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# SANDBACH NEWS 2017

Written / Pictures by Stewart Green for Newspaper articles  
including "The Saxon" Magazine.

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## LATEST PICTURES

For Article see end of the file.

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Middlewich Rd Burst Main



Christmas market



SADOS The Cat and the Canary



SANDBACH LIGHT SWITCH ON



MARKET HALL CONSULTATION



TOWN HALL TURNS PURPLE



REMEMBRANCE DAYS



FODEN'S BAND SOLO COMPETITION



Jacqui Dankworth and Craig Ogden



M6 Lorry Overturned



New Bridge



Defibrillator



Author Signing Event



Wakes Fair



Sandbach Striders Run



Day of Dance

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**LOCAL GROCERS RETIRE AFTER 70 YEARS.**

January 2017 is the time that Christine, Brian and Caroline Evans finally gave up their market stall in Sandbach after a 70-year service to the community of the town.

Based at Illidge Green Cottage Farm in Davenport Lane, Brereton, Sandbach (CW11 2SR) the family have pitched up their Market stall on Thursdays and more recently only on Saturdays next to the telephone kiosk outside the Town Hall where they have provided fruit and vegetables to many generations in the town as well as running a shop in the town at 37 High Street (Pre 1965) with a shop in Welles Street in the 1980's.

Mr Evans used to have a barrow which he pitched on the common selling high-quality fruit and vegetables before moving into the shop.

At the end of December 2016, the family decided to call it a day and have put up a banner on the town hall above where they had their stall, thanking their customers for the support they have had over the years.



#####  
 17 January 2017

**LORRY FIRE AT ARCLID TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

Fire engines from Sandbach and Holmes Chapel attended a lorry fire at Arclid traffic lights at about 8.30am when the back axel caught fire.



#####  
 29 January 2017

### GLASSHOUSE CLOSES

News reached us that the Glasshouse in Sandbach was to close its doors on the 29 January 2017 when General Manager Richard Shaw and his business partner Karl Unitt, Joanne, Head Chef Mark and his team of Danny and James hang up their aprons for the last time in this purpose-built structure which has since it opened in December 2009 become an iconic modern building on the corner of Crewe Road and Middlewich Road.

The site was originally a motor garage owned by John Cooke in the early 1900's running it as a Cycle and Motor engineer, Agent for the Rover, Rudge-Whitworth, Humber and Singer Cycles and Motor Cycles; Motor Repairs, Spare parts, accessories, Petrol, Garage and makers of the Betchton Cycles  
In the 1970's it became Cooke's Motors (Sandbach) Ltd with a garage and showroom until 1983 when the shop was demolished.

In 1995 David Riley took over the site for his "Top Marques Garage and Car showroom" and serviced many well-known personalities Rolls Royce Cars etc. until they needed a larger space and moved from the roundabout area leaving a space in 2009 for a new form of Grease, that of chips to go with a wonderful menu choice from the Glasshouse (Bar and Grill).

Richard Shaw also owned Curshaw's Bar based in the Mill Antique Emporium until 2013 when he closed it to concentrate on the Glasshouse which he purchased in 2012. This was also when the Glasshouse had Head Chef Jamie Smith a former MasterChef Contestant along with 10 staff which by 2013 had increased to 20 bar and kitchen staff.

Known for its higher-class approach to dining and its Saturday Night Live Entertainment the Glass has gained a good reputation in the area and so the announcement that it was to close on the 29 January 2017 (Sunday) has come as a shock to many regulars. With a Lease price for the building of £25,000 and a £65,000 Annual Rent it was put on the market with a quick response from as yet an unknown buyer, so it is now very much a wait and see time for the future of the Glasshouse.



#####  
24 January 2017

### IMPRESSIONS MOVE OUT OF SANDBACH

Since 1990 Impressions in Queen's Drive in Sandbach has been printing the work of local people and organisations but sadly no more as they have decided to move over the boarder to Stoke on Trent leaving only one printer in the town.

Originally taking over a butcher's shop they hoped to provide a cheap way of printing for the people of the town. Since then they have produced a number of flyers, programmes and promotion material including the "Town Talk" magazine for Sandbach Town Council.

Founded in 1990 by Bob and Carole Burgess with daughters Emma and Steph the company soon expanded from the one shop to two parts of the building in Queen's Drive, leaving only the Bargain Booze shop on the corner which has also closed back in September 2016. Now the company has decided to concentrate on their business in Unit 1 Milton Road, Stoke on Trent, Staffs leaving a large gap in the market which had been filled by themselves and Wrights Printers another long established company which closed its works in Wesley Avenue on the 31 July 2013. Now Sandbach only has Simcox Printers on Middlewich Road and a reliance on the internet to provide documents etc.



#####  
 26 January 2017

**FIRE AT SAXON CROSSES ANTIQUES AT THE MILL SANDBACH**

Fire appliances from Crewe, Sandbach and Alsager attended a fire at Saxon Crosses Antiques in the High Street of Sandbach just after 3pm on the 26 January 2017. The fire had been started deliberately by five youths who climbed onto the roof of the mill's façade and set fire to it. Luckily the wife of the owner of the Antique shop saw the youths and chased them away before they could do any more damage. John Jones the owner then called the fire brigade before evacuating the building and then he tackled the small fire. When crews first arrived, they dealt with the smouldering embers to make sure the building was safe.

The crew from Crewe had just returned from a false alarm in Alsager, while the crew from Alsager who are on Shadow Duties, joined them as they are following experienced crews for about two years in training for the new retained fire station in their town. When I was on my way to attend the scene of the fire at about 3.40pm the crew from Sandbach were returning from the incident leaving fire crews from Crewe and Alsager to secure the scene.

Police were also called to the scene of the incident to investigate the fire. After the building, had been secured by the Fire Brigade local PCSO's from Sandbach spoke to John Jones and his wife about what had happened. Anyone with more information about who set fire to the building should contact the Police via Crime-stoppers on 0800-555111.



#####  
 27 January 2017

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY**

Cheshire East have celebrated Holocaust Memorial Day since 2013 and on the 27 January 2017, they invited members of the public and BBC Radio Stoke along to help mark the event.

The event was opened by Cheshire East Mayor Olivia Hunter who gave a brief introduction to the reasons for the Memorial Day before introducing Sandbach Town Council Mayor Keith Haines who read out some accounts from Jews who had survived the holocaust.

Retired Dentist and Survivor from Austria, Peter Kurer then spoke about the debt that he owed to the Quakers who during the Second World War petitioned parliament to allow the children of Jewish parents to come to Britain before Hitler imposed his Anti-Jewish laws. They also helped to raise funds for the £50's needed to bring them into the country and adoption facilities in what is known as the Kinder Transport. Nine members of Peter's family were saved in this way and he has championed the work of the Quakers ever since. His inspirational talk was followed by a Soprano Cornet performance of "On with the Motley" by Sandbach School pupil William Dakin.

Chief Executive of Cheshire East, Mike Suarez spoke about "How Life Can Go On after the Holocaust", before the congregation were invited to light a candle in remembrance followed by the Rev Thomas Shepherd who gave a reading, prayer and period of silence to end the event.

The event was recorded by BBC Radio Stoke for broadcast in an edited format on the following Sunday during the "In Praise of God" slot.



#####  
28 January 2017

#### ARGOS IN SANDBACH CLOSES

In April 2015, troubled Argos and Homebase stores joined together to create 20 digital catalogue stores within the Homebase superstores including Sandbach. However, Homebase has been sold onto another company who no longer wishes to have Argos in their stores and so have essentially evicted them from the DIY Stores including Sandbach which closes its catalogue store on the 28 January 2017.



#####  
18 February 2017

#### MAYORS BALL TURNS INTO VARIETY SHOW AND BUFFET

Sandbach Mayor Keith Haines decided to change the traditional Mayor's Ball into something that reflects his own life and interests. This also included asking his old friend, Crewe born comedian Don Reid who lived and worked for many years in Sandbach to act as MC for the evening, during which he reflected on his time in the town including working in the old Gas Showroom on Crewe Road. Having been in a singing trio of Eric Bailey, Keith Haines and Don Reid it was one night when the Guitar and PA Amp broke down that Don decided to start telling jokes to the audience to fill the time while Keith fixed the equipment starting him on the road to a new job that takes him round the world telling jokes on Cruises, in clubs and even on TV. During the event at the Town Hall on the 18 February 2016 all three were reunited for the first time in many years with Don and Keith raising funds for the Mayor's Charity along with singing duo "Bakerfield" and Rockabilly trio "VaVoom" who provided the after-buffet entertainment at which Mayor's from Cheshire East, Middlewich, Congleton, Knutsford and Macclesfield danced the night away with moves that put the public of Sandbach to shame. Before the dancing there was a raffle and auction where a Stoke City, Shirt was sold for over £70 helping the fund towards local Youth Charities and the Stepping Hill Hospital.



#####  
 23 February 2017

#### CHIMNEY COLLAPSES AT FORMER RESTAURANT

Sandbach Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service were called out to attend the collapse of a chimney on the closed '48 Med Restaurant', on the corner of Newfield Street and Congleton Road due to the high winds over the Northwest called "Doris" on Thursday the 23 February 2017.

Originally "The Kings Arms" public house, in the 1980's the building changed to a restaurant when it became the Rumours Wine Bar and later the Café Symphony before changing again to the 48 Med Restaurant in February 2016 and then closing just before Christmas. Looking for a new owner the building's chimney collapsed in the morning with firemen closing Newfield Street until about 12.30pm .

Reports of other incidents in Sandbach caused by the high wind, "Doris" include a medium sized tree being uprooted in Platt Avenue and a large tree blocking Middlewich Road between Park Lane and Abbey Road. Crewe Fire brigade also dealt with a Horse Trapped in its stable when it collapsed at 12.20pm in Cottons Lane, Wheelock. The Crewe fire brigade dealt with a total of 6 incidents between 12.17pm and 2pm according to their Incidents website due to the high winds in the area. Cheshire Police also dealt with a car crash at the corner of Platt Avenue and Middlewich Road near the High School entrance.





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5 March 2017

### SPRING FAIR IN SANDBACH

Fair organiser Joe White has brought a Fun Fair to the town of Sandbach early this year with the revival of the “Spring Fair” to Sandbach Common. Starting on Friday the 3 March 2017 in the rain the 18 or so amusements suffered from bad publicity with notices only going up the week of the event so many in the town thought that the planned closure of the Common was to have the lines repainted.

Unfortunately, the lack of advance warning meant that very few attended the fair which didn’t stop ‘OMG Mascots’ from Crewe bringing along some favourite TV characters for the very young people to enjoy including Peppa Pig and George Pig on the Sunday.

Among the rides brought to the town Joe White included the return of the Dodgems which have not been in Sandbach since 2010 and new features including the “Frozen” Swings, Crazy Circus and Sky View.

I can’t remember the Spring Fair, but some on the internet many people had memories of this yearly feature in conjunction with the September Wakes Fair which goes back to a time before the First World War. At a Meeting on the 12 December 1916 the Sandbach Urban Council agreed to allow the “Sandbach Wakes” to take place on the Common for one week for the sum of £17 as long as Mr Patrick Collins closed his show and sideshows at lighting restriction time. The current “Wakes Fun Fair” in Sandbach has been going for over 70 years with showmen like the White and Holland family’s attending with amusements over this period. Joe White was brought to Sandbach when he was born with those early days of the common just being a patch of dirt in the middle of the town and the amusements were run by steam engines with the White family using local Foden Steam engines to power the rides. They built up such a good working relationship with the Foden family that the workshop would repair the engines ready for them to go on the road as soon as they came into the workshop. Last September’s Fair was called off early as rain poured over the rides and it seemed to follow this particular event so let’s hope this year it returns with better weather so more people can enjoy this event.

#### LIST OF RIDES

- 1) Balloon Madness
- 2) Helter Skelter
- 3) Brazen Dodgems
- 4) Gunfight at the OK Corral (Shooting Range)
- 5) Go Gator (Alligator Ride)
- 6) Pony Adventure
- 7) Disney Character Ride
- 8) Chips and Burger Bar
- 9) Mini Miami Kid Zone
- 10) Cups and Saucers
- 11) Frozen Swings
- 12) Spiderman (Bungee Trampoline)
- 13) Trampolines
- 14) Hook a Duck
- 15) Jiminy Cricket
- 16) Freestyle (Joe White)

#### SMALL CAR PARK

- 17) Crazy Circus
- 18) Sky View



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 9 March 2017

**THURSDAY FIRE BRIGADE OUTING**

Thursday is rapidly becoming the day Sandbach Fire Brigade are called out to attend an incident. On Thursday, the 9 March 2017 at 2.45pm Firefighters from Sandbach, Middlewich and Holmes Chapel along with ambulances and the police were called to the M6 motorway to attend a crash at the Southbound turn off to Sandbach. The incident involved two lorries and a car which had been shunted into the middle barrier by a white HGV which had collided with the other vehicle at Junction 17. It was unclear when viewing the scene of the accident what caused the first vehicle to have its front end crushed but firefighters used foam or powder to extinguish a fire in the engine. They then used environment packs to soak up some oil on the carriageway. The road was cordoned off while the incident was dealt with and at about 3.45pm police motorbike riders were called to deal with the backlog of traffic which had built up all over Sandbach and roads leading to Arclid and Holmes Chapel.

First on the scene was the appliance from Middlewich (Mercedes DG53JNV) followed soon after by Sandbach (Mercedes Atego Y495PTU) and the reserve engine which is currently at Holmes Chapel (Dennis Sabre R42FMA). By 5pm the roads around Sandbach were the most congested I have seen in many years as investigators finished questioning witnesses and mapping out the accident with the vehicles being removed from the Motorway by 5.30pm. The Highways department kept the motorway closed while they assessed the damage caused by the oil and fire before they opened the junction later that day.

Just to show you how dangerous this part of the Motorway is there have been 107 incidents dealt with by the Sandbach Crew on the M6 with



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 12 March 2017

**WEDDING FAIR AT TOWN HALL**

Sandbach held another wedding fair at the Town Hall with various representatives showing different aspects of what is needed for a wedding. Stalls included photographers, flowers, makeup and of course dresses and suits.



#####  
18 March 2017

### SANDBACH HAS NEW SIGNS

Sandbach has some new signs advertising the various areas of the town with Sandbach, Sandbach Heath, Ettley Heath, Wheelock and Elworth are all being marked by a new boarder line with signage that has been on the cards since December 2015 when it was announced in the Council's 'Town Talk' magazine that a grant of £5,000 from Cheshire East (Added to by the Sandbach Town Council, had been put aside to install the signs on the roads in the town. Sandbach now proudly proclaims it is the home of the "World Famous Foden's Band" on the bottom of the Sandbach sign.

Installed in March 2017, there was a mixed reaction on social media to them but most seemed to like the new look to the signs.

There are however a couple of problems with the main sign into Sandbach next to the M6 with the reverse saying "Thank you for visiting Sandbach" being obscured by current signage and in the near future the Roundabout it is situated upon at Junction 17 will be dug up to make it larger for an entrance to the new industrial / Housing estate.



#####  
18 March 2017

### ROTARY CLUB SWIMATHON

25 years ago, the Rotary Club of Sandbach organised their first "Swimathon" to raise money for their charities as well as for the team's own fund raising efforts. This year teams of young people and members of the Rotary club and Inner Wheel swam over 50 miles on Friday and Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Sandbach School. In all 24 teams took part including the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, the RotaKids Club from Sandbach Primary Academy and Wheelock Primary School. Wendy Bullock said of her pupils, "The Children from Wheelock Primary School were thrilled to take part in the Rotary Swimathon. Twenty-One children from Key Stage 2 swam for an hour in a range of stokes and styles. All, enjoyed participating in a great community event and contributing to the very worthy charities that are set to benefit."

On Saturday, Club President Dave Lewis welcomed Cheshire East Mayor Olivia Hunter and her Consort Philip, Deputy Mayor of Sandbach Martin Forster and from Rotary, Rtn Eric Cowcill (District Governor elect), Arnie Lang (President of Sandbach Crosses Rotary Club) and Nichola Bramwell the President of the Sandbach Inner Wheel Club.

Money from the event will be split between Breast Cancer UK, Macmillan Nurses and Local charities, this year's chosen charities for the Rotary Club.



#####  
22 March 2017

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2017

Pauline Minshull has been awarded the Sandbach "Citizen of the Year" 2017 by the Rotary Club, well-deserved accolade for the Sandbach resident who has given so much to the community of the town as well as to various charities.

Pauline has been a member of the Inner Wheel since 1969, Founder Member of the Ladies Association, a Trustee of the Alms Houses, a reader at St Mary's Church for which she has also edited their magazine in the past and for the Royal British Legion she has been a Poppy seller for many years. Pauline is also a helper for the Mum's and Tots at Sandbach School and for 40 years she has been raising funds for Cancer Research UK by organising dinners, quiz evenings and a Coffee Morning at the Market Tavern where she was awarded the honour at a special dinner held by the Rotary Club on the 22 March 2017. Bill Whittaker led the tributes to her many years of service to Sandbach including being the Chairperson of the Town Council in 2008-9 (Mayor). In her speech of thanks, she started with the words "I won't say too much" to which those gathered laughed, as she has also been described as a very talkative lady. Talking about Bill's look at her life she said she "didn't know how much she had done". Pauline then became emotional as she thanked her family, especially her late husband John who had started her on this journey of serving the community and keeping the history of the town alive with talks in conjunction with her son Stephen and pictures taken from the archive of her husband John. Pauline also thanked the Rotary Club, not only for the award but also the help they had given her when her husband was ill and they put together a rota to take her to the hospital to be with him in his last days when she was unable to drive. At the age of 64 Pauline set herself the task of completing and passing her driving test which has allowed her to do more, not less work in the town including working in her son's café.

Pauline finished her speech with thanks for the award as she now had a certificate from being Chairman of the Council, her father's Paul Harris Award and now the plate from the Rotary Club to put on her wall at home, one award for each of her children when she passes away, so they will have to decide amongst themselves which one they have (Laughter). As a valued member of the Sandbach community everyone hopes she will enjoy the award for many years.



#####  
3 April 2017

### TELEPHONE BOX APPEARS IN PARK LIKE TARDIS

I was surprised to see the appearance of a Grey Telephone Box appear in the park on the 3 April 2017. Originally in Platt Avenue the box was saved from the scrap yard by a campaign started by Stewart Green on the 17 August 2015, with the batten for its restoration taken up by Dot Flint of the Sandbach Partnership who after a lot of negotiating managed to get permission to remove the kiosk for it to be restored. Its removal was not without incident in June 2016, as someone called the Police, thinking it was being stolen they sent three cars to Platt Avenue. In reality Dot and her team had permission to move the phone box to Sandbach Park after it had been stripped down to its base metal and then repainted. Phil Mason and his team at Care4CE including Bob Bowerbank, painted the red coat after it arrived in the park and put in the replacement glass (Plastic) along with the lettering.

The only problem with its instillation is that it leans slightly towards the bowling green due to the original base being for the Dr Charles Latham memorial which is now situated at the Ashfields Surgery. The lean will be sorted out when the box is angled into the corner so more of the glass is showing rather than the metal back. After completion, the plan is for the Sandbach Fire Cadets to take over its upkeep and responsibility.



#####  
 April 2017

**SMART MOTORWAY CAUSES INCREASED INCIDENTS**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1963, the Minister for Transport officially opened the M6 Motorway between Bartomley, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Thelwall near Warrington and within a few weeks the fire brigade saw an increase in accidents as drivers were not used to the high speeds. However, with the start of the SMART MOTORWAY improvements speeds are supposed to have been reduced in the area causing less accidents. A Freedom of Information request shows an increase in accidents between junctions 16 and 18 with information from Cheshire Highways and the Police showing a staggering 510 Crashes in 2015 and a 4.5% rise in crashes during 2016 (Between February to December both years) to 533 incidents.

However, Cheshire Fire Brigade only attended 34 incidents on the M6 in 2015 and 31 incidents in 2016 showing a slight fall in major crashes and fires. Figures on the incidents website show that Sandbach Fire appliances attended 9 incidents on the M6 between Junction 16 and 19 in 2015 with an increase to 18 incidents in 2016 (Jan to Dec)

In the years from January 2000 to March 2017 on the Fire Brigade Incidents website it shows Sandbach Fire Brigade has attended the M6, 106 times with the stretch northbound between Junction 16 and 17 heading the table at 26 “Shouts” and the southbound stretch between Junction 20 and 19 with zero major crashes.

#####  
 15 April 2017

**EASTER STORY TOLD IN SANDBACH MARKET SQUARE**

Since the formation of Churches Together, Easter has been a special time for the churches to get together to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. From the humble march of a cross from Elworth to Sandbach Town Centre on Good Fridays to the elaborate staging of the story in and around the town on the Saturday before Easter Day. In 2017, Churches Together put on the play “One Friday” which is a re-telling of the story the “Sandbach Passion” which was such a success last year.

With Steve Parker-Aitkin as Jesus the story started with a walk from the Market Square before the play’s first scene at the Old Hall, from where the cast returned to the Market Square for the finale and Crucifixion on Good Friday leaving the final narration to say the story would continue in the various churches in Sandbach and around the world on the following day with one of the Easter Day services starting at 6am at the Crosses in the town.

The Passion play tradition in Sandbach goes back to the 2 July 2000 when “Churches Together” staged “Have You Met My Son” an elaborate production on the Car Park / Scotch Common when nearly 100 people took part from all over the town. Its complexity seemed to have put off another production for a few years until a revised story and smaller cast were encouraged to start the tradition again and it now looks as though it will be a permanent feature of the religious year for Sandbach.

(Picture Tom Bunn, Keith Watkins, Steve Parker-Aitkin as Jesus, Graham Jarvis and Mark Thompson.)



#####  
15 April 2017

#### CARNEY ACADEMY OPEN DAY FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS

Freelance TV Director Ruth Carney is bringing her experience of the entertainment world to Sandbach with her “Carney Academy” at the Town Hall. Ruth and three experienced tutors held an open day at the venue on the 15 April 2017 for prospective students who would like to lean about acting, dancing and singing.

Starting on May 6<sup>th</sup> for youngsters between the ages of 4 and 19 Ruth hopes to have lessons on a weekly basis which Richard Husdan of the Town Hall is looking forward to staging in the multi-purpose venue.

Originally from Talk Pitts in Staffordshire, Ruth then went to Sheffield where she was the Associate Director of the Theatres there and now has moved back to Sandbach with her husband and has decided to set up a school in the town having previously started a group in Sheffield seven years ago and she hopes for the same success in Sandbach that she had originally.

Ruth has teachers from Uttoxeter, Middlewich and Stockport and at the open day attracted people from Congleton, Crewe, Middlewich, Sandbach and has chosen the Town Hall to house the event as it is central to the South Cheshire area and also the town with easy access for students. The course is designed for amateur and hopeful professionals who would like to get into, “The Business” and with Ruth and her teachers experience they can be guided into this world of entertainment, something she herself found difficult herself as her parents didn’t have that background to tell her what to do.

Classes will start on Saturdays at 9am to 10am for 4-7 Year Olds. 10am to 1pm for 8-11 Year Olds / 12- 14 Year Olds / 15- 19 Year Olds with a chance to do all three disciplines each week.

For more information, you can contact Ruth Carney on 08000209122 or by E Mail at [info@carneyacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@carneyacademy.co.uk) or via the website at [www.carneyacademy.co.uk](http://www.carneyacademy.co.uk)

On the 22 Apr 2017 Ruth starts Directing some episodes of the BBC TV Soap “Doctor’s” but will be back in Sandbach for the opening of the new venture.



#####  
 15 April 2017

**FUNDRAISING CYCLISTS DROP IN AT WAITROSE FOR SPONSORS**

Clare Curtis, Kim Morton and Lisa Jordan popped into Waitrose in Sandbach on the 15 April 2017, to seek sponsors for their epic bike ride from London to Amsterdam on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The trip is to raise money for St Luke’s Hospice which needs £8,600 a day to keep it running all from private donations. All three ladies are from Sandbach and have been directly affected by the killer known as Cancer with each of them having a relative who died of it and have all benefitted from help provided in their hour of need by palliative helpers either from St Luke’s or similar schemes in other parts of the country. During the event in the supermarket they also held a “Guess How Many Eggs in the Jar” Competition with a young lad called Samuel winning the whole jar of chocolate eggs which his parents said he could have once they had tested them for their suitability, they didn’t say which were their favourites but there were certainly enough to go around. Another winner on the day was for a Bentley Bear which was won appropriately at Easter by a young lady called Angel. If anyone would like to join the girls on their journey they are looking for riders to take part in the fundraiser as well as sponsors to help them raise money for the worthy cause.



#####  
 22-23 April 2017

**SANDBACH TRANSPORT FULL OF SURPRISES**

The 2017 Sandbach Transport Festival was full of surprises from the start to the end of the weekend of the 22 to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017. The usual elements of vehicles and music are there from previous years and the addition of the ‘Spare Parts Festival’ was greeted by the public with a mixture of awe and laughter with the star of the show the ‘Granny Turismo’. The husband and wife Old Ladies on Turismo shopping trollies who entertained the crowds on the Common and during the procession with musical inspired items including a Motor Racing (Fleetwood Mac – The Chain) race on Congleton Road. Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year and 25<sup>th</sup> show (2 cancelled – one due to foot and mouth and the other due to a lack of organisers) the Transport Festival still manages to attract crowds and with help from Corilla Ker of the Joint Project, “Smart Motorway” who supplied barriers, office space, radio communications and toilets free of charge so that the organisers were able to cut the cost of the event by hundreds of pounds. The Sandbach Concert Series held a Young Musician of the Year competition with local school children judged by Sophie Rosa (Musician) and Mark Wilkinson (Foden’s Band). Additional highlights included music and a parade by Foden’s Band who

were awarded a special award by the organisers for their work at the festival over the years and after the tragedy of their band room burning down after last year's event. Another parade was supplied by St Luke's fundraisers who like last year organised over 400 motorbikes to come to the town during an event they hold each year to raise money for the hospice.

The day was rounded off by two parades, the Spare Parts parade with items from the day's entertainment in the park followed by the exiting parade which proved popular last year when all the exhibitors left the town centre to go home on what had been a wonderfully sunny weekend in Sandbach.

**AWARDS / WINNERS 2017**

**SATURDAY AWARDS**

Best Classic Car	Triumph Vitese Mk 2
Best Vehicle in Show	N/A
Best Classic Pre War Car	1934 Riley 9 Monaco
Best Classic Post War Car	John Holdcroft - 1964 Jaguar
Best Motor Cycle – Saturday	Norton Comando 1972

**SUNDAY AWARDS**

Best Truck in Show	J Leech – Dodge Cattle Wagon
Best Foden	Harold Lomas – Pochin Tractor Unit
Best ERF (Ken Beresford Trophy)	John Cook – ERF E16
Best Foreign Truck	N/A
Best Military Vehicle (John McAlinden Trophy)	(153) Rober Lo2002a
Best Motor Cycle – Sunday	(098) 1940 Triumph
Best Bus (NEW)	Gordon Weston - Leyland Pops L9766
Best Emergency Vehicle (NEW)	(139) Brian Burgess – RAF Bedford
Best Car in Show	Dave Woodward – Sunny Yellow Triumph
Best Livery – Martin Rigby Trophy (NEW)	(060) Andy Hulme – Foden Gardner 180
Special Award	Foden's Band
Star of the Show (Roy Sutton Trophy)	Corillia Ker (Joint Project – Smart Motorway)

**CARNIVAL QUEEN 2017 - Elaine Gynp**



#####  
22 April 2017

#### AIR AMBULANCE IN SANDBACH

Newcastle Road and Old Mill Road traffic lights (Near the Alms Houses) during the Sandbach Transport Festival when a 58-year-old man collided with an Enterprise hire van at 1pm. The man sustained serious injuries and was taken by Air Ambulance to the University of North Staffs Hospital. The Air Ambulance according to reports landed in the field opposite Waitrose and Homebase. Traffic was diverted via the town centre causing congestion for a number of hours.

#####  
26 April 2017

#### SANDBACH CONCERT SERIES APRIL CONCERT 2017.

When David Thornton was principal Euphonium player with Foden's Band he agreed to perform at the Sandbach Concert Series on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017. He may have changed jobs and moved back to the Brighthouse and Rastrick Band to do more conducting rather than playing but his new job has left him with time to perform as a soloist in various countries around the world. David has just returned from Malta along with pianist, Ruth Webb (Ex Roberts Bakery Band Solo Baritone Player) and page turner Dan Thomas a pupil of David's. David kept his promise to appear in Sandbach and showed the audience why he was principal euphonium with Foden's playing music by Andre Previn, Andy Scott and gave the British Premier of "Robin, Robin" by Liz Lane who came to Sandbach to hear the performance of her piece and introduced it to the audience with the story behind the music.

David then premiered part of the "Bestiarium of the Lost Dark Matter" which is about fictitious creatures from a fantasy world that was well received by the audience.

The penultimate piece by Philip Sparke was called "Two Part Invention" and as the title suggests should be played by two people. It was at this point that "Page Turner", Dan Thomas was asked to join David on stage with his euphonium and we discovered that he was principal Euphonium with the Black Dyke Band and have since discovered that he won last year's BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award winner. Their playing for the audience had that WOW factor as they played at a quick pace thru-out the piece ending with rapturous applause. With such great playing by two solo Euphonium players and a brilliant co-performance (Accompanist) by Ruth Webb it is then surprising that all the audience talked about afterwards were the "Spotlight Performers" from the local schools who equally gave brilliant performances with the Lions Youth Brass Quartet (Emily Gibson, Abi Webb, Daya Gill and Natasha Brett) and music from Will Dakin, Hannah Mills, Callum Rayner, Hannah Taylor and Bethany Harby.

The next show in the Concert Series is a change to the programme as Sally Wigan who was supposed to have appeared in Sandbach has just had a baby, so Peter Lawson will take her place on the 31 May 2017 with a piano recital.



#####  
29 April 2017

#### STEAM PUNK COMES TO SANDBACH

With successful festivals in Crewe and around the Country, "Steam Punk" has come to Sandbach for a successful market and show in the town. Held on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the Market was laid out in the Town Hall with about twenty stalls selling items with a slightly different style from Cybermen heads to Si-fi guns (Not working), walking sticks, Victorian clothing and items made out of scrap metal.

David Smith one of the organisers of the festival explained that Steam Punk was a wide-ranging genre loosely based on Victorian Science Fiction and Fantasy, like the books of H G Wells and Jules Verne and is an excuse to dress up and have fun. The term was coined 30 years ago but was preceded by the style which was based on an offshoot of Victorian re-enactment and Goth clothes with the twist of “What the Victorian Era Might have been like had it continued and had the technology stayed in that era with things powered by Steam and clockwork mechanisms”. Unlike re-enactment the dress code is not that strict and so anything is acceptable with people taking ideas from each other and from films like ‘League of Extraordinary Gentlemen’ or Will Smith’s ‘Wild, Wild West’ which both feature the clothing of the style. Waistcoats, Pocket Watches, Canes and Goggles seem popular with the gentlemen while Victorian clothing and corsets is a feature for the ladies. The Goggles seem to dominate the style as there is an obsession with the thought of going to the moon or general travel in an airship which is featured in a lot of the modern novels in the Steam Punk range.

A concert at St Mary’s Church Hall on the Saturday Evening included the Town Jester of Conway as MC with headline act, ‘Victor and the Bully’ (Jolly Dance Tunes with a Macabre theme) who after Sandbach will be performing at the Steam Punk World Fair in Piscataway, New Jersey in the USA the biggest festival of its kind. The Steam Punk Market will be back in Sandbach in October with another two-day event and at the end of May Bank Holiday weekend they will be invading Crewe for a Festival in the Town.



#####

6 May 2017

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TELEPHONE BOX IN THE PARK



By the 1960’s the Post Office had installed 64,000 telephone kiosks in Great Britain including a K6 Phone Box in Platt Avenue. These boxes were designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and has become an iconic part of what many consider to be Britain. However, by 2005 BT (British Telecom) had decided to shed many of its phone boxes with less than half of the 72,000 boxes being used as there was an increase in personal phones from the Apple I Phone to phones by Samsung and many other providers. Many people even have two phones, one for work calls and one for personal calls.

One of the boxes abandoned was the one in Platt Avenue by Sweettooth Lane. It soon became a shell with its workings removed and cables disconnected, left to become an iconic memorial to a bygone age and something that should be preserved for future generations.



On the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Stewart Green was passing the box as he had done for many years and noticed a message attached to it with the words “BT IMPORTANT NOTICE – Public Telephone Kiosk 01270- 759060 – BT is proposing to remove this Kiosk. If you have any comments about this, please contact the planning department at Cheshire East Council within 42 days from the date of this notice (30 July 2015), quoting the telephone number of this payphone.” With only a few days to object to its removal Stewart E-Mailed the Council and started a campaign to save the kiosk on Facebook via the “Sandbach Past and Present” page where hundreds of people started reminiscing about the times they used the box when they were young or living in the area. The Sandbach Chronicle then took up the story with a feature in the 20 August 2015 paper on page 56 and the letters page on page 40, that started the next phase of its salvation.

The Local PCSO’s, Fire Cadets and Councillors started to show an interest in the campaign as well as Dot Flint of the Sandbach Partnership who took up the cudgel to save the kiosk. In 2008, BT introduced an “Adopt a Kiosk Scheme” where a charity or interested public body could take on the kiosk for a £1. BT needed to know Dot had serious backing and so she approached Cheshire East, Sandbach Town Council and many more to get permission and financial backing to renovate, restore and remove the box from Platt Avenue to a more secure location in the Park a suggestion made by many on Facebook and in the Chronicle.

Council Officials at Cheshire East agreed to the official adoption of the Kiosk on behalf of the Sandbach Partnership allowing Dot and her team to start making progress on the restoration of the kiosk.

The first job was to remove the Kiosk from its original location and to put it into storage until it could be stripped down to its base metal and then repainted.

On the 9 June 2016, Dot Flint and the Sandbach Partnership removed the Telephone Kiosk on Platt Avenue to a safe location to be sandblasted and repainted by Norman Belfield of M B Services, just before it was to be put into Sandbach Park the following spring. The operation should have taken place on Monday the 13 June but due to a crane being made available on Thursday the 9 June 2016, it was arranged for its removal to take place between 6.30pm and 7pm that night. Local residents were informed of its removal and to comply with a request from BT a notice had been put on the box showing that Cheshire East and the Sandbach Partnership had taken over responsibility for it. However, one local member of the public noticing the lorry removing the Kiosk called the Police and Cheshire Constabulary sent three cars from all over the County to see what was going on. Had a member of the Sandbach Police Force been available then they might have known of its removal as PCSO Spike Elliott has kept a keen eye on events to do with the phone box since its removal had been suggested back in August 2015 with the result that the story made a good headline in the Sandbach Chronicle.

Dot managed to secure a large amount of funding for the project to take on phase three, installing the kiosk in Sandbach Park and on the 3 April 2017, the kiosk painted in grey suddenly appeared in the place left years ago by the removal of the Dr Charles Latham memorial which was moved to outside the Ashfields Surgery. Now by the Fire Station and opposite the bowling green and entrance Phil Mason and his team at Care4CE including Bob Bowerbank, painted the kiosk with its red coat and put in the replacement glass (Plastic) along with the lettering.



With it looking better than it has over the last 20 years the kiosk now stands proudly in the park in tribute to the hard work done by Dot Flint and her team who have made this icon just that. A wonderful tribute to everything that is British and more importantly to this Sandbach K6 phone box with its history and stories from Platt Avenue and hopefully its future stories in its new location.

Booked for a ceremony before an election had been called the, at the moment ex MP for the area Fiona Bruce performed the official opening ceremony for the kiosk on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

After completion, the plan is for the Sandbach Fire Cadets to take over its upkeep and responsibility with suggestions being sort as to its final use. One early suggestion was to house a Defibrillator inside but since the kiosk was moved from Platt Avenue the regulars at the Military Arms have purchased their own machine which is accessible to all opposite the Park. Other suggestions are a book drop (leave your old books for others to take and read before returning them for the next user), Notice board for local events, Art instillation, Picture gallery, Tourist information kiosk for leaflets and posters of local attractions or just a meeting place with a seat where people can meet to reminisce or just to watch the world go by.

Stewart Green who started the campaign to save the Telephone Kiosk was full of praise for Dot Flint who has put so much time and effort into saving this part of Sandbach and has made his wish for it to be part of the town for many more years to come true. It has been a long struggle to get funding and to arrange everything for its repositioning but as people walk past the fire station, library and park it has already become a very prominent part of the Town Centre and Stewart for one is very grateful for the effort Dot has put in to the project.



## **HISTORY OF THE K6 TELEPHONE BOX.**

This icon of British life was designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and is sometimes known as the "Jubilee Kiosk". It was the first red telephone kiosk used outside of the London area with a total of 16,000 being installed between 1935 and 1940 bringing the total number of phone boxes in the UK at that time to 35,000.

Initially the phone box was not loved by all Councils and the public as many thought the Post Office red to be intrusive in the area and so the GPO (at the time) allowed some areas of natural beauty to paint their K6's in

grey with red glazing bars. However, in most areas the colour scheme was kept red as lesser colours including green led to people bumping into them, so they were repainted red again to make them more visible and is now the colour reproduced in models, coin boxes, tea towels and on tourist postcards becoming as British as the Bulldog or the red London Bus.

**NUMBER OF BOXES IN THE UK.**

**K6 1935 designed (19,000 Made)**

**K6 1936 1<sup>st</sup> Installed in UK.**

**Produced by Lion Foundry in Kirkintilloch (K2 to K6 until 1984).**

K6 1940 (35,000 Phone boxes Available)

K6 1950 (44,000 Phone boxes Available)

K6 1960 (64,000 Phone boxes Available)

**The K6 was also produced by Carron Ironworks near Falkirk in the 1960's.**

**1968 Last K6 produced and installed.**

2017 10,700 K6's still positioned in towns and cities.

#####

Sandbach has a number of examples of the K6 Telephone Box or kiosk with the most prominent one outside the Town Hall which has Grade 2 National Heritage Status because of its association with the designer Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who was the Grandson of Sir George Gilbert Scott the architect of many buildings in Sandbach including the Literary Institute, Savings Bank, Alms Houses and Grammar School.

**PHONE BOXES IN SANDBACH**

**SANDBACH has a few examples of the K6.**

1) Outside the Town Hall. – Grade 2 Listed.



2) On the corner of Platt Avenue and Sweettooth Lane (De-commissioned) now in Sandbach Park.



Platt Ave / Sweettooth Lane

3) Crewe Road / (Nags Head) Village Green (Now and E-Mail / Text / Phone Site)



Wheelock (In Use)

4) Mill Lane / Warmingham Lane K6 Telephone Kiosk (De-commissioned) – Next to Moston notice Board.



Moston K6.

5) Warmingham Opposite the Church. (Now run by the Village Committee and is a tourist Point)



Warmingham K6

6) Sandbach School has a Private box next to the Theatre.

7) Ken Beresford (Offley House) has a Private example stored in his garden shed.

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Platt Avenue Kiosk before it was moved.

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14 May 2017

**SECOND THREE SHIRES SPORTIVE**

The “Three Shires Cycle Sportive” held on Sunday the 14 May 2017 was organised by Dave Hursthouse to raise money for the R.N.L.I. (Royal National Lifeboat Institute) after he was himself rescued by them in 2007 while he was sailing off the coast of the Llyn Peninsula at Abersoch in North Wales. Since then he has taken part in a number of fundraising events including Triathlons, Coast to Coast Cycle Rides and the Three Peaks running event before getting involved with the Crewe, Nantwich and South Cheshire Fundraising Branch of the RNLI. Dave also goes cycling every Sunday with the Sandbach Sunday Cycling Group which has a number of

members of the Rugby Club who also took part in the day. When Dave started talking about a Sportive last year the Rugby Club members were keen to help with hosting the event and along with a number of volunteers the event was well organised and raised a lot of money for their good cause.

Fundraising was mainly done with a large part of the entry fee for the event going to the RNLI with many of the riders also being sponsored for the distance covered. Online registration raised seven and a half thousand pounds with riders also donating via the “Just Giving” website and one five-year-old and her family raising £200 on their own for the Lifeboats.

There were three different routes for the Cyclists with the 100km “Three shires route” through Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire. A 35km route cutting through the middle of Cheshire and a 5k Family route for families with some fifty or so riders doing all three routes in what the organisers called the “Triple Crown”. Last year there were about 350 riders at the event with this year bringing over 500 to the Rugby Club location, for an 8.30am start which set off in small groups with an interval of about five minutes.

A “D” Class Lifeboat from Cleethorpes was on show at the event plus the mascot of the RNLI and a map showing the rescue sites around the coast of the UK as well as where the people saved by the Lifeboats had come from with a majority of inland sailors being rescued having made the trip from inshore locations like Sandbach to the seaside where they were unprepared for the conditions they would find when they get there. With this successful second year, organisers hope that this will be an annual event and that it will grow into a fundraising day for those who wish to ride the routes as well as having stalls for those who don't have bikes to help contribute to the R.N.L.I.



#####  
21 May 2017

#### YOUTH MARKET AT SANDBACH TOWN HALL

An overwhelming opinion at a consultation of what to do with the town hall in Sandbach was to make more use of the space on all seven days. Town Hall Staff have staged a variety of events since then on a Sunday and on the 21 Mar 2017, there was a Youth Market showing off the talent and entrepreneurial skills of the younger generation. Stall holders at the event were Hayley Emma Art who displayed paintings of well-known people as well as her Henna business, Tomos Price-Jones sold his computer games, George Smith from Fleetwood came down to Sandbach with his father as he does every Saturday to sell eggs on the Market. Matt Clarke sold his own science fiction books and Christian Turner showed off pictures he had painted with views of Sandbach among his work. Laura Surgenor (Writer Elizabeth Morgan) from the town hall kept an eye on the event along with selling her books and jewellery next to Katherine Buckley's food, drink and small notices with various sayings on them including, “There is always time for tea, and there is always room for cake”. There was in Sandbach Town Hall, time for the youth and room to encourage them to start their own business.



#####  
10 June 2017

### CHESTER FIRE APPRENTICES COME TO SANDBACH

Chester Fire Brigade sent their appliance to the Sandbach Makers Market on the 10 June 2017 with a compliment of Apprentices who were raising funds for a trip to Nepal which will cost about £60,000 for them to help villagers build a much needed “Safe School” for children in the area. The project is part of “Classrooms in the Sky” which will cost a total of about £100,000. In this part of Nepal 71.6% of the male population and 44.5% of females do not have any education with this new project the school will go a long way to putting this right. Money raised from the event in Sandbach and all over Cheshire will go towards building materials for local tradesmen to furnish the village with the school, classrooms, toilets and flights for the Cheshire Cadets / Apprentices to help with the project. In 2015 Cadets and Leaders went to the remote village of Thulodhunga in the Himalayas to help rebuild a school after the Nepal Earthquake left the teachers using tents in which they carried out their lessons. Donations can be made via Chester Fire Station or via Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services Headquarters at Winsford CW7 2FQ with more information via Connor Sweetman at [cadet09cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:cadet09cheshirefire.gov.uk) So far the group have held car washes and various other events with Sandbach playing host to a “Hose Running Contest” with Josh winning with a time of 1 minute 17 seconds.



#####  
11 June 2017

### ELWORTH FLOWER CLUB CELEBRATES 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Elworth Flower club celebrated 60 years of existence at the Chimney House on the 11 June 2017 with founder members, current members and a representative of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangers Societies)



#####  
24 June 2017

### FUN DAY IN THE PARK

Large crowds enjoyed the sunshine of Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in Sandbach for the annual Fun Day in the Park organised by Sandbach Town Council. The day was also a celebration of Armed Forces Day with members of the local Army Cadets putting on a display and obstacle course for people to try out. The entrance to the park had displays by the Fire Cadets and the local PCSO's (Police) who finger printed visitors for fun and showed off their police car.

Once in the park there was an opportunity for Zorbing, stilt walking, face painting cake decorating, willow weaving and playing a number of games around the park.

Local MP Fiona Bruce also paid a visit to support the event and the local charities who took part in the event.



#####  
24 June 2017

### HARRY POTTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Yes, it is 20 years since the first book in the Harry Potter Series reached the shelves of the nation and on Saturday the 24 June 2017, Sandbach celebrated this milestone with a party at the Town Hall hosted by Laura Surgenor the conference and events officer at Sandbach Town Council. With the hall divided into the various houses of Hogwarts School there was a Harry Potter Quiz, food and all the children dressed up as characters from the film with most appearing as Harry Potter himself and at least one as Voldemort. It was also such an exciting event that one child celebrated his birthday at the town hall surrounded by his friends as they watched the first instalment of the film series "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" on the big screen.

The first book was released on the 26 June 1997 and the series of novels have since sold over 500 million copies in 73 different languages by 2013.

In 1990, J K Rowling was travelling on a four-hour delayed train from Manchester to London when the idea for Harry Potter came into her head. The writer has never said which station she was close to when the idea came to her but one of those could have been Sandbach or Crewe.

In 1995 the first book was finished and was sent off to various publishers who rejected the book, however the second agent (Christopher Little) to receive the first instalment offered to represent J K Rowling and offered the book to Bloomsbury who took up the option for the series and the rest is history.

In 1998, J K Rowling sold the rights to Warner Brothers to make the stories into films with the first episode being released on the 14 November 2001 with Daniel Radcliffe as Harry.

The seventh and final book in the series “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” was published on the 21 July 2007, selling 11 million copies in the first 24 hours around the world. This was not however the end of the stories as a play based on an idea by JK was staged in 2016 at the Palace Theatre, London and called “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child”. It was set 19 years after the final book’s last chapter and a book based on the play was released making nine stories about Harry Potter.

Costumes, memorabilia, books about the series, DVD’s, Blue Ray, Playstation games, models, Lego and the film experience by Warner Brothers continue to keep interest in Harry Potter going hopefully for another 20 years.



Houses of Hogwarts = Slytherin, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Gryffindor.

#####  
25 June 2017

#### CIVIC PARADE AND SERVICE

The annual Civic Parade and Service at St Mary’s took place on the 25 June 2017 which fell on the date that last year was Armed Forces Day in the town (Sunday of the Armed Forces Weekend).

The first major event for the new Mayor’s year started on Sandbach Common near the library when Sandbach Town Mayor, Martin Forster greeted other Mayor’s from Cheshire East (Cllr Arthur Moran), Crewe (Cllr Marilyn Houston), Macclesfield (Cllr Beverley Dooley), Winsford (Cllr Mike Kennedy), Frodsham (Cllr Alan Oulton) and the Chairman of Alsager Council (Cllr Colin Burgess). The parade then left the area with the Cheshire Police corps of drums leading them through the town followed by Councillors and Mayors, Army Cadets from Sandbach School, Air Cadets, Fire Cadets with the Guides and Brownies at the back of the procession as they headed past the Town Hall and down the High Street, stopping on their way at the War Memorial where Cllr Martin Forster (STC) and Cheshire East Mayor Arthur Moran laid wreaths to the fallen of the town and all those in the Armed forces.

The parade then moved onto the church where the Rev Thomas Shepherd, who celebrates nearly 10 years in the town, gave a wonderful service about the pride people had in the town of Sandbach and even asked youngsters in a ‘Vox pop’ like survey what they thought was the best thing about the town. It didn’t quite go to plan as the first person he asked actually came from Middlewich. The Rev Shepherd soon found someone from the town and they gave a number of good reasons to stay in the Sandbach. He also said that after 10 years (Coming to Sandbach in 2008) he still hadn’t decided why he liked being in the town but the fact that he wanted to stay was a good enough reason. He then went on to say that the Church, which had been on the site of St Mary’s since before the Doomsday Book was at the very heart of the town with the town growing from this central position and with this in mind it was appropriate that the service was held at the start of the Mayoral year.

Reading were given by the new Mayor of Sandbach, Cllr Martin Forster (St Paul’s letter to the Romans), Miss Mollie Burns (Book of Ecclesiastes) and Deputy Mayor Richard Hovey (Letter from St Paul to the Philippians) with a Prayer for the Community, Civic Prayer and hymns including All Things Bright and Beautiful, Lord Jesus Christ and Love Divine. After the service, the congregation were treated to a wonderful buffet in St Mary’s Church Hall with a chance to meet the Mayor and his party.



#####

1 July 2017

**FODENS BAND AT “PARTY IN THE PARK”**

Another fantastic concert by Fodens in the park a highlight of the band’s year and a chance to show off to the people of the town with this yearly event.

**CONCERT Party in the Park at Sandbach 8pm**

1. All Night Long (Lionel Richie arr John Barber)
2. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone (John Williams arr Sykes)
3. Blue (Gansch arr Doyle)  
Solo Soprano Cornet Richard Poole
4. Charivari (Iveson)  
Solo Cornet Mark Wilkinson
5. Trumpet Blues and Cantabile (Harry James arr Geldard)
6. Bobby Shaftoe (Trad arr Gordon Langford)
7. The Seal Lulabye (Whittacre arr Sharmann)  
Solo Flugel Melanie Whyte
8. Ol’ Man River (Kern arr Freeh)

**INTERVAL**

1. Malaguena (Lecuona arr Freeh)
2. Star Wars Theme (John Williams arr Larsen)
3. Someone Like You (Wildhorn and Bricusse arr John Berber)  
Solo Trombone John Barber
4. Blue Rondo A’la Turk (Dave Brubeck arr Edwards)
5. Country Scene (Goff Richards)
6. Eire Time (Price)  
Solo Euphonium Gary Curton
7. Xylomania (Graham)  
Solo Xylophone Mark Landon
8. Riverdance (Whelan arr Ray Farr)

**LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS**

9. I Vow to thee my Country (Gustav Holst / Knorr arr Philip Littlemore)
10. Fantasia on British Sea Songs (Sir Henry Wood arr Wright)  
Guest Conductor from the Audience Sarah Burgess (On Hen Party)
11. Jerusalem (Hubert Parry)
12. Pomp and Circumstance March No 1 (Sir Edward Elgar)



#####

8 July 2017

### 8<sup>th</sup> BRERETON BEAR FESTIVAL

A very enjoyable day took place at the Brereton Bear Festival launch event in the grounds of St Oswald's Church on Saturday the 8 July 2017, where for the third time they held a sponsored Parachute Jump by 37 teddy bears of all sizes and shapes including "Pudsey" and "Chewbacca" (Star Wars) with the winning jump taking the longest to land from the top of the tower. For the third event in a row the winner was Lucy Guy, who this year is also the Brereton Rose Queen. Lucy only just beat Liam Woodwall (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Olivia's bear who came a credible third with times that were only a fraction apart. Not all the bears made it to the ground with three (Including a fish) landing on the church roof and another becoming stuck in the nearby tree. One person even tried a technique used by Winnie the Poo who tied balloons to himself so he could float up to the tree to get some honey, unfortunately this didn't work at Brereton as the bear slowly descended to the ground. Another technique was to put a plate inside the canopy to make it ridged but it was a bit too heavy and again dropped to the ground faster than the children would have liked. Local schools and scout groups seemed to have taken part with mixed results in times of decent but had a great result in the fun had by all who took part or watched this spectacle in Brereton.

The idea for the event came to its founder Stuart Forster in late 2003, and was put to the Parish Council in November of that year with the purpose of raising funds to pay for an increase in "Parish Share" which the churches in the area have to pay to Chester for the running of all the churches in the area. In 2003, Lower Peover had run a similar event with Scarecrows around its parish, however it was decided that as the area of Brereton has an association with a Bear it would be a good idea to have displays of teddy bears instead of the scarecrows. With everything in place, the first event was staged in July 2004 with a follow up event in July 2005 which didn't quite go to plan as some of the displays went missing. An appeal was put out and some including Rupert the Bear were found at the bus stop in Sandbach obviously trying to get back to their home. Because of the large amount of organisation needed to run the festival it was decided that it would become a bi-annual event with the next one being in 2005. The event has since grown from a few exhibits to 132 being registered for this year's event with a couple only just making the deadline of Saturday the 8 July 2017.

The association comes from the D'Brereton Family who had the church built. One of the family killed a manservant and went to the King to confess his sins with the result that the monarch sentenced him to being thrown in the Tower of London. He then pleaded for his freedom and the King said that if he could make a mussel for a bear so it could not eat or harm him then he would be set free and this is what happened and how the bear with a mussel has become the symbol of the parish.

There will be various prizes handed out on the 13 August 2017 when the festival finishes, with the person who has named the most bears by jotting down the title of each bear visited winning a prize. A prize will also be awarded to the best display (Judged by competitors who have visited the 132 locations) and a prize for the funniest bear.

To help you with a few titles there is Paddington displaying "Going Away" on his suitcase, "Hanging Around" nearby and "Beara Lynn" (Vera Lynn) with the Blue Birds flying overhead. Another one to look out for is number 101, "Bearly Moved" by the Scout Hut which has been there for at least the last two years if not longer. The church inside also has a number of displays including a wonderful union flag display "Brereton Brexit Bears" and the lock-gate house at the bottom of the road leading to the church had a hidden bear not included on the trail to greet visitors.

On the last Sunday of the Festival there will be a Bear Service which will include some bear themed songs followed by a Teddy Bears Picnic and Prize giving ceremony.

Programmes for the event from the 8 July to the 14 August 2017, including the competition form are available from various locations in Brereton, Sandbach, Congleton and Holmes Chapel.

Next year in July Brereton will be holding its bi-annual "Open Gardens" event so make the most of this years "Bear Festival" even if you just want to "Hunt the Bear" for fun.



#####  
29 July 2017

### ROCK N POP FESTIVAL AT SANDBACH

On the 29 July 2017, after successful "Fake Festivals" at Sandbach Rugby Club two individuals decided to take over the organising of the event to put more money back into the community. Simon Gregson and Andy Miller (The Chef at the Rugby Club) have been working for the last six months with the Sandbach Rugby Club to stage the event. Through various contacts the organisers put together a great line-up which was provided by local performers "The Josh Walker Band", "Shakermaker" and "Green Bullet". Ben from Shakermaker used to perform at one of Andy Miller's Restaurants and so was an obvious choice to be a part of the line-up in the tent along with Green Bullet who had been at the last two "Fake Festivals" with one member of the band saying they had been looking forward to the event for months as it was possibly the only time they would play a set between the Police and Oasis.

The main acts were tributes to Taylor Swift, Jess Glynn (Melissa Tributes from Manchester) with The Police Force and Oasis (Definitely Mightbe) topping the bill.

Melissa has a number of impersonations she does in her act including those at Sandbach as well as Katy Perry, Megan Trainor, Ariana Grande Miley Cyrus and Cheryl and spends time getting the accents right for each performance. Melissa has travelled all over the country working with other tribute bands as well as on her own in places like Holiday Camps where she sees her favourite audience, a lot of children enjoying themselves rather like Saturdays performances in Sandbach with the younger children dancing in-front of the stage along with members of local bandmembers of The Josh Walker Band before their session.

Definitely Mightbe consists of led singer Ian Bears who looks like Liam Gallagher and has appeared on BBC1, Channel 4, Sky TV and ITV as a lookalike including publicity campaigns for Virgin, Loaded and Lloyds Bank and is so convincing as the Oasis Frontman that Ian was asked to provide an additional voice track to a 2010 'Wonderwall' Dance Remix. Joining Ian on stage are Paul Mitchell who plays the roles of Noel in Oasis and Andy Summers in The Police tribute, Kev Pyne on Bass and Pete Coppard on drums and Stewart Copeland (Police Drummer). Both sessions included the hits of the bands with the Police also performing two solo hits by Sting "Fields of Gold" and the Quentin Crisp tribute song "An Englishman in New York".

With over 500 people attending the event the organisers hope to continue staging this type of festival at the Rugby Club in the big tent which for this year has moved from the middle of the field to outside the clubhouse as SRUFC have started building a new 'Multi-Use Gym' on the original site.



#####

2 August 2017

### PLAY IN THE PARK



#####

4 August 2017

### WHO OWNS THE DR LATHAM MEMORIAL?

The question was raised in the Sandbach Chronicle as to who is responsible for the memorial to Dr Charles Latham situated at Ashfields Primary Care Centre (Surgery) and is in need of some tender loving care. Well the answer was thought to have been the owners of the Ashfields complex who were given responsibility for the upkeep of the memorial when it was offered into their safe keeping when the surgery was built as it was felt to

be more in keeping with the Doctors than its previous home in the park where the red telephone kiosk now stands.

However, further research and talking to a Sandbach Town Councillor has revealed that it is actually on the land owned by Aldi the Supermarket who in recent years have reclaimed the land from the Surgery by putting in boundary posts marking their area. Aldi has been contacted to see if they could renovate the area by clearing the weeds from the brickwork as well as improving the whole area ready for judging of the best kept town awards and the Council are now waiting for a reply to both their requests.



#### A HISTORY OF THE DR LATHAM MEMORIAL

Originally situated outside the Town Hall it was erected after the death of Dr Charles Latham and was paid for by Public Subscription. The memorial soon became an obstruction as more traffic was passing through the town and a number of large vehicles were unable to go through the centre of Sandbach as it obstructed the road despite at the time having a light fixed to the top of the monument. It was decided in the best interests of the town centre and a tribute to Dr Latham that it should be moved to Sandbach Park where it stood in the prominent position near the entrance. Originally the responsibility for its upkeep in the Town Centre was that of the Sandbach Urban District Council (1894 to 1974) and for its move to the park this was the same official body. However, in a major re-structuring of the area in 1974 Congleton Borough Council (1974 to 2009) took on its upkeep as part of the parks and recreation department and it was CBC who agreed to the moving of the Monument to Ashfields.

At this point I can only guess when the Ashfields Complex was built as it is not noted in my records but the monument was photographed in 2004 in the park and by 2006 it was missing from that area at which time it had been relocated to Ashfields who were now acquiring new Doctors to carry on the work done by Dr Latham at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Dr CHARLES LATHAM died on the (6<sup>th</sup> or) 7 July 1907 and had been a prominent local physician, surgeon and registrar who worked in Sandbach for many years. On his death, the whole town turned out for his funeral and a monument to him was erected outside the Town Hall and unveiled on the 17 April 1908.

The reason for the monument is unsure but it is said that he would treat the poor for no charge and so when he died a public collection was made by the town with many of the poor (and rich) giving as much as they could afford in memory of this kind doctor.

The family had connection with the area having purchased Bradwall Hall in 1802. This was bought by another doctor, Mr John Latham M.D. the grandfather of Mr George William Latham M.P. (.b. 1827 .D. 1886) who was known throw-out Cheshire as he was the founder of the Bradwall Reformatory (Institute for Reforming Juvenile Offenders). In 1885 to 1886 George William Latham (Liberal) (Crewe Constituency) became the first MP for the area representing Sandbach. George W Latham suffered for many years from the most painful Malady and after his death on the 4 October 1886 his funeral was probably the largest public ceremony held in the town up until this date only eclipsed by that of Dr Charles Latham.

Other members of the family included Richard and Sarah Latham whose son was to become Dr Charles Latham. Born in 1816 he was the third son of Richard and Sarah and was also the nephew of John Latham (1761 -1843). He went to Manchester Hospital to serve a 5-year apprenticeship with Scottish surgeon, Dr John Robertson. He then became a dresser at Manchester Infirmary before moving to London to obtain his MRCS and LSA at St Bartholomew's Hospital before returning to Sandbach to become a partner with Mr Sutton.

On the 29 March 1842, he was appointed medical officer for the Sandbach Relief District a position he held for 57 years before he retired on the 22 December 1899.

In 1843, Charles married Miss Mary Newnham Cobbe who went on to have five sons and two daughters.

On the 25 March 1845 Charles Latham was appointed to be the medical officer to the District after the Workhouse was opened, another role he held for a long period of 60 years.  
 On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1867 the doctor, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) delivered triplets to the wife of a brass dealer an event that was reported in "The Lancet".  
 For 30 years he was the public Vaccinator and surgeon to the Bradwall Reformatory from its foundation in 1873 until the 19 March 1903.  
 Before his death he was also the registrar of births and deaths in the town, handing over this duty to his son in 1888.  
 Not only was a monument to the good doctor erected but his funeral was well documented in a number of Postcards (Early form of Newspaper Pictures as they were printed on the day of an event to celebrate or record the stories of the day).

Dr Charles Latham .b. 1816 .D. (6<sup>th</sup> or) 7 July 1907.  
 1843 Married Miss Mary Newnham Cobbe  
 (Daughter of William Venables Cobbe of Hough, Near Wybunbury)  
 1845 Son Richard Venables Latham  
 1849 Son William Henry Latham  
 1851 Daughter Catherine Maria Latham  
 1852 Son George Frederick Latham  
 1854 Daughter Louisa Mary Latham  
 1856 Son Harry Newham Latham  
 1857 Son Francis Gordon Latham

#####  
 4 August 2017

**AIR POLLUTION IN SANDBACH – FAIR OR FOUL**

On the 12 July 2017 at a Cabinet Meeting of the Council, the quality of the air in Cheshire East was brought into question when a report stated that "As part of the preparatory work for the 2015 annual report and return to DEFRA, a number of data inaccuracies have been identified that impact on the 2015 report and the 2014 report that has already been submitted." After further checks the 2012 and 2013 figures were also deemed questionable.

Cheshire East has about 100 sites throughout the borough to monitor the Nitrogen Dioxide levels to improve the air quality of Cheshire and the results are used to review planning applications by assessing the impact it would make on the area with increased traffic. It was thought that the false readings may have influenced planning applications for new houses in the Sandbach, Congleton, Crewe, Holmes Chapel and Nantwich areas however a Council spokesman said that these readings were in so many different areas that they couldn't influence the output of one singular planning application.

Recent statistics have put Sandbach towards the top of the list of polluted areas of Cheshire East but is it fair to judge the town on the two monitors situated at both the M6 Junction and Middlewich Road near the Ashfields Surgery and possibly the most polluted area of the town as traffic lights next to them stop cars from moving through the area with the result that when vehicles are at a standstill they create more pollution than passing traffic. Add into this the tailbacks of traffic from roadworks that have dogged the Middlewich Road over the last few years and this adds up to a false impression of Sandbach as a polluted area.

Sandbach has a number of Diffusion Tubes (Monitors) including the two on Middlewich Road which are considered to be inaccurate by +/- 20% especially as the results are only being taken on a monthly basis so the Council cannot accurately account for incidents that take place on a weekly basis including roadworks.

Going by current figures Sandbach is still considered a very low risk area with a maximum of 54.59 ug/m<sup>3</sup> on the Holmes Chapel Road in 2013 and an average of 34.55 ug/m<sup>3</sup> over the last 4 years. Middlewich Road as expected is a high pollution area with a current figure of 48.14 ug/m which is still well within the governments lowest risk figure of between 0 and 67 ug/m (High Risk = 401 to 467 ug/m).

**FIGURES FOR THE SANDBACH AREA. (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) RED = Higher than wanted levels.**

Coppersfield, Church Lane	NO <sub>2</sub> = 31.55 (2013)	31.32 (2014)	N/A (2015)	N/A (2016)
221 Heath Road	NO <sub>2</sub> = 35.96 (2013)	35.35 (2014)	25.03 (2015)	31.39 (2016)
M6 Junction 17	NO <sub>2</sub> = <b>44.89 (2013)</b>	<b>45.26 (2014)</b>	N/A (2015)	N/A (2016)
Saxon Cross, Holmes Chapel Rd	NO <sub>2</sub> = 27.75 (2013)	26.43 (2014)	23.27 (2015)	24.79 (2016)
The Spinney, Sandbach	NO <sub>2</sub> = 31.18 (2013)	29.18 (2014)	27.00 (2015)	28.26 (2016)
Brickhouse Barns, Holmes Chapel Rd	NO <sub>2</sub> = <b>54.59 (2013)</b>	<b>51.72 (2014)</b>	N/A (2015)	N/A (2016)
4/6 London Rd, Elworth	NO <sub>2</sub> = N/A (2013)	32.00 (2014)	29.24 (2015)	29.84 (2016)
53 / 55 Middlewich Rd, Sandbach	NO <sub>2</sub> = N/A (2013)	<b>49.14 (2014)</b>	<b>43.54 (2015)</b>	<b>48.14 (2016)</b>
2 Birch Gardens, Sandbach	NO <sub>2</sub> = N/A (2013)	N/A (2014)	N/A (2015)	26.59 (2016)

**Levels are described in the following terms**

LOW 1 = 0-67 ug/m<sup>3</sup>                      LOW 2 = 68-134 ug/m<sup>3</sup>                      LOW 3 = 135-200 ug/m<sup>3</sup>  
 MODERATE 4 = 201- 267 ug/m<sup>3</sup>      MODERATE 5 = 268-334 ug/m<sup>3</sup>              MODERATE 6 = 335-400 ug/m<sup>3</sup>  
 HIGH 7 = 401-467 ug/m<sup>3</sup>              HIGH 8 = 468-534 ug/m<sup>3</sup>                      HIGH 9 = 535-600 ug/m<sup>3</sup>  
 VERY HIGH 10 = 601 or more ug/m<sup>3</sup>



Mere	72.53 (2013)	76.94 (2014)			
Congleton	70.31 (2013)	61.43 (2014)	57.66 (2015)	64.50 (2016)	
Nantwich	61.61 (2013)	63.61 (2014)			
53 / 55 Middlewich Rd, Sandbach	NO <sub>2</sub> = N/A (2013)		49.14 (2014)	43.54 (2015)	48.14 (2016)

#####  
 6 August 2017

**THE MAIN STREET IN SANDBACH HAS BEEN DUG UP**

On Sunday the 30 August 2017, Sandbach was invaded by monster trucks cutting up the surface of the town's main streets. Sleeping Policemen were destroyed and a roundabout disappeared from outside the Fire Station along with cobbles being revealed in Wells Street at the start of a two-week resurfacing project by Cheshire Highways to improve the streets of Sandbach. The second phase of the project took place on Sunday the 6 August when tarmac was laid down so traffic can again enjoy smooth roads through the town.



#####  
 11 August 2017

**FUNDRAISING EVENT AT CRICKET CLUB**

A fundraiser on the 11 August 2017, at the Sandbach Cricket Club was in Aid of the Children's Ward at Leighton Hospital. This year also celebrated the life and loss of James Ellwood whose name appeared on the shirts of the players from both the Elworth and Sandbach Cricket Clubs who were playing during the event. Imran Tahir a famous bowler who comes from Pakistan and plays for the South African Cricket team made an appearance at the Hind Heath Road ground and signed autographs for fans as well as posing for photographs and bowling an over each for the two teams as they played a 12 over game. Elworth CC went into bat first and scored 148 for 5 with Sandbach CC scoring 121 for 7 wickets, with the result being a great win for those watching as it was an entertaining match with many 6's and 4's, along with some great wickets from both sides. Various stalls and music provided by the Sandbach Folk Club and Scott Edwards entertained those not interested in the cricket and helped to raise money for their target.

Organisers Leah Street and Ben Guildford did a great job and they raised a lot of money for the Children at Leighton Hospital from their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual charity fundraiser at the Sandbach Cricket Club.



#####  
12 August 2017

#### ALLOTMENT OPEN DAY IN SANDBACH

With the loss, this year of the Open Garden Scheme in Sandbach (Bi-annual event) the Sandbach Allotment Society have bridged the gap with an open day at their site at Yeowood Farm, which is down the driveway next to the Ettley Heath Church. The event on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017, gave the growers a chance to show off their splendid plots with a variety of different produce from flowers to the more traditional fruit and vegetables, which this year has provided a surplus of goods which were on sale to the public during their visit.

Free entry to the site didn't stop the Allotment members taking money from the visitors with drinks and cakes available as well as sales of the produce along with a couple of collection boxes which were all used to raise funds for St Lukes Hospice.

The plot of land used by the growers was first planted in 2012 when 100 members of the Allotment Society were given the plots in a deal between Yeowood Farm and Sandbach Town Council after they had presented a petition to STC calling for the return of allotments to the town, which under an ancient law says that land has to be provided by the Council if a number of residents put in a request for them. Susan Doughty the chairperson at the time said that they were "grateful to Mr and Mrs Bunn (Yeowood Farm) for the allowing us this opportunity", an opportunity they have not squandered as now the plots of land between the canal and the farm itself have been turned into a haven to relax in and "grow your own".

Members are also keen to help out in the town of Sandbach with appearances at various events including a recent "Play in the Park" where they had a produce stall and asked children to identify various vegetables with an explanation as to what they could be used for and tips on growing the plants. Another project they have been involved with is the herb garden in the centre of the town by the bus stop where anyone can pick herbs from the garden at any time a facility that makes their produce much fresher than the greengrocers and supermarkets.

In 2016, the Sandbach Allotment Society were 'Highly Commended' in the 'Best Community Initiative Award' category of the 'Cheshire Community Pride Awards', along with a "Little Gem Award" for the Herb Garden as well as providing a helping hand to attain the first place for Sandbach in the "Best Kept Town Award" for the last four years.

Having seen the standard of work put in to the gardens it is no wonder they are willing to show off their allotments. Another essential part of the plot is the much talked about Pigsty which is used to house equipment as well as having facilities to make a drink and for social meetings when it starts to rain, a weather condition I am pleased to say did not apply when I visited the site on the Saturday afternoon.

Formed in 2010 the society has gone from strength to strength and only had one small hiccup in February 2013 when Yeowood Farm owner Tom Bunn submitted plans for 700 homes and a 250-boat marina on his land but they needn't have worried as he also included allotments on the plans which still haven't been approved.



#####  
1 September 2017

**MOONLIGHT MARKET**

Sandbach held its first Moonlight Market on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. A joint venture between the Town Council and traders in the Indoor Market the event attracted hundreds of people who enjoyed a variety of food stalls along with music by Eddie Ogle who stepped in at the last minute to busk at the event at the back of the town hall. Inside the hall itself regular traders were joined by a mixture of stalls selling crafts, food and other items. The moon itself could be seen in the twilight evening as the sun set over the town as traders packed away at 8pm having enjoyed a lot of interest in this event which started at 5pm in the afternoon.



#####  
9 September 2017 9

**FINAL DAY OF DANCE AT SANDBACH**

After a very wet start to the weekend the final "Day of Dance" got underway in Sandbach Town Centre. As the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 brought brilliant sunshine for the nine groups of Morris Dancers to perform the crowds came out to support this event. Organisers Lynn Purcell and Ray Archer have decided to call it a day after seven years of this wonderful spectacle in the diary of Sandbach. The town has been visited by Morris Dancers for many years as part of the May Day Celebrations in the town but as the May Day Market and its successor the Elizabethan Market came to a close the Morris Men and Women only came occasionally for special events until Ray and Lynn decided to bring some friends from all over the country to the town for the start of this special event called the "Day of Dance". In later years the event was combined with the Farmer's Market run by the Town Council and later the Maker's Market which took over in 2015.

This year as in 2015 was a day of torrential rain and like then the dancers continued performing in St Mary's Church Hall as well as under a gazebo at the Old Hall until the sun shone through making this a memorable final outing for the organisers. Another highlight of the seven years of the festival appeared this year with the

inclusion of the 'Danze de Sans Chuse' a group of dancers from Spain who were given the loudest applause by the public and also by their fellow performers.

Next year the Morris Men and Women will be invited to a new event which will be held on the 19 May 2018 when the Sandbach Town Council are to hold a History Day (Title still to be decided) which will also include the Northwest Town Criers Competition, which had until this year been held as part of the Transport Festival. There will also be other historically based activities at the May event according to Sandbach Town Council.

**GROUPS TAKING PART.**

- Black Dog Molly
- Chorlton Clog Hoppers
- Danze de Sans Chuse (From Spain)
- Domesday
- Horwich Prize Medal
- Milltown Cloggies
- Mobberely
- Rivington
- Thelwall



#####  
10 September 2017

**SANDBACH STRIDES OUT FOR 2K AND 10K RUN**

The Sandbach Striders held their 10<sup>th</sup> annual 10k run in Sandbach along with a 2k run for children which attracted 249 adult runners and about 60 youngsters to the streets of Bradwall. The event has been held at Elworth Cricket club for many years but the group decided to move to Bradwall Village Hall where on Sunday the 10 September 2017, they held the event in conditions that were perfect for runners with no rain, a dull outcast with no wind making it ideal conditions to run the 10k course which was described by one runner as “a beautiful course with lovely views”. The 10k race was started by the Mayor of Sandbach, Martin Forster in Pillarbox Lane and was monitored by high tech timing using special chips attached to the numbers of the runners who activated a timer by going over a rubber mat at the start of the run and when they returned to the finish line at Bradwall Village Hall a duplicate set recorded their times which this year guaranteed the winning runners with a course record as this was the first time they had completed this particular 10k route. First in the adult race was Carl Moulton who completed the run in 33 minutes 43 seconds, followed by Andrew Lamont in a time of 34 minutes 13 seconds and third place Stephen Bailey (35 minutes 11 seconds). The women’s race was also won in a course record time of 40 minutes 10 seconds by Amy Clark with second place Victoria Summer (42 minutes 30 seconds) and third was Emma Weston (43 minutes 3 seconds). The final runner came back in a time of just over 1 hour and 40 minutes but was still greeted by the Mayor who gave her the last medal of the day for taking part along with a goodie bag and the crowd stayed back to cheer her through the finishing line. Issac Leydon took 7 minutes 27 seconds to run the 2k children’s race which had been run earlier in the day and had a start and finishing line outside Bradwall Village Hall. Harry Parker McLain came in second in a time of 7 minutes 35 seconds with Archie Varley coming in third with a time of 7 minutes 49 seconds. Other winners were Penny Lee (5 and under), Coby Burton (6-7), Michah Johnson (8-9), Lucas Darlinton (10-11) and Amy Phillips (11-13).

The final athlete in the children’s race came in some time later with the name “Peppa Pig” a runner who had joined the athletes for a pre-race warm up and made sure all those taking part made it to the finishing line and gained a medal for the event.

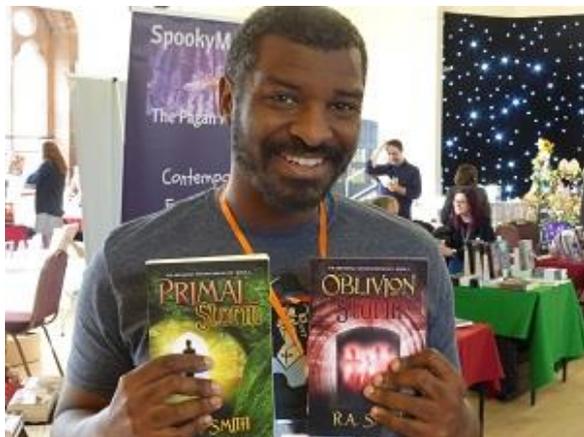


#####  
 23 September 2017

#### AUTHOR SIGNING EVENT ANOTHER SUCCESS

On the 23 September 2017, the second 'Author Signing Event' at Sandbach Town Hall was attended by more visitors than last year's inaugural event run by Laura Surgenor (Writer Elizabeth Morgan) the conference and events manager of Sandbach Town Council. Various writers from the local area and further afield including Bristol attended the event which gave budding writers a chance to attend free talks on books and how to write on a number of subjects. Booked for the same weekend as the Wakes Fair they hoped to attract more parents bring their children to the common, however it seemed to have been a stand-alone event with visitors coming to meet their favourite and new authors. Some of the twenty-one writers had returned to Sandbach after last year's event with organisers hoping to repeat the experience next year.

Authors attending the event were, Nikki Ashton, C.A. Bell, Jane Cooper, P R Ellis, Scarlet Flame, Catherine Green, Liz Hedgecock, Angela Marie James, Glen Martin James, Lizzie James, R J F Holland, Victoria Johns, M L Kacy, D A Lascelles, Elizabeth Morgan, Laura Morgan, Claire Plaisted, Bella Sattarra, R A Smith, T L Wainwright and Jim Webster.



#####  
22-25 September 2017

### WAKES FAIR HAS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The origin of the “Fun Fair” during the Wakes Week has been lost to time but a 1916 report from the Town Council shows that a Mr Patrick Collins had complied with the new lighting restrictions of the Great War by shutting down the fair at the end of the day so the zeppelins could not see the town lit up by the attractions. The current “Wakes Fun Fair” in Sandbach has been going for over 70 years with families of showmen like the White’s and Holland’s attending Sandbach with amusements over this period. Joe White who runs the fair today was brought to Sandbach when he was born as were the Holland family caterers who also brought their stalls to Sandbach this year.

In 2015 reports of possible gang warfare during the fair put a lot of people off with an increased police and security presence in the town and in 2016 rain stopped play early but 2017 was ideal with good weather and a relaxed atmosphere the fair attracted a larger crowd of teenagers on the Friday night with a number of families attending on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons enjoying the atmosphere and the 41 attractions.



#####  
14 October 2017

### DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLED IN SANDBACH

At the end of September 2017, Sandbach Fire Station had a new defibrillator added to the outside of the building for use by the general public of Sandbach. It is part of a project by the Cheshire Service to install one of these lifesaving pieces of equipment in all their Fire Stations. They were officially launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 when all the stations will have them on site and to coincide with the “Restart A Heart Day”.

This gives the town another easy accessible piece of equipment to add to the one opposite at the Military Arms Public House, and nine others situated at the Ambulance Station, Congleton Road (Available Emergency Services only Via 999 Call), Ashfields Primary Care Centre (Middlewich Road), Co-op on Middlewich Road, Elworth, Leisure Centre (Middlewich Road), Sandbach Community Primary School, Crewe Road (Term Time Only), Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road (Term Time Only), Saxon Cross Antiques, Town Mill, High

Street, Sandbach (Opening Times), Turnpike Court, Middlewich Road, Elworth (Old People's Home) and Westfields (Cheshire East Council Building / Monday to Friday opening times).



#####  
14 October 2017

#### NEW BRIDGE OPENS IN SANDBACH

At one minute after midnight on the 14 October 2017 the new Mersey Gateway Bridge between Runcorn and Widnes opened with tolls to cross the new structure. At 11am Sandbach also opened a new bridge which has been built over the Arclid Brook between Dingle Lake and Wheelock with free access to all. Local MP Fiona Bruce conducted the ceremony before walkers took part in a Children in Need ramble along a mile-long route to raise money for the charity in conjunction with BBCTV's Country File.

The bridge was built as part of a trail through Dingle Wood which starts at Bath Street and was funded jointly by Sandbach Town Council, Cheshire East Council and The People's Postcode Lottery and put in place as part of the project led by the Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group along with volunteers from the Sandbach and District U3A Environmental Action Group and the Cheshire East CARE4CE.



#####  
15 October 2017

#### LORRY TURNED OVER ON M6 CAUSES SUNDAY DELAYS

At 8.59am on Sunday the 15 October 2017 a lorry turned over on the bend of the M6 between Junction 18 (Holmes Chapel) and 17 (Sandbach) causing major disruption to the Sunday traffic as the motorway was closed while they recovered the vehicle and repaired the carriageway after an oil spill which took most of the day until the congestion on the side roads ended at about 4pm in the afternoon with the motorway still closed until 6pm. Cheshire Motorway Police said that the vehicle crushed a temporary barrier on the left lane causing a fuel spillage on the carriageway. The driver was arrested for driving without due care and tachograph offences.



#####  
15 October 2017

**DEATH OF EILEEN THOMPSON**

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Eileen Thompson this week. Along with her husband Jim they have become an important part of the town with their involvement in the Scout and Guiding movements in the town and also a major part of the Sandbach History Society and St Mary’s Church.

In 1963 Eileen Thompson her husband Jim and their family moved to Sandbach from Liverpool and in 1967 they started to become involved with the formation of the new scout group in the town after Jim had let it be known that he had been a scout before to one of his friends.

Eileen had been a member of the Girl Guides Association all of her life and soon became one of the organisers of the Guides and Brownies in Sandbach and was involved with the 1<sup>st</sup> Sandbach Group since 1967.

She was also a major contributor to the Trefoil group who raised money for the girls to enjoy various events in the town and at camps across the country.

According to a newspaper report in 2003, “Having a problem hearing didn’t stop her from visiting the sick and elderly in sheltered housing to offer practical help and support”.

In later life Eileen started selling second hand books with an emphasis on local history and after a few years at fairs and events started selling them on behalf of local charities including the Sandbach History Society and during the Sandbach Transport Festival and May Day Markets for Oxfam.

Eileen also spent a number of years serving in the Oxfam Shop in Bold Street.

In 2003 Eileen and Jim were surprised by the Rotary Club when they were invited to a lunch with them only to be informed that they had been awarded as joint Citizen of the Year. At the time spokesperson Loraine Brierley said that “Jim and Eileen have epitomised the Rotary Club motto of ‘Services Above Self’ over the past three decades, and indeed have continued to uphold that motto ever since appearing at various events where they have promoted the Sandbach History Society with a wonderful knowledge of the town and have a collection of memorabilia connected to Sandbach.

Eileen was always keen to take part in local events within the town and in 2013 was pictured flipping pancakes during a Shrove Tuesday event at the Farmer’s Market.

This local celebrity will be sadly missed by all who knew her and those who met her during the many events she attended as well as her work for the church.

#####  
25 October 2017

**BEST EVER CONCERT IN SANDBACH**

Jacqui Dankworth and Craig Ogden gave a wonderful concert at Sandbach’s St Mary’s Church on Wednesday the 25 October 2017 as part of the Sandbach Concert Series.

As usual a number of young performers opened the concert but it was Jacqui Dankworth and guitarist Craig Ogden who made the best use of the beautiful surroundings of St Mary’s Church as they were able to compliment it with a sound that was both relaxing and exquisite at the same time.

With songs like ‘The Water is Wide’, ‘I do it for your love’, ‘How do you keep the music playing’ and the country hit ‘Crazy’, Jacqui came out from under the umbrella of her parents John Dankworth and Cleo Laine to produce a quality sound of her own that the audience enjoyed from the moment she stepped on stage to the moment Jacqui and Craig left after the obligatory encore.

Craig Ogden also featured in a solo spot when he played ‘Vals op 8 No 4’ and ‘Nuages’, neither of which I knew before but absorbed their delightful sound in this perfect evening of music.

For those who were expecting a quick sounding Jazz evening they would have started the evening a little disappointed but would soon change their minds as the guitar and vocal evening gave us a superior sounding evening.

Craig Ogden is no stranger to the series having performed a couple of times while Jacqui was making her debut in the town. The nearest she had come to Sandbach was an appearance at the 2014 Nantwich Jazz and Blues festival also at a St Mary's Church.

Jacqui Dankworth is one of the most highly regarded vocalists in the UK following a family tradition that had been set by her mother Cleo Laine and her musician father Johnny Dankworth. A singer of Jazz, Folk, Soul, Classical and Blues and has performed on radio with the BBC Big Band on the BBC Radio programme "Friday Night is Music Night", TV for the Paul O'Grady Show and "The One Show" and appeared in a cameo role in the film of Les Miserables a role she was rehearsing in 2012 when she should have been at the Nantwich Jazz and Blues Festival and had to find a replacement. Luckily her mum was free that night and stood in giving what Jacqui described as a "Better Deal".

As with her parent's careers Jacqui has worked with the best of singers and musicians including newcomers Paloma Faith and Gregory Porter with whom she did a show recently. Jacqui has also performed with Courtney Pine, Claire Teale, Georgie Fame, Charlie Wood and composer and pianist Marvin Hamlisch.

Craig Ogden on the other hand was born in Australia and studied in his home country and came to Manchester to study. In 2004 he was honoured with a fellowship by the RNCM in Manchester for his achievements in music the youngest instrumentalist to receive the award. With performances throughout the UK, Europe, the USA and Australia it was not surprising he came to the attention of Classic FM (UK) who released a CD of his in 2010 called 'The Guitarist'. The CD went straight in to the number one spot in the classical chart where it enjoyed a five-week run at the top slot for its performer, selling over 25,000 copies. His follow up CD 'Summertime' again spent three weeks at number one. Craig has played with various orchestras as well as making numerous broadcasts on BBC Radio and has also played on the soundtrack of the film 'Notting Hill'.

Rodrigo's daughter described Craig's performance of her father's guitar 'Concierto de Aranjuez' as follows, "This recording has confirmed your position among the greatest guitarists", and it led to him standing in for John Williams at a Classic FM Live Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in May 2009.

Craig first appeared in Sandbach in February 2012 as a soloist and then with a return visit he came with saxophonist Gerard McChrystal from Derry in Northern Island in March 2014. His last biannual appearance in June 2016 was again another solo performance, making this 2017 performance a departure from his usual diary.

The two performers came together after Jacqui Dankworth heard Craig Ogden on a BBC Radio 3 Broadcast and wanted to record an album with him as she liked this combination of guitar and vocal having grown up with John Williams and her mother's version of "He was Beautiful". After an initial E Mail to Craig it took a while for the two to perform together. This year Jacqui and Cleo also invited Craig to perform at the Dankworth Family Festival in July 2017 where the best of musicians gather for great music and a friendly atmosphere in their own little theatre at the Dankworth home sealing a friendship that will last a long time.

Their performance in Sandbach was one of a number of venues they are appearing at together, with the next show at the Canterbury Festival on the 29 October and Bedford's Quarry Theatre on the 1 November. They are also looking forward to the release of a CD they have recorded together in the spring of next year which includes many of the songs they performed in Sandbach.





#####  
 29 October 2017

FODEN'S BAND SOLO, DUET AND QUARTET COMPETITION

The seventh Foden's Band Solo, Duet and Quartet Competition was hailed as a great success by judges and listeners to the fifty-one players who took part in the day's events on Sunday the 29 October 2017. Competitors from all over the world descended on Sandbach to take part in the event with the furthest player, Wai Pang Tsang (Hou) coming from China to play in the Open Air Varie and Air Varie categories. Other instrumentalists came from the UK, Norway and Belgium with the youngest player aged five called Archie Pannell competing in the first class of the day, the "11 and Under Slow Melody" category. His father Tim also took part in various categories with the two of them playing by special request in the sports hall while other competitors waited to hear the results of the mornings proceedings.

Due to a move from Saturday to Sunday and clashes with European Competitions the number of competitors was down in numbers but not in quality with many returning from last year and thirty-eight of the players taking part in more than one category with Paul Bennett, Iain Fleming and Patricia Woodings each playing four different pieces in four classes hoping to win those prizes.

Bethany and India Harby, Hannah and Olivia Taylor from the Sandbach area all play with the Lions Youth Band and Audley Brass and were among the players who adjudicators Dewi Griffiths (Welsh Cornet player with Tredegar Band), Brian Kingsley (Tuba player with Opera North and tutor at the RNCM) and John Wallace CBE ("Wallace Collection" and played at the Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana) had the privilege to hear on the Sunday.

First held on the 8 October 2011, this event in the Foden's Band calendar has become an important part of the banding world's competition list which encourages young players to excel in their chosen brass instruments which range from Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium, Horn and Bass. The adjudicators have always come with a wide range of experience and are keen in their assessments to help the players improve their performances. At the end of the day their speeches were keen to show it was not the winning but the taking part and experience that would make them all better players. They also praised the high standard of playing and gave general technical tips, like standing away from the music stand so it doesn't block the quality of sound produced from the instrument.

Organisers have not given a date for the 2018 competition however, it should be sometime between the last week of October or the first week of November and is an event well worth putting in the diary if you want to hear some excellent music from some of the up and coming players in the brass band world.





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**COMPETITORS IN THE ABOVE COMPETITION**

Jo Ainsworth (3)  
 Julain Bayley (2)  
 Lewis Barton (2)  
 Paul Bennett (4)  
 Sarah Billard (2)  
 Margot Binon (3)  
 Martijn Binon (3)  
 Simon Binon (3)  
 Alfie Bousfield (2)  
 Isaac Bousfield (3)

Megan Bousfield (2)  
 Daniel Brooks  
 Taya Castley (2)  
 Peter Clough (2)  
 Ilse Degeest (2)  
 Frederik Engelson (Norway) (2)  
 Freddie Faragher  
 Catherine Flanders (2)  
 Iain Fleming (4)  
 Adam Galloway (2)

Tim Galloway (2)  
 Christian Gertschen (2)  
 Aiden Grant  
 Grace Hancock  
 Rose Hancock  
 Bethany Harby (Sandbach) (2)  
 India Harby (Sandbach)  
 Emily Harrison  
 Lorenz Havermans (2)  
 James Hawkins

Joe Heartfield (2)  
 Nadia James  
 Keira Littlewood (2)  
 Stephen Lomas (3)  
 Jack Lythaby (3)  
 Calumn MacDonald (2)  
 Kirsten MacDonald (2)  
 Oliver Marshall (2)  
 Toby Marshall (2)  
 Tom Molyneux

Hattie Nuttall  
 Archie Pannell (AGED 5 the Youngest Competitor)

Tim Pannell (2)  
Kristoff Peeters (Belgium) (2)  
Christie Smith (3)  
Amelia Stuart (3)  
Annie Stuart (2)  
Hannah Taylor (2)  
Olivia Taylor  
Wai Pang Tsang (Hou) (China) (2)  
Patricia Woodings (4)  
TOTAL 51

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11 November 2017

#### ARMISTICE DAY IN SANDBACH

Armistice and Remembrance Day this year were very close with Remembrance Sunday on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017, two days that didn't stop many paying their respects on both Saturday and Sunday as the Royal British Legion held two very different events to remember the fallen.

On Saturday the 11 November during the Makers Market on the Market Square the Rev. Jeff Cuttell of Astbury who used to be in the Parachute Regiment and is the minister for the Royal British Legion led the Service of Armistice which this year also included the final dedication of small crosses to the fallen of Sandbach who had died during 1917. The RBL had already marked various battles with this final act of remembrance for 2017 including the final 42 crosses to pay tribute those who died during the year in general fighting and to remember the Battle of Passchendaele which had been 100 years ago on the 10 November 1917 when 140,000 men had died.

Students from both the Sandbach High School and the Sandbach School (Grammar School) planted the crosses with the boys paying respect to the eight pupils that had been at their school before they had signed up to fight between 1914 and 1917 (1918 students to be honoured next year) and died in 1917. Sandbach Mayor, Martin Forster and members of the Royal British Legion, Fire cadets and others also planted crosses for the 42.

The Remembrance Sunday was as usual led by the Rev. Thomas Shepherd with the addition of a hymn "O Valiant Hearts..", being added to the proceedings accompanied by the Lions Brass Band, along with a song sheet and order of service being handed out before the procession from Westfields arrived at the Market Square with representatives of the Royal British Legion, Armed forces, Sandbach and Cheshire East Councils along with local groups who all laid wreaths in a ceremony led by my Reg Dunning to commemorate the 120 citizens of Sandbach who died in both World Wars.

### **1917 Deaths Honoured (11 November 2017)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant William Frederick Allen (2<sup>nd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Lancashire Regiment) SSch  
Private Harry Barker (of Brereton) (3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Div HQ infantry - Central Ontario Regiment)  
Sgt Stanley Bates (21<sup>st</sup> Batt Manchester Regiment)  
Private Walter Bennett (9<sup>th</sup> Batt Cheshire Regiment)  
Private George Buckley (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion East Lancashire Regiment / Formally of the Manchester Regiment)  
Second Lieutenant Randal Alexander Casson (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Royal Welch Fusiliers)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Ben Fletcher Chapman (Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison) SSch  
Private Arthur Cooke (9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
Gunner James Twemlow Cooper (12<sup>th</sup> Bty. 35<sup>th</sup> Bde. Royal Field Artillery) SSch  
Private William Dixon (1/7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
Private Albert Dodd (13<sup>th</sup> Batt Cheshire Regiment)  
Private. John Elsby (10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers)  
Private Frank Harold Foxley (13<sup>th</sup> Batt Cheshire Regiment)  
Pioneer Leonard Gibson (Royal Engineers / Cheshire Regiment)  
(Corporal) Captain Henry Greenwood ("A" Bty. 148<sup>th</sup> Bde. Royal Field Artillery)  
Lance Corp Ernest Guest (11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
Company Sergeant Major Sydney Hall (17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment) SSch  
Gunner W D Hall (A Battery 232<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Field Artillery)  
Lieut. Leslie R. P. Hindson ("A" Bty. 187<sup>th</sup> Bde Royal Field Artillery)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant William R Holland MC (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of the Prince of Wales's Own West Yorkshire Regiment)  
Private John Kelly (10<sup>th</sup> Batt Cheshire Regiment)  
Private Ralph Kettell (1/4<sup>th</sup> South Lancashire Regiment Prince of Wales's Volunteers)  
Private Joseph Leech (10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
Private Thomas Mason (8<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment)

Private John Mercer (4<sup>th</sup> Batt South Wales Borderers)  
 Lance Corporal Fred Moses (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
 Private Samuel Murray (2<sup>nd</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment)  
 Captain Wilfred Henry Newton (163<sup>rd</sup> Siege Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery)  
 Private Joseph Peach (9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Prince of Wales's - North Staffordshire Regiment)  
 Private Thomas Edward Peakman (11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
 Private William Chris Plaskett (19<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's Liverpool Regiment) (.D. 1916)  
 Private Frederick William Redfern (Royal Marine Light Infantry) SSch  
 Private E Richardson (2<sup>nd</sup> South Wales Borderers) Not on the Memorial.  
 Sapper F Robinson (Royal Engineers)  
 Private Frank Ryder (5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders)  
 Private Ernest Swain (1<sup>st</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)  
 Private Herbert Tunstall (Royal Marine Light Infantry)  
 Driver William Venables ("A" Brigade 119<sup>th</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery)  
 Private Seth Walley (*Not on the Memorial*) (1<sup>st</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Rutland Villiers Wheatley (6<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment) SSch  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant William Clarke Wheatley (9<sup>th</sup> Batt Rifle Brigade, The Prince Consort Own) SSch  
 Private Frederick Whittaker (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment)

SSch = Sandbach School Student



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13 November 2017

TOWN HALL TURNS PURPLE

Sandbach Town hall has turned Purple for November 2017 in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month as part of a Nation campaign to bring the cancer to be noticed via the lighting up of a number of prominent buildings around the Country. Crewe's Municipal Building was also lit up for the awareness month. Local fundraising organiser Jill Murray persuaded Sandbach Town Council to put filters on their lights to change its colour and thanked the Council and Staff at the Town Hall for making the changes which were on display until the 30 November 2017 and made a welcome addition to the Sandbach Christmas Lights from the 25 November.



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14 November 2017

SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY GET NEW SONGSHEETS

As Sandbach Voices moves into a new era as the Sandbach Choral Society they have received a donation of money from Sandbach Town Council to purchase a new set of Carol books to help them with shows during the Christmas period.

Their first concert with their new name was at St Mary's Church on the 12 November 2017 and was called "Remembrance" with guest artist Rebecca Barry (Mezzo-Soprano). It was also tinged with sadness as on the previous Sunday one of their members Geoff Garner died suddenly and his wife Irene and family were guests at the concert. Geoff had died on the 5 November and had been a Controller at the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope for 32 years until his retirement in 1995. His obituary from Jodrell Bank remembered he was the first controller to volunteer for work over Christmas Day and Sir Bernard Lovell's wife prepared a handsome food parcel which Brian Lovell took to the observatory for him to have on duty. In 1969, Geoff was the Controller during the Moon Landing and picked up the signals from Apollo 11 seconds before NASA. He was also the second observer to discover a Pulsar after Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell in 1967. Geoff and his wife Irene celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary the day after the Lovel Telescopes 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had two daughters, Tracy and Bev, with two grandchildren Ben and Sammy.

Their next Sandbach Choral Society concert is on the 13 December 2017 also at St Mary's Church with "Peace on Earth" a collection of Christmas Carols.



#####  
23 November 2017

#### MARKET HALL CONSULTATION FOR PLANS

Sandbach Town Council have consulted with Market Traders and interested bodies as to what to do with the indoor market after aborted plans to put in a second floor were unanimously condemned by the public.

On Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> November Councillors were given information about the proposals which were then put to the public in two consultation events at the Town Hall on the following Wednesday and Thursday.

David Trowler Associates have drawn up some plans with colour schemes in Mallard or Chalke Green which proposed that the current market stalls should be refitted with more solid bases that would be easier to clean. The side stalls will also be refitted with shutters that have images on them associated with Sandbach, possibly from old postcards and pictures so the hall continues to have something on the walls even if the stalls are not open for other events. The circular windows along the walls will be fitted with clear glass to let in more light and will be illuminated with bulbs that can change colour to make them a feature at night. New signage on the outside will be illuminated with traders in the side stalls having their names above their pitch that will tell customers the stall holders name and business.

LED lighting will be used to make the building more economic while the outside toilets will be altered to make way for storage space for the moveable stalls used on the Saturday Outside Market and better Baby Changing facilities in the disabled and ladies' toilets will be made more available. The roof itself will be changed to a textured glass without wires which should let in more light than the current glass giving it a more spacious look. Alterations will also be made to the exits with automatic hinged doors opening into a small lobby which should stop the heat escaping from the building.

The exterior and interior brickwork will also be looked at with running repairs to the structure of the building at a cost of 46,000 that would have had to be paid for even if the scheme was not adopted as bricks and other parts of the building are already in need of repair.

The total cost of the proposed scheme will be £175,000 including VAT and the repair costs, according to Sandbach Town Council and Mayor Martin Forster who was one of a number of Councillors who explained the proposals to Stall Holders and the public at the consultation meetings.

The Council hope these proposals will breath back life into the market and make the facilities more available for events from Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Proposed dates for the alterations started with the proposals and on the 27 November and continued with consultations with planners and conservationists. Next would be asking for tenders to be put in for the awarding

of the contract on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and a proposed starting date for work in February 2018 and a proposed finishing date in April. Those attending the exhibitions seemed to support the scheme with some minor alterations and additions put forward, which Councillors agreed to look into.



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25 November 2017

**SANDBACH LIGHT SWITCH ON COULD HAVE HAD A DAMP START.**

The annual Christmas Lights Switch on has it seemed always been plagued by bad weather with 2017 joining the list of dates that started with rain and continued with cold damp conditions that didn't stop the people of Sandbach from giving the event a warm welcome as Silk Radio and organisers Elsie and Graham Alcock switched on the illuminations. Rain had been a feature of the day up until about 4pm, an hour before the official switch on with a group of dancers in what was described as skimpy Santa outfits performing in the downpour of water and hailstones to an appreciative audience before they were ready for the real Santa Claus to make an appearance in the Market Square and for the lights to be counted down for their illumination in the town thanks to the efforts of volunteers including the Sandbach Round Table who put them up on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Despite the rain and lack of celebrity this year a large crowd still turned out for the official switch on, one again supporting this wonderful start to the festive period in Sandbach.



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26 November 2017

**SADOS "CAT AND THE CANARY"**

Founded on the 6 April 2016 by Jon Ranwell the Sandbach Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society has performed a number of plays around the town and at play festivals with their latest production being performed at the Market Tavern on the Market Square being "The Cat and the Canary", a new version of the comedy horror story by John Willard first performed in New York in 1922 has now been adapted for the SADOS by David Muncaster (Also directing the production). The play could be seen in Sandbach on the 26, 27, 29 and 30 November 2017.

The events take place in Glenclyff Manor in a rural part of Cheshire and are performed as a radio play that doesn't quite go to plan.

The play was recently the opener for the Knutsford Little Theatre's new season and the premier performance of the play was set in the studio of the Knutsford Little Broadcasting Company. Moved to Sandbach the location has been changed with the story still being that of a group of voice artists telling the story of the family of Cyrus West at the reading of his will at midnight some 20 years after his death. The will contains various clauses including that the person inheriting the estate remains sane for the next 30 days which in the original turns out to be difficult as a number of people start to be murdered as the family are forced to stay in the house overnight.

This radio production of the 'Cat and the Canary' doesn't quite go to plan as actors and technicians squabble over the script, casting and effects and includes a number of new local actors who make a good job of this script.



#####  
29 November 2017

#### SANDBACH CONCERT SERIES – November Concert

After the successful concert in October with Jacqui Dankworth and Craig Ogden the November programme is very different with young Saxophone players Amy Green and Charlotte Harding coming to St Mary's Church Hall to celebrate pioneering female Saxophonists both as players and composers.

Amy has performed as a soloist in some of the best venues in the country including the Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall and St James's in Piccadilly. She has also played with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English National Opera, Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and when not playing teaches at the Purcell School of Music having graduated from the Royal College of Music in London with a Bachelor of Music.

In July 2015, Amy and Charlotte launched the "Over 100 Years of Women and the Saxophone" in Strasbourg. Charlotte Harding also graduated from the Royal College of Music in London and like Amy has won a number of prizes for her playing and composition. Charlotte is also Associate Artist with the English National Ballet and her compositions have featured in an advert for Very in 2015 which was voted Ad of the Week by an advertising magazine. Other works have been written for Sky TV, Gumtree ITV and the BBC's 'Ingenious Animals' programme on BBC1.

The programme in Sandbach promises to have a variety of music from the duo along with accompanist Christine Zerafa and a Spotlight Concert from youngsters as usual featured in the first half of the evening on Wednesday the 29 November 2017.

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1 December 2017

#### SANDBACH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sandbach held its third Christmas Market on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. With the town centre streets and spaces covered with numerous stalls the start of Christmas shopping in Sandbach got off to a great start as hundreds of people turned out in the cold evening to buy those presents for the seasonal event along with stalls selling food and drink to accompany the turkey or for enjoyment on the night. The event also included the appointment of this year's winner of the "Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Display", which went to Handy Households next to the Town Hall and the best dressed Market Stall holder, Richard Green (Landscape Photographer). Santa Claus was also in attendance to meet the children in his new shed supplied for the event along with a chance to win it in a competition. Tears for Fears ex drummer Manny Elias and his actress wife Deborah also made their third appearance at the event selling from their stall in the main street.

Entertainment was also provided at the event with performers from Sandbach High School, Offley Road School, Sandbach Academy, Elworth C of E School and Haslington School along with the Can't Sing Choir? Pop Choir and Sandbach Folk Club members



#####  
7 December 2017

### MIDDLEWICH ROAD SUDDENLY HAD A LAKE

On the morning of the 7 December 2017 (Thursday) in Middlewich Road outside the Ashfields Primary Care Centre the road was covered in water during the early morning due to a burst water main. Workmen spent most of the day repairing the pipe with tankers collecting water from the main water supply at both Wesley Avenue and outside Sandbach High School. With the break in the water supply Sandbach School was closed at 1pm for the rest of the day, however Sandbach High School, the Doctor's Surgery and many local businesses stayed open as the water supply to the buildings was not affected by the burst main. The road stayed closed for a number of days after the event disrupting traffic over the weekend.



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