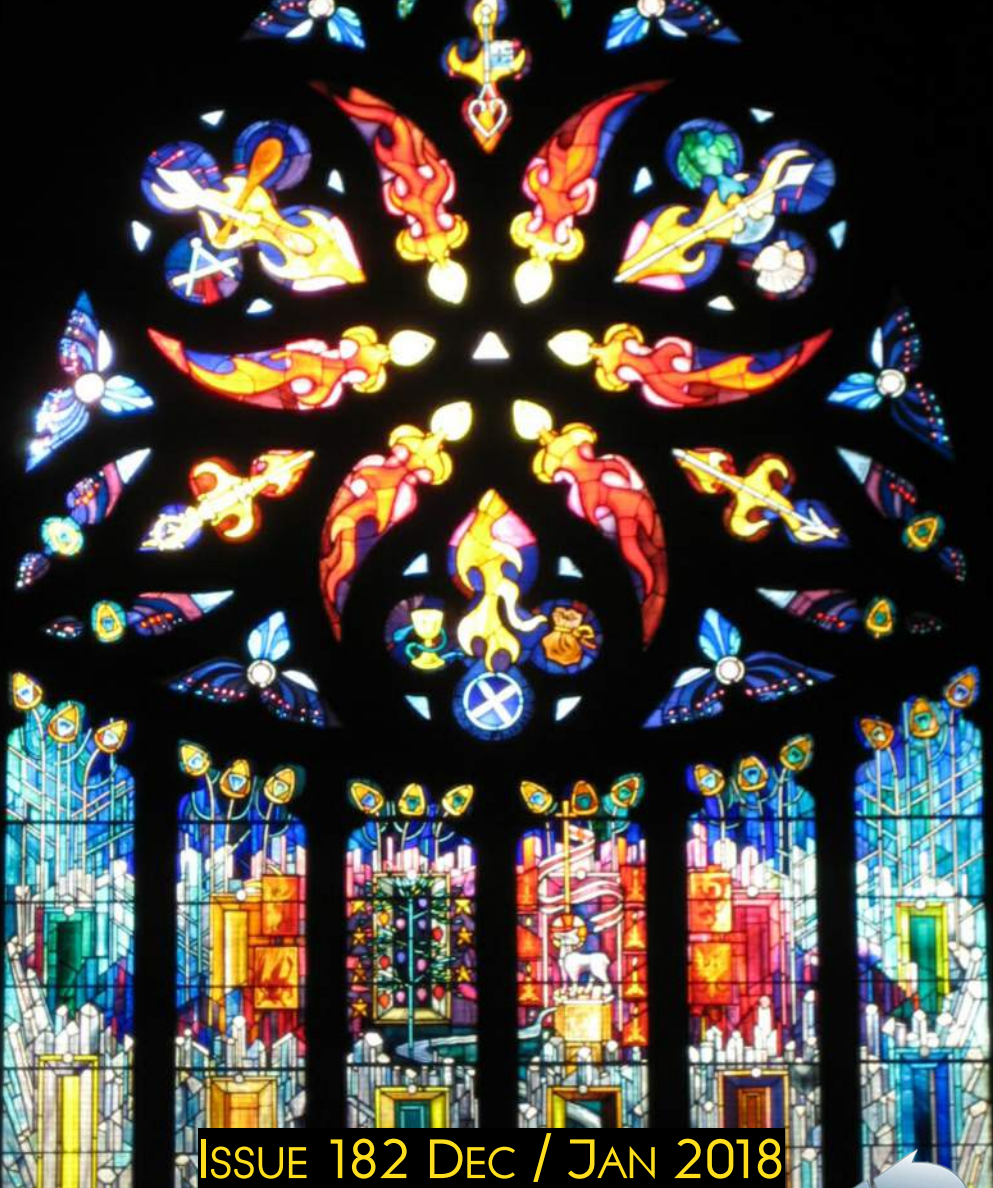


Mottram St. Andrew

MERCURY



ISSUE 182 DEC / JAN 2018

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Mottram St Andrew



The Bull's Head is a classic pub restaurant situated on the Wilmslow Rd in Mottram St Andrew, just a few miles from neighbouring Prestbury, Wilmslow and Alderley Edge.

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Good Pub Guide 2014

Good Pub Guide - New pub of the year 2014

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Day	Open	Food served
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Tuesday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
Wednesday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
Thursday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
Friday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
Saturday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
Sunday	10:30am - 10:30pm	12noon - 9:30pm



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Web: www.bullshead-mottram.co.uk

The Parish Magazine of Mottram St. Andrew

Produced jointly by the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council

BRRR! It is certainly getting chilly out there. I hope you are all well despite the arrival of winter and that you have had at least one mince pie by now. Thank you to those who sent me kind encouragements after my first issue - I am so glad that many of you enjoyed reading it.

I have had an exciting autumn, which I am grateful for, although I am really looking forward to relaxing over Christmas. On top of publishing my first Mercury, I have performed in 16 different concerts in 2 months, visiting new places like Linlithgow near Edinburgh and Chichester in West Sussex, as well as various venues in London. If I had to pick a favourite concert out of them all, it would be my wind quintet's (flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn and bassoon) Wigmore Hall debut! Wigmore Hall in London is one of the most renowned chamber music recital venues in the world so it was quite special, and we had such fun playing pieces that we love. If you would like to see what I get up to in my musical life, visit www.magnardensemble.org or search Magnard Ensemble on Facebook and Twitter.

Now I have some apologies to make - as a newcomer to this editing role, I was not able to make the first issue absolutely perfect. I would like to say sorry to the advertisers whose details or adverts were

out of date. I hope I have rectified them in this issue. As always, please get in touch on manashibata.ob@gmail.com if you notice anything or have any comments.

Please let me know if you have anything about life in Mottram, past, current, and future that you would like to share. Even if you are not sure whether anybody would find it interesting, drop me a line and we will take it from there!

Have a lovely Christmas and keep warm!

Mana x



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Parish Council Chairman's Report

I START THIS REPORT with some good news: residents whose phone lines are connected to the Alderley Edge cabinet can now apply for fibre broadband. This has been a long time coming and I am delighted that at least part of our village can now enjoy the benefits of fast, reliable download speeds that other parts of the country have been enjoying for years. Your Council continues to push for fibre broadband for those homes connected to the Wilmslow or Prestbury cabinets.

On the morning of Sunday November 11th residents packed into the chapel for the Centenary Remembrance Service led by new Reverend Sue Swires. A wooden hand-cut 'Tommy' greeted each person as they approached the chapel. Councillor Bill Pilkington read the names of Mottram St Andrew's fallen and as the congregation turned to face the commemorative plaque on the back wall, a bugler played the Last Post. It was a moving service, beautifully presented.

In my last report I put out a call for volunteer litter pickers; sadly, that call fell on deaf ears. I hope each one of you will nonetheless do your bit to keep our village tidy and report to Cheshire East Council any evidence of fly tipping.

Your Parish Council meets every two months and at the most recent meeting, on November 19th, two of the seven councillors indicated their desire to step down at next May's elections. On behalf of the entire village I would like to thank Bill

Pilkington and Angela Philpott for their many years of loyal service. Their departure means that we will be looking for two like-minded individuals to take their place. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in serving the community by becoming a councillor please contact myself or the clerk, Ron Taylor, for more information. Email addresses are provided below.

On the same day, November 19th, five councillors were treated to a tour of Mottram Academy by the Head Teacher, Jean Willerton. We visited each class to meet the children being taught and their teachers had arranged for one or two children in each case to approach us and explain what they were learning that day. We are lucky to have such a wonderful school in the village and if those children we met are typical of the nation, we have cause to feel optimistic about the future.

Finally, a date for your diaries: on April 29th next year the annual Village Meeting will be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm. We will be joined by Mr Paul Unwin from Cheshire Trading Standards who will deliver a talk titled 'Doorstep Crime Awareness' which covers Rogue Traders, Distraction Burglary and Scams. Please come along and learn how you can better protect yourself in the future.

Robert Hughes, Chairman
Mottram St. Andrew Parish Council

Rob Hughes: robhughes2011@hotmail.co.uk
Ron Taylor: rontaylorllb@gmail.com

Remembrance Service

Sunday 11th November 2018

IT WAS HEARTENING to see the chapel full to capacity requiring additional seats to be found to accommodate everyone for this year's annual remembrance service. There must have been one hundred people in attendance which must have been a coincidence as this year was the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The service was led by the Reverend Sue Swires with readings by Margaret Graham and Pauline Glancy, and wreaths laid by Margaret Graham and Ian Wright. The Act of Remembrance was led by William (Bill) Pilkington of the Parish Council and the last post and reveille were superbly sounded by Karen Robinson on her bugle and the organist was David Ricket.

The Act of Remembrance coincided exactly at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month when the guns fell silent on the Western Front one hundred years ago to mark the end of the First World War that had seen the death of over a million British and Commonwealth soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Twenty men from our small village community were amongst those who died and their names will be honoured for all time together with the three from the Second World War.

Most of the men from our village were killed in the horrific conditions on the Western Front. Others fought and died in

equally dreadful conditions in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, The Middle East and The North Sea. Records of those who died were displayed around the chapel.

We also remembered the 54 men from our village who served and survived, who had to live with the terrible wounds and horrendous sights that they had seen, their names are also recorded on the side panels of the memorial.

Active consideration is being given to the provision of a memorial garden in the area of the village previously known as the common where the majority of those who died had lived.



The above display of hand knitted poppies included the names of those who died was created by the ladies who attend the weekly services and the craft club members. The display was draped over the communion table.



The above life sized silhouette of a British Tommy created by Men in Sheds was erected outside the chapel.



The memorial with the poppy wreaths attached.

Bill Pilkington

Village Hall

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of Mick Shaw, the team put on another splendid bonfire and fireworks display on the 5th November. Ticket sales were very good which enabled us to cover the ever increasing cost of fireworks. Our thanks to those willing volunteers who came along on Sunday mornings to build the bonfire. Our thanks also go to the volunteers who on the night manned the gate and the field, as well as the St. John's ambulance service, the Girl Guides and the bar staff who worked so hard.

classes will run in 14 week blocks commencing Wednesday 21st November. See attached link for more details.

As we approach Christmas, we see that the hall will be very busy as a base for a range of village events. One of the highlights as always will be a nativity play from the Mottram St. Andrew Academy School. Check out the Social Club for their events and opening times over Christmas too.

Steve Hatton, Chairman

We have a new activity in the hall which is for art lovers. The Seasons Art Class started in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st November. Morning and afternoon

Mottram St. Andrew Methodists

NOW THE NIGHTS are drawing in and the weather gradually turning cooler it is perhaps good to look back to harvest time and our celebrations of that season and remember the warmth of summer! Once again the church was adorned with fruit, veg and flowers for the occasion and we sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the display in any way whatsoever. We are pleased to report that all of this generosity was passed on to two local deserving causes in the form of Rossendale Trust in Sutton and the Macclesfield Salvation Army food bank based in Roe Street in Macclesfield, both of whom were very grateful for these gifts.

Drawing further on into autumn, Sunday 11th November was exactly one hundred years since the signing of the Armistice in 1918 which signalled the end of the First World War. We were pleased to see the church full for this special Remembrance Service as we met to remember the 23 from our own community who served and lost their serving their country. The service was led by Rev Sue Swires and the Mottram St Andrew Brownies and Guides also paraded with their flags and we thank them, and everyone else involved in the service for making it such a memorable and respectful occasion. We also thank the Brownies and Guides for assisting in the serving of refreshments when the service was over.

As this is written we are preparing for our second Christmas Tree Festival which will be happening over the weekend of 23rd

to 25th November and are hoping it will be as successful and enjoyable as our first venture last year which went better than any of us thought it would. Putting such an event on is a lot of work for a few people and thanks are due in advance as much of the organisation is done in advance. Hopefully the lights will be on for that weekend and the chapel will be full again from time to time as the weekend celebration unfolds.

Following on this Christmas theme, on **Sunday 9th of December** we have our usual **9.30am** service which will be led by David James, one of our Local Preachers, who bring a different perspective to our Sunday morning service as they share with us from their own varied experiences of life. This year this will be followed in the afternoon by a traditional **Christingle Service at 4.30pm** led by Rev Sue Swires; a little later than the usual Sunday afternoon service but benefiting from the darkness in which the lit candles can really shine out.

Later in the same week, we are pleased to be hosting a Carol filled evening with the Macclesfield Salvation Army Band which takes place on **Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm** and are pleased to once again have the opportunity to show hospitality to our friends from Macclesfield. As well as at harvest time, we have continued throughout the year to collect tinned and packaged food items for distribution in the Macclesfield area and hope to be able to send more seasonal produce back with members of the band when they visit us. If

you can contribute to this in any way we would be more than pleased to receive any gift you are able to give to add to that already collected. We are also pleased to be a part of the Christmas Shoebox appeal run by Samaritan's Purse and also thank everyone who has responded to this by donating boxes, goods or finance to enable this to happen.

If you like carols, we have another Carol Service planned for **Sunday 23rd December** at our usual service time of **9.30am**.

Christmas Eve falls on **Monday 24th December** when we have our usual Christmas Eve Service a little earlier than in previous years at **4.30pm**. On **Christmas Day** there is a service at **10am** with both these services led by Rev Sue Swires. If you can join with us on any or all of these

occasions please do, you will be very welcome.

Looking ahead to the beginning of 2019, our first service of the year will be our annual Covenant Service on **Sunday 13th January** at **9.30am**.

Finally, as always at this time of year, from all at the chapel we wish you our very Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to come.

Ian Wright (Secretary) 583704

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Mottram St. Andrew Primary Academy

Head Teacher's Report

WE ARE HAVING a very busy term at Mottram St. Andrew Primary Academy, with lots going in school. Our fantastic children continue to work hard and are enthusiastic about all of the opportunities available to them. I have included some of the highlights from across school.

Year 1 have finished their topic on castles which included doing paintings, building models out of construction resources and even visiting Beeston Castle. It was a lovely sunny day, and Oscar and Livvy dressed up as knights! They had a special visitor, a knight, who stood in their classroom with a suit of armour and a sword!

For Year 3, one of the highlights has been their trip to Poole's Cavern. They learnt about stalactites and stalagmites as well as making their own fires with flint and steel. The children thought the best part was toasting marshmallows over the fire, which were delicious!

Year 4 visited Woodcocks' Well and Congleton Museum as part of their topic about World War II. They spent time in a real air raid shelter, enjoying a sing song. At Congleton Museum they met a man who had lived through World War II, and he shared his fascinating memories with them.

Year 6 were the first class of the year to do a class assembly for their parents. Their

topic has been Brave New World, exploring all about the Maya civilisation, and their class assembly was a humorous take on all things Maya. Some of the class highlights include researching, designing and making Maya funeral masks, using Maya number and writing systems, and learning the story of the Hero Twins.

Finally, our Year 1 and Year 2 classes have walked to the chapel to see the Christmas Tree Festival. The Year 1 children have done a brilliant job decorating a tree, and it was our first Christmas event of the year.

Our school is certainly a special place to be. If you know anyone who might be interested in a Nursery or Reception place for September 2019 then please ask them to email office@mottramacademy.org.uk to arrange to look around.

Visit our website

www.mottramacademy.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @Mottram_Academy

Jean Willerton (Head Teacher)



Primary Academy Photos

Left: Marshmallow toasting at Poole's Cavern

Below Left: Dressing up at Beeston Castle

Right: Christmas Tree Festival, Mottram



Music at Mottram

THE VISIT OF the Traveling Band in November marked the end of our 2018 programme. This was our 10th M@M concert, and we look forward to 3 more concerts in Spring of 2019 which will then bring us to the end of our third year of bringing live music to the village hall.

Our programmers is folk music based but reflects the wide range of musical styles included under the folk music genre. The contrast between the traditional folk offering from Martin Carthy and John Kirkpatrick, and the Mancunian Americana that we heard from the young guys in the Traveling Band proves the point.

Our next concert on **2nd February** is the local band Pilgrims Way who present their new *Stand and Deliver* show.

On **2nd March**, we are very excited to have Sam Kelly and the Lost Boys. Sam Kelly is one of the brightest young talents

on the circuit at the moment. They reinterpret traditional songs with an energy and musicianship that have made them one of the most successful bands of 2018.

On **30th March** we have a rare concert that brings the two songsmiths, Jez Lowe and Steve Tiltson together on stage to perform some of their huge collection of material.

All concerts start at **8pm**, with doors from 7:15. As always we ask that you book your tickets as early as possible, it makes our lives so much easier and less stressful to know the numbers that are likely to be coming well in advance!

For booking info and further details please go to www.musicatmottram.com

Email musicatmottram@gmail.com

Phone 07904 072190.

Steve and Chris

PILGRIMS' WAY



Saturday 2nd February
Doors 7.15 for 8.00 Start

Mottram St Andrew Village Hall
between Wilmslow & Macclesfield SK10 4QP

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or direct from our website
www.musicatmottram.com



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Or visit our website: www.kimbleroden.co.uk*

Join in!

Information on clubs and groups in the village.

Young People & Parents

Toddler Group Mondays 10:30-12:00
(Contact Katy Hatton 01625 590879)

Brownies Contact Katy Hatton 01625 590879

Guides Fridays 6-7:30 Contact Katy Hatton 01625 590879

Get Active

MSA Walkers Relaxed walks in the surrounding area with a friendly group.
(Contact Katy Hatton 01625 590879)

Pilates with Heidi Cowan. Heidi leads a fun and friendly class, adapting each exercise to everyone's abilities. Come and have a free trial session!

Wednesdays 12:30-13:30 (Contact Katy Hatton 01625 590879)

Bowling Club We continue playing indoor bowling over winter. Beginners welcome. (Contact Brian Slater 01625 828077)

Jive Thursdays 19:30 Beginners welcome. Visit the website for details - www.mottramjiveclub.org.uk.

More the Merrier!

Wednesday Club Every other Wednesday 14:00-16:00 (Contact Pauline Glancy 01625 262940 / 07731 483022 or Margaret Potts 01625 582154)

Social Club Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 20:00 with plenty of fun events, offering something for everyone. (Contact Mick Shaw 01625 584943)

The Women's Institute Inspiring women of MSA since 1948. First Monday of every month 19:30 (Contact Margaret Graham 01625 617054 or Anne Wilson 01625 250473)

Crafty Club Second Tuesday of every month 10:00-12:00 (Contact Margaret Graham 01625 617054)



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Social Club

WE HAD A fantastic bonfire night, dry throughout which is always a bonus. It was great to see so many people there. Our thanks go to all who helped out: Chris, Nigel and Mick for the fireworks display; Chris, Steve, Eric, Malc, Nigel, David, Brian, Neil, Don and Mick for the bonfire building; Sid for the floodlight; The Guides in the tuck shop; Louise, Sue, Deb and Lauren on the bar and clean up in the hall; Steve, Don and Eric on the gate. Apologies if I've missed anyone. It was a great night and a fantastic crowd which made it all worth while. Also a massive thank you to Steve G for supply of all the pallets to build the bonfire. Our new pyrotechnician, Nigel, did a fantastic job on firing the rockets to help make it a memorable display.



The pizzas went down well and we hope to have the same next year.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who attended and complied with our "no own fireworks" policy. We had another safe night with no reported injuries.

Later in the month we had a great night with the latest in the Music @ Mottram events, with The Travelling Band. Steve and Chris do a wonderful job organising these and it is always great to see the hall full.

We are pleased to say that we now accept card payments on the bar.

Forthcoming Events:

We have sold out of tickets to see Audrey M at our Christmas Clubnight extravaganza on Tuesday 11th December. This will be an evening of comedy, music and fine cuisine. Rachel Gate will again be serving up a fantastic meal. It is always a special night and a great opening to the Christmas season.

No curry night in December so next one will be Tuesday 29th January 2019. Names and choices by 22nd January to receive your discount.

Christmas opening:

Friday 21st December 8pm

Christmas Day 12 noon – 1.30pm

Friday 28th December 8pm

Thursday 3rd January 2019 8pm

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mick Shaw, Social Club

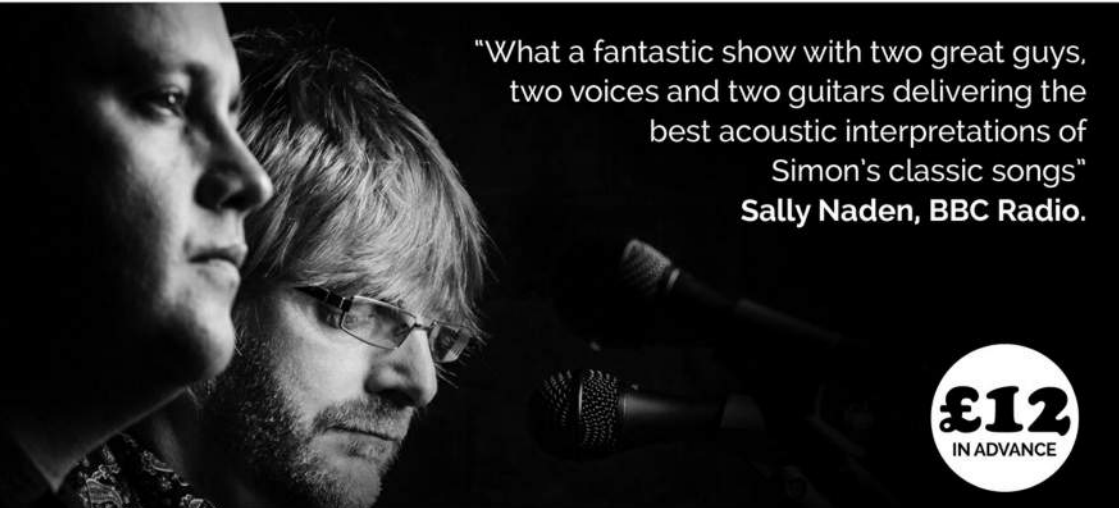
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Bowling Club

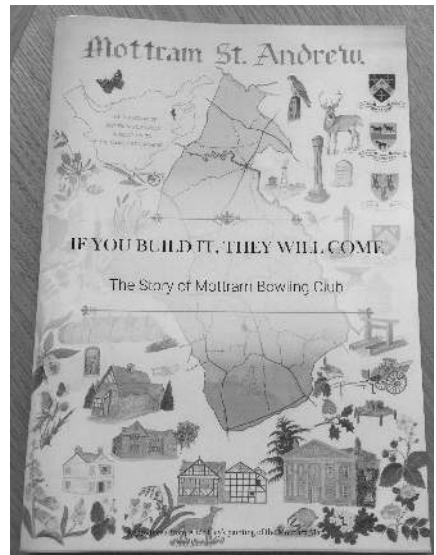
THE 2018 CROWN Green Bowling Season has now well and truly finished. The very hot summer made it trickier than normal to play bowls and Mottram's green was no exception. Games took up to twice the usual length of time to play as the ground was so dry and nothing seemed to want to stay on it! That said, members still enjoyed their games, camaraderie with team players and visitors alike as well as their Sunday informal competitions with fabulous buffet. All this adds to make Mottram bowling a very sociable village club. Members still meet on Tuesday evenings at the village hall to play indoor bowls so if anyone fancies giving this a try pop along to the hall from 7pm – you'll be met by a friendly group of folk, a cuppa, a chat and an introduction to the sport.

We had our AGM in November where 26 members attended. The Secretary's report summarised the results of our various teams in their leagues. The Macclesfield teams ended with the A finishing 7th place in division 2, the B in 2nd place in division 3 and the C 3rd from the bottom of division 3. The B team won £130 and were promoted to division 2 for 2019 season. In the Alderley mixed league both our teams were promoted last year and they will remain in their higher divisions for next season. Our Macclesfield Vets A team finished the season at the bottom of the first division so will join our B team in the second division next year.

Some of us attended the Macclesfield presentation night to collect our winning cheque last month. We all left with a little more than we expected as each Mottram attendee won a raffle prize too!

As previously communicated, one of our members has written, and had published, the story of Mottram Bowling Club to mark the club's 35th anniversary. This is a well documented 54 page history from humble beginnings where local members and residents (after an extortionate quote) joined together and decided to build the green and later the pavilion themselves. Tales and photographs from the start to present day make this not only an interesting read but part of Mottram St Andrew's social history. We are down to our last 12 copies so if you would like to purchase one for £5 please contact Brian Slater on 01625 828077.

Jill Hillary





1st MSA Guides

THE GUIDES ARE busy completing a Christmas badge. We have made Christmas cakes, decorations and gifts. At the moment we are planning for our Christmas party.

We did a sponsored walk in the dark to raise money for Indonesia. So far we have raised £134.

One patrol planted 90 daffodil bulbs in the Village Hall garden as part of a community project. They also planned a meal and a visit to the trampoline centre.

We meet on Fridays in the Village Hall, 6-7:30pm.

Katy Hatton (Owl) 01625590879

The Women's Institute

OUR FIRST GET together in November was a visit to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* show at Wilmslow Leisure Centre, which proved to be an excellent evening's entertainment and enjoyed by all. Two of our members served afternoon tea to the Wednesday Club, which is an annual event provided by our WI, this year 17 of their members enjoyed the treat and the usual tea ladies had a well-earned day off.

Following on from this we held our Annual General Meeting and are pleased to announce that Margaret Graham has held her position as President plus nine committee members to carry us through 2019. Thanks also to Christine & Marion for organising an excellent varied programme for us all to enjoy every month!

Our speaker at the AGM was Dee Drake who runs "The Toy Appeal" a registered charity, which provides toys at Christmas to underprivileged children in the Manchester and Cheshire area. The Appeal has been running since 2013. In 2018, they are hoping to be able to provide toy sacks to over 3,000 children. This can only be achieved with support from local communities and this year our WI have provided a huge number of toys, games and toiletries to help them achieve their goal. Each toy sack is made specifically for each child, based on their age and any special needs they may have. We have also supported "Operation Christmas

Child" shoe box appeal and "Hats for the Homeless".

The group trip to Liverpool was well attended and members enjoyed a good day out seeing the sights of the city and participating in a little retail therapy prior to Christmas.

Our WI and craft group with numerous other local organisations provided a decorated tree at the annual Christmas tree festival at the church which is always well attended by the local community.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Deanwater hotel where we can all relax and enjoy each other's company in lovely festive surroundings.

Our Christmas party is always a joyous evening and this year will be no exception as we are being entertained by Back Beat A Capello Chorus. They were founded in August 2016 in Mottram St Andrew and rehearsals are in our very own village hall.


Our Film Group meet monthly at MSA Methodist Church – please see the village notice board for upcoming dates and times. In the New Year our first film will be the American musical *The Greatest Showman* – everyone is welcome and we serve tea & cakes – Entrance £3.

For more information about your local WI contact Margaret Graham 01625 617054 or Anne Wilson 01625 250473

Anne Wilson (Secretary)

What should be in your medicines cabinet?

Give your medicines cabinet a makeover to help you to be better prepared to self-care. GPs recommend your medicine cabinet should contain the following:



Painkillers
Such as
ibuprofen or
paracetamol

Antihistamines
for allergies

Antiseptic
cream for
bites and
stings

A first aid kit with plasters
and bandages to manage
cuts and sprains

Sun
screen



SPF 50
PA +++

A laxative
to help
constipation

Always be careful to follow the product instructions and regularly check medicines are still in date. If you're not sure what medicines to stock or how best to treat the symptoms of common health problems, ask your pharmacist for advice.

What does it cost to get your medicines cabinet in good shape to self-care?

All of the recommended items can be bought at your local pharmacy or on the high street. Take a look at our medicines cabinet – we bought all of these for under £10!



Total bill £9.78!

I don't feel very well... how long should I wait before I need treatment?

Most common ailments such as colds, a sore throat, cough, sinusitis or an ear infection can't be treated with antibiotics.

Rest, drink plenty of fluids, take some painkillers and have a chat with your pharmacist for advice on relieving your symptoms.



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Extracts from Beth Gardom's Diary - 1991

Beth and Reg Gardom lived in Mottram for over 50 years and immersed themselves in village life. Thank you to **Jill Hillary** for sharing Beth's diary, which will surely bring back fond memories for some and a fascinating insight for others.

Monday 6 January

There are so few birds feeding this year – apart from a flock of sparrows. Usually we have forty or more tits, and now there are only half a dozen. The village should look really pretty when all the daffodils and crocus are out – a lot of people have been busy planting. (PS – they were really lovely in the Spring.)

Tuesday 8 January

Roads very bad today. Two cars ended up in the wall and hedge by Priest Cottage. Really bad gales at night too.

Sunday 13 January

I am not writing about the threat of war – due to Iraq and Kuwait. We will wait and see. But the “deadline” date is 15th. BBC programme full of War News – too full, I think.

Thursday 17 January

GULF WAR IN PROGRESS

Tuesday 29 January

Club 100 Quiz. Dorothy (Seymour) and I are partners in the Quiz again – sometimes with Bobby (Edmee Camm) too. We don't really want to figure in the Grand Final, but we enjoy the weekly contest.

Thursday 7 February

IRA mortar attack on Downing Street.

Friday 8 February

5” or 6” of snow on ground this morning. Traffic moving, but roads bad. Reg busy brushing pathways. I'm staying in front of the fire.

Monday 18 February

Gulf war on land now. Harry Grange has died (cancer).

Saturday 2 March

We met Mary in the Bull's Head car park where she had backed into another car. I knew we should have collected her from hers. We then proceeded to Jill's for a lovely pheasant meal.

Saturday 16 March

Ernest and Olive Hatch's Golden Wedding. 12 noon til 4. It was a very happy occasion. Sheila Cavanagh and friends did buffet food and did it beautifully.

Monday 25 March

Reg to Crewe to collect word processor. I wonder how he will get on with it. When he can understand it better, I suppose I will have to show some interest, and have a go. We don't need it – it is just another thing that has wasted money. But Reg says he will enjoy it.

Tuesday 9 April

Quiz Final – we won!! (£5 each).

Friday 12 April

Stuart Hall “got off”.

Stuart Hall was cleared of shoplifting from his local supermarket yesterday and declared “it's the corner store from now on. They give you cheese to taste on a platter – and they don't slap a hand

on your shoulder when you leave. The future looks glorious. I am going to start enjoying my life again. And from now on I'll be doing my shopping at Percy Grantham's emporium in Alderley Edge"

AN EMPORIUM OF HAMS AND HAPPINESS

They were celebrating last night at Percy Grantham's, the Cheshire village store Stuart Hall called "A glorious shop where get a beatific smile, lots of jollity and aprons down to the floor." Percy himself, who put up his Army demob money to buy it in 1947 is now 79 and long retired. But his son John, 56, said "Stuart is a regular customer whom we all love. He is always smiling, happy and joking – the kind of chap who illuminates the lives of all around him." The corner shop, three miles from Mr Hall's home, is a far cry from the impersonality of supermarkets. Fruit and vegetables are on display outside and lists of goods and prices are chalked on blackboards in the window. The store's specialties – cheeses and hams – brings customers from all over the North West and even abroad. It has only every had one shoplifter – "and he came from a long way away" said John.

Saturday 13 April

Reg erecting Village Sign Post

Saturday 20 April

Unveiling of the Village Sign at 3pm. We were lucky with the weather. The WI had made all the arrangements for the Village Sign and all went well.

Monday 5 May

While we were away Colin Bettany was at death's door while on holiday in Weymouth. Ralph came over from Canada. Colin is back home now.

Friday 17 May

Such a sad day for Dorothy (Seymour). Her grandson Ben (14) was killed when he fell out of a tree he was climbing in his own garden.

Thursday 13 June

Mrs Cohen was here from America – still trying to pin down her Mottershead roots. It is 2.5 years since she came before. She took the old Village Sign away with her – her husband very nearly had a fit!

Saturday 29 June

Village Fete. All went well – good crowd there. Didn't think much of the Band. Seem to have made £600.

Monday 1 July

A letter came from Barbara Cohen to say that they (and the sign) had reached home (America) safely and enclosing a cheque for 75 dollars. We will be printing a facsimile of that in the Mercury.

Saturday 13 July

School reunion – great success.

Past scholars of Mottram St Andrew school are to meet again after more than 50 years apart. Memories of Mottram St Andrew School in the pre-war years came flooding back at a reunion of 100 past pupils. Invitations went out to all scholars of the class of 1940 and earlier who could be contacted through the old registers.

Wednesday 24 July

Mottram on Coronation Street TV (horses).

Sunday 18 August

Have been watching the World Games from Tokyo. The 4 x 400 was our only gold medal but Boy! It was a race worth watching!

Sunday 1 September

We sent in our village Flower Quiz Forms today but don't think we have got them all right. The prize is £50!!!

Saturday 7 September

Flower Show. We got 1st for blackberries and cabbage. It was a very successful show with plenty of entries and a profit of £125.

Tuesday 24 September

Club 100. Flower Quiz Result. Guess who won? YES I DID!! £50!!

There were only three "all correct" entries for the Flower Quiz – mine, Paddy's and John Carr's – and Dan pulled mine out of the hat!

Friday 27 September

Very busy Mercury days, partly because there were several extra loose papers to go in – Chapel and School. John Carr came down to help him.

Tuesday 8 October

Plans on show at the club for new Hall which led to the neighbours being quite cross.

Tuesday 22 October

Fred McA was taken ill while bowling and was taken (unconscious) to hospital.

Friday 25 October

Alice called with yet another American who is looking for roots.

Saturday 2 November

Rugby World Cup Final. It was an exciting game to watch but it wasn't England's day and Australia won 12-6.

Tuesday 5 November

How lucky we were with our bonfire weather. It had been a lovely day and was a cold, clear frosty evening. John Wilmott brought a tin of parkin which measured 2ft x 4ft and there was hot pot etc. Everyone had a happy time and the bonfire was lit by Neil Webb (Man Utd). The Wilmotts have finished at the Bollin Café now although it is not yet sold.

Monday 11 November

Hall Management Committee very annoyed with the opposition for the new plans for the Hall.

Tuesday 12 November

Fred McA died this morning. He was 77, a gentle man who everyone liked.

Thursday 14 November

Village Hall plans turned down today. The Manchester Evening News rang to ask about the plans.

Saturday 14 December

Xmas Dance. (Take mince pies).

Friday 20 December

Xmas Draw. Got a lot of prizes in the draw which added up to about £95. Total amount on tables was just under £2,000.

Thursday 26 December

Boxing day. The Hunt came through – they all looked very smart.

Tuesday 31 December

We decided to stay at home tonight. A poor night for tele but we were glad not to be at the New Years Eve Disco – the first time for about 25 years – we must be getting older! ◇



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The Untidy Gardener

Notes from an untidy garden by Ian Wright

THE ROCKS REMAIN' is the title of a book by Gavin Maxwell of 'Ring of Bright Water' fame and at this

time of year it seems an appropriate description of our garden. Gone are the flowers of summer and though it's true some hardy plants (and weeds), also remain, most look sad and neglected, unlike the rocks which remain solidly indifferent to either weather or season. In fact it's possibly in winter they are appreciated all the more for what they are.

The 'rocks' of our garden take many forms; some could be described as worked stones, some pebbles and some concrete or as the manufacturers of such items may say 're-constituted stone'. They all find a place and they all have their stories, some of which began a long time ago.

An appreciation of all things 'stony' was one of the many shared 'likes' I was fortunate to share with my late father-in-law. On many occasions on passing some imposing specimen he would say 'Just put that in your pocket and we'll take it home.' Sometimes we did just that! He could not bear to see good stone put in a skip if that's where it was heading! I was a willing accomplice and at other times, he would watch me carefully as I studied the limestone blocks from which his Derbyshire home was built. They were full of fossils and therefore of interest to the rock collector. Fortunately any work within the parameters of his garden (and his neighbours) required explosives if any

depth was required so he had a veritable mountain of material from which to pick and the house remained intact!

Much of the rockwork around the pond is Derbyshire limestone from that source and is full of fossilised Crinoids and Brachiopods which flourished in the warm seas of the Carboniferous period. Elsewhere there are smooth rounded lumps of Granite from the Boulder Clays of Wales, transported there by glaciers in the last Ice Age; possible from as far away as the Lake District and beyond and laboriously brought back half way in the boot of a car along with a few chunks of that other welsh speciality; slate! There are stone setts, foot-worn from the passage of traffic before they were recycled from who knows where into retaining walls and features; gritstone flags possibly from local quarries on the Edge or even Teggs Nose near Macclesfield and local Sandstones in many forms; sand first deposited in lakes, rivers and sometimes, deserts, millions of years ago when our part of the earth was closer to the tropics. All of them have their stories to tell and their history written in the textures and minerals from which they were formed.

Growing on these is a selection of mosses and lichens, the latter of which were few and far between in my youth in Mottram as most are very intolerant of air pollution. I'm old enough to remember the smog's (smoky fog), of the 1950's; smog's so thick they were almost solid and through which

light filtered but faintly and with an unhealthy pallor at that. That fortunately disappeared with the 'Clean Air act' first introduced in 1956 (and subsequently revised and added to at various times ever since), giving lichens a chance to colonise again along with Rose Black Spot and

various other fungus diseases familiar to the gardener which just goes to show you can't win every time! But the rocks remain, solid and enduring, with their capacity to engender appreciation even in the coldest days of winter. ◇

Below. Crinoidal Limestone
Right. Lichen rock



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Way Back When... Moss Cottage

Don Parkinson has kindly shared a document written by Margery Bettany, who at the time was the Secretary for MSA W.I. The beautifully written manuscript describes the Powell family, who lived at Moss Cottage for many years.



4.2.91

5. Alderley Road.
M. St. A.

Dear Mrs. Parkinson,

I lend you the enclosed, as you may find them of interest.
Jane Havenhand Powell was my Grandmother.

Welcome to our W.I.

Margery Bettany.
(Sec. of M.St.A. W.I.)

My Grandmother, Jane Havenhand, born 1846, married John Powell & was the first tenant of Moss Cottage. Later she bought the cottage for £90, here her 12 children were born. 4 girls & 8 boys.

George b.1872, a bricklayer, who worked on many of the larger houses in Alderley Edge & on Park Side, Macclesfield: was killed in action in 1915, leaving 2 sons George & Edward, & 2 daughters Jane & Mary.

Lettice Elizabeth b. 1874, married her cousin Joe Powell, they had 13 children & lived on a small holding called Welsh Row near Old Alderley Cross. Mother & I visited every Sunday. The privy had 2 seats where I could sit with my cousin Nora & see & hear the pigs feeding in the adjoining sty. With Hide & Seek in the outhouses, all the farm animals, cousin Jack's ferrets & the numerous cyclists who called for teas: I loved the weekly visit. Alas, Auntie Lizzie died in 1932 & I sadly attended my first funeral.

Joe b.1875, worked as a foreman for Macclesfield Council. He lived next door to us in a row of four cottages & died in 1947 without issue.

Sam b. 1877 was the first person to arrive at Moss Cottage on a motor cycle combination, around 1920: so this was something of a novelty. Sam was in the Liverpool Police & he converted numerous relatives & friends into joining the Police Force, including my Father, who left the force in 1918. Sam retired as a Sgt. & became a detective on the Cunard Shipping Line, during their 6 month World Cruises. The curios he brought back included a whale's tooth, a sugar cane, which he allowed me to give to

Mottram School. Kimonos from Japan, ceramic beads from Italy, wooden boxes with secret compartments, amber beads, leaves which when pressed could be written on. In 1959 he died leaving a son, Ralph. Sam was a controversial figure in the family, he lost his wife in 1922 & her daughter from a previous marriage was brought up by Sam. In 1931, May, his step daughter, became pregnant & Sam married her; so he was 54 when he became the father of a fine boy. This son brought great happiness to Sam & May & he is now a civil engineer with a lovely son & daughter.

Mary was my dear Mother & a sweeter, kinder woman I never knew. Born 1878 she & my father lived next to brother Joe from 1929 to her death in 1960 & were indeed a happy & contented couple. They had two daughters: Margery & Alice & they lost a baby son.

John b. 1880 owned an Hotel in Liverpool, he too was a Mason like his brothers George & Joe. John was killed in action in 1917 leaving a son & daughter John & Jennie.

Ralph b. 1882 was a joiner who served a 7 year apprenticeship with Browns of Wilmslow & later had his own joiners Shop in Prestbury, he died, unmarried, in 1970.

My Grandmother, Jane Levenhand, born 1846, married John Powell & was the first tenant of Moss Cottage. Later she bought the cottage for £30 here her 12 children were born, 4 girls & 8 boys.

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Margery Bettany's beautiful handwriting

Moss Cottage up for auction in 1975

Harry b. 1883 joined the Grenadier Guards in 1902, he had an accident whilst riding horse back & was invalided out of the Guards. He married a delightful Lady & they were Butler & Cook at Pyke House, Littleboro' for many years. Harry died in 1933, without issue.

Maria Jane b. 1884 & d. 1886 from eating deadly nightshade berries growing by the pond opposite Moss Cottage.

Isaac b. 1887 was in the Police, one of brother Sam's converts; however Isaac left the Force & became a gardener. He was a lovely man with twinkling brown eyes, d. 1961 leaving 3 sons & one daughter.

Alick b. 1888, a lovable rogue, fond of wine, women & song & gambling. He married a young, very pretty girl, who was expecting his child. Alick spent two years in Canada as a Lumberjack. Later he was a plate layer on the railway in the Manchester area & on retirement received the usual gold watch. Alick died 1975 in an Old Peoples Bungalow & was sadly missed by the widows in the near by bungalows. A Ladies' Man, to the end. Survived by 2 sons & 2 daughters.

Alice b. 1891, worked at Lee Hall & later did dressmaking, wonderful embroidered Macclesfield silk underwear & crochet work from Moss Cottage. In 1974 Alice, because of blackouts was forced to sell Moss Cottage & after a spell in hospital, was moved to sheltered accommodation, at Holmfield in Alderley Edge. Still mentally alert at almost 93, but alas her eyesight has failed over the past 2 years & in 1983 a pace maker became necessary.

Margery Bettany 1984



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A huge THANK YOU to our community

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the friends who donated and supported us by filling a shoe box or giving gifts of toys, toiletries, teddies etc and the ladies who knitted endless hats & gloves. The WI members who gave loads of gifts to fill the boxes. Without you all we would not have achieved what we did and we are so very grateful to you all.

We have sent around 200 boxes which will be distributed to children of all ages in many countries abroad who have nothing and are greatly in need of such items. It shows that we are a caring community and gives hope to those less fortunate. If you get a minute check out some of the wonderful videos of the children, opening up their surprise box of gifts, it really puts life into perspective and makes us remember just how fortunate we all are. These children are truly in need of such gifts Happy

Christmas to them all, they are very much in our thoughts.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/occ-videos/>

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and prepare the boxes. We are always looking for helper so if you fancy giving up some time next year to help please contact myself and start putting a few items aside for next years collections. We can all make a difference.

Thank you once again.

Sheila x
(On behalf of Mottram St. Andrew Methodist Church)



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Mana is a professional classical musician - she plays the oboe, a member of the woodwind family, and she performs with her wind quintet, Magnard Ensemble, and in orchestras including Manchester Camerata and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. She is the new Editor of the Mercury and this is her second edition.

Who inspired you to do what you do?

Although she wasn't a musician herself, my mum has always loved music and took me to concerts since I was very young. I wanted to join the primary school wind band, and when I asked the music teacher if I could start an instrument, he pulled out a rather dusty box out of his store room, which contained an oboe! I loved it as soon as I played my first note.

What is the best thing about your job?

Visiting new places all the time. The furthest I've travelled with work is Singapore but I love getting to travel within the UK - this year I've been to Sussex (East and West), Wiltshire, the Lincolnshire Wolds, Oxford, Dorset, Devon, the Lakes, London, Hereford, the Cotswolds, Cambridge, Surrey, Scotland, Liverpool, and Yorkshire!

What is the biggest challenge?

Ironically, being on the move constantly! I'm forever packing and unpacking, then sitting on trains. Time management is very important because I also need to make

sure I prepare well for all my performances.

Has there been an occasion where you felt you made a real difference?

When I was younger I used to visit care homes and hospices back home in Japan to play during school holidays. The staff were always amazed by the power of music - people who never uttered a word would start singing along or even speaking. I've always been grateful that I could play the oboe, so that I have the chance to make someone happy, even for a brief moment.

What has been the most memorable moment in your life or career so far?

It's very tricky to choose but maybe the time when I was playing in the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House conducted by Placido Domingo. I used to work as an usher at the Royal Opera House for 7 years before that, so it felt surreal on many levels!

If you could meet anyone, who would you like to meet?

Charlotte Brontë and Clara Schumann.

How would you describe your perfect day off?

Reading a book, drinking tea, with a cat on my lap.

What is your favourite season and why?

Autumn. I love the colours in nature and it's the season for the arts. ♦

Look out for future interviews with more interesting people in the village!

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Message Board



*Sheila and Brian
would like to thank
family and friends for
all the lovely flowers
and cards sent to them
for their Diamond
Wedding.*

**The next Parish Council
Meeting**

**Monday 14th January
2019**

6:30pm

@ the Chapel

If you would like to discuss any issues or problems you may have, I am your dedicated **Police Community Support Officer**. You may see me out and about in the village or you can come to the Police Community Base at the Festival Hall in Alderley Edge. You can also contact me on Prestbury & Alderley Edge Facebook page or via the website www.cheshire.police.uk/prestbury-alderley-edge

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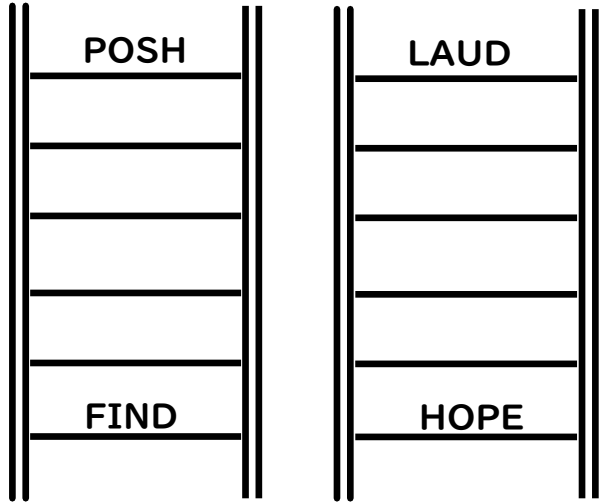


Brain Training

Puzzles taken from i newspaper

Word Ladder

Convert the word at the top of the ladder into the word at the bottom of it, using only the four rungs in between. On each rung, you must put a valid four-letter word that is identical to the word above it, apart from a one-letter change. There may be more than one way of achieving this.



Maths Puzzle

Fill the empty squares with numbers that will make the across and down calculations produce the results shown in the grey squares. Each numeral from 1 to 9 must only appear once. The calculations should be performed from left to right and top to bottom, rather than in strict mathematical order.

Easier

	-		-		-9
+		-		-	♪
9	×	5	+		46
-		×		×	♪
	-		+		5
12	♪	6	♪	24	♪

Harder

	×		-		66
-		-		×	♪
	-		+	4	9
×		×		÷	♪
	-		×		2
10	♪	18	♪	24	♪

MERCURY

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Bill Pilkington

Rushton Fold

Bill Pilkington

Alderley Road

Ruth Holland

The Crescent

Maureen Steele

Smithy Lane

Val Slater

Oak Road

Mick Shaw/Claire

Hatch/Don & Dyllis Hatch

Priest Lane

Bill Pilkington/Val Slater

Withenlee Road

Claire Hatch

Shaws Lane

Claire Hatch

Hunters Pool Lane

Janet Higson

Wilmslow Road

Phyllis Kennerley

Lees Lane

Michelle Blakeborough

Mill Lane

Michelle Blakeborough

Woodford Lane

Lesley Rowbotham

Copy deadline for the next issue is **Fri 18th January 2019**

Comments, Ideas and Contributions to the Editor:

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