

BRIDGEND COMMUNITY NEWS

**Bridging Social
Isolation
Edition 35**



It is almost Christmas! Over the Christmas period, the Bridgend Centre will close at 4pm on Wednesday 23rd December and will re-open on Monday 4th January. The last date that we will be accepting donations to the shop is Tuesday 22nd December.



If you wish to donate any items for the charity shop, please book at an appointment to do so on our website.

The next edition of this newsletter will be Friday 8th January. Thank you to EVERYONE who has contributed to this newsletter this year, there are far too many to list here. You have been amazing! Hopefully this publication has helped just a little bit in keeping you connected to the Bridgend and made the passing of the weeks a little easier.

2020 has been a year of extreme lows and extreme highs for the Bridgend Centre, as we are sure it has been for everyone. But as we look back, we can conclude that overall it has been very positive for the Centre with some great developments that leave us stronger for the future.



We would like to wish you a safe and very happy Christmas and New Year and look to a brighter 2021 when hopefully at some point we can all be together again without worry or fear.

Lots of love from Becky and the team xxx

Nancy lights up



If you are travelling along Chancery Lane this week, you may have noticed the beautifully illuminated White Nancy on one of the houses at the top.

Created by Jennie, Peter, Harrison (8) and Bertie (3), it has created a lot of attention and was officially opened by Dr Xand off of the TV, over Zoom! The family created it to raise funds for a new floor for Allsorts Pre-School. Sylk Flooring also very generously gave a 50% discount on the new floor, which is fabulously kind. If you walk past this wonderful creation and wish to donate you can here: Fundraising link <https://www.facebook.com/donate/838119966952044/>



The Bollington Santa

So this year has been very different for me. The usual face-to-face visits have been put on hold and my Grotto is probably going to remain empty.

This year I decided to visit as much of Bollington as I could over a December weekend. I asked Bollington for some sweets to be able to give out to children (and big children). The generosity of Bollington came through, there were enough sweets donated for everyone.



I started my rounds last Saturday morning. Immediately I was met by a group of young children cheering and hoping to give Santa their Christmas letters (which I really enjoyed reading). Off I went visiting as much of Bollington as I could. I was greeted with waves, dancing, cheers and cars beeping as they passed. The weather over the weekend has been awful but didn't dampen Bollington's spirits.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

Lots of love from the Bollington Santa



Snowy White Nancies of years past



Painting by David Newcombe



Photo by Shelley Anderson



Photo by Andrew Heathcote



Joyce Ruth Johnson



Andrew Heathcote



Lee Dudley



Lee Dudley



Lee Dudley



Jacky Timms

Memories of Christmas Past



Christmas has always been a magical time of year, especially for children. Just like in the present, planning for Christmas started months in advance in days gone by. *'Round about November we'd all sit round the table at night-time and Mother would say, "Now what are we going to do for Christmas?" It was a lovely event.'*

Because money was scarce gifts were bought a bit at a time and hidden carefully away. Some shops made it easier by providing dividend coupons, which had to be saved up to buy that little extra. *'The Co-op was our main source of supplies. Mum would save up the coupons and divi long before Christmas.'*



Special food had to be made and as there was no easy access to canned foods and people did not have fridges or freezers, nearly everything was prepared at home. Bread, cakes and mince-pies, including home-made mincemeat, were all baked well in advance. *'We'd make the Christmas Pudding about a month before Christmas. We'd steam it up in the boiler we used to wash the clothes in! Everyone had to have a stir of the pudding and make a wish.'*

Decorations were created from very little – bits of cardboard and glitter, or paper scrounged from the paper mill, using flour and water as a paste to stick them together. *'We made little lanterns with glitter on and we had coloured paper chains. We would decorate the rooms and sometimes put up a bit of holly. Everything was cleaned and washed beforehand.'*

Christmas was, and still is, a family event, although years ago it was not the lavish and expensive festivity it is today. Gifts amounted to a few inexpensive items but for children it was still an incredibly exciting time. *'My stocking would be hanging on the bedpost when I returned from Midnight Mass. I'd rush upstairs to see it! It was all very simple. I had a doll quite often, sticking out of the top - games and books. We'd have an apple and an orange, nuts and a new penny ... a sugar mouse. We'd have a Christmas tree with no lights but lighted candles and we'd play 'Pass the Parcel' or 'Squeak Piggy Squeak'.'*



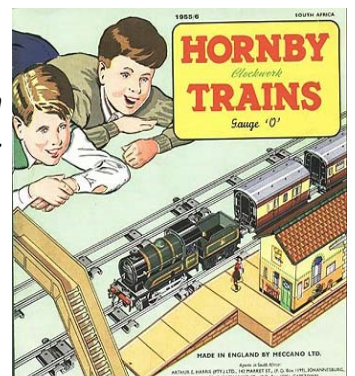
Stockings revealed wonderful surprises as the wrapping paper was ripped off. Sometimes a child's gift even surpassed their wildest dreams. *'When I was about ten or twelve I saw a Hornby train in Jones's on High Street and every evening, coming from school in Church Street, I used to look at it and think how lovely it would be for Christmas I never dreamt really' Imagine the thrill of waking up that Christmas Day. 'It must have been about 4 o'clock in the morning, us running about in our nighties. I saw the Hornby train!' 'I could only play with it when Mum said I could. The table was laid out specially with a cloth on so it couldn't scratch. Dad used to help set it up. I treasured it for years. In fact, one of my little nephews had it after me. Ours was a very happy home.'*

The routine and planning of the big day all went towards creating a magical atmosphere. *'Dad would light the fire in the front room after breakfast, when all the pots and pans had been cleared. We would all gather and show each other what we had got in front of the fire.'*

Between the excitement of looking at presents and playing with them, the smell of Christmas dinner drifted in from the kitchen, but no sooner had dinner been eaten than it seemed it was time for tea! *'Christmas tea – everything home-made. Little sandwiches, mince pies, Christmas cake – but for us the highlight of the meal was the sherry trifle!'*

After tea games were played and stories read. *'We'd sit around the table and play Snakes and Ladders or Ludo. Then Mum would be sat in a chair and we'd all sit round her, and she'd read us some wonderful stories. 'Swiss Family Robinson' or 'Robinson Crusoe' – I had a dream world of my own when they were read. There was one story about the poor people in London. Dickens it must have been. We wept because it touched us so much.'*

After all the festivities had ended, it was time to take the decorations down and pack them away carefully until next year – always a sad occasion, but it had its brighter moments! *'When New Year was over Dad would put the fir tree in the garden. Then us kids, we used to set fire to it! That was one of our rituals. We weren't rich by ourselves, but we were rich in love and happiness and having such a lovely home.'* **Ann Mayer**

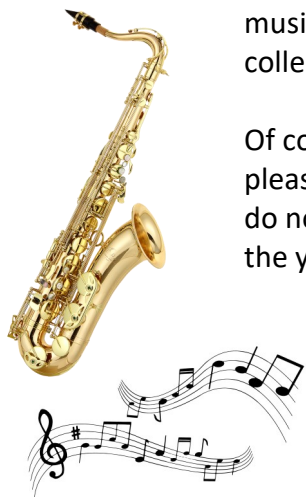


Small acts of kindness

Working behind the till at the Bridgend Centre makes us very aware of how much small acts of kindness make a difference, not simply to our Bridgend bank balance, but to our own personal sense of happiness and well-being too. Because of this, we would like to say a big Bridgend “Thank you” to all of those people who go just that little step further to make a difference and put big smiles on our faces.



Thankyou to all those who add a little extra to the cost of the books they purchase; thankyou to those people who say that little phrase, “Keep the change”, as they leave. To the customers who return items that don’t fit but don’t want a refund, again thankyou. To the lady who acquired some jigsaw puzzles from us and enjoyed doing them so much that she handed us a small donation on return of the jigsaw puzzles for re-sale. To the young musician who played Christmas carols on her saxophone and donated to us the money she collected, again thank you.



Of course we appreciate that many people have to account for every penny they spend so please do not think that we expect any of the above. There are always acts of kindness that do not involve spending a penny. Our volunteers give their time to the Centre every day of the year without expecting anything in return and despite the facemasks we have many laughs, which are priceless. Many of customers make us happy with a kind comment, a “have a good day” or “ooh your hair is looking nice”. All these things help to make our day be that much lighter and lift our spirits in these sometimes challenging times.

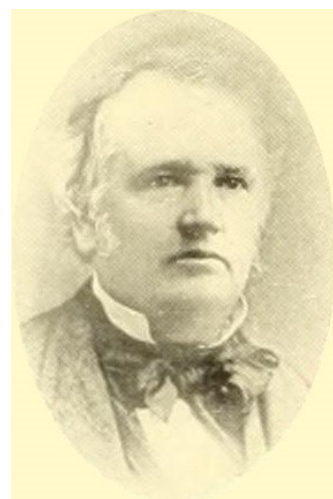
No wonder we, the Bridgend staff, are known for our big smiles, and for them we thank you. **Anna Barker**

Reminiscences of Bollington—John Ryle, the Bollingtonian who started the US Silk Industry

John Ryle (1817-1887)

Thea and I like to watch a CBS series called Aerial America, each programme looking at the history of an individual state and filmed only from the air. Recently they featured Paterson in New Jersey. This eastern city was pretty well created by Bollingtonian John Ryle, so you can imagine how furious I was that the producers of the film spent a reasonable amount of time on the history of the town while entirely omitting the contribution of John Ryle – even though his silk mill was prominent in the film!

John Ryle was born in Bollington in 1817. He emigrated to New York and settled in Paterson, New Jersey, USA, in 1839 where he established the American silk industry and became known as the ‘*father of the US silk industry*’. He became the most significant inhabitant of Paterson, establishing the public park and the public water supply, he personally paid for the sewer system! He was a major employer in his silk mill.



He was one of 17 children born to Peter Ryle, a major Macclesfield silk manufacturer, and his wife Sarah Brunt. Twelve of the children died in infancy or childhood. John emigrated to the US at the age of 21.

John Ryle returned in retirement, with his daughter, to visit Macclesfield. Sadly while here he died in his daughter’s arms. His body was returned to Paterson and interred in Cedar Lawn Cemetery. A large obelisk was erected over the grave as a memorial to a great achiever, an Englishman who undoubtedly epitomised the American dream. **Tim Boddington**

Recipe: Turkey, Ham and Sprout Pie

Use up your Christmas Day leftovers on Boxing Day with this tasty pie.

Ingredients

1 Onion; 1 celery stick; 50g butter; 50g plain flour; 500ml Turkey or Chicken stock; 175ml single, double, whipping or soured cream or crème fraîche (or a combination); 1 tablespoon Dijon or Wholegrain mustard; 100g mature Cheddar; 400g Turkey or Chicken, cut into bite-sized chunks; 200g ham, diced into slightly smaller chunks than the Turkey; 100g Brussel Sprouts, halved; 320g ready rolled shortcrust pastry; splash of milk or egg, to glaze.

Method

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. In a large frying pan, soften the onion and celery in the butter for about 10 mins. Stir the flour into the veg until completely absorbed, then gradually stir in the stock. Simmer to a sauce consistency, then stir in the cream, mustard and cheese, followed by the turkey or chicken, ham and sprouts. Take off the heat and season well.

Tip the pie filling into a baking dish. Unroll the shortcrust pastry and, if you need to, roll a little thinner until it's big enough to cover the pie dish. Divide the pastry into 6 portions by pricking lines with the prongs of a fork. These pricked lines will also work as air holes for the steam to escape, so you don't need to use a pie funnel. Lift the pastry onto the pie dish. Crimp or pinch the edges to seal the pastry to the dish, and glaze the top with a little milk or egg. Scatter with the extra cheese and bake for 30-40 mins until golden and crisp.

Leave the pie to cool for 5-10 mins, then serve with mash and greens, if you like.



Recipe: Florentines



A classic Florentine but with a chocolate base, perfect for dunking!

Ingredients *For the biscuit base* 175g slightly salted butter, softened 85g golden caster sugar ½ tsp vanilla extract 225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting ¼ tsp ground cinnamon *For the Florentine topping* 50g butter 50g light brown soft sugar 50g golden syrup ½ tsp salt 50g plain flour 75g glacé cherries, chopped 75g flaked almonds 150g dark chocolate, chopped

Method

Step 1 To make the biscuits, put the butter, sugar and vanilla in a bowl and beat with an electric whisk until creamy. Add the flour and cinnamon, and combine with a spatula to make a soft dough. Form into a ball, wrap in cling film and chill for at least 1 hr.

Step 2 In a saucepan, melt the butter, sugar, golden syrup and salt. Remove from the heat and whisk in the flour, then stir in the cherries and almonds. Set aside to cool and firm up a little. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a baking sheet with parchment.

Step 3 Tip the dough onto a floured work surface and roll out to the thickness of a £1 coin. Using a 6cm fluted cookie cutter, stamp out as many circles as you can, then scrunch up the trimmings, re-roll and stamp out some more. Transfer to the baking sheet, and spoon some of the Florentine mixture onto each biscuit until it's all used up. Bake on the middle shelf for 12-15 mins until the biscuits are golden and the topping has melted. Leave to cool on the sheet for at least 15 mins.

Step 4 While the biscuits cool, melt the chocolate in a small heatproof bowl suspended over a pan of gently simmering water, or in short bursts in the microwave. Stir every 30 secs or so to ensure it doesn't burn. Dip each biscuit about a third of the way into the chocolate, then return to the sheet to set. You may need to spoon the chocolate over the final few. Will keep for up to four days in a sealed container

Christmas 2020 - looking for silver linings



On the school run one morning, one of the other parents confided a little secret to me. "I know this is probably really awful but I'm actually looking forward to it being just me, the wife and kids for Christmas." His comment got me thinking, what are the positives we can take from this year's unusual festive season?

An average December involves endless rounds of shopping, parties, Christmas concerts, nativities and drinks with people you wouldn't normally see, all shoehorned into a few short weeks. By the time Christmas Day rolls around, we are quite often totally burnt out and exhausted (if not victim to one of the many seasonal bugs that fly around at this time of year!) Much as it is totally enjoyable socialising and celebrating, it can sometimes feel like a massive balancing act to fit everything in. This year we have no choice but to slow down for Christmas.

Many people are on a much tighter budget this year, again forcing us to simplify things. Christmas has typically become a consumer affair, leading people in to debt and unwanted gifts in to landfill. What if this Christmas we learn that we don't need more "stuff" in our lives and that it is the people we love that matter most.

I think we are much more conscious this year of people being by themselves at Christmas. During the year, we have had to embrace technology to allow us to communicate with loved ones in a way that we have never needed to before. I wonder how many families and friends will be using the skills we have acquired to have virtual Christmas dinner together!

When you google "what is the true meaning of Christmas?" there are nearly a billion results. I haven't sifted through them all but the overwhelming response is that Christmas is about love. How unusual that this year, we can show our love for our extended family and friends by keeping them safe and keeping our physical distance. I think that this will lead to us appreciating it all the more when we can be together again (can you imagine big family picnics, hopefully in the spring sunshine?)

I know the current circumstances are not what any of us have chosen but I am sure that we can all try our best to enjoy what will hopefully be a once in a lifetime Christmas! Wishing you a simpler Christmas and a healthy, Happy New Year. **Kerry Langstaff**



**Christmas Opening Hours**
2020

Monday 21st December	10 - 4:00
Tuesday 22nd December	10 - 4:00
Wednesday 23rd December	10 - 4:00
Thursday 24th December	
To Saturday 2nd January	Closed
Monday 4th January	10- 4:00

The last date that we will be accepting donations to the shop is **Tuesday 22nd December.**

If you wish to donate any items for the charity shop, please book at an appointment to do so at www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/home/charity-shop. We are limiting donations to four bags or boxes per person.

BOLLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2020
street music | window art | lights | radio event

Let in the Light
27th November
4 Christmas trees illuminated from 5pm at Bollington Cross, Town Hall, Market Place and Bull's Head (Kerridge). Festive lights throughout the town. Virtual switch-on of lights via Facebook. Follow the Christmas Tree trail on foot or bike.

12 Gigs of Christmas
2nd to 23rd December
Enjoy live festive music performances from your doorstep or window from local musician Neil Shaw-Hulme. 12 gigs on 12 evenings (6.30-7.30pm) leading up to Christmas Eve. Locations will be posted on Facebook your chance to rehearse for Christmas Eve 'Together Apart'!

Bolluminations
From 18th December
Create your own window art for your home or business to create a beautiful display of festive scenes throughout Bollington. Learn how to get involved by joining the Bollington Bolluminations Facebook Group. See posters around town or find details via social media.

Christmas Eve
"Together Apart"
Tune in to Canalside Radio by 5.30pm and join your neighbours (together apart) for a radio broadcast of festive music and carols by local musicians and school children. Bring some festive fayre to your doorstep or window and join in with singing and celebrations.

Bollington
TOWN COUNCIL
www.bollington-tc.gov.uk
facebook twitter



Festive Favourites!

Need a little help getting in to the festive spirit? We asked the Bridgend staffers to tell us their favourite Christmas film and their favourite Christmas song.

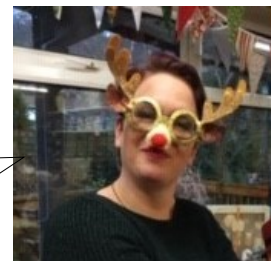


The Great Escape” because it was always shown on tv when I was a kid and I loved it! My Favourite song has to be Fairytale of New York because I loved learning it to perform with Daz together at Christmas.

Anna Barker



A Muppet Christmas Carol for the film and John Denver and the Muppets - 12 Days of Christmas for the song. My siblings and I vary a lot in age but the Muppets was something we could all enjoy together. **Kerry**



Song—I want a hippopotamus for Christmas, It is a song my friend and I sang and played at our first ukulele Christmas party. Film is Love Actually, I can watch it again and again. It makes me laugh, cry and it has a feel good factor with the song God only knows by the beach boys at the end. **Maxine**



Film - From my time working in special schools I would have to say The snowman though I would only get to see 10 minutes at a time! Song would be John Lennon So This is Christmas, it is so gentle and optimistic. **Avril**



Chicken Run because it's a spoof of The Great Escape both of which my Dad loved watching at Christmas. Song, Rocking around the Christmas tree by Brenda Lee—What's not to like?! **Robert**



Film; It's a wonderful life. It has a powerful message about what's important in life and to always value what you have. Song; River by Joni Mitchell as its so atmospheric **Becky**



Film has to be Elf, its just so funny! My favourite line “Santa! I know him!” love love love!! Another vote for Fairytale of New York, I am a Kirsty Macoll fan and it instantly makes me feel like Christmas is coming. **Anna Hatley**



Interview with Johanna Maitland

Jo joined us in July 2020 as a Trustee. Jo and her husband Andy run an IT company and Jo is also a Councillor on Bollington Town Council and so brings a wide range of skills and experience to the role.

How have you found the last six months and how have you kept busy?

I have found the last 6 months a challenge mentally as I am naturally very sociable and enjoy welcoming friends and loved ones into our home or meeting up out and about. Our two daughters both had to come home from University in March and so we have spent an unexpected swathe of time together which, whilst disappointing for them to have their studies interrupted, has been charmed and lovely in many ways for us as a family. We've certainly learned to appreciate each other and I was so grateful we weren't having to home school through this time, having older children made me so aware of how hard this time has been for families.

We've been quite cautious with the pandemic I think but as my husband, Andy, and I are self-employed with our own IT company there isn't anyone to support us if we are unable to work. I have kept a bit too busy to be honest – I do tend to throw myself into all sorts and this year has been even easier to do that as we've all been based from home. I can't recommend running an IT company when businesses are told to send all their staff to work from home – it has resulted in our work hours stretching to way beyond office hours and meant that days off have been rare. But we are grateful to be earning when so many have lost jobs or are facing financial hardship. I would say that it has been a time of counting our blessings.



Jo pictured with her family on a walk during lockdown

How are you finding things at Bridgend?

I think the centre has adapted really well to covid-19 life and whilst it was sad to see the shop have to close and groups and classes either move online or be cancelled I think the months of lockdown and restrictions has made the community appreciate Bridgend more than ever. I was delighted to work, with my Bollington Town Council hat on, with Becky and Anna creating a telephone buddy system to support vulnerable and lonely members of the community – it was a natural way to take the skills learnt in the Bridgend Buddy system and use them to help those struggling with the isolation of lockdown.

Since some restrictions have lifted and the shop has been able to open it has been wonderful to see the high numbers of donations, the visits to the shop and the classes and walks that can take place being busy again. I think the pandemic has shown many what is precious to them and certainly feels like our beloved Bridgend centre is high on people of Bollington's list.

What are you most looking forward to 'when this is all over'?

This is a really tough question, there isn't one specific thing really – I am really missing live music, we are big gig goers in our house and probably trip into Manchester more than a couple of times a month to see a band. But I think it will be a while before I feel comfortable in that environment again. I am still amazed that on the 29th February we travelled to Leeds to meet up with friends and went to see Supergrass in a pretty tiny cramped venue – 2 weeks later we were heading into lockdown!

I don't think there is going to be a "return to normal" for any aspect of life when this is all over, I think we will need to adapt to a new normal. My friend said recently "different doesn't have to be worse" and I'm inclined to agree with her. So we will embrace what lies ahead, be happy with what we can do and hopefully the day will come when we can hug our loved ones without worry.

Press release from NHS England (dated Tuesday 8th December) — Hospitals To Start Biggest Ever NHS Vaccination Programme This Week

The NHS will begin vaccinating patients against coronavirus at dozens of hospital hubs from this week at the start of the biggest immunisation programme in history. People aged 80 and over as well as care home workers will be first to receive the jab, along with NHS workers who are at higher risk.

NHS staff are working through the weekend to prepare for the launch of the programme with the first vaccinations happening from Tuesday (8th December). There are 50 hubs in the first wave and more hospitals will start vaccinating over the coming weeks and months as the programme ramps up.

Patients aged 80 and above who are already attending hospital as an outpatient, and those who are being discharged home after a hospital stay, will be among the first to receive the life-saving jab. Hospitals will also begin inviting over 80s in for a jab and work with care home providers to book their staff in to vaccination clinics. Any appointments not used for these groups will be used for healthcare workers who are at highest risk of serious illness from covid. All those vaccinated will need a booster jab 21 days later.

GPs and other primary care staff are also being put on standby to start delivering the jab. A small number of GP-led primary care networks will begin doing so during the following week (week beginning 14 December) with more practices in more parts of the country joining in on a phased basis during December and in the coming months. Vaccination centres treating large numbers of patients in sporting venues and conference centres will subsequently stand up when further supplies of vaccine come on stream.

Professor Stephen Powis, NHS national medical director, said: “Despite the huge complexities, hospitals will kickstart the first phase of the largest scale vaccination campaign in our country’s history from Tuesday. The first tranche of vaccine deliveries will be landing at hospitals by Monday in readiness.

“The NHS has a strong record of delivering large scale vaccination programmes – from the flu jab, HPV vaccine and lifesaving MMR jabs – hardworking staff will once again rise to the challenge to protect the most vulnerable people from this awful disease.”

The life-saving vaccine is typically delivered by a simple injection in the shoulder but there is a complex and difficult logistical challenge to deliver from the manufacturers Pfizer to patients. It needs to be stored at -70C before being thawed out and can only be moved four times within that cold chain before being used. NHS staff have been working over the weekend to prepare the sites and accept deliveries. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said: “This coming week will be an historic moment as we begin vaccination against COVID-19. We are prioritising the most vulnerable first and over-80s, care home staff and NHS colleagues will all be among the first to receive the vaccines. We are doing everything we can to make sure we can overcome significant challenges to vaccinate care home residents as soon as possible too. I urge everybody to play their part to suppress this virus and follow the local restrictions to protect the NHS while they carry out this crucial work.”

For more information on how the Covid Vaccination will work in Bollington, please go to the Middlewood Partnership website at <https://middlewoodpartnership.co.uk/covid-19-vaccination-update>



Bollington Christmas walks

One tradition of the festive season, certainly in our family, is to go for Christmas walks. As the number of social contacts we will have, meet-ups and parties will be vastly reduced this year, we will probably have more time and opportunity to do so. We are very lucky in Bollington in that we have some beautiful places to go to within a short distance. These are some of our favourites. For more inspiration on walks in the area, please go to our website www.bridgendcentre.org.uk/walking-trails

The Nab/Nab Head

Situated to the north of Bollington, the Nab has been significant since prehistoric times as at the top remains a circular barrow, where a local chief is buried. In the 1870s, the Ordnance Survey situated a concrete pillar at the top, known as a 'Trig Point'.



Photo by Sara Knowles

In 1978 the path up there was closed by local landowners but in the 1990s, the Ramblers Association and Bollington Town Council were able to find sufficient evidence to have to re-instated for the public to enjoy.

The route is one-way, so you have to descend the way you went up, but the steep climb is well worth the 360 degree panoramic views at the top, across the Cheshire Plain, Manchester, the Pennine Hills, the start of the Peak District and Macclesfield Forest.

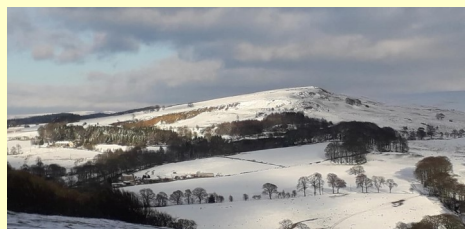


Photo by Tom Lees

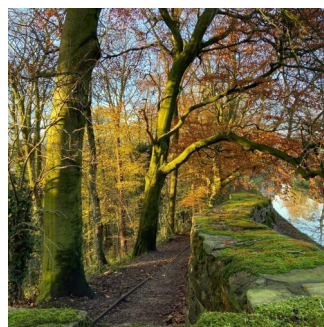
If the weather is frosty and clear on Christmas Day, this would make a fabulous stroll out.

Tinker's Clough

Tinkers Clough is a quiet, secret world of nature a wooded deep ravine with a stream running through it. The clough is full of magnificent, ancient Beech trees which have created a dense canopy high up, reducing the amount of plant life on the ravine floor.

It is said that the name came from the Tinkers who came to camp every now and again in the area. People would bring their pots and pans to be repaired when they visited.

Since 2006 the wood has been managed by Bollington Initiative Trust (BIT). Prior to that it had been managed by the Groundwork Trust (1983-1995), but by 2006, significant work was required to make the area safe. BIT secured grants to make renovations and in 2010 rotting paths were replaced by a single wide path and a bridge which provides a concessionary footpath connecting the Macclesfield Canal Towpath and the Middlewood Way. KRIV also spend two days per year managing the woodland and boundaries.



Access this oasis of calm either at Macclesfield Canal (just past Adelphi Mill) or Clough Bank car park off Grimshaw Lane.

*Thanks to BIT for the information in this article
Photo by Jacky Timms*

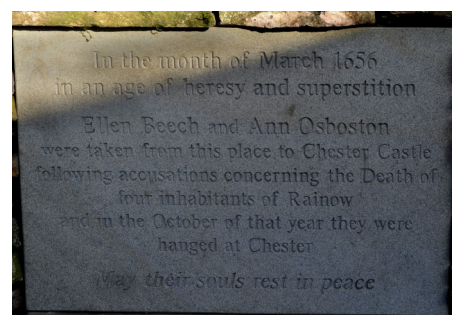
Rainowlow

Rainowlow is a tiny hamlet accessed from either Jumper Lane, off Blaze Hill or Kisk Hill in Rainow. Rainowlow is part of Rainow and actually the first settlement of Rainow was at Rainowlow. A walk up here over the Festive period would reward you with gorgeous views over the nearby hills and a feeling of going back in time as you wander through the hamlet.

Lima Farm, which is in Rainowlow, was a site of early methodism in the area. In the 17th and 18th centuries, methodism was very much frowned upon and it was difficult to build churches, so people met in fields to worship. Lima Farm was one of these sites. A Methodist chapel was later built on Blaze Hill and later became a very famous cycling café, called Egypt Café.

A recent development in Rainowlow is the installation of a memorial stone to two women who were taken from Rainowlow to the Chester Assizes in the 1650s accused of witchcraft, for which they were later hanged. More information can be found on this stone, which can be found on the footpath to Bollington, on the right hand side as you go down, just after the stone steps.

Thank you to Bob Langstaff for the information and photos on Rainowlow

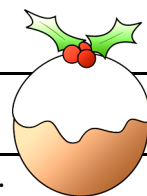


Mind game—Festive food quiz

Can you solve our cryptic clues to these 24 festive favourite foods?



No	Clue		
1	Happiness in the East	13	Infant Bubbly
2	Pigs tug of war	14	French cake eaten in German trees
3	Little snack seldom eaten in Cardiff?	15	1953 Poultry
4	Any money in acting parts?	16	A bowl of time in jail
5	Mr Alligator misunderstood	17	Diminutive loaf
6	Use an oven glove on this	18	Ballerina does cake
7	The oinks like to keep warm	19	The Earl snacks in Kent
8	You cheeky loaf!	20	Puppy gets warm
9	Mini veg enjoyed by MEPs	21	A bap in the frozen north
10	Parisian tipsy fowl	22	March 3 rd , July 8 th , September 30 th etc.....
11	“Strictly” Austrian spin	23	Boots for cattle
12	General Italian cookie	24	Richard has the pox



Answers to last weeks ‘find the bands’

Alice in Chains, Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins, Oasis, Guns n Roses, Texas, Arctic monkeys, Black Crowes, Beatles, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Shed 7, Pet Shop Boys, Vines, Salt and Pepper, T Rex, One Direction, Garbage, Police, Arctic Monkeys, Atomic Kitten, Bewitched, Jam, Beach boys, White Stripes, Rolling Stones, Four Tops, Sound Garden, Cream, Cranberries and the Thompson Twins

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