards their lost companions. Providence mercifully removed Evans at the critical moment. Oates' actions were those of a brave man and an English gentleman. "We all hope to meet the end with a similar spirit, and assuredly the end is not far."

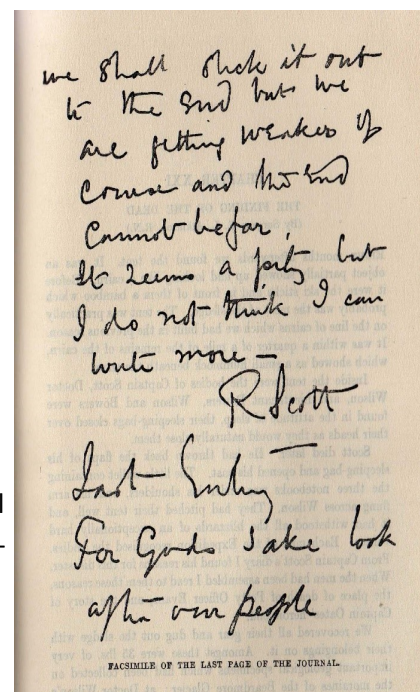
They camped on 19 March 1912, eleven miles short of One Ton Depot - the depot that had been laid 30 miles further north than planned the previous autumn. They had only two days food and barely a day's fuel left. Their last hope was that Wilson and Bowers would go to the depot and bring back fuel, but the blizzard was too fierce. There is a gap in Scott's journal from 23 to 29 March, when he makes his last entry. He writes, "We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more." And he signs it.

Then, "Last entry. For God's sake look after our people."

When the search parties found the tent, eight months later, Wilson and Bowers were in their sleeping bags. Scott had died later. His notes and a collection of letters were with him. Among the gear they dug out of the snow by the tent were the 35 lbs of geological samples. The fossils turned out to be the most important of the whole expedition, finally solving the question of Antarctica's age and history.

There now stands on a hill overlooking the old *Discovery* hut, a nine-foot cross in memory of the five men of the Polar party. It ends with a line from Tennyson's "Ulysses":

"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."



## Carers - Cheshire East Council want to hear your view

Cheshire East Council are reviewing how day opportunities are provided within the Borough. Day Opportunities help people with a variety of care and support needs such as learning disabilities, and/or Autism, dementia or a physical disability. These services are currently delivered away from peoples own homes offering opportunities for people to learn or improve upon skills and hobbies, to socialise and take part in leisure activities. Care, assistance and support is available at each service to help people, we want to hear from residents about how the services will run in the future.

Cheshire East Council are running a Carers Focus Group meeting on **Thursday 29 April 2021, 2pm to 3:30pm**. Due to current Covid restrictions, the meeting is being held online through Microsoft Teams – support will be provided in access this online meeting.

If you would like to take part in the event, or have your say about day opportunities – contact;

Gerard Buckley  
Integrated Commissioning Manager

Email: [gerard.buckley@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:gerard.buckley@cheshireeast.gov.uk)  
Phone: 07790 565154



## Mind Game—Quiz

Regular reader Pam sent us this lovely letter and quiz this week from her home at Miller's Court in Macclesfield. Thank you to Pam for sending it to us.

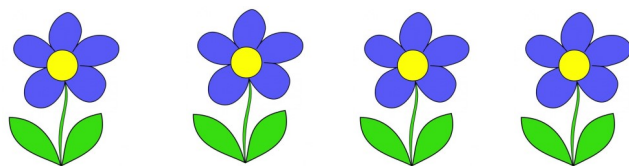
"Can you use these quizzes, which have been put on our notice board over the past weeks?

Thank you for still delivering your magazine to me each week, I have put some of your lovely pictures on our noticeboard".

Here is one of the quizzes Pam sent us, we hope you enjoy it!

### Quiz by Joye and Malcolm

- 1 Who wrote Snow White and the seven dwarves?
- 2 How many eggs does the average chicken lay in a year?
- 3 What mammal, alive today, is even bigger than a dinosaur?
- 4 Name the slowest animal in the world?
- 5 Is the sun a star or a planet?
- 6 How many legs does a lobster have?
- 7 What is the best selling book of all time?
- 8 Sofia is the capital of which country?
- 9 What colour is a giraffe's tongue?
- 10 What do you call a group of jellyfish?
- 11 Which animal name means river horse?
- 12 Earth is located on which galaxy?
- 13 Which bird can fly backwards?
- 14 Who was the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated?
- 15 The Channel tunnel is the longest rail tunnel in the world – True or false?
- 16 Who is the only musician ever to have been awarded the Nobel Peace prize for literature?
- 17 In which year was Joan of Arc burned at the stake?
- 18 What is the most spoken language in the world?
- 19 Where was Prince Philip born?
- 20 What is the capital of Switzerland?



## Thank you to our sponsors and supporters

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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