



# The Bulls Head

# 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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The Bull's Head has returned to its roots as a traditional country pub.

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#### Recommendations

Good Pub Guide 2014 Good Pub Guide - New pub of the year 2014

### Opening times:

Day	Open	Food served
Monday	10:30am - 11pm	12noon - 10pm
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





The Bulls Head, Wilmslow Road, Mottram St Andrew, SK10 4QH

Tel: 01625 828 111

Email: bulls.head@brunningandprice.co.uk Web: www.bullshead-mottram.co.uk

## The Parish Magazine of Mottram St. Andrew



Produced jointly by the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council

#### Oh here comes Summer......

Well it sure has been a miserable few months weather wise with only a few bright spells, not even had my flip flops out yet! I don't know about you all but I sure am ready for some full on sunshine in my life. Been dying to plant some colour in my garden and this year I stuck to my dear Grandad's advise "Never plant your hanging baskets until May is out". Well this week, are we set for this heat wave? Everyone with there lawn mowers at the ready, BBQ's out of storage and cleaned off, I for one will be chilling the vino and sizzling some sausages.

Well a busy few months with lots going on in our wonderful village. The village Fete & family dog show is the first weekend of July ( Saturday 4th July) which will be fun for all the family so get the pooches in training and get the date in your diaries. My Dog Riley will defiantly but in training for the Waggiest Tail she loves to shake her booty and if there was a prize for mischief maker she would win hands down. There will be lots of activities planned for the kids including, sports day style races organised by Sophie Cavanagh. Bouncy Castle. the amazing local amazing Cheerleader

will be joining us and treating us to a display and Mottram St. Andrew Primary Academy choir will be performing. Local favourite John Wilmot will be there with his horse & trap to give rides & if your feeling strong, Malcom Eley will be bringing his tractor for tug the tractor competition. There will also be a bowling demonstration by Mottram bowlers followed by opportunities for people to have a go themselves. Great stalls and fabulous prizes to be won. The Bar will be open, tea & coffee, cakes & food will be available throughout the day. Come along and be a part of your community for a great day.

If you can help with preparations for the big day then please **Contact**: **Katy Hatton Tel**: **01625 590879** 



# Chairman's Report By Bill Pilkington



The Parish Council election was uncontested and the follow candidates were therefore elected unopposed to the new Parish Council.

They are Angela Philpott, Bill Pilkington, Don Hatch, Hugh Morgan, Mike Holland, Syd Blakeborough and Tucker Wennell.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Chapel in Priest Lane Bill Pilkington was re-elected as chairman of the Parish Council for the next twelve months, Angela Philpott was elected Deputy Chairman and Ron Taylor continues in his role as the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council will address the issues raised at the Annual Parish meeting that was held in the Village Hall on Monday 27th April. The main issues discussed were the need for improved fibre broadband speeds in the village

#### **Parish Council**

and the need to retain the excellent train services from Macclesfield and Wilmslow to London. David Rutley our re-elected Member of Parliament has promised to support our campaign for better broadband in the village.

It was very encouraging to see so many people from all parts of the village attending the Annual Parish meeting in April, to see fifty people must be a record. It would be excellent if we had this attendance at all our Parish Council meetings.

Queries have been raised in the past regarding the procedures to be followed for the allocation of Peaks and Plains properties in the village. These are as follows.

Priority is awarded to those applicants with a connection to the Parish as per the extract from the Cheshire Homechoice Allocations Policy document. This connection overrides any housing need award so regardless of the banding of the applicant, community connection takes precedent. If there are two or more applicants with a connection to the parish then the application will then revert to banding award, then on time waiting on the housing register between the applicants.

# Cheshire Homechoice Common Allocations Policy page 22.

"In these cases a person will be deemed to have a community connection if they fulfil one or more of the criteria below. If there is more than one applicant with a connection they will be considered in the order of their priority Banding and effective date.

Currently live, or have lived, within the boundaries of the parish or adjoining parish and have done for at least one of the last two years or three out of the last five years.

Have immediate family (sibling, son, daughter, parent, step-parent or adoptive parents) who are currently living within the boundaries of the parish or adjoining parish and have done so for at least five years.

Have a permanent contract of employment within the parish or adjoining parish."

Of course the applicant will still need to bid at the time of the property advert being run on Cheshire Homechoice to be considered. There is no deviation on the strength of community connection, the applicant either qualifies to have a community connection as per the above or does not. If there are no applicants on the property shortlist with a connection then the property will be allocated in banding order standard as per allocations.

Look forward to seeing you at future meetings and working with those who volunteered to campaign for improved broadband in the village.

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# Clerk's Report By Ron Taylor

Thank you to all fifty residents who attended the Annual Village Meeting on Monday 27th April an excellent turn out which will hopefully encourage more of you to put in an appearance next year. The residents expressed their resolve to support the Parish Council campaign to improve the broadband speeds in the Village and a steering committee has been set up to help. The next step is a further meeting with BT to consider their proposals and the cost involved to solve our local problems. The Parish Council efforts to protect our rail service from Wilmslow and Macclesfield to London after HS2 was also unanimously supported. I think there is still a failure generally to appreciate that we will not enjoy the same excellent service with the current plans of travel to Crewe or a new station at Manchester airport to link up with HS2 and a closure of the service to London locally.

On a more mundane matter the meeting was also unanimous in its resolve to continue to fight the problem of litter in the Village and the Council will be organising collection days and also investigating the possibility of baring the cost of such collections from the precept.

The Council AGM took place on 18th May and one new Councillor Hugh Morgan took his seat. The usual procedural matters were resolved and further issues raised by the residents were dealt with including the proposal to investigate the possibility of a Village shop. The web site is progressing and will be fully operational soon, while plans for the maintenance schedule were agreed. Getting back to the litter we would all benefit if members of the Community picked up any litter they see when they are out and about and dropped it in your dustbins. A big thank you to those who have been doing this for years, you know who you are.

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# ethodist Church

By Ian Wright



The celebrations for Easter are now over and, as this is written, our church calendar moves on towards the festival of Pentecost which is also known as 'Whit', with 'Whit Sunday' occurring some seven weeks after Easter Day and this year falling on Sunday 24th May. The festival has many historical reference points and is still celebrated in Judaism as the festival of 'Shavuot' or 'Feast of Weeks'. In the Christian tradition the festival celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples at Pentecost enabling them with the power to go out into the world and preach the Good News of the risen Christ despite their humble origins. In fact the bible account numbers them at 120 gathered together in one place with Jesus' mother Mary and his brothers amongst the people present on that occasion. At the beginning of the book of Acts Jesus' appears for the last time with the

### **Community - News**

disciples and instructs them to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit which would descend on them in a new way in Gods' good time. When they were gathered together on the day of the Jewish Pentecost (as they were all Jews at the time), the spirit descended on them in a quite dramatic way and many see this event as the starting point of the Christian church we now see today.

The term 'feast' mentioned above, has many connotations and if your idea of strawberries feasting includes and cream then we have our own celebrations coming along soon just for you! It's been a while since the chapel had any fund raising activities but coming up on Saturday 18th July is a Strawberry tea to be held in the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Hopefully lots of tables ready for a traditional afternoon tea and hopefully lots of visitors to ensure that no strawberry is left unappreciated at the end of the day.

The following afternoon, on Sunday 19th July, we celebrate another of our locally special dates as we share in our annual Open Air Service. As we have in previous years we will be meeting outside the bungalows on Alderley Road at 2.30pm and we thank the musicians of the Over Alderley Band in advance for giving of their time and talent to bring us some musical accompaniment on the day. The service will be led by Rev Ben Clowes refreshments will be served afterwards. Once again we are hoping for a fine day but one never knows so bring along a 'brolly/sunshade?' as an insurance, as, as in the past, only the musicians and the cakes can be sure of a gazebo to shelter under should the unpredictable elements throw us a

#### **Community - News**

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wobbly! Whatever the weather on the day there remains something special about sharing our faith in the great outdoors with nature and all her elements wrapped around us. Please come along if you can. You will be made very welcome. Please also note there is no morning service in chapel on that day.

We are pleased to say the church building continues to be used by other groups in the community with the Singing Group and the Parish Council being regular users. Our own Fellowship Group continues to meet monthly and our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th June at 1.30pm when we will be looking at Chapter 9 in the book of Nehemiah. The meetings are informal and though following a series, are self contained, free and last about an hour and a half. If you feel moved to join us at any of our meetings or at our regular Sunday services you will be made very welcome.

Contact:lan Wright (Secretary)

Tel: 01625 583704





# ursery

By Kate Colbeck

After a fun filled holiday club sharing our favourite things and getting curious and messy with lots of science experiments, we started back at nursery learning about animals great and small. From birds to reptiles, safari to our own pets, the children have learnt and explored animals from around the world. One of the highlights of the topic was a visit from Animal Magic who brought along a range of interesting animals for us to meet and learn about. The children got up close and personal with Fudge the skunk, Comet the meerkat. а whole family sugarskaters. Pumpkin the snake. Hector the tortoise, plus many many more!



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In our last week of this topic the nursery is also home to a family of baby Ladybirds. We are learning about their life cycle, how they develop, grow and live. At the end of this exciting week of watching them, we will release them into our growing nursery garden.

The beginning of our Woody Explorers has got off to a great, if slightly wet, start. Our pre-school children have the opportunity each week to go for a morning walk over the small woodland bordering the playing fields and spend time in the great outdoors. With the individual child at the centre, this approach to learning shifts with the natural world around, overcoming the challenges each day and season brings, fulfilling each session with discovery and fulfilment. It has been fascinating to watch the children develop in even

#### **Community - News**

this short time frame - from listening skills, physical confidence and social aspects, these short walks offer a vehicle to learn whilst having lots of fun! The nursery team have also had opportunity to undertake dedicated forest school training. Along with other local schools. including the Mottram Academy, we teamed up at a nearby woodland and all had a fantastic time learning new games, getting creative, cooking dinner on a campfire, toasting marshmallows and much more. Elements of this we are starting to introduce with the children and the response has been great.





For our last half term before the excitement of the summer holidays we are holding a staff challenge week. Helping to raise funds for our holiday club, Michelle, Libbie, Emma, Sam and myself will be cycling to Disneyland in Paris (on a static bike!) over the course of three days. For this 492 mile journey we will be aiming to cover 164 miles each day at 20.5 miles per hour! Whilst Julie will be taking it easy on Thursday and will be wallowing on stage in a bath of baked beans for the entire day. Friday is party fun day with a disco, games and the chance to throw wet sponges at the grown ups! If you would like to sponsor us please have a look at our website or Facebook page.

The up and coming holiday club is once again packed with fun filled activities as usual! It is the Little Challenger week and we will have an action packed week of obstacle courses and races, lots of games and sporting challenges, plus the chance to bring your own bikes and scooters. These activities will, once again, be packed in with the usual Fun Club activities including the bouncy castle. lots of different craft activities, hair braiding, face painting, den building and much, much more! There will be certificates and medals to be won too! For more information get in contact ASAP as places are filling up fast.

## **Primary Academy**







# **Mottram St. Andrew Primary Academy**

# ead Teacher's Report By Chris Bowen

We have just completed a very quick, five week half term and have the half-term holiday to look forward to.

The main event of the half-term has probably been the Year 6 SATs tests which took place during the second week of May. This is quite demanding week for our oldest children who took tests in maths, reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Some of our most able children took the additional Level 6 tests as well. They have all worked very hard over the last few months preparing for these tests and we are sure that they will be rewarded with excellent results. After half-term they have their residential trip to The Conway Centre to look forward to.



The Sunday before the SATs test, our girls' football team took part in the Reliance 7's football finals, having

won their group in the knock out stage earlier in the term. They finished third overall after losing to the eventual winners in the semifinal.



This is a great achievement for our girls especially as most of the team are still in Year 5. We are looking forward to having a great team next year. The team is coached by Sophie Cavanagh – we are delighted to have her back in school running a number of after-school activities for us. It wasn't long ago that she was part of our football team herself!

Many of our classes have been on school visits connected with their topic work. Year 1 and Year 2 had a great day out at Chester Zoo taking part in workshops as well as having the chance to look at some of the most exciting animals.

Year 4 visited Manchester Museum as part of their Ancient Egyptian topic and enjoyed looking at all the artefacts, especially the mummies.

The school year goes so quickly with only another half-term before the Summer Holidays. We are already planning things for our academic year and preparing to welcome our new Reception children to the Academy. Unusually, we are not completely full for September so if you know of any children who are due to start school and who haven't got a suitable school place then do ask their parents to contact us for the latest position on places. We have one or two places in some of our other classes as well so it is always worth parents giving us a ring to find out about availability or to book a visit to the school.

There is always a lot going on at the Academy. You can follow us on Twitter @mottram\_academy to hear the latest updates.

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# Community - News ednesday Club By Joan Williams

Our Wednesday group enjoyed the Spring outing on a Canal Boat. Although the weather let us down it did not dampen our spirits. The boat was really comfortable and offered us light refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits.

We gently travel to Lancaster, turn around and headed back to Barton Grange for a wonderful hot meal for lunch.



Thank you to our two Margaret's who see to the chairing of the Wednesday Group meetings, the ladies who serve the refreshments and the ladies who organise the quiz, darts, raffles & our much enjoyed trips. They do a sterling job, all are an integral part of this group and I wish to say thank you for all their hard work.

Maybe you would care to join us and enjoy a change to your Wednesday afternoon. We would be glad to see you.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

# omen's Institute

By Gwynneth Littleton

Well so many things to talk about this issue. The banner has been handed in. The Royal Garden Party takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June with our representative there. And forget Picasso, Pat Smith produced some bunting for us which was cleverly muted in tone and thoughtfully executed. It is an artistic masterpiece and we are very proud. Plans are on foot for visits to Macclesfield Heritage Museum. educational project, and to Llandudno and Harrogate with the group. Liz Durbar is to take up the Denman Bursary and looked happy about that.

The Health and Well Being Resolution was given a through airing. supported it a little warily as Pauline gave us such a graphic talk, outlining the problems of caring in its many guises. It was a salutary half hour and left many of us feeling more than a little anxious.

Anne Wood gave us a vivid guide in her talk about Adlington Hall . Mystery objects, which we had to try and identify, kept listening avidly. us fascinating to learn that pinecones, carved in wood were a sign of welcome. And that Handel played on the organ and produced a special Hunting song for a member of the Legh family. Anne emphasised the importance of the garden in the past. We learnt that the Hall had been used as a maternity Hospital for the wives of sailors, soldiers and airmen during the 1939 45 war.

Kate from the Mustard Seed in Macclesfield gave us our May talk. She horrified us by stripping leaves off all the great long stems of red Naomi roses to produce geometric shapes around

### **Community - News**

twisted willow. These were offset with purple veronica and vivid green chrysanthemum. The trough container held oasis covered with moss and metallic wire, which needed tough stems to penetrate. The flowers came from Holland and were ordered one day and were there the next. Kate kept us entertained with her pleasant talk as she produced her work. There were colourful miniature arrangements for her to judge which she appreciated. It reminded us as we departed for home that it was still necessary to guard against frost, tempting though it was to want colour in our gardens.



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# Brownies

By Katy Hatton

#### 1st MSA Brownies

Our unit has taken in some Brownies from a unit in Prestbury which has closed so we have now increased our numbers to 30.

Our two W.I ladies have been busy making sure that everyone has their cooks badge, making crumbles and cakes with the girls.

The Brownies have been working on two badges this term, the traditions of guiding and some life skills. Everyone has now completed one of those badges.

We have a visit to an alpaca farm very soon and a night in Tabley discovering all the fun of the fair.

We are going to fill jam jars full of items such as wrapped sweets, hair items, stationary, toys, etc. for the village fete. We would be be very grateful for any jars (filled or unfilled) from villagers to go on our stall.

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

Contact:Katy Hatton (Brown Owl)
Tel: 01625 590879

# Community - News

# Guides

By Katy Hatton

#### 1st MSA Guides

We celebrated our three patrol leaders gaining their Baden Powell award with a chocolate party, making pizzas, lollipops, toadstools, cakes and chocolates.

On the 20th June we are spending a day in London, seeing the sights and having an ice- cream in Harrods ice-cream parlour.

Guides have been learning camping skills and have two camps planned. Two guides have passed their advanced campers badge.

Three of our guides, Lauren, Alys and lucy completed the night walk for the hospice. We had a fund raising evening for the hospice and they were given leaflets about the event, so they decided to follow it up.

Patrols are working on three new badges - onesies, sweet fantastic, and cup cakes.

Some of the guides are camping at a guide pop concert at Tabley in June. Others are having fun on a golf course. One of the girls, entered the junior competition for boys and girls and won!

Well done Katie. Amelia is busy doing a Guide sailing course at Tatton. We meet in the village hall on Fridays 6-7.30 p.m.

**Contact: Katy Hatton (Owl)** 

Tel: 01625 590879

#### **Community - News**

# Social Club

By Mick Shaw

We had a fun day at Chester races on the Friday this year rather than the usual Thursday due to the clubroom being used for polling. We started with an excellent oatcake breakfast before setting off for a days racing. The weather was its usual inclement self and rained for most of the day but we didn't let it our enthusiasm. ΑII dampen returned safely to the club for nibbles and we even had a few of us winning on the day.

Following the AGM we have now elected officers for the club as listed below:

Chairperson to be floating and elected at each meeting, as last year.

Treasurer......Mick Shaw
Secretary......Kay Caine
Membership Secretary.....Sheila
Cayanagh

### **Forthcoming Events**

We are really excited to have secured the Rolling Stones tribute band "Tumbling Dice" for our charity event in aid of North West Air Ambulance on Saturday 17th October. Those of you who have seen this band before will know just how good they are.



The North West Air Ambulance is dependent entirely on charitable donations to fund its life saving activities and they need £4.2 million every year to keep the service going. Tickets for this event will go on sale mid-June so keep a lookout for posters and facebook page for further details or email me (mick.shaw@tesco.net) to express an interest and I'll then let you know when they become available.

The Village Fete is to be held on Saturday 4th July. Any offers of help either on the day or in the evenings of the week beforehand would be most welcome.

Next Curry Nights will be Tuesday 30th June and 28th July from 7.30pm. Ensure your name is on the list by the <u>Tuesday</u> before to avoid disappointment.

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

# igh Speed Broadband

By Roger White

### **Parish General Meeting**

Thank you to those who turned out to the meeting and took part in the discussion of the state of broadband services in the village. There is deep dissatisfaction with the level of service and with the exclusion of Mottram St Andrew from the current Connecting Cheshire projects. Our taxes are contributing to these projects, but we are receiving nothing in return.

As a result of the meeting, we now have a Working Group to see if we can find a way forward. Thank you to Peter Ellis, Rob Hughes and Andy Levis for volunteering. If you feel that you could offer some time and energy to the project, please let me know (roger@whitedean.co.uk).

## **Moving Forward**

One of the first tasks for the Working Group will be the rescheduled meeting with BT and Connecting Cheshire. Unfortunately, BT had not completed their work in time for the Parish Meeting and the planned meeting was cancelled. It now looks like the meeting will take place in June, so hopefully there will be something to report next time.

There were a lot of commitments to rural broadband provision in the recent elections, including statements about "almost" universal service levels. The key word is "almost", as we already know that we

are in the last 1% for Cheshire. We will be trying to clarify exactly what commitments are being made, to what time-scales, and with what scope. We must not be misled by vague statements – we have already suffered from these and won't be fooled again.

In the meantime, the search goes on for alternative solutions. There is work going on in Wincle looking at the use of fixed wireless links to extend the reach of the cables. We shall be watching with interest, as wireless relay points may be easier to deploy than new cables. However, at some point you do need to connect into a high-speed backbone and this is probably our biggest issue.

At some point, it may be necessary to call for explicit support for a solution. Some service providers require a level of sign-up before services are deployed. Unless their threshold is reached, the service is not economically viable and cannot be implemented.



#### **Community - News**

# Why Do We Need High Speed Broadband?

As we embark the next phase, it might be worth reminding ourselves of the motivation for this activity. You have probably heard much of this before, but I think it is worth repeating.

- \* Education. Students at all levels are increasingly reliant on Internet services to receive, research and submit assignments. Poor services will limit the scope of such activities, placing our students at a disadvantage.
- Business. Existing businesses (including our farmers) are expected to use the Internet engage with customers and to access many services. Businesses which are unable to do so effectively are at a competitive disadvantage. Similarly, the productivity of anyone working from home is impaired, as it may not possible to exchange data efficiently or at the same time as performing other tasks. The village is unlikely to attract new businesses if would place them at а disadvantage.
- \* Information and Entertainment. As the technical quality of available information improves, some sources will become inaccessible unless there is sufficient connection bandwidth. The move to Internet-only TV channels will leave the village behind, as our connections struggle to keep up with low definition video streams. High speed connections

could also create new opportunities, such film nights at the Village Hall using downloaded or streamed content.

- Many services Services. moving to an online model, with resources and access requiring a decent broadband service. documents. planning e.g. applications, are sizeable and take a transfer. long time to Poor broadband services will disenfranchise residents.
- \* Community. There is a lot of talk about the economic potential of the "northern powerhouse" and "science corridor", but where will these skilled workers live? It is likely that such "knowledge workers" will want to be able to work from home at least some of the time, and for this they need good communications for data sharing and collaboration. Without a decent broadband service, the village is not an attractive location to live.

So what does it mean if the village is not attractive to incoming businesses and residents? In the short term, it probably means a reduction in the value of properties or more difficulty in obtaining a sale. In the longer term, the impact on the village may be far deeper.

As young people move out of the village in search of key services, new young families are unlikely to replace them. Without young children, do you still need a school in the village? What is the effect on the

vitality of the village if the average age is increasing? How will this affect the amenities required and social structure of the community?

There are parallels with the past, where rural communities saw an exodus of young people seeking a better and easier life in the city. In some cases, it signalled the death of the village shop, the village post office, the village pub and village life in general.

These days, good communications are considered close to a utility service. Would you want to live and work in a community with no electricity or telephone service? High speed broadband is rapidly becoming a service that people expect to be available.

These are the reasons why I believe we should be fighting for a better broadband service. It takes time to implement new infrastructure, and with every day of inaction we slip further and further behind the majority of the country.



# Community - News inging For Fun By Anne Readman

**Kookaburras Open Evening** 

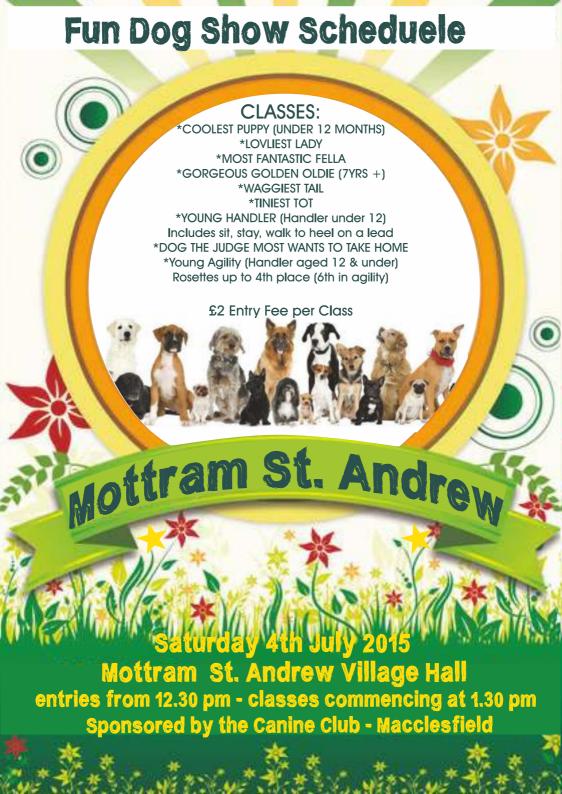
We are a locally run 'natural voice' singing group who meet in Mottram Methodist Chapel once a month – learning short rounds and harmony songs by ear with no written music in sight!

For our singing session on Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> we are opening the doors of the Chapel for an Open Evening where we invite you to come, listen and see what we do – how we learn the songs and how much fun we have. We want you to enjoy the music and the company.

Don't expect a formal concert – we don't normally sing for performing but for our own enjoyment – but we will sing a programme of songs that we know well and enjoy. I may teach a short song just to demonstrate how we do it.

We will be singing from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in the Methodist Chapel, Priest Road, Mottram St Andrew. Most people park in the Village Hall car park because it is only a short walk and it will be light in the evening. Bring yourselves a soft drink because we are very informal and don't lay on refreshments at the interval which is usually about 15 minutes.

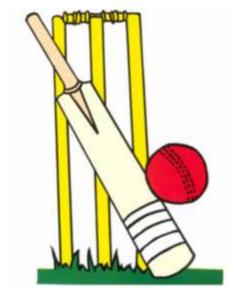
I do hope we will see lots of you there and that you will enjoy the evening as much as we do. If you want to join in we won't stop you – but there will be no pressure either way!





# n The Field

By Ron Taylor



ONCE UPON A TIME in a land not that far away their lived a sporting hero who played the game to a very high standard and almost all of the residents of this land, who were interested in this sport, believed that he was one of the best players to have been included in their team since the game was invented. In fact no one from the land disputed that as a player he had already achieved immortality as a result of the huge scores he had recorded playing the game all over the planet. The members of the other Countries on the planet, that were interested in the game, thought that the said sporting hero was one of the best players currently playing the game and wherever possible they were prepared to pay him vast sums of

money to play the game in their Country. These other Countries residents were delighted when this hero was not playing in the team selected to face them as his ability to make big scores against them was legendary. The hero entertained the spectators watching the game whenever he played, filling them with admiration and excitement each time he went on to the pitch ready to play. His technique in playing a particular part of the game was sublime and his flair and innovation would raise those spectators to their feet in appreciation.

However, there was a problem, the sporting hero was not very popular with those who were responsible for running the game in this land, as a result of his behaviour off the pitch shrouded which became controversy. The land had been overcome by the advances of instant communication methods and easy for became very people. including sporting hero's, to say what they think and leave a permanent record of those views for all to analyse. The residents of the land were prepared to pay large sums of money for sporting Hero's to write books. provided there was something controversial printed therein. This particular sporting hero had a side to his personality that drove him, rather ill advisably, to be candid about the talents of some of the others who played and ran the game. The others referred to also have a side to their characters that lead them to take an entrenched position, rather ill advisably, in relation to the things said, some of which they regarded as untrustworthy. This alleged breach of trust was fundamental to the spirit of the game and could never be forgiven by those who ran the game, but in all these fictitious situations it is rarely just one side of the argument who is to blame.

AND SO IT CAME TO PASS that the sporting Hero was prevented from playing the game for his Country anymore, much to the delight of the members of the teams they were scheduled to play and much to the consternation of many of those who paid to watch the sporting hero and his team mates play. He was never to be selected again irrespective of the huge scores he might make when playing against other less talented players and irrespective of any voices of reason advocating forgiveness for indiscretion or plain stupidity. The game will go on, the matches will still take place but the arena will be less exciting for the stances that have been taken by those responsible for failure to forgive and conciliate.

NO ONE IS BIGGER THAN THE GAME so the wise sage from the not very far away land says but this means that the game is bigger than the individual so the game should be setting an example and embarking on a process of conciliation and the game should be demonstrating an ability to properly manage all that play the game and are involved in it.

In all lands some sporting icons get badly managed, some sports are badly managed but the ramifications of personality problems of players and managers should not really lead to a ban on a player to partake in sport at the level he is capable of playing. In a first class competitive sport in most lands shouldn't the best team be picked, shouldn't the team that takes the field have the best players in every position regardless of whether some of the members of the team do not like each other. How can a sport remain first class if the teams leave out players who deserve to be playing on the grounds of ability? How can the statistics of that sport continue to be significant if the scores recorded are less than they would have been if a player is left out because somebody with the ability to stop him playing doesn't like him or is upset by his off field behaviour? Will the selectors in future be taking into account the views of all the International squad on the behaviour of each other when deciding which final team they will pick?

The tragedy of this fairy tale, because of course it would never happen, is that those who manage the sport in this not so far away land, have allowed the integrity of the game to be undermined by their ineffective management. All sporting icons need to be properly handled as there are none of them who are perfect, they are all human, not fairies who have no imperfections. Ability bordering on

genius will inevitably involve imperfections and those imperfections must be managed. why are players allowed to use mobile telephones when they are in the middle of a match? Many of the planets working population are prevented from making mobile phone calls when they are working. Why are international sportsmen allowed to release books while they under contract are to the international side without the approval of the governing body. Let's face it there will be plenty of time to sit and write once they have retired. believe me. The controls placed on players in the future must be more tightly regulated and enforced for the integrity of the sport which fundamentally about the skill of those who play the game at the highest level. All the statistics of the sport rely on the achievements of the best players on the planet accept one that can't handle one its best players and just ban him from ever playing again because he upset someone who runs or plays the game.

Most International sport is huge business and those that are not are more than likely striving to be huge business, some sports are finding it difficult to retain spectators who want to see the best players demonstrating their skill and want to have the best team available representing their Country. Maybe the wizards who have the power to reassess the ban imposed on the said sporting icon should do so with

the objective of reaching conclusion which allows the field of play to see his talents continue to be demonstrated at the highest level till it is obvious that he is no longer able perform satisfactorily. people are the custodians of the game for generations to come and the achievements of those future players should be compared on an equal footing with all those who have performed before them, not on the basis that the career οf predecessor was cut short because he failed to keep his views to himself. Perhaps those who run the game should examine their motives for not doing so if they find it impossible to manage their responsibility conciliate with one of their most talented players. We have recently, in the real world, just witnessed the finest example of conciliation demonstrated by the heir to our lands throne when he shook hands with the representatives of the men who murdered the person regarded as his grandfather. Come on boys to conduct an allegedly first class game in any other way is JUST NOT CRICKET.

Now then about the hedgehog, the species is in a dyer state reduced to dangerous levels and in need of substantial help to prevent them drifting into extinction. This tragedy could occur within the next ten years unless there are substantial steps taken to prevent it, in 1950 there were about 30 million in the U.K. and now there are believed to be under

#### **Community - News**

1 million. The main threats to hedgehogs are pesticides, road kill, badgers, yes badgers but of course they are protected and hedgehogs are not, and also loss of their habitats. We can help in a small way to give the hedgehog a leg up, by digging the odd hole under the fences round our gardens and letting the little chaps get in. They need a large area to forage over and they do little harm in our gardens, so let them in.

Thanks to everybody who returned the Mercury to me last time, I owe you an apology as more of you must actually get to the back pages and read my efforts than I was giving you credit for.



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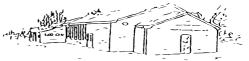
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# Village Hall

**By Steve Hatton** 



#### 5 Year Plan 2015

The purpose of the 5 year plan is to predict what will be required to keep the Hall fit for its purpose as an important Community facility in the short and long term.

The Plan is developed taking into account the following considerations:

- 1. The needs of both current a future users of the Hall, including the identification of opportunities to increase the usage of the Hall by the Village community.
- 2. Maintenance and further improvement of the Hall and its facilities to ensure that it is fit for purpose.
- 3. To ensure that sufficient funds are available to achieve 1 and 2 above, anticipating any financial requirements and risks. This includes requirements for maintaining and increasing revenue.

The Plan was developed by the Trustees with the support of the main users of the Hall.

**Finances -** As a starting point we considered past income and expenditure as an indication of future trends. An income and expenditure overview was prepared by our Treasurer, which shows that our income continues to exceed our expenditure, however income has declined over the past 7 years.

A number of businesses run their activities from the Hall, and pay a fee to use the premises. These are all providing services or activities that can be used by Villagers, but we recognise that we must find a balance between the number of these activities and the income they provide with the requirement to make the Hall available for Community activities.

The Treasurer provided a summary of our current energy usage, which is the largest item of expenditure. This is identified as a priority to investigate how we can reduce our energy costs.

A list of he larger items of expenditure that we have had over the last 10 years, showing major repairs or improved facilities was also provided.

Overall, the financial position of the Hall is sound, with a healthy Bank balance and balanced income and expenditure. It would however be prudent to identify further opportunities to increase revenue or decrease costs. The Trustees are prepared to continue to invest in the fabric and facilities of the Hall to achieve this , and ideally to better attract new community activities that are based at the Hall.

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#### **Community - News**

**Maintenance -** A small team of Trustees have taken responsibility to manage the maintenance and repair of the Hall . Recent projects have included an upgrade of the kitchen equipment and installation of energy saving LED lighting.

The Maintenance team anticipate that the following repairs and improvements will be necessary over the next 5 years.

1. Refurbishment of the dance floor	£ 3000
2. Damp course repair (toilet block)	£ 3000
3. Replacement of flat roof felt	£ 3000
4. Replacement table and chairs (main hall )	£10,000
5. Decoration	£ 2,000
6. Wall lights replacement	£ 600
Total for 5 years	£18.600

A review of energy usage and reduction in energy costs would be a priority project, as this has the potential to significantly reduce expenditure over the planning period. The investigation should examine what if any support is available from the Government under their Green Deal.

**Improvement of the Hall facilities -**The installation of a large screen and projector was the only proposal. This could make the Hall attractive for Film nights, Screening sports events, Race nights etc.

**Future use of the Hall -** As part of our 5 year planning we attempted to identify future requirements from existing user groups including WI, Wednesday club, Brownies and Guides, the Social Club, Bowling club etc. Whilst their input was limited we can anticipate a decline in the numbers attending some of these groups. This is a concern because the sole purpose of the Hall is to provide a facility for Community activities.

We therefore conducted a "Brainstorming Session", to generate ideas for future activities that could be of interest to the Villagers. Whilst it is not the role of the Trustees to organise these activities, many of the Trustees are leading members of the main user groups. Their input together with the ideas from the other users enabled us to produce a first list of ideas and opportunities. This list is given below , and we will follow this up by identifying those activities that are most likely to receive support in the form of participants and organisers.

The 5 year Plan will be reviewed each year, reflecting any changes to User Groups, Maintenance and Finances to ensure that we properly manage this important facility on behalf of the Community.

# Mottram St Andrew Village Community

\*Parent & Toddler Group

\*Music Groups: Folk, Rock, Blues, Jazz, Rock

\*Gardening Club

\*Dancing Groups: Salsa, Northern Soul, Scottish dancing

\*Book Club / History Groups /Nostalgia Evenings

\*Fitness: Daytime Pilates / Yoga / Zumba

\*Womens Groups: Second Womens Institute

\*Craft Groups, Knit & Natter

\*Cooking / Cheese & Wine / Chocolate Evenings

\*Saturday Morning Childrens Group

\*Art & Photography Groups

\*Village Walking Group

\*Dog Training Classes Outdoor

\*Cinema / Film Nights





Have a look at the list of ideas we have for new groups & activities in your local community

Why not get involved and join one or more of these groups

CONTACT

Steve Hatton

hattons@gmx.net

01625 59087

We can connect interested people to join together to meet & organise themselves.

We will try wherever possible to make the Village Hall available as a centre for your group.



# Community NOTICES

# Mottram St. Andrew Village Fete & Dog Show

Fun for all the family &

four legged friends Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July At 1pm - 5 pm Mottram St. Andrew Village Hall

# Mottram St. Andrew 66th Heritcultural Show

we look forward to the 2015 Village Show, a lovely traditional Village event that takes place at the end of the Summer. This is our 66th year and we hope that you will continue to support us with your entries and joining us on the day to enjoy all that the Show offers. We would especially encourage the children of the Village to get involved and we have some additional classes and prizes for those taking part." Put it in your diary.

Saturday 5th September at 2 pm - 4 pm Mottram St. Andrew Village Hall

## Mottram St Andrew village fete Saturday 4th July 2015

Can you help your community in any of the following ways?

- Be part of the organising committee.
- 2. Help to put up bunting and tables.
- 3. Help to erect marquees.
- Donate raffle prizes.
- 5. Donate tombola prizes.
- Bake cakes or scones.
- 7. Man a stall.
- 8. Help to clear the site afterwards.
- Car park marshals.
- 10. Help with the Village Queen and her attendants.
- 11. Help with making up picnic baskets.
- 12 Help with organising children's sports.
- 13. Be in charge of the tug of war competition.

Please contact:Katy Hatton

Tel: 01625 590879

Email: steveandkatyh@gmail.com

If you can help your community to hold its annual village fete.



# **Brain Training**

Sudoku

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



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