

## TURKISH DELIGHT & ITALIAN BITES

I recently had the privilege of spending a fascinating hour with Emrullah, the owner of Briscola Restaurant on Palmerston Street, learning about his life and loves – for here is a man passionate about his work, his family and his faith!

Growing up as a child in a small rural village in Northern Turkey, Emrullah always felt life had more to offer him – but what exactly? Being the only boy in a Muslim family, there were ambitions for him to become an Imam, but even in those early days it was the sights and smells of his mother's cooking that fascinated him the most.

Mealtimes have always been a big aspect of Turkish culture. As Emrullah himself said, 'You didn't ask whether a visitor wanted a cup of tea but how many sugars they take.'

Eventually at 18 years of age, Emrullah left the village never to return to live there permanently. He first went into banking, but this type of work soon became far too claustrophobic - so he went to work as a cleaner in the 5-star Kempinski Hotel in Istanbul. It was here Emrullah began his journey of watching and learning about the restaurant business, for as well as its main dining room the hotel had a world-famous Italian restaurant. However, at this point he only had very basic English and to achieve his dreams he knew he must be more proficient.

He learnt that at the Hyatt Regency Hotel nearby, not only could he progress to the post of Housekeeper, he could also take advantage of the staff English lessons. After 6 months, he had learnt sufficient English to gain the required standard to progress to being a waiter.

His English teacher told the General Manager, who was also English, about this intelligent personable young waiter. It was decided to

invest in him, and from Istanbul he was sent to work in a hotel in Piccadilly, London. He was a quick learner and his 'eyes were opened to the further possibilities life could offer'. After 6 months he returned to Istanbul, but he was determined to experience more. What better way, he thought, than to join a cruise ship! He literally 'sailed' through the interview and was soon working on liners in the USA and Caribbean.

Here he met and fell in love with a Macclesfield girl, who was to become his wife and mother of their 3 much-loved children. After three and a half years they returned to live in England close to her family. Emrullah then worked locally in the restaurant and hospitality business. His passion for Italian cooking – the flavours and smells reminiscent of his life in Turkey – drove him to seek employment at Briscola in Bollington.

Having worked for others for a long time, he realised he really wanted to work for himself. Eventually, in 2007 his dream of owning his own restaurant became a reality as the opportunity arose for him to purchase Briscola. The excellent Chinese Chef, Fan, became his partner and they now employ 12 people on a full or part-time basis, many of whom are Bollington

residents. They pride themselves on keeping a family-friendly ethos and 70% of the business revenue is from repeat custom. Emrullah is keen to acknowledge that his belief in strong family values, a commitment to his faith and a love of good wholesome food is the key to their success. His ambition and drive is still as strong as ever, and for now Bollington is where the heart is! **Kate Gooding**



Photograph provided by Kim McKeever

## BOOKENDS

A variety of local authors came to visit during the Festival and talk about their work

First up was Stephen Booth, an immensely likable man who filled the Arts Centre with keen readers who have followed his detective heroes, Diane Fry and Ben Cooper through every nook and cranny of the Peak District and thirteen - soon to be fourteen novels. Stephen loves complex rambling plots and brims over with ideas.

The Community Centre proved a warmly welcoming venue for an audience for Crime Writers Margaret Murphy and Kate Ellis. Kate really enjoyed telling us about her detective

Wesley Petersen in Devon and Margaret was fascinating on the forensic background of her novels. She started with a beleaguered lawyer Clara and has now moved on to a high ranking policeman Jeff Rickman.

Finally and a great contrast were two feisty young northern novelists, Helen Walsh and Jenn Ashworth. Helen brought her newly released novel, The Lemon Grove. A very strong emotional and erotic tale of young male passion meeting cool female experience in the lush confines of Mallorca.

Jenn has just published The Friday Gospels, a fascinating story of one day in the life of a Mormon teenager preparing to welcome her brother back from a Mission visit to America. **Ken Edwards**



Photo: John Appleyard



# BOLLINGTON

# Live!

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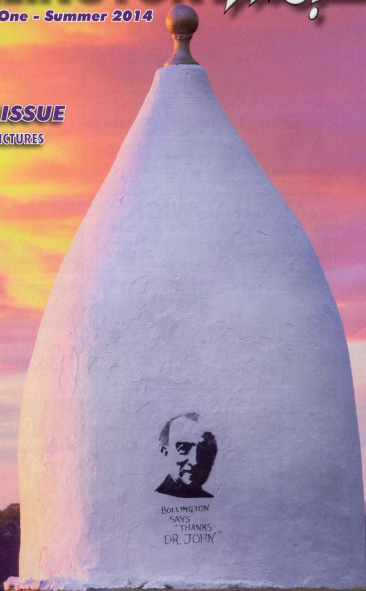
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**Editor**..... Anthony Holland (01625 268047)  
 liveeditor@happy-valley.org.uk  
**Design & Layout**... Anthony Holland, Simon Nottage  
**Editorial Team**.... Tim Neale, Sandy Milson, Annette Hurst, Janet Beech, Simon Nottage, Mark Stedman, Ken Edwards, Steven Hurst, Kate Gooding.  
**Advertising**..... Mark Stedman (01625 575227)  
 Michele Leigh (01625 572953)  
 liveadvert@happy-valley.org.uk  
**Distribution**..... Janet Beech (01625 574618)  
 livedistribution@happy-valley.org.uk  
**Printed by**..... Bollington Printshop (01625 574828)  
**Illustrations by**... Matthew Wray  
**Events**..... Sandy Milson (01625 573191)

## USE IT OR LOSE IT!

There are changes in town that many are opposed to but they spring from changes in the way we use the facilities around us. I have three in mind – closure of the bank, closure of pubs, and the proposal to build houses on the Ingersley Vale bowling green.

There has been a solid campaign against the closure of the NatWest bank and there is no doubt closure could be a major problem for some customers. However, we are now doing so much of our banking online that nowadays only 38 customers are visiting our branch each week – clearly not viable if true. The biggest problem seems to be for the town's shopkeepers needing to bank cash. Could the post office handle this?

Over the last few years we have lost a number of pubs – the Redway, Red Lion, Queen's Arms and the Royal Oak. The Holly Bush is closed, future uncertain. The Turner's Arms was converted into the Con Club and the Waggon & Horses became the Bayleaf Indian restaurant. These closures are the result of a fall in custom. In general

our drinking and eating out habits are changing. Beer consumption is falling, although locally brewed ales are increasingly popular. For many years we were all eating out more but there has been a fall during the financial crisis years. Most of our remaining pubs are feeling the pinch. It's time to visit your local – otherwise next time you think to visit it may no longer be there!

Tullis Russell (TR), our exemplary employee owned paper mill, own the bowling green in Ingersley Vale. They say that there are just 38 members (is 38 a magic number?) and none is a TR employee. TR supports the club financially. TR's main product is coated paper for postage stamps. Email makes this a falling market, dropping by 7% each year, and they need to develop additional products in order to survive. Will we sacrifice the green for the sake of jobs at the mill?

Such is progress. We may not like the changes but they are a reflection of the way we change how we live.

**Tim Boddington**



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this issue of **Bollington Live!** As a town we have just been part of something special. Bollington Festival, the biggest volunteer run festival in the country. A huge round of applause is due to those members of our community who put themselves forward to organise all aspects of this massive event.

As is appropriate, for a magazine which was borne out of a previous Festival in 1993, we have over the past few years ensured that space was available to promote the many pre-festival activities. This issue has the opportunity to look back, with several pages dedicated to looking, both in words and pictures at the two festival weeks in May.

Elsewhere in this issue of **Bollington Live!** we cover a wide variety of stories from past and present. Befitting the 100th Anniversary of The Great War, Allan Williams looks back on how this area was involved a century ago. Back to the here and now, we have an interview with Emrullah, the owner of Briscola restaurant. Again, we also have a 'Bollington by...' interview with one of our younger residents.

This is my final issue of **Bollington Live!** as editor. It has been a great privilege to lead this community magazine for the last eight years and twenty-four issues. I would like to thank everyone who in whatever way has helped me to provide Bollington with its magazine.

The magazine's new editor, Steven Hurst will be well known to many already as the centre manager at Bollington Health and Leisure. The magazine is in safe hands. I wish him every success taking on the role of editor.

All the best!

Date for next copy:  
**30th  
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 2014**