

BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

**Bridging Social
Isolation**

Edition 18



At the Bend of Beeston Brow by Keith Higginbotham

The Bridgend Centre will be producing this newsletter every week during this time of Social Distancing to hopefully brighten spirits, entertain you, keep you informed and most important of all to help everyone feel that even though we have to put physical distance between ourselves none of us are alone.

We will be looking for contributions from our readers, so if you have an idea, recipe, story, book suggestion, drawing or activity you think others would love, please send it to info@bridgendcentre.org.uk for us to include.

Update on Bridgend



The re-opening of the Bridgend charity shop has gone well and we have now been re-open for nearly two weeks! The donation appointment system means that we can manage the incoming donations safely and maintain the 72 hour quarantine system to do as much as we can to ensure the safety of our staff and volunteers.

The shop is proving popular for customers and we have a healthy regular footfall. We do have to limit the number of customers in the shop to six at any one time in order to maintain social distancing, based on its square footage, so there has occasionally been a queue of eager shoppers, but they have seldom had to wait for long.

On Monday 10th August we plan to extend our opening hours to 10am to 4pm on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. Hopefully this will provide people more flexibility about when they visit us as it will give them the opportunity to visit us at a different time of day.

We are regularly reviewing our services and how we can deliver support to our community in this new normal. Government guidelines state that only people from two households or social bubbles can meet indoors so it is not possible for us to restart any activity groups in 'person'. As we work with a lot of vulnerable people and people over 70 we have to take extra care in this to ensure that everyone stays safe. We have however started to offer some activities online and will extend these as and when the need emerges. If you have any ideas on how we might be able to reduce social isolation and help people to feel included in their community in a Covid-safe way, please do contact one of our staff team for a chat. We hope this newsletter goes some small way towards that aim.



Face coverings mandatory in shops from Friday 24th July

The Government has issued new Regulations regarding the wearing of **Face Coverings in Shops** from Friday 24th July. Please do not forget to take your face covering with you when you go shopping and please don't make the staff have to ask you to put it on before you enter the shop. It may take some getting used to so we urge everyone to be patient with each other while this becomes yet another "new normal".



There are some exceptions to this. Please be supportive of people who are exempt, the reasons for someone having difficulties wearing a face mask will not always be obvious to other people.



If you are exempt for any of the reasons listed in the guidance you may wish to buy or print an exemption card which explains the reason for the exemption, so that you don't have to.

Hidden Disabilities have created a 'face cover exemption card'. If a medical condition, disability or other issue means you cannot wear a mask, you can send off for a card that explains this which you can show on entry to shops. The card costs 55p. Or you can download a card from [keepsake.org](https://www.keepsake.org) that you can print or display on your smartphone.

For links to further details and information on these issues, please go to the Bollington Town Council website: <https://www.bollington-tc.gov.uk/> **Bollington Town Council**

Here at Bridgend we will be asking you to wear a mask when you enter our shop unless you are exempt. If you are you exempt, please explain this to our staff they will be very understanding of your situation.

Reminiscences—Origins of the name of Bollington

There is no certainty about how Bollington got its name but there are a few theories! The obvious idea is that it is based on the name of the river Bollin. But the Bollin doesn't run through Bollington – it is Macclesfield's river. Our river is the Dean.

The Bollin and the Dean come together as similar sized rivers at Wilmslow and continue to the Mersey estuary as the river Bollin. In fact it may well give its name to Little Bollington, a delightful hamlet near Dunham Massey, through which it flows. It is possible that folk didn't realise that it was the Macclesfield branch that retained the name Bollin – this in times when folk didn't travel much and were unsure of the topography. An extension to this idea is that it is possible that both branches had at one time the same name.



The next idea is that there was a chap called Bolla who set up home here, *ing* means 'belonging to', *ton* meaning village, community or town. Corrupt Bolla a little and you get Boll-ing-ton. *Ing* and *ton* are very common in English place names and are almost always associated with a person's name. My money is on this explanation.

The obscure!

Wikipedia has some interesting if rather obscure possibilities which include the Middle English word Bolling, meaning 'excessive drinking', + ton, town or village. Well, I suppose it's just possible! However, the area had the name long before there was a village or any pubs!

So why the river Dean?

It is possible, maybe probable, that the name comes from the fact that dean is a variation of dene, one meaning of which is 'a narrow wooded valley' (COD) which is, of course, exactly where it flows in Ingersley Vale and, in earlier times, through the middle of Bollington. Perhaps it should really be the river Dene.

Tim Boddington



Loss, grief & bereavement session

Thursday 13th August
Poynton Civic Hall
2pm – 4pm

Come and talk about loss, grief and bereavement, in a safe space

- Understand your own thoughts and feelings
- Discover how to accept and adjust
- Discover how to harness your inner strength
- Discover a new journey
- Reach out to others to share your experience

Places are limited
Call 01625 872238 to book a place



Cheshire East Council are developing a Dementia Strategy to consider local support needs in relation to dementia, together with service provision, in order to strive to have the right services, in the right place, for the right people at the right time.



They want to make a real and positive difference to the lives of people affected by Dementia living in Cheshire East. We want to ensure that people with Dementia and their carers receive high quality, compassionate, and timely care whether they are at home, in hospital or in a care home.

They would like to hear your views so we can hear how service users, their families and carers feel about the statements in this survey. To contribute please complete this survey by 14 August 2020 <https://crowd.in/LCwOLk>

Book review—Alan Garner

Where shall we run to?

Alan Garner is a high-profile fantasy and children's author who grew up just down the road in Alderley Edge. His family had lived in the area for three hundred years and he has written many books set in this area. Many of his mystical tales are inspired by the countryside of the Edge, including wizards, King Arthur and his army of knights.

Alan Garner currently lives at the Blackden Trust near Holmes Chapel, which was the destination of a popular day-trip during the Bollington Walking Festival in 2019. Blackden comprises Toad Hall, a barely modernised medieval timber-framed home, and the Old Medicine House, a 16th-century apothecary's shop that he and his wife Griselda rescued from demolition in 1970 and transported 17 miles to abut Toad Hall. Garner is a

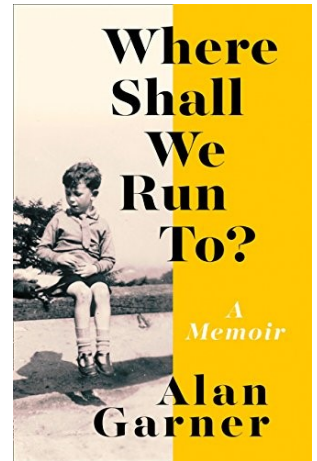
keen archaeologist – stones and artefacts rattle through his books and his home is full of axe-heads and arrowheads, old coins and glimmering crystals.



The book 'Where shall we run to?' is a fascinating account of Garner's first eleven years of life spent in Alderley Edge before he left the area to go to Grammar school. It tells of what seems like a simpler time, playing with friends, attending the small village school and his close relationship with family and friends. But the darkness of war overshadows this with

his Father away from home for much of this time.

It is also an interesting book if you are familiar with the area of Alderley Edge and many of the houses, streets and roads mentioned are still there.



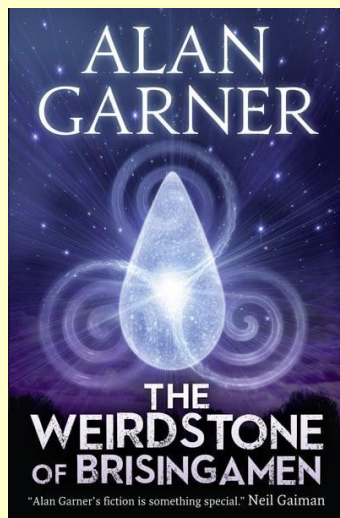
Weirdstone of Brisingamen

Considered by many to be the greatest children's fantasy book of the second half of the twentieth century, the *Weirdstone of Brisingamen* started Garner's career in 1960.

The main characters, Susan and Colin, are staying with their mother's nanny Bess. They decide to explore Alderley Edge and with no knowledge of the consequences wander off the elf road. Suddenly cohorts of monsters, intent on kidnapping them rise from the mines and roam the countryside.

Full of references to British folklore, I read this as a child and the stories have always stuck with me, particularly when I am walking in the woods and sandy stones of Alderley Edge. I always expect to turn a corner to meet a wizard who will take me into the caves to King Arthur and his band of knights who will save the country at its time of need. It would be quite nice if they could sort out this nasty virus for us!

There are mentions of a number of local landmarks in this book, including Shutlingsloe.



Thursbitch

This mysterious tale is set in the hills above Bollington and has been the destination of many a Bridgend Saturday walk.

Set in 1755, it is the story of John Turner, a packman who drives his horses over the hills of Cheshire and Derbyshire. Following a grim night wrecked by a powerful blizzard, John is found dead in deep snow in the hill. Next to him is one single woman's shoe print in the snow.

This story is interwoven with the tale of a couple living in the present day who are touched by the same places in the story.

The memorial stone next to John Turner is said to have been found is still present on the road side in the wild hills near Lamaload.

This painting by David Newcombe is of the rough area where John Turner is said to have been found.

David paints many pictures of the Bollington area and his prints are available to purchase at Belfield's bakery or by telephoning 01625 422038 to order.



Bollington people—Rhoda Dawson

Not only was Rhoda Dawson a wonderful dancer, but she was also a highly influential figure in the lives of many Bollingtonians, throughout the second World War and for decades afterwards. She dedicated her life to teaching dance for the enjoyment of all and, especially during the rigours of war, it was a merciful escape from the harshness of normal life.

Rhoda lived in Brook House, the original home of Dr Geoffrey and Dr Eileen Coope, and three of the ground-floor rooms had been converted to create a magnificent hall with a polished wooden floor. Small tables and chairs stood in the window recesses and mirrors and pictures graced the walls.

Memories still linger:

'Yes, everybody went dancing at Rhoda's. We did the rhumba, tango, waltz, foxtrot, quickstep and Latin American.'

'She was very glamorous; she was beautiful. Everybody wanted to dance with Rhoda when we were doing ballroom dancing. She gave a lot of enjoyment to kids at that time. They'd nothing else to do only go to the pictures or mess about. Rhoda's was a really good place – it was our life.'



Rhoda in Pantomime

Many years later, Rhoda looked back at her amazing career.

'It was a life full of beauty and glamour. I had piano lessons and lots of ballgowns, marvellous dresses. I got to know a lot of the young people over the years, thirty or forty years. Thousands of people. All those children are now Grandmothers. One generation after another came. The records were 78s and occasionally we would have a band on party nights, like Ronnie Chadwick's Band.'

The advent of war brought many changes and people needed to enjoy whatever free time was available.

'I had a lot of girls about 18 years old, who came dancing. They went into the services and would come back on leave. They danced in their uniforms. When the war is on it heightens everything. You never know what's going to happen. You live for the day. They were momentous times.'

Rhoda's pupils performed in pantomimes and concerts and brought transitory pleasure to many people's lives during those harrowing times.

'Makes you feel life is worthwhile. It brought a lot of happiness to people. A big thing – pantos for hospitals, concerts for the troops. Some GIs who came were stationed in Macclesfield and one or two young ladies from here married GIs. It was considered romantic.'

In the 1950s Rock and Roll had an enormous impact on dancehalls everywhere and Rhoda's was no exception.

'I taught Rock and Roll – I had to move with the times. Only Saturday night, other dances were the same during the rest of the week as it had always been. We had all the teddy boys here in their long coats, tight trousers, and blue suede shoes. You don't think then that you are part of history.'

In her later years, Rhoda, although no longer at Brook House, continued to live in Bollington and was often seen around the village. Even in her 80s, Rhoda retained her dancer's posture and was still a very elegant and beautiful lady.

Ann Mayer



Rhoda's pupils in 'To a Wild Rose'

Recipe of the week—blackberry crumble bars

The hedgerows are filling up with lovely plump blackberries so remember to bring a tub the next sunny morning you're heading out for a walk and you could be enjoying these tasty treats with your afternoon tea!

Ingredients:

- 300g plain flour
- 300g sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- Zest and juice of half a lemon
- 225g butter
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 250g blackberries
- 2 teaspoons cornflour

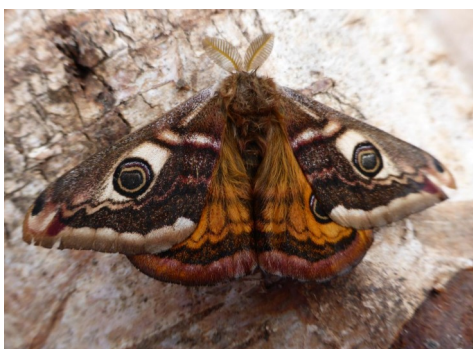


Method:

1. Preheat oven to 170 fan, 190C or gas mark 5. Grease an 18 x 18 cm baking tin.
2. In a bowl mix together the flour half the sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and lemon rind. Add the butter cutting through and then rubbing in—you can do this in a food processor if you have one. Add the vanilla and just enough beaten egg to make a crumbly dough.
3. Press half into the greased tin.
4. In another bowl gently mix the blackberries, remaining sugar, cornflour and lemon juice. Sprinkle evenly over the dough base.
5. Sprinkle remaining dough on top and bake for around 45 minutes until the top is slightly brown.
6. Cool completely before cutting.

Plant of the week— Meadowsweet

The frothy, creamy white clusters of tiny meadowsweet flowers are bursting all over ditches, riverbanks and damp meadows at the minute. Favoured by Queen Elizabeth I to sprinkle on her floor rather than straw, this fragrant flower smells more antiseptic if crushed. Once used to flavour vinegar, beer or wine it can also be used to give jam a subtle almond flavour! But it's not just humans that like the flavour— meadowsweet provides food for the larvae of moth species including the emperor moth (pictured below), grey pug, Hebrew character, lime-speck pug, mottled beauty, and the satellite.



You could be forgiven for thinking that it gets its name from its habitat but in fact in Anglo-Saxon times it was known as *medowyrft* - the "medo" referring to *meodu* the Old English word for mead, a fermented honey drink. Good news then, that aspirin can be found in meadowsweet—it can both cause your hangover and cure it!!



Find out more at <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant->

Mind game—language to make you laugh with a few general knowledge teasers!

Bollington's answer to Bob Monkhouse, Dominic Lisle, provides us with some light entertainment to end our newsletter. Dominic is Bollington born and bred and lived in Pott Shrigley for twenty years. He was the captain of Pott Shrigley cricket club for many years.



1. How many birds does it take to change a light bulb? Ideally 3 but toucan.
2. I've just sold my homing pigeons on eBay for the 14th time.
3. Am thinking of starting a group called the Bollington Atheist Society, it will be a non prophet organization.
4. I walked past a man at a cash machine today standing in one leg, I asked him what he was doing, he replied, 'I'm checking my balance.'
5. I'm selling a garden gate I don't need, if anyone wants it, it's free of charge. There's no catch.
6. I've heard the government want to ban Roman numerals. Not on my watch!
7. Some girl said she recognized me from a vegetarian group. She must have been mistaken, I've never met herbivore.
8. Just came back from the Doctors and have been diagnosed with a fear of giants, apparently I have feefiphobia.
9. My school has become an academy sponsored by Ikea. Lessons are ok but morning assembly takes ages.
10. I asked my friend if he wanted to visit the place were Dick Turpin lived, he said, 'sure would.' I said 'no, that's Robin Good you're thinking of.'
11. Just been to Bollington Library and have read some excellent books including Trouble on the Mountain by Elieen Dover, Crossing Roads by Luke Bothways and Ghost in the House by Hugo First. Another good read was on Engineering , Major Erections in the UK by Hugh Jardon.

General knowledge questions

1. Which American State ends in 3 vowels?
2. What was the last year that could be written upside down and appear the same as the right way up and when will this next happen?
3. When written in capitals which 3 letters of the alphabet have no straight lines?

Answers to last week's mind game—reconstructed baby photos!

- 1: Ozzy Osborne (Singer)
- 2: Sir Winston Churchill (British Prime Minister)
- 3: Matt Lucas (Comedian)
- 4: Boris Johnson
- 5: Gordon Brown (British Prime Minister)
- 6: Mr. T (*Laurence Tureaud*) (Actor and professional wrestler)
- 7: Rowan Atkinson (Comedian and actor)
- 8: Sir Patrick Moore (TV presenter and astrologer)
- 9: Rolf Harris (TV presenter, performer and singer)
- 10: Kim Jong Il (North Korean President)

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