

Mottram St. Andrew

# Mercury



Issue 177 Feb / Mar 2018

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# The Bulls Head

## Mottram St Andrew



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Wednesday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
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Friday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
Saturday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
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Brunch served on sunday mornings		9am - 11.30am



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# The Parish Magazine of Mottram St. Andrew



Produced jointly by the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council

Get ready for the cold snap folks, rather preferring it to all the rain though! Nothing quiet beats a fresh frosty morning walk to put a little glow in your cheeks.

2018 sure has started at a fast and furious pace for me but not complaining. Looking forward to whatever exciting projects that come my way this year.

My head is already dreaming of exotic holidays and the prospect of maybe escaping somewhere hot this year and taking some time out. It will be Easter before we know it and I am right in thinking May warmed up nicely last year! I am bracing myself for this cold snap and possibly snow in April

Thank you to all that continue to write articles for the Mercury and to those who have made a big effort in adding some stimulating content to our community read this month . Gillian Hillary shared an extract from the past legend Beth Gardom's diary giving us an insight into village life in 1986, I hope that you enjoy reading it.

We have a new article from Ian wright which he has kindly offered to continue with in future issues "The untidy gardener" kindly sharing his horticultural knowledge and again we have another poem for poets corner. All this makes our magazine a little more interesting so if anyone would like to contribute by writing an article please do feel free to email me at [gander@goosegreenfarm.com](mailto:gander@goosegreenfarm.com)

Here comes the snow this morning. Had a glorious walk with my dog Riley. Time for all you fun seekers to get the sledges out and build some snowmen. Why not send me some pics for me to include in next months Mercury. Let's see how creative you can all be, shall we. Enjoy the snow but wrap up warm.

You can keep up to date with up & coming event via our village website so please take a look & check out what is going on .

We are looking for a new editor of the Mercury if any one fancies a challenge. My life has just got far too busy and constantly trying to squeeze too much into too few hours of the day.

You can also keep up to date with up & coming event via our village website so please take a look & check it out [www.mottramstAndrew.com](http://www.mottramstAndrew.com)



Front cover image First signs of life - Photo taken by Ian Wright.

# Parish Council Chairman's Report

By Bill Pilkington

I hope that all of you have had a good Christmas and are looking forward to better weather.

During the last few months your Parish Council has been responding to various consultations issued by Cheshire East as well as commenting on numerous planning applications.

We objected to the proposed cuts to community transport, the proposed cuts to school transport and made comments on Cheshire East's pre budget consultation.

We also raised our concerns over the proposed cuts to community transport at the annual general meeting of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils and they have supported our concerns and have raised them with Rachel Bailey at Cheshire East.

I hope that those of you with school age children responded to the proposed cuts to school transport as I recommended that you did. A decision is still awaited.

Those of you who use public transport will have noticed that the 130 bus service provided by Arriva from Macclesfield to Manchester has already been reduced as part of the budget cuts from a half hourly service to hourly. However D&G bus will be providing an hourly service along the same route of the 130 service between Macclesfield and Handforth Dean shopping centre which could be beneficial and therefore continue to provide a half hourly service between Macclesfield and Wilmslow.

We raised our objections over the proposed cuts to highway maintenance in the Cheshire East pre budget consultation which would see a reduction in gully emptying, gritting of roads in the winter etc. to save £1.5 million spread over three years.

In examining the Cheshire East pre budget consultation document we noted that there is a proposed 4.99% increase in Council Tax for the financial year 2018/19 and that further increases will occur in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The main reason for the increase is to support those residents who are receiving care and to provide additional funding in support of adult social care. Cheshire East state that they will always prioritise services for vulnerable people despite the financial challenges.

Cheshire East's key priorities are stated as being welfare, education, health and employment.

Cheshire East have also included £1.5 million in their budget to support investment in the Crewe railway station area to take advantage of the perceived benefits that HS2 will bring to Cheshire East. It is proposed that HS2 will use the existing railway station at Crewe which will make it better as a rail interchange whereas the proposed Manchester Airport station will be located adjacent to junction 6 on the M56 and therefore not at the existing railway station. We are also aware that the Government has requested HS2 to examine operating an hourly HS2 service from Macclesfield calling at Stoke and Stafford. No costings or time savings have been provided. The proposal is for one HS2

train that is 200 metres long to replace the existing longer Pendolino trains. Currently there is one Pendolino from Macclesfield calling at Stoke, an extra one from Stoke and one from Stafford every hour. Therefore if implemented there could be some overcrowding on the proposed HS2 service from Macclesfield.

There are also proposals to close three local libraries at Alderley Edge, Prestbury and Disley to achieve £150,000 saving over the next three years. Our mobile library seems to have escaped the cuts but if we want it retained we need to increase the numbers using it.

The 120 page pre budget document is available on the Cheshire East web site if you want more information.

We have been made aware that Cheshire East has £5.4 million funding available to boost rural businesses that can be applied for by local businesses by contacting [business@skillsandgrowth.co.uk](mailto:business@skillsandgrowth.co.uk) or by telephone 0300 123 5001. The grant can also be used for sourcing faster broadband connectivity through a £600,000 voucher scheme worth up to £4,000 per property.

We are also aware that Manchester Airport has a Community Trust Fund that can award grants to a maximum of £3,000. To be successful a group must comply with various conditions. Your Parish Council has been considering applying for a grant if a suitable project can be found. The Parish Council would be interested to hear of any ideas that can be examined at a future Parish

Council meeting or at the Annual Village Meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in the Village Hall commencing at 7 pm. All residents are encouraged to attend as this meeting gives you the residents the opportunity to raise any concerns.

Some of you may have noticed that BT Open Reach have been working on Wilmslow Road installing ducts for fibre broadband so hopefully things are looking up for those who unable to take advantage of the broadband facility provided by Vispa.

I look forward to seeing many of you at future Parish Council meetings and the Annual Village meeting.



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Our Christmas services which took us through to the end of 2017 began early with a Christmas Tree Festival at the end of November. As this was a 'first' for the chapel it was difficult to say whether this was a good plan or not. However, we need not have worried as it exceeded expectation and was a very successful venture. We could not have done it on our own however, so great thanks are due to all those who took the time and trouble to take part, whether putting in a tree or helping decorate the chapel or supporting the event in any other way. Particular thanks to members of the Over Alderley Brass Band who played for us on the Saturday afternoon and for David Ricketts who played the organ for our 'Carols among the trees' on the Sunday.



A week or so later as the lead up to Christmas continued, members of the Macclesfield Salvation Army Band spent an enjoyable evening with us as we shared carols, thoughts and prayers with their entertaining humour as evident as always. During the year we have continued to fill and re-fill the box of foodstuffs for their food distribution initiative and a special collection of food items, generously added to by members of the WI enabled us to send a substantial quantity to help boost their supply ready for their increased seasonal demand. Following on we are pleased to report all our Christmas services were well supported and it was good to see so many people in chapel on these occasions. It was particularly good to see the children from the Primary Academy once again using the chapel for some of their seasonal events and to be able to share the special atmosphere the space evokes with a younger generation.

The year turned and we celebrated our Covenant Service early in January with Rev Alan Mimmack leading the service as Rev Sue Swires was suddenly struck down with the dreaded Flu and was unable to lead us on that occasion. Pleased to say she is recovering from this and was back to lead the 124<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service later in the month. Sunday services continue to be held at 9.30pm each week and it may perhaps, be timely here to tweak a common phrase and say 'church is not open just for Christmas'. The decorations may have gone but the spirit of God remains

as a constant and we are always pleased to welcome new faces to share worship with us whatever the time of year!

During the week the **'Crafty Club'** continues into the New Year, with meetings held on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** each month from **10am to 12noon** with their next gatherings on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** and **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February** and onwards. A wide range of crafts are represented and as with all our ventures new participants are always welcome. Some evening sessions are planned too for those who are unable to make it in the daytime. No dates for these as yet but they will be happening!

Our **Fellowship Group** also continues to meet, usually on the second Thursday of the month at **1.30pm** being led at present by Will Swires with our next meeting planned for **15<sup>th</sup> February**. At present we are looking at the Psalms; an ancient collection of prayers, poems and songs in which every facet of human emotion can be found. If you want to complain about the world, feel like nothing is ever right or better still, seek to find some peace and tranquillity then there is something in the Psalms for you, and an indication that in human life and society nothing really changes. As the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us 'There is nothing new under the sun!'

Having thought about this, the writer who wrote the latter knew nothing of manufactured plastic and how in the future it would pollute the oceans. He would understand however, that our species are custodians of the world and if we do not look after it, it will not look

after us. As Christians we are particularly mindful of our responsibilities in this respect, yet we are all guilty when it comes to many of the modern issues of pollution of one sort or another. We can however all do our bit to reverse the process small though our efforts might seem, perhaps being a little more careful with the way in which we enrich and enhance our lives from all the abundance around us.

Easter is early this year, and as we look ahead through these next months we have two special services preceding this; our **Ladies Day Service** on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March** at **9.30am** when our preacher this year will be Rev Sue Swires, and the circuit **Ash Wednesday Service 14<sup>th</sup> March** at **7.30pm** which falls to Mottram to host on this occasion. **Easter Sunday** is on **1<sup>st</sup> April** and a good day some may think to start a new month out in the open with an ecumenical 'Sonrise' service on Castle Rock above Alderley Edge at **6am**! Our **Easter service** in the chapel is at the more convenient (and civilized), time of **9.30am** as usual. Well done if you manage both!

Ian Wright (Secretary)

Tel:01625 583704



EXTRACTS FROM BETH GARDOM'S DIARY - 1986 (shared by Jill Hillary)

Beth Gardom lived in Mottram for over 50 years with her husband Reg and both emerged themselves into village life whether at school, the village hall dances and club nights, firework events, village fetes etc. I thought it was worth sharing a few extracts from her diaries as there'll be many of you who remember her as the formidable village school teacher and others who, even if never met her, will be interested in the social history element.

1986

Saturday 22 February

Never above freezing point all week, usually -3 during daylight and -8 at night - but we have had some lovely sunshine. The blackbirds are eating us out of house and home - we have 12!

Trevor Kennerley's 21<sup>st</sup> (travel rug for him). It was a very enjoyable evening. They did him a "This is Your Life" - and he made an excellent speech of thanks.

Saturday 1 March

Joe Adshead 21<sup>st</sup> (luggage for him). The disco was very noisy, but I think everyone enjoyed it.

Friday 21 March

Watched the Treasure Hunt (Cheshire) programme, but they did not show our house. It covered Prestbury, Capesthorpe, Tatton and Styal. They do not stay long enough with the helicopter shots. It would be lovely to go up in a helicopter. Reg went for a trip once, from the Game Fair. I wish they would repeat those lovely "Birds Eye View" programmes, instead of the absolute rubbish that seems to fill the screen some weeks.

Saturday 5 April

Looked at a new Volvo - only looked! The new model has a sunshine roof and a half and half back seat arrangement and the car is wider. Apparently we could have those stupid electric windows altered - certainly would like to have that done.

Monday 21 April

The Queen was 60 today. It was most moving to see the many thousands of children filling the Mall, and the Palace Yard, and singing to the Queen. Every child carried two bunches of daffodils - it was easy to see that the Queen was touched as they waved, shouted and sang. It rained of course! What a year this has been so far.

John Holland's car stolen during the night. Also school broken into - took computer, video etc. (John's car found abandoned two days later.)

Thursday 24 April

The chimney was on fire again tonight and the pot exploded.

The bottom part bombed the roof and has broken a number of

slates and made a hole through. Reg was out - of course. Men are always missing when needed.

#### Saturday 28 June

Reg seems determined to have a new car, and we are going for a trial run today (his birthday). I did not especially like the new Volvo except for the sunshine roof. It would be ridiculous to pay out £5,000 just to get a sunshine roof, but Reg assures me that there are other good points. The roof seemed low, but there is a lot more leg room. If we had one, I think we would choose gold.

#### Saturday 5 July

The car is ordered for 1 August. Gold. The window switch is being altered for me - I HOPE! Our first trip will be down to Notgrove for a week or ten days. We need to be busy getting the caravan ready for that - there is quite a lot for Reg to do.

Wimbledon has not been very exciting really. I did not feel as involved as usual.

#### Monday 7 - Saturday 12 July

I've hardly seen Reg this week because of bowls and the village fete. It rained all night (Friday) and there was steady heavy drizzle until 1200 on Saturday. After that we had a pleasant but cloudy day and the fete went very well. Reg and I ran the Spin Bottle and made about £25. Fete made £500+.

#### Monday 14 July

Have heard that both Ministry of Education and DHSS Pensions have been increased so I am now earning more than when I was working! Feel sure that the Tax Office will soon realize this and start to take it from me.

#### Tuesday 22 July

Ian Wright to be Clerk to the Parish Council after Dorothy Seymour.

#### Wednesday 23 July

Wedding of Prince Andrew, now Duke of York.

I watched the Royal Wedding, of course. I do enjoy pageantry, especially the Household Cavalry. The dress was a success but I thought the train was far too long - it detracted from the religious ceremony to see people rushing out to fuss over it. What a lovely smike he gave her as she approached him in the Abbey.

#### Friday 1 August

Collected new car - D330 HVR, very nice. It purrs along very nicely and it is a treat to have the sunshine roof. I have got a switch for my car window and am very pleased about that. But there is nowhere for my little drink bottle.

In spite of it being new, it pulled the van down to Notgrove with ease. Reg is enjoying having an automatic again.

### Sunday 5 October

Mrs Broadhurst died this week; what a character she was. We thought the notice of death was so exactly right.

"BROADHURST - October 5 1986, in hospital and of 6 Alderley Road, Mottram St Andrew. Doris, aged 88, a rare and indestructible spirit radiating love and joy; adored wife of the late Thomas William and beloved mother of Ruth and Jean. Funeral service at Mottram St Andrew Methodist Chapel on Friday October 10, at 11.15 am"

### Friday 10 October

I enjoyed the school harvest services and it is naughty of me to feel pleased that they didn't do as well as they used to for me and Fiona (Pass). Fiona, by the way, had a baby boy recently.

### Monday 13 October

School was broken into during weekend. Youths suspected and cider stolen from village hall.

Something will have to be done about the Village Hall key as "youths" have been entering and have got into the old bar and stolen cider, for a second time.

### Saturday 22 November

Kennerley's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Bought them a big Portmerion flan dish. We had a good time at their silver wedding party and a good meal.

### Monday 22 December

Club Draw - I'm not sure how much Reg had spent on draw chances but we collected over £70 worth of prizes so I reckon we made a profit.

### Wednesday 31 December

New Year's Eve Dance at village hall. A good do. Goodbye 1986.

In summary

Not a bad year really for the Gardoms.

High spots - Beth - the sunny week in Fowey (September)

Reg - didn't choose

Low levels - Beth - chimney blowout (April) and storms in the caravan (May and October)

Reg - didn't choose.

I have so much enjoyed writing in this diary and looking back over the year.

What a pity I didn't start doing it many years ago.

## Notes from an untidy garden

Our garden is fairly natural which makes me a natural gardener I suppose! If something grows I'm happy for the most part to let it, and many of the flowering plants which grace our garden are native species or wild flowers, 'self sowed' in some way or another. My main aim, I often say, is to keep the brambles off the lawn; no mean feat when they seem capable of growing ten feet in a season! The rest, with a little assistance at times, is largely left to fend for itself. (Then there is the Ivy of course, but more of that another time!). As we start the year its spring bulbs we think of and try to forget the weeds.

One of the first to flower is the Snowdrop, a favourite of many and with a surprising number of varieties for the enthusiast. Though we have three or four varieties in the garden the most numerous by far is the common *Galanthus nivalis* which is widespread throughout Europe and possibly an original native wild species. These were in the garden when we took it over and are now everywhere thanks to lifting them and splitting the clumps which is probably best done as they are dying back after flowering. More surprising are the crocus, some of which have arrived unannounced though I have planted others. Where the early light purple ones came from I don't know but one year there were a couple of flowers and now there is quite a clump. Perhaps a bird or a mouse brought them, but whatever way they arrived I was pleased to see them and allow them a space in the border where they are thriving.

These latter are beginning to show through the ground but it is the snowdrop *Galanthus atkinsii* which is leading the race to spring with the first flowers of this tall and majestic variety showing colour at Christmas. This again has increased its presence with a little help from the gardener. Originally there was one bulb (Well I did pay a pound for it a few years ago when a pound was a pound!), but this too has thrived with little or no attention and what a lot of pleasure seeing them brings. A pound well spent I might say!

Next up may be the smaller iris such as *Iris reticulata* or one of its many varieties, the originals hailing from regions around the North and West of Iran, Iraq and Turkey. As you may already be able to tell I'm quite a fan of spring bulbs and they feature quite prominently in the garden where they are for the most part happy to come up year after year. I rather like that, and am looking forward to seeing some of my favourites as they flower again through the coming months.



By Ian Wright





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THE PARISH COUNCIL AND VILLAGE HALL  
COMMITTEE ARE LOOKING TO APPOINT AN EDITOR  
FOR THE MAGAZINE

WE ARE HOPING TO STIMULATE LOCAL INTEREST  
IN THE MAGAZINE WHEN A NEW APPOINTMENT IS  
MADE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE ROLE  
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# Village Hall

By Steve Hatton



The Hall continues to be busy providing a base for many different activities including

Bridge club, Back Beat Acapella, Indoor Bowling , Line Dancing, Mottram Jive , Musicat Mottram, Brownies and Guides, Parent and Toddler, WI , Wednesday Club, Bingo , Pilates , Amateur dramatics , Sensory Playgroup , Yoga and of course our very friendly Social Club .

We are pleased with the feedback from the existing groups about the quality of the great facility that we have in our small village , and have seen new groups arrive because of what we are able to offer .

We have prepared an electronic brochure to allow us to approach potential users , to fill the limited availability that we still have . This will hopefully further extend the range of activities available to the village .

We are also thrilled to welcome Mottram Academy School who are using the Hall for their Christmas Fair and their Nativity play . It has been several years since they have been able to use the Hall , so it is particularly pleasing to have them connected again with the Village Hall .

Steve Hatton Tel: 01625 590879

Our 2018 programme started with the amazing Holy Moly and the Crackers who came to the hall in January . What a night we had ! The place was jumping by the end of the night . This energetic 6 piece band from Newcastle played their hearts out , offering a great mix of gypsy/Folk/Rock and a good deal of humour from their front man Conrad .

The hall was packed , especially as they requested a dance area , which filled up as the night went on . Holy Moly are touring across Europe this year after the launch of their new CD, Salem which sold a lot of copies on the night . We have had great feedback from those who attended with a request to get them back as soon as possible . If we continue M@M into 2019 , we will be sure to try to book them again . Quotes on mails and Facebook from those who attended include “ Brilliant night at the Hall, I have almost worn out the CD I bought “ , “Thanks for bringing such a great band to Mottram, more please ! “

Next up is one of the biggest names in British Folk and Blues music. Martin Simpson is universally acclaimed as one of the finest ever acoustic guitar players . His solo performances bear witness to an artist at the very top of his game . The remarkable , intimate solo performances Martin gives go from strength to strength - every gig is a masterclass . Martin

Simpson conveys his diverse treasure trove of material from the heart , performing with rare subtlety , intensity and honesty . A true master of his art comes to Mottram .....and at a ticket price of £14.00 ....significantly lower than you will pay anywhere else to see an artist of this quality !

Come along on Saturday 17th February , starting at 8.00 pm .

We have already announced the return of Billy Mitchell , of Lindisfarne fame. Billy has been our biggest ticket seller to date . We had 150 packed into the hall in 2016 with requests to bring him back soon ! We have also announced our Autumn bookings . We have Martin Carthy and John Kirkpatrick playing on the 13th October . Martin Carthy , MBE ,is recognised as one of the most influential folk singers in British Traditional music . He emerged as a young talent in the Folk revival in the 1960"s and is regarded as Folk royalty in most circles . John Kirkpatrick is a renowned Accordion player who has played with Steeleye Span, The Albion band , and Richard Thompson to name but a very few from the long list. The pair are touring the UK later this year, and we are pleased to have grabbed one of the dates for MusicatMottram. Our final offering of the year is a local band , whose music is described as Mancunian Americana . The Travelling band represent the younger end of the folk spectrum , with a driving Indie beat behind a strong folk tradition . We have an acoustic version of the band coming to Mottram on the 17th November 2018 . More to come in later Mercury editions

Folk music is a broad based musical spectrum . We try to represent the full range at MusicatMottram . As the people

who came along to see Holy Moly and The Crackers last Saturday can confirm ....even if you haven't heard of the band, or are unsure if the music is for you, the chances are you will walk away delighted and have maybe found a new favourite . We only book top acts, so take a chance and support our efforts to bring live music to the village.

Details, further information and on line booking can be found on our recently revamped website [www.musicatmottram.com](http://www.musicatmottram.com). You can find YouTube clips , reviews and an on line ticket booking site

<https://www.musicatmottram.com/>

Steve and Chris

## Community - News

### MSA walkers

Our first walk of 2018 will be on Tuesday, 6th February.

Followed by;

Wednesday, 21st February

Thursday, 8th March

Friday, 23rd March

Tuesday, 10th April



Let me know if you intend to come as we do occasionally change times or days if we do not have enough people able to go.

Contact: Katy Hatton Tel: 01625 590879

### Toddler group



The toddler group now has 24 children on the register. The atmosphere is friendly and very calm. We meet on the village hall on Mondays 10.30 to 12 noon.

Contact: Katy Hatton

Tel: 01625 590879



### Pilates

Heidi runs a Pilates group in the village hall on Wednesdays 12.30 - 1p.m. New members are always welcome.

The first lesson is free.

Contact: Katy Hatton

Tel: 01625 590879



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# Social Club

By Mick Shaw

I hope you all had a wonderful time over the Christmas break and feel refreshed and ready to face the challenges of the New Year.

It was lovely to see everyone on Christmas Day bringing their families down to the club. Special thanks to Lucy for running the bar this year.

## Forthcoming Events

Next Curry Nights will be Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February (no curried pancakes) and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm. Ensure your name is on the list by the Tuesday before to avoid disappointment.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April we are holding a Mexican night along a similar theme to the popular curry nights. Names on the list by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April, price £8 per person including your first drink at the bar. Vegetarian options will be available.

The Club is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 8pm and you would be most welcome to join us.

Don't forget it is now time to pay your membership subs of £10 to Sheila Cavanagh or you can pay over the Social Club bar.

You will be receiving your annual AGM invite through the post or by email over the coming days so please ensure that Sheila has your current address or email.

Keep up to date on the website:  
[www.mottramstandrew.com](http://www.mottramstandrew.com)



## Wednesday Club

By Joan Williams

We are a fun loving, good bunch of adventurers so if anyone reading this would like to join us and are thinking about it, please just pick up the phone and call Margaret or Pauline. We would be pleased to welcome any new comers to the group.

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## Mottram St. Andrew Primary Academy

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### Head Teacher's Report

By Miss Jean Willerton

Christmas here at Mottram St Andrew Primary Academy was a special time. Many of you shared in our celebrations by attending our Villagers and Grandparents afternoon. This was extremely well attended and children from across school performed for the huge audience.

We were all very proud of the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 when they performed their amazing Nativity play, Baubles. They did incredibly well and it was easy to forget that the oldest child performing was only seven and the youngest three. The singing was exceptionally good, as were the loud, clear speaking voices. They even managed to make the audience laugh. It was a great experience for the children to perform on stage and it was obvious that they all enjoyed it.

Our junior children were all involved in the traditional carol services in the chapel. The standard for these was extremely high and we were again very proud of the children. The singing was wonderful and a number of children were brave enough to perform solos. We were grateful for the use of the Methodist chapel and to all of the parents and other relatives who joined us.

Our PTA, the Friends of MSAPA, have had an incredible fundraising term. Following on from the success of the Autumn Ball, the Christmas Fair also raised a significant amount of money and was enjoyed by all who attended. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event, particularly to all of the Friends for giving generously of their time. We are hoping to use the money raised to further enhance the IT resources available for the children, at a time when school budgets just don't go far enough.

This term is racing by and the children continue to work hard and are immersed in their new learning. They are consistently a credit to the school and everyone who visits comments on their excellent behaviour and good manners. We are all looking forward to our annual Arts Week in February. The theme this year is 'Diversity' and will include a range of creative activities for all of the children.

Follow us on Twitter @Mottram\_Academy or visit our website [www.mottramacademy.org.uk](http://www.mottramacademy.org.uk)



# Bowling Club

By Phillis Kennerley

---

May I start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year both on the green and off. Hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas festivities although seems like ages ago now.

We start to look forward to the Bowling season which starts at the end of March and hope everyone is limbering up and getting as fit as possible for the tough games ahead.

2017 was a good year with great results for our teams.

In the Macc league the A team finished mid table in Div 2. The B team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Div 3 and the C team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Div 4.

In the Alderley Edge League both teams gained promotion. The A team up to Div 2 & B team up to Div 3.

The two Vets teams finished mid league but the B team did very well getting to the Semi final in the K.O competition.

The monthly Sunday afternoon competitions continue to be popular and are well supported. Alice Eley does a great job in organising them and they are always followed by a delicious tea where everyone brings a surprise contribution.

The 2017 cups were won by the following:

Briar Cup - Tony Buid / Ladies Cup - Beryl Bayley / Teds Two's - Mal Eley & Janet Lewis / Reg Gardom Cup - Joyce Thomas / Cav Cup - Tony Buid / Davis Comp - Gloria Friend & Graham Holt / Scott Cup - Gloria Friend / Up & Coming - John Potts / Most improved - Janet Lewis.

We held our A.G.M on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, it was well attended on a cold wet night. Vera Hammond is again our Chairperson, Gillian Hillary secretary and Brian Slater treasurer so we are in good hands for the coming year.

Thanks to everyone else who helps out with the various tasks, especially the mower team & Syd Kennerley who does a great job with the green maintenance.

We are seriously in need of new players so if you fancy having a go then please get in touch, come along and have a go. We will try to arrange some dates at the beginning of the season for potential new members to get together.

My number is 01625 820231 or email: [sydkennerly@gmail.com](mailto:sydkennerly@gmail.com). We hope to have our annual Presentation night at the social club in the near future and members will be informed as soon as a date is fixed. Wishing you all a good season in 2018.



# Brownies

By Katy Hatton

## 1st MSA Brownies

The Brownies have been thinking of other children by raising money to buy blankets for the children in Syria. They did jobs to raise the money.

We are sending postcards to another Brownie pack to celebrate Thinking Day on 22nd February.

We are hoping to gain artist, musician and brownie skills badges this term.

We meet on Tuesdays in the village hall, 5-6.30 p.m.

Katy Hatton (Brown Owl)

Tel: 01625 590879



# Guides

By Katy Hatton

## 1st. MSA Guides.

Joanna, one of our guides has just gained her Baden Powell award that takes about three years of work to gain. We are having a bowling party to celebrate her achievement.

We continue to help in the community, selling food at village music concerts, raising money for the hospice, and making baby quilts for the hospital.

We are working in patrols gaining badges this term. Glamourama, sports and global badges have been chosen by the girls, involving activities such as henna hand painting, making bath bombs, trying food from around the world, trying new sports. We meet on Fridays, 6-7.30 in the village hall.

Katy Hatton (Owl)

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# Women's Institute

By Anne Wilson

We were entertained at our Christmas Party by "The Robinsons" a duo performing the music of Simon & Garfunkel – a wonderful relaxing evening taking us back to the nostalgia of the "70s" – mulled wine & delicious buffet were served to complete the evening.



Our WI have supported "Operation Christmas Child" over many years but this year the total boxes sent was 388 – A small shoebox can have a big impact and be a part of changing childrens lives all over the world – we are pleased to be a part of this.

The Salvation Army appreciated all our donations and they will use our food gifts to support the community especially the elderly.

Last year Rita Hiscott won the bursary to Denman College in Oxfordshire and together with her husband Geoff they enjoyed a weekend away at the beginning of December on a course entitled "History and Heritage: Advent in Festive Oxford".

It included visiting Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford University, Sheldonian Theatre, Stonor Park House and deer park and finally making their own advent rings before returning home after a really interesting and joyful course.

Our speaker in January was Geoff Williams on the "History & Making of Walking Sticks". He brought with him a large display of walking sticks that he had lovingly made over the years, all shapes & sizes twisted & turned to perfection with birds, horses and other creatures moulded and engraved into them. He collects the wood on walks with his dog when travelling the country with his caravan – an amazing hobby that has turned into a life-long passion.

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) offers small grants to women-led organisations in urban and rural communities and the project for 2018 is the "San Tus Centre" in Mongolia – The Cheshire Federation have pledged £3,312 to fund this project and we are collecting donations of unwanted foreign coins and notes to support this.

A group walk is organised for late January weather permitting into Lyme Park stopping for coffee followed by lunch @ The Boars Head on our return.

The annual County quiz is to be held at the village hall on 21<sup>st</sup> February & our team of four are hoping to be on "good form" that night – it is a fun evening!

Our Film Group meet monthly at MSA Methodist Church – please see the village notice board for upcoming dates and times.

For more information contact Margaret Graham 01625 617054 or Anne Wilson 01625 250473





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thats been here before....  
Nothing now is ever new  
when it was I have no clue  
as the days begin to pass  
I sit in my Mottram Mouse house and  
write my songs  
of love of life of war and gloom  
my memory grows short to the  
childhood I once knew  
Racing with time the sun ain't so bright  
the sky ain't so blue  
It felt so good to be young  
run so freely with the wind..  
to smile a smile of smiles  
to laugh with love and life..

now I'm running down that street called  
time ....

I see a man no longer a boy  
in thd windows of my mind..

looking back over ones life

I want to ask certain questions..

Why this ...why that

how come that couldn't happen and  
that did..

Respect for the common man is above  
all things..

His love is something you can't buy..

his smile is never given away without a  
thought..

and his kindness and respect..

**By Lord Tim Hudson**

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**Mottram St. Andrew  
Annual Parish Council  
Meeting**

on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
in the Village Hall  
commencing at 7 pm.

**Mottram St Andrew  
Village Hall**

**Our next Meeting  
will be the AGM  
to be held on  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 18  
at  
7.00pm.**

**Mercury Magazine  
We Need Your Input**

We are currently looking for villagers who would like to write an editorial piece to be featured in future issues of our much loved Mercury magazine.

We are well aware that we need to include advertising in each issue to fund the production costs but also need to balance advertising space and articles of interest to us all.

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4		3	8					9
1			9				8	
	5	1						
	6			3			2	
8		7			4		1	
	8		4	7				
					9	7		
				2		5		

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