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# SANDBACH NEWS 2018

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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Sandbach Striders Races



Sandbach Today Event at St Mary's



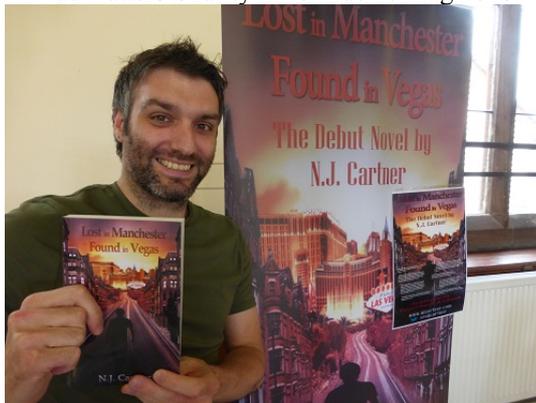
Police at Sandbach Market Promo



Mad Hatters Charity Bike Ride 27 Aug 2018



Stormtroopers invade Sandbach Market



Author Signing Event



Fred the Tortoise looks around the Play in the Park Event.



MARKET HALL RE-OPENING



POP FESTIVAL



PARTY IN THE PARK



ARMED FORCES DAY IN SANDBACH PARK



EDWIN FIRTH + 79 FALLEN TRIBUTE AT ELWORTH AND SANDBACH WAR MEMORIALS

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13 January 2018

**ST LUKE'S CHARITY SHOP REOPENS AFTER REFIT**

Sandbach has for many years been the home of one of the nine charity shops which raise funds for the St Luke's Hospice. On the 13 January 2018 they reopened their Congleton Road shop after a major refurbishment with the Mayor of Cheshire East, Cllr Arthur Moran and his Consort Mrs Carole Thomas cutting the ribbon. Various volunteers joined Manager Julie Middlehurst, Area Manager Carol DeRosa and Head of Retail Steve Holmes in

a drink and celebratory small cakes at the reopening of the St Luke's shop since it closed on the 23 December in preparation for the alterations by Nigel Hargreeves and his team.

The new look shop has given more space to the entrance by moving the till to a back room allowing customers to look around in more spacious premises. New brighter shelves and railings brighten up the shop which hopes to continue to raise funds for the Mid and South Cheshire Hospice known as St Luke's Hospice which is based in Winsford.

The Hospice has been running since 1988 and has been a provider of palliative care to over 1,000 local people a year in the Cheshire area.

The idea for the hospice started in 1983 through the efforts of Howard Hassall and Jim Littlemore who started holding public meetings to establish support groups in the area to bring their vision of a place where people can go to die in surroundings that are both friendly and also with the medical assistance they need to make their final days comfortable.

The next stage was the purchase of Grosvenor House in Queensway, Winsford from funds raised by those support groups and voluntary subscription with the first "Day care" patients admitted to the building in March 1988 with Their Royal Highnesses the Prince Charles of Wales and Princess Diana of Wales officially opening the facility on the 18 May 1988.

In 1990, further facilities were opened and in 1992 a new extension was opened to house a multi-purpose area for Day Care and lectures along with rooms for volunteers and administrative staff. It was also at this time that the Hospice started to have financial support from the Health Authority.

By 1996, new bathing facilities were added and the Day Care facilities were increased to 15 with Cheshire Hospices Education beginning palliative care training to nurses and medical professionals.

Between 2002 and 2006 the Hospice went into partnership with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Macmillan Cancer Support to open new Lymphoedema Clinic's at various locations around the area.

With support via the 'Queen's Award for Voluntary Service' which was presented by the Duke of Gloucester, the hospice went from strength to strength during 2007 and 2009 along with the purchase of a Big Red Bus nicknamed "Luke" which was refurbished by staff at Bentley in Crewe at no cost to the hospice and has become a major boost to the profile of the Hospice at local events.

Other shops which raise funds for the charity are at 3 Crewe Road, Alsager (Shop), 285 Chester Road, Hartford (Shop), 76 Wheelock Street, Middlewich (Shop), 19 Pepper Street, Nantwich (Shop), 99 Witton Street Northwich (Shop), 38a Dingle in Winsford (Shop), 72 Delamere Street in Winsford (Furnishing, Fashion and Food) and the Furniture Warehouse and House Clearance centre at Unit 8 Pineapple Park, Road One Winsford.

(Picture shows 1. Julie Middlehurst, Mayor Cllr Arthur Moran and Mrs Carole Thomas 2. Alison Hughes (Volunteer), Julie Middlehurst (Manager), Collette Cooke (Volunteer), Carol De Rosa (Area Manager), Steve Holmes (Head of Retail).



#####  
26 January 2018

#### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Cheshire East Council held its annual Holocaust Memorial Day Service on Friday the 26 January 2018 a day earlier than the actual Holocaust Memorial Day so Council workers, Mayors from around the area and children from three East Cheshire Schools could take part in the days events.

The proceedings were presented by the Mayor of Cheshire East Cllr Arthur Moran who said that one of the first to liberate a concentration camp was a tank driver from Crewe (John Cole who was in the first tank to liberate the Bergen-Bensen Camp). Cllr Moran then introduced Sandbach Mayor Martin Forster who read various poems about the Holocaust followed by a clarinet solo by Sandbach School pupil, Mark Wheeler who played the theme to Schindler's List (John Williams). Music was also provided by the Knutsford Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Vocal Group who sang two beautiful versions of the songs 'Tears in Heaven' (Eric Clapton) and John Lennon's, 'Imagine'.

Now in its fifth year the service has for the last two years included the introduction of memories by people caught up in the events of the Holocaust. Last year retired dentist and survivor from Austria, Peter Kurer spoke about the debt that he owed to the Quakers who had petitioned parliament to allow the children of Jewish parents to come to England thus saving nine members of his family. This year it was the turn of sisters Gisela Feldman and Sonia Sternberg who with their mother managed to get on the ship the St Louis which set sail on the 13 May 1939, with 937 Jews and travelled from Hamburg to Cuba, but were turned away as Visas issued to the Polish / German Jews were withdrawn before they arrived and so they were eventually turned back only to land in London where they spent the rest of the war.

Mark Palethorpe from Cheshire East invited the audience to hold a two-minute silence after which the congregation were asked to light candles for those who hadn't survived the Holocaust followed by prayers from the vicar of St Mary's, Sandbach the Rev. Thomas Shepard.

Giesla and Sonia recounted their lives in Germany just before leaving as well as the journey to a new life.

Giesla was born in 1923 of Polish parents with the family moving to Germany where she and her younger sister were the only Jewish girls in their school, a place without discrimination where they enjoyed the usual school life enjoying making friends, invitations to birthday parties as well as taking part in games with the other students. When Hitler came into power in Germany after he became Chancellor in January 1933 making himself the leader of a one-party country there were marches in the street on the 1<sup>st</sup> May with workers on one side and the SS Marching on the opposite side of the road. As things progressed there were a number of people shot and the bodies were dragged into the street in full view of the young girls. As a 10-year-old Giesla knew that life would never be the same again. Brown shirts as they were known stood outside Jewish shops trying to persuade Germans not to buy from them, which was in general ignored by regular customers. However, as time went on people started to become more afraid of these supporters of Hitler who would daub words like "Jew Supporter" on the buildings of people who had purchased goods from the Jewish community with some of them being attacked in the streets. Fearing for their families, support suddenly disappeared and it became more and more difficult to run the family business as wholesalers refused to supply goods and on a number of occasions Giesla and Sonia's father was beaten up just for being Jewish.

At the age of 11 Giesla moved to a Jewish Grammar School where life was a little easier.

In October 1938, there was a knock on the family door and two men told her father to get dressed and bring his passport as he was being taken away with no explanation as to what was happening. Not knowing what was going on Giesla went into the kitchen to make some sandwiches for her father to take with him on what turned out to be a two-day journey which they found out later was because he was being deported back to Poland where he was born and so the food became very useful. Poland had decided that anyone who had a Polish Passport and had not been back to their country after a certain length of time would lose their nationality and so had no right to be in any country apart from Poland. With this position from the Polish Government, Germany decided to deport these unwanted citizens to Poland so they were not left with illegal immigrants. Germany at first only sent back the men of the household as they didn't have enough trains to cater for whole families. With their father in Poland the family home soon came under threat from the German Government as a German family wanted their rooms. They were threatened with eviction but Giesla and Sonia's mother decided to fight the decision and went to court where she won a stay of eviction for three months, a period of time the Judge gave them to clear out the house of all their belongings. This move by Germany to get rid of its Jewish population by eviction started to show that something had to be done by the family before it became worse and so Giesla and Sonia's mother applied to the Cuban Embassy for a Visa to get as far away from Germany as possible. She was successful, in her application for herself, Giesla and Sonia her husband who in theory was able to come back from Poland as long as it was only in transit and this is where things started to go wrong for the "family".

Germany as usual was a very organised country but Poland was not as efficient and through a mix-up Giesla and Sonia's father was not given his Visa as his brother was issued with his papers and sent back to Germany rather than their father leaving him to make his own way on a later ship with a new set of papers his wife had secured for him two weeks later.

The family finally left for the port after a mix-up with their own Visas on a Friday to board the ship which is not usual for Jews as they shouldn't travel on a Friday. They were seen off by friends of the family who knew this would be the last time that they would see them as they went to their new country. They boarded the German ship the St Louis which set sail on Saturday the 13 May 1939, with 937 Jews travelling from Hamburg to Cuba. Sonia said that the Captain was wonderful towards the passengers even allowing the Jewish women to light candles on a Friday.

They eventually reached Havana Harbour in Cuba on the 27 May 1939, but as they tried to dock they were told that they couldn't land and had to wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow turned out to be seven days later despite Captain Gustav Schroeder, speaking directly to the Government of Cuba pleading for them to let in his passengers. One man who Sonia thought had been in a concentration camp before he left Germany tried to commit suicide by jumping off the ship into the water. He had been released by the Germans only because he could prove he had somewhere outside of Germany to go to with his wife, but as they arrived in Cuba the Cuban immigration department would only allow him to enter their country as he had a valid US Visa but his wife had to stay on board as she was not welcome. After being pulled from the water he was evacuated to a Havana Hospital for treatment but it is not clear what happened to his wife at this time.

After seven days being refused entry to Cuba on the 2 June 1939 the Captain turned the ship towards America and sailed along the Florida coast towards Miami but due to the US Immigration and Nationality Act of 1924 limiting the number of immigrants to the USA in each year they were refused entry despite their being a large amount of media coverage and various passengers sending cables (Electronic Mail) to President Franklin D Roosevelt himself. Another possibility was Canada who again like the US they refused entry for the Jews. An American diplomat did however talk to a number of European Countries about the passengers and four Countries agreed to take them. The Captain turned the ship towards the East with France taking 224 passengers (a temporary refuge as Germany Invaded their Country), Holland (181 Passengers), Belgium (214 Passengers) and Great Britain who took 228 passengers with all but one of them surviving in the UK during the war (The one killed was in an air raid in 1940).

However, with the publicity about the ship in the papers their father never made it to Cuba or Britain as the ship he was on only reached Antwerp before the Captain heard the news that the St Louis had been refused to land in Cuba and he turned the ship back to Germany. From Germany Gisela and Sonia's father was sent back to Poland just before war broke out and the family never saw him again. What happened to him we may never know as he seemed to just disappear from the records. German Jews were catalogued and their records are kept but the Jews records in Poland were not as well documented and so there doesn't seem to be a record of Sonia and Gisela's father being killed or dying in an air raid or being taken prisoner and sent to a concentration camp.

When Sonia, Gisela and their mother arrived in London they were met by the sight of bunting at the railway station which was not for them but the King and Queen had been abroad and were coming back on the same day.

Gisela was sent to do domestic work while Sonia and her mother found a room in North London where after the first night Sonia found she had blotches all over herself from Bed Bugs. The following day they found a Jewish lady who took them both in. Gisela went on to make uniforms when the War broke out and now both have families in Britain and are able to relate their story to a receptive audience at the Holocaust Memorial Day Event at Sandbach Town Hall.



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7 February 2018

ANOTHER SANDBACH HISTORIC BUILDING BITES THE DUST

At the start of February, the building used by Wright's Printers as a warehouse and shop on Wesley Avenue was demolished by builders as part of a new development to build two sets of flats on the site, totalling 10

apartments. The development is funded by Mr and Mrs P Hitchen and Mr David Andrew Sehne who in 2012 took over the printing works and soon found creditors from the paper suppliers demanding payments which put the company into liquidation. In a bid to pay back what is owed Mr Sehne agreed to the sale of the land to develop new houses in a bid to reimburse those owed by the printing company.

In 2007 plans for 22 apartments and a Class A3 restaurant were put before Congleton Borough Council but rejected followed in May 2008 and September 2008 by amended plans which were also turned down. In 2009 Cheshire East came into being and another set of plans were submitted in February 2010 which went to Sandbach Town Council for approval on the 8 August 2011 these plans for a more traditional design incorporating features used in the Literary Institute were approved by members and on the 26 July 2012 Cheshire East approved the new designs and gave the go ahead for the demolition of the warehouse at 5 Bradwall Road and the renovation of The Hollies an old building next to the Wesley Avenue Chapel. On the 3 July 2012 David Andrew Sehne agreed with creditors to buy back his business for £25,000 giving him access to start the development however a year later on the 31 July 2013 the business went into liquidation closing the printing works and making the staff redundant.

Empty since the 31 July 2013 the warehouse building has been a part of Sandbach life since the 1920's having had a variety of uses starting in 1921 when the land was earmarked by Mr Jack Beech (of The Cottage, Middlewich Road) to build a Cinema. However, the foundations were found not to be strong enough and it was decided to abandon the project in favour of a new location in Congleton Road where it remained for many years as the Palace Cinema and later a Bingo Hall.

The next stage was to build a garage on the site which didn't survive long and by 1938 the building became Sandbach's first shopping mall and housed a number of businesses including Percy Ryder (Hairdresser) at the front of the building to the left and a Betting Shop.

By 1962 the building had been purchased by Tom Painter a local decorator, funeral director and building contractor who also had a shop over the road next to the Post Office. A picture from 1962 showed the building in the background of a civic march which clearly shows he was using the structure to house his workshop. By the 1980's it had been sold to Wright's (Paper) Ltd in Sandbach (established in 1896) who used the building as a warehouse for its paper and as Wright's Printers Shop.

In 1896, the business known as Wrights Printers had been formed in Sandbach by George Wright and over the years produced leaflets and publications for the town as well as many national companies like Bentley.

The company had originally produced twine and paper with George living at 9 Middlewich Road (Now 9 Old Middlewich Rd), along with his family and the printing shop was built behind his house and towards Bradwall Road. The house and works were originally to be demolished to make way for flats in the early plans but have now been saved for a while as the new plans only uses the area of the Hollies garden and the old warehouse.

In Kelly's Directory of 1902, George Wright and Co were Wholesale Paper Merchants, Paper Bag Manufacturers, Twine Dealers and Printers.

On the 17 October 1928 the business was registered as being incorporated as a Registered Company with company's house.

In 1961, Graham Galloway (.b. 1946) started working for the company and on his first day met up with Kathleen (.b. 1943) who he was later to marry. Graham started as an apprentice compositor at the age of 15 in 1961 and started working up the ladder until in the 1970's he became foreman and was made a Director of the Company in the early 1980's a job he continued until his retirement in November 2008.

The company continued to grow over the years with major companies using their facilities to produce booklets but as technology increased with desktop publishing taking over from the outdated block printing used by Wright's and cheaper rivals the work started to dry up.

In June 2012 the company went into administration but was rescued by Andrew Sehne who bought the business hoping to revive its fortunes.

However, on the 31 July 2013 the company went into liquidation for a second time and closed its doors for the last time ending 117 years of business.

After many applications for redevelopment on the 26 July 2012 plans were approved for flats to be built on the site of the Hollies and Wright's warehouse.

By April 2017, work had started clearing the area with garages backing onto the Wesley Centre being demolished and renovation work on the Hollies started to put it back as a house. With work progressing on the renovation the next stage was to clear the rest of the site and the demolition of the warehouse.



Proposed Cinema



Building before demolition



Wright's Warehouse being demolished.

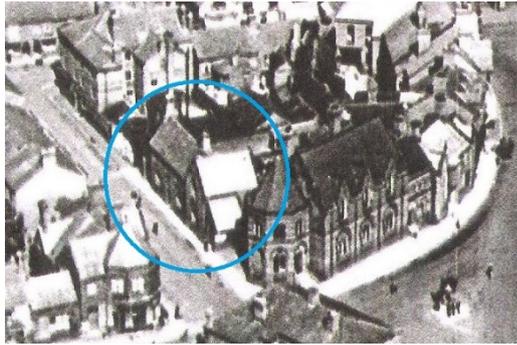
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 24 February 2018

**POLICE INCIDENT IN WELLS STREET**

On Saturday the 24 February 2018, at about 11.30am two ambulances and a police car turned up to a house on Wells Street next to the Range Cooker and Stove Centre on the corner of Cross Street. By 1.45pm a forensic team had arrived to investigate the incident.



#####  
 26 February 2018  
 50 YEARS AGO, THE BOLD STREET POLICE STATION WAS DEMOLISHED



## FEATURE

The Sandbach Chronicle 22 February 2018, noted that the Bold Street Police Station in Sandbach had been demolished 50 years ago this week. Writing a history of the Fire Brigade and Police in Sandbach it is amazing that no one seems to have taken a picture of either the original building of the local Fire Station (Location unknown) its successor in 1873 (Except in the background of other photos) or the Police Station which only exists only in an aerial picture.

The Police station in Bold Street was part of a new look to Policing in Cheshire as on the 20 April 1857 the new Cheshire Police Force came into operation on this day with stations being occupied all over the county by new officers with its first headquarters at 4 Steller Street, Chester. Previously law and order had been down to individual Town Council's or landowners like Lord Crewe to keep order in their area.

The venue for the Sandbach Police Station was in Bold Street where the Barclays Bank is now (New Building). The "New County Police Station" had been erected in 1857 at a cost of £800 with an edifice of Brick and Stone. It had offices, cells and a residence for the chief officer. The building was demolished in 1968 but the Cells within the original Police Station are still there and are now used as a storage area.

It was at this time that the Literary Institute came into operation (1857) and along with the usual cattle sales and meetings the building was also used as a court house. The Petty Sessions and Special Police Courts were held in the building situated next to the new police station.

In 1858 a document from the Chief Constables Office in Chester dated the 9 March 1858 shows "The Full Rent will be charged to each constable occupying a County Police Station and the following will be the several sum allowed to be charged per week for cleaning and same including brushes, soap and materials". Sandbach had 2 Cells at 2/6 per week (Police rate and County rate) with Crewe having 4 Cells at 2/- per week (Police rate and County rate), Nantwich had 4 Cells at 1/- per week (Police rate) and 2/- per week (County rate), Congleton had 6 Cells at 1/6 per week (Police rate and County rate) and Middlewich had 6 Cells at 2/- per week (Police rate and County rate).

Cases dealt with by the new Police Station included on the 27 August 1861 when Martin Doyle was executed at Chester for the attempted murder of Jane Brogiue at a place near Sandbach. In October 1869, a report in the local paper told of an assault on PC James Green by Middlewich Shoemaker, George Edgerton and Sandbach Bricklayer, William Yates who were brought up before the Sandbach Police Court in front of Mr G Latham and J.H. Deakin esq. who put them both on remand. PC James Green was also the first Cheshire Policeman to be murdered while on duty when his body was discovered in the canal at what was known for many years as stabbers bridge (Now demolished) on the Trent and Mersey Canal at Moston near Elworth.

There was another incident in 1883 when the "Smallwood Double Murder" took place, when Thomas Earlam aged 64 and his common-law wife Mary Moarne aged 62 from Ireland, were killed at their lodging house in 127 Turnpike Road, Smallwood just outside Sandbach. On the 9 February 1883, their bodies were discovered by John Stack and Edward Sampey (or Samped), two lodgers at the house, with Thomas already lying dead from him having been brutally battered and Mary was barely alive from the attack. The house had also been robbed and a hammer was found next to the bodies. A tramp called Patrick Carey had disappeared soon after the bodies had been found was the only suspect of the murder. First called to the scene by a Mr Gorton who rushed to Sandbach to call a Doctor and to summon the Police to the scene of the crime while a Mr Austin sort out the local Smallwood Constable. An hour later Sergeant Oldham of Sandbach Police with a number of Constables turned up at the cottage to start investigating the attack. On the 24 February 1883, Patrick Carey (John White) had been found by Police Detective Sergeant Jackson at a Booze / Lodging House in 1 Court, Ashley Lane, Charter Street, Manchester where he was arrested and taken to court wearing clothes he had taken from the Smallwood lodgings and belonging to Mr Edward Sempey. News spread quickly back to Sandbach that the couple were on their way to the Railway Station where a group of 2,000 people turned out to greet the Police and to see the murderer. The following day some 600 to 700 people gathered outside the Police Station to again catch a glimpse of the Murderer. Patrick Carey pleaded guilty to stealing clothes and other items but throughout the trial continued to plead innocence to the crime of Murder. The Jury took just six minutes to convict Carey of the Murder during the trial at the Chester Assizes and he was sentenced to death by hanging.

In 1896 the Sergeant at Sandbach was Charles Green with six men based at the Bold Street, station. In the 1902 Kelly's directory Sergeant Charles Dean and 6 men occupied the building in Bold Street and the same directory in 1906 still lists the following serving officers at Sandbach, Charles Dean (Sergeant of Police living at Hightown, Sandbach) and William Elwood (Constable living at Bellevue Terrace, Sandbach). In 1914 William Lawson was the Sergeant in charge with six men in Bold Street and at the beginning of August 1914, a local Police Constable passing the Holly Bush Inn, Sandbach noticed flames from the rear of the house. On investigation the Constable discovered the body of landlord George Eccles in flames. He immediately called out the Sandbach Fire Brigade to put out the fire and an investigation was started into the landlord's death. The 1960's saw the Cheshire Police Force investing in new modern Police Stations to replace the 1896 buildings they had acquired at the start of Cheshire Constabulary. At the start of 1965 Margery Hare was asked by one of her neighbours a local policeman if she would be interested in a cleaning job and making cups of tea for the police at Bold Street. Margery was soon put upon as she started at 6.30am when Officers were starting to come on duty they asked her if she could make them some breakfast. In those days there were no cornflakes for workers it was bacon and eggs with toast and occasionally some black pudding which she would then take their orders and what they hadn't got in she would pop down the road to Yates Butchers to get for their fry-up. So keen were the policemen to have their early morning breakfast they soon started to pick up Margery in the morning, with her loaf of bread and take her to the station. In June 1965, Sandbach Police did a "Moonlight Flit" from their offices in Bold Street to rooms behind the Courtrooms in Middlewich Road with their first enquiry at the new offices at 3 O Clock, when a man asked them where the Police Station was! In February 1968, the building in Bold Street was demolished to make way for a new Barclays Bank which now stands on the site.

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 27 February 2018

**WRITER AMANDA BROOKE VISITS SANDBACH**

Amanda Brooke visited Sandbach Library on the 27 February to talk about her latest book "The Bad Mother" which had only just been released on the 22 February in her home city of Liverpool. Oksana Newman of Sandbach library organised the event, the latest of a series which brings writers to the town to offer advice about writing and to give an insight into the stories behind their books. "The Bad Mother" is the latest of nine books published by Amanda and Harper and Collins. Her first book "Yesterday's Son" was written while her son Nathan had terminal cancer and died at the age of 3 and is based on his life. Since then her books have been inspired by events in her life including organ donation in "The Goodbye Gift" and the choices you have to make in life with "The Missing Husband" a mystery book. With one book a year it is possible that Amanda Brook will be returning to talk about the book she is writing at the moment, the audience at Sandbach Library are certainly looking forward to her next instalment.



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**SANDBACH CONCERT SERIES 28 March 2018 Concert - Sophie Rosa and Benjamin Powell (Violin and Piano).**

The March musical entertainment at the Sandbach Concert Series will be Sophie Rosa and Benjamin Powell (Violin and Piano). Sophie is a regular at these events having first come to the town on the 30 October 2013 and playing again in 2015 and in 2015,2016 and 2017 was a judge at the Sandbach Transport Festival "Young Musician of the Year" competition in the town hall run by the Sandbach Concert Series.

Sophie is an accomplished violin player having played on BBC Radio 3 and had played with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Manchester Camerata. At the age of seven, Sophie played a solo concert for HRH Princess Margaret. Later she studied at the Chetham School of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music. After completing the RNCM International Artist Diploma in Solo Performance she continued her studies in America. In 2006 Sophie Rosa was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year and has played with notable musician including Martin Roscoe, Craig Ogden and James Gilchrist as well as being a member of the Classical and Contemporary Music Collective. Sophie's debut CD 'Reve d'Enfant' in 2016 was described as a very desirable record of the year and has been working on an album of violin duets called "Warp and Weft" which was released in April 2017.

Sophie is joined in Sandbach by Benjamin Powell (Pianist) who she was also accompanied by in the Wigmore Hall in March 2017. He like Sophie studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and was a contestant in the BBC Young Musician of the Year and in 2015 was an accompanist for Alan George (Viola) at that year's competition. Since 2007, Benjamin has worked at the RNCM as a staff pianist and travels from Glossop where he lives with his wife and three children.

The Concert will have music centred around Beethoven's Violin Sonata in G Major op 96 and works by Fritz Kreisler and Brahms Hungarian Dances.

Tickets for the performance are £9.50 (Adults), £8.00 (Concessions / Senior Citizens), £3.00 (School Children) and a family ticket (2 Adults and 2 Children) £20.00 and are available via the website at [www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk/tickets.htm](http://www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk/tickets.htm) or at Bramwells Opticians (4 Hightown) and Demeters Wholefoods (12 Welles Street) or on the door. 6.30pm Doors Open, 7.00pm Spotlight Concert by Local Talent, 7.30pm Intermission / Raffle for Local Charity / Art Exhibition, 8.00pm Main Concert.

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27 Mar 2018

#### FODEN'S BAND LAUNCH HISTORY WEBSITE

Foden's Band held a special concert to launch their new website which will show off their 118-year history. The performance at Sandbach Town Hall on the 27 March 2018 was watched over by William Foden's bust which had been saved from a fire at the band-room a couple of years ago and had been restored as part of a project to preserve the bands past.

With special guests including the Mayor of Sandbach, Martin Forster and members of the public there was an opportunity to see and exhibition of artefacts donated to the band for its archive, various cups and trophies plus a medal collection loaned by Allan Littlemore.

The evening included interval music from the 78 collections of the band digitally remastered for the archive. Interval food was also provided by Daniel Williams of Godfrey Williams and Son.

The website can be seen at [www.fodensbandheritage.co.uk](http://www.fodensbandheritage.co.uk)

#### 27 Mar 2018 CONCERT / LAUNCH OF THE HISTORY WEBSITE At Sandbach Town Hall

1. Viva Rimmer (William Rimmer arr J Whittle  
written in 1956 Pub Besson and Co)
2. Scena from L'Etoile Du Nord (Meyerbeer arr William Halliwell)  
Tenor Horn Solo Johnathan Bates
3. Old Mother Hubbard (Heley-Hutchinson)
4. Dance of the Willo-the-Wisps (Berlioz arr William Halliwell)
5. Egmont – Overture (Beethoven arr Unkn)

#### INTERVAL

1. The Cossack (William Rimmer)
2. The Sunshine of your Smile (Leonard Cooke (W) and Lilian Ray (Music)  
Solo Cornet Mark Wilkinson)
3. Bobby Shafroe (Trad arr Gordon Langford)
4. The Golden Lady (Goff Richards)
5. Someone to Watch Over Me (George Gershwin arr Alan Fernie)
6. Procession to the Minster (Richard Wagner arr Howard Snell)

#### ENCORE

- Westwood Ho (Edwin Firth)

The evening included an exhibition



#####  
2 April 2018

### BARCLAYS BANK TO CLOSE ON THE 20 JULY 2018

It is with great sadness that the news has come to our attention that Barclays Bank in Sandbach is to close on the 20 July 2018 after 96 years in the town, the victim of Internet Banking and a change in policy for banks to move customers from buildings to the faceless On-line and phone banking with physical deposits and withdrawals being taken over by the local Post Offices.

Formed on the 17 November 1690, in London when John Freame and Thomas Gould formed the Goldsmith Banking business which later took on a James Barclay the son in law of John Freame who became a named partner in the business in 1736.

In 1728, the Goldsmith Bank moved to 54 Lombard Street and adopted the “Black Spread Eagle” logo which has stayed with the company ever since.

Smaller banks, Backhouse’s Bank and Gurney’s Bank joined together to form the larger Barclays and Co Bank in 1896.

Between 1905 and 1916, Barclays Bank acquired many small local English banks and in 1918 the bank acquired the London Provincial and South Western Bank, a year later in 1919 the British Linen Bank with the Mercantile Credit Union joining in 1975 and the Woolwich Building Society in 2000.

On the 27 June 1967, Barclays deployed the world’s first Cash dispenser with “On the Busses” actor Reg Varney becoming the first to use the Cash Machine in their Enfield Branch.

Between 2001 and 2016 Barclays sponsored the Premier League football.

By 2018 the company had 4,750 branches in about 55 countries with 1,600 in the United Kingdom.

Barclays Bank came to Sandbach on the 17 July 1922, when it opened its first building at 6 – 8 Crewe Road with its first mention in a local trade directory in 1933 when the other banks listed in the publication at the time in the town were the District Bank (Now the Nat West Bank), and the Sandbach Permanent Benefit Building Society (Meeting at the Literary Institute 1<sup>st</sup> Tues in the Month 6.30pm to 8pm c/o Mr Herbert Price - Secretary, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, the Sandbach Savings Bank (C Richardson – Actuary) at 10 High Town. There was also the Savings Bank – Sandbach Branch, Westminster Bank Ltd and the Williams Deacon’s Bank Ltd.

By 1938, the Sandbach Barclays Bank was managed by Arthur A Goodwin and was still in Crewe Road.

By 1943, Barclays Bank Ltd was joined on the streets of Sandbach by newcomers the Westminster Bank Ltd and Williams Deacon’s Bank Ltd with the other banks still in the town being the Savings Bank and the District Bank Ltd.

By the 1960s’ a bigger bank was needed in the town and in 1965 the Cheshire Police decided to downsize from its Bold Street Police Station and moved to behind the Magistrates Court in Middlewich Road leaving a space in the road that could be filled by the bank. In February 1968 the bulldozers moved in to demolish the Police Station and work started on the new building to house Barclays Bank which had been designed by Architects “Green Lloyd and Sons” of London and opened on the 23 June 1969.

Since then the bank has stayed pretty much the same in its design until this year with its impending closure. It is always sad when a part of the town closes down but this business is different than most as it is the last of the banks to have existed in Sandbach without having been taken over since the 1920’s.



#####  
 5 April 2018

**SANDBACH DENTIST BECOMES MASTER CHEF CONTESTANT**

As the final of Masterchef is held on TV we can look back at the series as Sandbach Dentist Chris Harbour has been one of this year's contestants in the popular BBC TV Series Master Chef presented by Greg Wallace and John Torode. His first appearance in episode 10 had him cooking a fish dish which allowed him to go through to the next round and was described by Greg Wallace as a cross between Patrick Stewart and himself. One of the dishes he made during the series was the first meal he cooked for his wife at their new home, a flat above the Dentists in Crewe Road.

Chris's influences in cooking are numerous and keeps a copy of Heston Blumenthal's book in the kitchen and likes to use it to experiment with his cooking.

In his final appearance in episode 16 Chris experienced the pressures of a professional kitchen when he was taken to 'Sartoria' in London's Mayfair where he was put to work making a crab dish by chef and owner Francesco Mazzei and spent most of his time taking the shell out of the crab. However, a return to a fish dish to show how much Chris had improved failed to impress the judges and guest Nathan Outlaw and he left the series at the end of that programme but should be very proud of the progress he made and the skills he showed on TV.

#####  
 21 April 2018

**SANDBACH CONCERT SERIES YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR**

2018 is the year of the BBC's Young Musician of the Year competition and event held every second year, however Sandbach can go one better with its own Competition as part of the Sandbach Transport Festival weekend. The Young Musician of the Year Competition is run by the Sandbach Concert Series and is held on the Saturday of the Event with guest adjudicators giving constructive tips on performances by Senior players and Juniors who play in-front of an audience who come in for free to the Town Hall to listen to some wonderful playing. This year is no exception with the quality of players vying for that first place in the Senior section and the Juniors hoping to impress the audience with their playing. Evie Palethorpe (Cello), Tillie Palethorpe (Flute), Jim Baldwin (Piano), Emily Leavy (Clarinet) and Matthew Franklin (Clarinet) all went home with a prize bag in the Junior section, with Emily Leavy (Clarinet) impressing judges Mark Wilkinson (Foden's Band) and Joy Naylor (Vocal Coach from Middlewich who has sung with Opera North) so much that she was awarded a special prize donated by Bramwell Tovey a famous conductor who has conducted Foden's Band in competitions and on a recent visit was so impressed with the competition he gave a trophy which this year included a £25 bursary sponsored by Nigel Birch.

In the Senior section Ben Jackson (Saxophone) was awarded the first prize trophy with a £100 bursary sponsored by Crewe Male Voice Choir and presented by Stephen Davies of the Choir who has also poached Ben and Nadia James (Cornet) who came second with a trophy and a £50 bursary (Sponsored by Sandbach Music), for a guest appearance at one of the CMV Choir Concerts. Third Prize in this section went to Mark Wheeler (Clarinet) with a £25 Bursary again sponsored by Nigel Birch with Catherine Potter (Voice), Ellie Corker (Piano), Matthew Haworth (Saxophone) closely following the standard set by the first three winners.

Hosts Andy and Lauren Scott thanked all who had been involved with the organisation of the event as well as sponsors Astute Music and the Love Music Trust and guests Fiona Bruce MP and Sandbach Mayor Martin Forster.



#####

21-22 April 2018

### SANDBACH TRANSPORT FESTIVAL 2018

The 28<sup>th</sup> Sandbach's Transport Festival had everything during the weekend from Dinosaurs, a replica Spitfire, fun fair, hog roast, Musical entertainment and various arts activities from Spare Parts. The festival also included numerous vehicles from all over the country which showed not only what Sandbach had produced with Foden's, ERF and the Jimp. The weather was also varied with Sunshine on Saturday which brought out the largest crowds seen on the first day of the festival for a long time with Rain, Sunshine, Rain, Sunshine and various temperatures on the Sunday which kept visitors away until lunchtime when as Foden's Band played outside the Town Hall the visitor numbers increased to enjoy the parade to the Old Hall followed at about one thirty by the St Luke's Motor Bike riders arriving in the town with 150 bikes. Having built various contraptions, the Spare Parts group then held their own procession through the town with local people taking part with a Cheater on a bike and a tribute to 100 years of "Votes for Women". Both days ended with a procession of vehicles that had been on display on Scotch Common.



#####

21-22 April 2018

### NEW FIRE ENGINE AT SANDBACH

The Sandbach Transport Festival in 2018 was a great opportunity for the people of Sandbach to see their new Fire Appliance (Fire Engine to you and me) as the County purchased four new machines for deployment at Lymm, Macclesfield, Runcorn and Winsford with their old appliances being moved to other stations and in a general swap round one from Warrington has been given to Sandbach to replace its old Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU) which according to fire personnel at Sandbach was getting old. This new appliance a Scania P320 (MX65BCF) has more and better facilities on board including a portable pump which is able to expel water at different pressures for different types of fires and incidents as part of this new upgrade.

One noticeable difference is the height of the cab the crew have to get into which will present a few problems in the early days until they get used to its new layout.

The other noticeable difference is that the name Sandbach does not appear on the side of the Fire Engine. A new policy at Cheshire Fire Brigade is to make the appliances anonymous when attending incidents or relief cover when a station is already on call. This may be to make the public less aware of extra cover in places like Crewe when Sandbach replaces the crew as they are tackling a call, but for those who want to look at what their own appliances are doing it makes it difficult to keep tabs on number plates for the Fire engine spotter or enthusiast as they are continually changing and to see in pictures of incidents who is attending and what their role is at the "Shout". Seeing the name of the town on the side of an appliance justifies having a station in their town. Let's hope that the name Sandbach will soon return to the appliance and that this new appliance will keep up the tradition of great cover for the town and the surrounding area.



This new appliance will be one of over 23 that have been stationed in the town since the 1860's when it was reported in the local paper's that Sandbach had its own Fire Brigade with a compliment of between 12 and 18 fire-fighters and on Wednesday the 3 January 1866 at 1.10am a large fire took place at Crewe Hall with fire brigades from Crewe, **Sandbach**, Nantwich and Chester turning up to tackle the blaze to no avail. As Lord Crewe owned most of this area it makes sense that he would contact his own staff to tackle the blaze and would have a network of people to contact them should anything happen on his estates.

The only other fire brigade in Sandbach at the time worked for one of the local salt extraction works at Ettley Heath who used large salt pans to evaporate the water from the salt / Brine who on a number of occasions caught fire so they had a fire crew on standby from the 1800's.

The first known picture of the Sandbach Fire Brigade appeared in 1870 and shows the crew in-front of a Carnival float along with children and possibly the two horses that drew the fire appliance. Another picture near the Black Bear, possibly from 1900 shows the horse drawn fire engine / pump drawn by two white horses wearing black plumes which are usually are a sign of a death or funeral.



By about this time in 1870 the Superintendent was a Mr John Cooke a local Blacksmith of 10 Congleton Road who by 1895 had a horse called Polly which was stabled at his smithy (Where the Palace Cinema used to be) and on hearing the fire bell would trot over the road to the fire station to be harnessed to the "Engine".

In 1873, the town had a new Fire Station erected on the corner of Scotch Common which was a plain structure of red brick and consisted of an engine house only with the horses housed elsewhere in the town. The fire station did have a small space at the back of the building which was used to do the administration of the brigade as well as to hold training meetings as well as a place to hang up the hoses to dry them out.



(1800's Picture Date unknown)

During this time fires were mainly during the summer with hay bales catching light and then on the 4th May 1842 steam trains started coming through Sandbach Station and suddenly there was a new type of fire the verge fire caused by sparks from the trains lighting the dry grass at the side of the track or buildings nearby. In 1894 the Local Government Act put the responsibility for fire cover onto Local Government / Council's to provide cover for the town and the Sandbach Urban District Council (1894-1974) took on the responsibility of providing the fire cover and purchased the existing fire station and equipment to fulfil its obligation.



1895 Picture with Superintendent John Cooke (Far Right)

A report in the 20 March 1914, Nantwich Guardian tells of a new Sandbach Steam Fire Engine turning out for a test on Saturday the 14 March 1914 with satisfactory results. The brigade was led by Fire Superintendent Edmund Allen and had 10 Men under him to cover for calls.

An interesting article appeared on the 4th March 1939 in the local paper, the Crewe Chronicle announced that two women had become qualified to drive the Sandbach Fire engine for the first time. A picture showed Captain Thomas Leese showing new drivers Mrs Harrison and Mrs Robinson with the Sandbach fire engine.

Unfortunately, they didn't last in Sandbach during the war as one member of the wartime crew reported there were no women in the brigade at the time. However, they could have been redeployed as at the start of WW2 Sandbach was split into two groups with a new crew being based in the town and a second Auxiliary Fire Brigade unit based in Liverpool or Manchester.

On the 20 May 1941, the Fire Services (Emergency Provisions) Act 1941 was passed through Parliament, establishing a National Fire Service (NFS) with Local Authorities providing 75% of the funding for a regular Fire Brigade and the Country being divided into 12 regions with Sandbach in Region 10 included (Cheshire, Lancashire, West Moreland and Cumberland). This was then divided into smaller areas with Sandbach coming under Fire Force No 26 with its headquarters at "Holly Mount", Mill Lane, West Derby, Liverpool 12 and was commanded by a former London Fire Brigade Officer Mr Charters.

In 1947 another Act of Parliament gave rise to the Cheshire Fire Service which started its duties on the 1 April 1948 with 28 Stations in 5 Districts (Districts designated from A to E).

In about 1948, the Fire Brigade moved to a new fire house which was situated in the old Temperance Hall on Scotch Common a building that was demolished and then rebuilt to house the Market Stall for the Sandbach Town Council.

With various changes in Cheshire a plan of building new Fire Stations was started with the present Sandbach Fire Station being officially opened on the 21 June 1961 by Alderman F.D. Gee the Chairman of the County Fire Brigade Committee. These plain brick buildings would go on to last for through to date with Holmes Chapel, Congleton, Middlewich and the larger Crewe stations all being built in the 1960's and 1970's.

The 1960's also introduced the station to the major transport accident as the M6 Motorway was opened and with the freedom to travel at great speeds the number of accident started to grow and still continues to dominate the figures with the M6 being the cause of at least one call out per week if not more.

Two major fires in the area since the 1960's included the call in September 1995 to the old Foden Factory which was now being used as a Go Carting circuit with appliances from all over Cheshire and Staffordshire bring called to the incident. Firefighters were still dampening down the area on the 24 September 1995.

The other incident was on the 17 July 2015, at 9.11am when fire crews were called to a village between Congleton and Macclesfield for what became known in the media as the **Bosley Mill Fire**. The incident was in a wood clip mill and was so fierce that it took weeks to put out completely and to recover bodies, one of which has never been found.

Today Sandbach is one of the busiest fire stations in the County with its retained firemen saving the community from dangers and rescuing people and animals 365 days a year.

#####

#### NEW FIRE APPLIANCES ARRIVE IN CHESHIRE

4 x Scania P320 arrive for Lymm, Macclesfield, Runcorn and Winsford.

MX17GBE

MX17GBF

MX17GBO

MX17GBU

#### LIST OF SANDBACH FIRE APPLIANCES

1800's Horse drawn pump.

July 1913 Messers Shand, Mason and Company

1937/40 Jennings (Body 1934 to ERF) Sandbach Urban District Council – Fordson 7V (1937)

For some reason the word Thomas appears on the grill on the front.

1930's-40's Dennis (Sandbach Urban District Council)

1946 AFS Vehicle (Used in either Manchester or Liverpool by Sandbach Crew)

1950's Dennis F1

1958 Dodge Flat Backed Wagon and Pump (2<sup>nd</sup> Appliance)

1961 Commer QX (Possible – Built in 1954 or Commer QX Mark IV)

1961 Land Rover Series 2 Redwing (AMB587B)

1960's Dennis F8 (Number not known / Possibly Audlem's RMB996)

1960's Rolls Royce – Number unknown – On loan for a short while.

1965 Dennis F38 (FTU716B) Also at Audlem

1969 Dennis F38 (MTU317H) Red and Silver with Bell on Front. It served from 1969 at Macclesfield and was also housed at Nantwich.

It became the Rolls Royce in Crewe appliance before going into Preservation with the Dennis Society.

It was on loan to Sandbach.

1970's Dennis F45 (WLG317J) based at Sandbach for most of its life then at ICI Winnington.

1975 Dennis F8 (Picture 1975 checking Hydrants possibly RMB996 as a loan appliance)

1981 Land Rover Stage One V8 L4T (DMB902X) 1981 Land Rover Series III Jennings.

Repainted it was used by cadets from 2002 when the Land Rover Fleet were taken "Off the Run" until the 11 Feb 2009 (10 Feb 2009 Final day as a Cadet Unit) when it was sold into preservation with Craig Howell (Sandbach).

1982 Dennis F45 (WLG317J) Red and Silver with Bell on Front the appliance went to ICI in Winnington.

1987 Dennis / Carmichael SS133 (D688PMB). (Picture C21 in Transport Festival Date Tba) Originally stationed at Sandbach it was then moved to Wilmslow.

To 1997 Mercedes 1124 (K628KMB) Also stationed at Widnes.

1997 Dennis Sabre (R42FMA) at Sandbach by 2 Aug 2011 (Introduced to Cheshire in 1995).  
**(Now on reserve duty with Cheshire Fire and Rescue)**  
 After 2000 to 2018 Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU) At Winsford in 2000, Runcorn then Sandbach  
 Now location not known.  
 2007 Rapid Response Unit (Range Rover DK56OTN)  
 April 2018 Scania P320 (MX65BCF) Was at Warrington.

#####  
 17 May 2018

**SANDBACH HAS A NEW MAYOR**

Elected at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sandbach Town Council on the 17 May 2018, Richard Hovey was elected Mayor of Sandbach the ninth to be in the role since Cheshire East took over from Congleton Borough allowing Sandbach to again have its own Town Mayor.  
 During his year of office, he hopes to help school age residents to play musical instruments and encourage them to appreciate music of all sorts as well as continuing his work for people living with dementia in Sandbach. Councillor Mike Muldoon was also elected Deputy Town Mayor.  
 Cllr Richard Hovey was elected in 2016 to the Ettley Heath and Wheelock Ward of Sandbach Town Council and is the grandchild of the original owners of the Zan works in Wheelock which produced a number of items in Sandbach from 1919 when it moved from Scotland as the Hopol company. Zan / Hopol closed as a business many years ago with the site becoming a number of small units which Richard manages.  
 Richard is also coming to the end of his Chairmanship of the Rotary Club of Sandbach and has been part of the community all of his life in the town.  
 One thing he is looking forward to in his year of office is getting out for events but has reservations about controlling the Councillors during meetings especially in this year as the Town Halls, Market Hall alterations come into life and they also look into ways of improving how the town could change to address the issue of a 30% increase of Population in Sandbach due to the new housing estates.



#####  
 24 May 2018

**SANDBACH MARKET HALL RENOVATIONS BEGIN**

After many years of discussions, the improvements to the Sandbach Market Hall have begun. A disastrous scheme and questionnaire in May 2016 to put in a floor above the market stalls for office space for the Town Council was put to rest with the public and stall holders getting together to put forward plans for an improved look to the market to increase footfall which were approved by Sandbach Town Council with a set of designs being submitted in October 2017 by architects David Trowler Associates and a presentation to the public in the Town Hall by Councillors.  
 Work started on the outside of the building during the beginning of May with Scaffolding being placed inside the Market Hall on the 20 May 2018 allowing work to start painting the ceiling and alter the electrics above the stalls.  
 Repairs to the tiled flooring took place from the 16 – 18 May 2018, with Baby Changing facilities and Toilet improvements being made outside the main hall.  
 Alterations to the Market will continue from the 7 May 2018 to the 5 July 2018 (44 Days) with the instillation of new glass canopies on top of the side stalls from the 16<sup>th</sup> June to the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018, New signage will be added from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and the lobbies next to the doors will be improved between the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 with new picture shutters being added to the side stalls that will include scenes of old Sandbach supplied by local historians.

The Indoor Market will be closed on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 with stalls moving outside on these days to continue trading during the period of closure but will also be open during the rest of the period on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Work should be completed with a hand over hopefully on the 6 – 7 July 2018 and then a new era will begin for this historic building.



#####  
26 May 2018

#### ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND TO CLOSE

The Royal Bank of Scotland is to close in Sandbach on the 9 August 2018 along with their branch in Nantwich on the 26 July and locally Hanley, Newcastle, Stafford and Uttoxeter. This is the second bank to announce its Sandbach Branch closure after Barclays announced in April the closure date of 20 July 2018.

Based at 2 Bradwall Road the site of the building has been a bank since the time of the First World War with only a few years when it was a grocery shop.

In 1914 it was listed as Parr's Bank Limited (Manager Arthur Edgar Slade), followed by the Westminster Bank before it moved to 3 High Town when in 1957 Godfrey Williams opened his shop before closing the building by 1976 when it was boarded up.

By the 1980's the building was the "Williams and Glyn's Bank Limited" which was part of the Royal Bank of Scotland group who renamed the branch a Royal Bank of Scotland by 1987 and were due to relaunch many branches as a separate "Williams and Glyn's Bank" this year but plans failed to be realised.

On the 1 May 2018, the bank announced that they would be closing 162 branches with the loss of over 800 jobs over their network due to customers using the internet rather than visiting branches. A spokesman for the company said that their Hanley branch only has 27 customers visiting the bank on a regular basis making unviable to keep these buildings open.



#####  
28 May 2018

#### FIELD HOUSE BECOME UNDERTAKERS

Originally the home of a Mill owner in 1843, "Field House" on Congleton Road became a Maternity Hospital, a Job Centre and now an Undertakers have taken over the building so you could say the building has come full circle dealing with people from birth via jobs and then to the grave in 175 years.

In 2013 with cuts in Benefit offices the building was put up for sale and lay unused for many years. The portacabin next to it enjoyed a new lease of life for a bit as a gymnasium but soon closed with the portacabins falling to pieces literally as the roof fell in.

In September 2015 an application was made to demolish the Field House building (15/3974c) and erect 7 dwellings and 4 apartments. These plans were never approved and a local business put forward another suggestion.

In 2018 plans were submitted to turn the building into an undertakers and in May 2018 works started on clearing the grounds and preparing the building for conversion into its new use.



#####

28 May 2018

#### WHEELLOCK HISTORY WEEK A SUCCESS

Wheelock Congregational Church held its latest History Week after a break of three years. The Rev. Clifford Millington has put together an exhibition of picture from the history files of the Wheelock Congregational Church which was started after the parish records were destroyed by bonfire when a previous vicar tried to clear out the church. The Rev. Millington then appealed for information about marriages that had taken place at the church along with local information to try and repair the records for future generations. Parishioners then started to donate pictures of Wheelock from the past which was expanded to the area of Sandbach and the surrounding villages and now forms the basis of a great archive of material.

The Rev. Millington had not been interested in history before this project, but now has become immersed in the project gathering pictures and information about the area which he started to share in two books about Wheelock and the biannual exhibition which came about after numerous people wanted to see the pictures.

The exhibition in the church that ran from the Bank Holiday Monday to the 2 June 2018 and had features on Wheelock, Sandbach, Hassell Green, Foden's Works, Cricket club, Football, Shackleton's Toys, The Salt Works and Bone Works. Many of the pictures featured had not been seen before which for the local historians gave them an opportunity to fill in some of the gaps in their own knowledge.



#####

1 June 2018

## SANDBACH REMEMBERS THE FALLEN OF WW1

This year marks a significant milestone in the History of Foden's Band and also commemorates the final list of 79 men who laid down their lives for their country in the First World War during 1918 and 1919. Over the last four years the British Legion has planted a named cross for each of the men who died during that year starting in 2014 with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1914 and culminating in 2018 with the final list of names of soldiers who died during that conflict as well as those who were still fighting or died of their wounds in 1919.

For Foden's Band its significance is that on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1918 one of their bandsmen Edwin Firth lost his life when a shell exploded, killing him instantly when he and his party were returning from the front. He had been the principal cornet player with the band and had recorded numerous 78's with Fodens Motor Works Band along with a solo 78 which has become a "must have" recording in the Brass Band world.

By arrangement with the Royal British Legion the laying of a wreath at Elworth's War Memorial where Edwin Firth's name appears and the laying of the crosses to the 79 soldiers were combined on this anniversary to make the events in Sandbach a special commemoration of this tragic event, one that has touched the lives of so many generations.

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 Remembrance at 1.30pm in Elworth where Fodens Band played a hymn to their bandsman with Alan Littlemore laying a wreath on behalf of the band having been the band manager and who has also written a history of the band which included a chapter dedicated to the memory of Edwin Firth. Marjorie Newton also laid a wreath on behalf of the RBL while the Mayor of Cheshire East Cllr Lesley Smetham (and Consort David Smetham), Mayor of Sandbach Cllr Richard Hovey, various Councillors and most important of all the relatives of Edwin Firth, Martyn Firth (Grandson) and Edwin James Firth (Great Grandson) with wives and friends attended a very noisy main road location due to roadworks near the Fox Inn, for this very personal service. This was a very fitting tribute to the bandsman and formed the start of coverage by Andy Gill and a camera person from North West Tonight who joined the day's events as they continued into Sandbach Town's, Market Square where at 2.30pm Edwin Firth was again commemorated by the laying of a cross, this time by his grandson Martyn Firth. The cross for him was laid out as his name was read out to the accompaniment of recordings from Fodens Band (1909 to 1918) and Edwin's own "Cleopatra" and "Pandora" 78's with five members of Foden's Band (6 at Elworth) again playing a hymn during the service, this time for all those who had died from the town with Mark Wilkinson (Principal Cornet with the band) playing the last post for the minutes silence.

In Sandbach the Rev. Jeff Cuttell again led the service of remembrance with Reg Dunning and Marjorie Newton taking part before the list of 79 soldiers were read out with a cross bearing their name being planted at the base of the War Memorial.

It was also a time for remembering the ex-pupils of Sandbach School who had died during 1918-19 and as their names were read out current pupils from the school laid their crosses in the flower beds of the war memorial a tribute they have performed over the last four years.

It was a day the sun shone on a sombre event with a pleasing and fitting tribute to the Fallen of Sandbach.



Martyn Firth (Grandson) and Edwin James Firth



BBC North West Tonight



Fodens Band Plays Tribute



(L to R) Mark Wilkinson, Cheshire East Mayor Cllr Lesley Smetham, Mayor of Sandbach Cllr Richard Hovey and Alan Littlemore

#####  
 SANDBACH SERVICE TO REMEMBER THE FALLEN



#####  
 1 June 2018

EDWIN FIRTH TRIBUTE CONCERT'S

Fodens Band and the Royal British Legion paid tribute to Edwin Firth the principal cornet player with Fodens Motor Works Band from 1909 until his untimely death on the 1 June 1918, with a wreath laying ceremony at Elworth War Memorial (Where he is named) and later at the Market Square War Memorial in Sandbach exactly 100 years to the day since his death.

On the 1 June 2018 (7.30pm) and the 3 June (2pm) Fodens Band paid their own tribute to Edwin Firth with a special concert in his honour.

The anniversary concert was a great success with the programme being made up of pieces connected to the Principal Cornet player starting with the band's theme tune "The Cossack" and then there was a chance to hear

Edwin Firth himself playing "Cleopatra" via a recording remastered for CD and shown with a video of pictures of the cornet player.

Next was a piece called "Fodenian" written as a tribute to Edwin Firth by Robert Thornton and played by the band from a rearrangement by Philip Littermore from the only copy known to exist of the original handwritten piece which has been lost from the band's library but was copied by the evening's narrator Alan Littlemore on an old photocopier many years ago. As it was a tribute to the Principal Cornet player from 1918 the 2018 seat holder Mark Wilkinson played this tune as the first of two solo slots he would perform during the evening.

In 1913, The British Bandsman (Newspaper) decided to hold a competition to find the best new march. It was won by Edwin Firth with his composition "Westwood Ho" which was the next tune in this concert and one that has become a favourite with many of the Brass Bands around the country including Fodens who played it at the recent History website launch earlier in the year and at various other concerts in the run up to this tribute weekend.

Edwin Firth was again featured with the B side of his 78 "Pandora" being played on a big screen with video tribute followed by the 1 October 1910 National Brass Band Championships test piece played at Crystal Palace, London, called "Gems of Schubert" which was arranged by William Rimmer. Fodens Motor Works Band were the second band to play in the competition with Edwin Firth on Solo Cornet an order of play many thought would be a handicap but the band defied the odds and came first gaining the double win of the two major championships in the same year with this and the British Open Championships, a feat the band has only achieved twice with the second being in 2013. In 1910 they were awarded £40, a Boosey's Cornet and medals along with a trophy which had to be returned the following year.

There then followed an interval in the concert when the audience had a chance to see an exhibition of items belonging to Edwin Firth including his cups and instruments along with pictures of the player and a family tree. The second half was a time for reflection for not only Edwin Firth but also others who had died in the conflict with the opening "Fanfare and National Anthem" (Jacobs) followed by the Rev David Page the Vicar of St Peter's Church, Elworth, paying his tribute to Edwin and the Fallen of WW1 leading into the emotive piece by John Williams, "Hymn to the Fallen" from the film "Saving Private Ryan".

Two more pieces followed which Edwin and the band could have played during the 1909 to 1918 period. The first of the two was, "The Lost Chord" (Arthur Sullivan) which had featured Edwin Firth on Solo Cornet when the band played for King George V and Queen Mary "By Royal Command", on the 23 April 1913 at Crewe Hall where the band played in-front of the building at 9.30am after they had travelled by Steam Wagon to Crewe from Sandbach and they changed into some new uniforms that had been specially purchased for the event. The King and Queen then went on to visit Crewe Town Centre, Sandbach and Congleton as part of their trip round the "Industrial North". Next was "Threnody" (Henry Geehl) followed by the most poignant tune of the evening, "Goodbye" by Tosti arranged by J Ord Hulme. It was a tune that had been played by Edwin Firth on the 11 August 1917. Having joined the Artists Regiment, the 28<sup>th</sup> London Regiment as a Private (766890) in 1917 this would be his last solo with the band before his untimely death on the 1 June 1918. The band and Edwin Firth were playing at Chester Groves by the River. The tune he chose to play as an encore was "Goodbye" by Tosti, which he thought would be appropriate. However, his fellow band members tried to talk him out of playing it as they saw this as a bad omen. How right they were. At the two concerts Mark Wilkinson played this solo using Edwin Firth's own cornet handed down from his father Squire Firth and left behind by the player as he went on his fateful trip to France. Edwin had taken a battered cornet from the band-room to the front to keep his lip in working order and that cornet was returned to the family along with his other items after his death, leaving the player in France where he is buried.

The concert itself finished with the tune "Light Cavalry" (Suppe arr Greenwood) which was a fitting end to this tribute to Edwin Firth.

Edwin's relative's Martyn Firth (Grandson) and Edwin James Firth (Great, Great Grandson) and family attended the Friday night concert which also included an appearance by the band's ex conductor James Scott and local MP Fiona Bruce.



#####  
17 June 2018

SANDBACH MAYOR'S CIVIC PARADE AND SERVICE

The torrential downpour of Saturday was not in evidence when the Sandbach Mayor's Civic Parade and Service took place on Sunday the 17 June 2018. Starting on Scotch Common, Richard Hovey the new Mayor of Sandbach joined other Civic Leaders from Cheshire East Nantwich, Alsager and Winsford in the annual march to St Mary's Church where the Revd. Thomas Shepherd led the service.

The procession included representatives from local organisations along with Deputy Mayor Mike Muldoon, the Fire Cadets, Air Cadets and the drums of Cheshire Police who led the procession followed by Royal British Legion members, Town Crier Dennis Robinson, Sandbach Town Council members and a number of Mayors from the area, Cllr Shirley Jones from Alsager, Cllr Lesley Smetham of Cheshire East, Cllr David Marren from Nantwich and Cllr Gina Lewis with her Consort Denis Lewis from Winsford. The Sandbach Royal British Legion standard bearer was unavailable this weekend due to another commitment but Haslington Royal British Legion which has Cllr Richard Hovey among its ranks kindly lent their standard bearer, Robert Cave who volunteered his services to help with the parade.

As the procession moved from the common via the Town Hall, onto the War Memorial where Sandbach Mayor Richard Hovey and Cheshire East Mayor, Lesley Smetham laid wreaths for the fallen soldiers of the town which has become part of the traditions of the Sandbach march which started in 1973.

The parade moved to St Mary's Church where they held the Civic Service with hymns and readings by Cllr Richard Hovey and the Deputy Mayor of Sandbach Cllr Mike Muldoon. The Revd. Thomas Shepherd opened his sermon as he did last year by saying he had been in the town for the last 10 years (Coming to Sandbach in 2008) and he still hadn't decided why he liked being in Sandbach. He then talked about a conversation he had had on the phone with Kate Simon who along with Suzanne King has compiled a "Slow Travel Guide" which mentions the area of Crewe, Alsager, Congleton and Sandbach saying that they had all grown out of an Industrial plan coming out from a country backwater area with the introduction of the railways. Sandbach according to the new book was described as the most attractive of the four towns and had a good report of Sandbach Park. The Revd. Shepherd finally talked about the role of the elected council and that the church said a prayer each week for them to continue their work before saying the 'Prayer of Intercession', which lays out via the bible what a council should look at while in office, from the care of the community to caring for animals, property, those who live in poverty and hunger along with seeking guidance and keeping "Your Commandments".

The service ended with the Civic Prayer led by the Mayor "Grant us a Vision of our town; a town of justice, where none shall prey on others; a town of plenty, where there will be no place for poverty; a town in community, where success shall be founded on service, and honour be given to worth alone; a town of peace, where order shall not rest on force, but on mutual respect, Send us out from this place, in the power of your Spirit, that we may live and work to your praise and glory".

Following on from the service the congregation were treated to a cup of tea or coffee with a great spread of food in the Church Hall along with a chance to talk to the Mayor, who during a short speech of welcome mentioned that his chosen charities this year were for Dementia Awareness for the town, an initiative run in conjunction with the Sandbach Partnership and encouraging young people to learn to play musical instruments and to encourage music within the town.





#####  
 17 June 2018

**SEASON END FOR THE SANDBACH CONCERT SERIES**

The Sandbach Concert Series comes to a season end on Wednesday the 27 June 2018, when the Euphonium and Tuba quartet “Tralaté” plays St Mary’s Church Hall.

The quartet has been together for over 27 years (Formed in 1991) and as the first known tuba and euphonium combination has become one of the leading brass ensembles in the country. As graduates from the Royal Northern College of Music they have travelled from Europe, to Russia, Latvia and the USA playing at various prestigious venues.

On the 14 November 1998, “Tralaté” played for Prince Charles’s 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday party at Buckingham Palace a concert organised by Her Majesty, The Queen.

Made up of Paul Walton (Euphonium), John Powell (Euphonium), Ryan Breen (Tuba) and Les Neish (Tuba) Tralaté will be playing music by J S Bach, Nicklas Schmidt, Bordin, Peter McGarr, John Stevens and Sandbach composer Andy Scott with his tune, “Bite the Bullet” on the 27th June at 7.30pm along with young musicians from the area in a spotlight concert.

Paul Walton (Euphonium) has played with the Black Dyke Band, Desford Colliery and the Fairey Band along with appearances with Sandbach based Fodens Band in 1994. Paul has also conducted the Poynton (Vernon Building Society) Brass Band for the North West Area finals. John Powell (Euphonium) has been with the Almeida Opera Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and has conducted the Denbighshire County and Trading Band while Ryan Breen (Tuba) has played with the Wigan Brass Band and Les Neish (Tuba) is the more well-known member of the group having played from 2005 to April 2010 with Fodens' Band and recorded the solo CD with the band, "Salt of the Earth" (2009) and was part of the "Double Trouble" CD with Fodens Band, Tralaté and Barbara Thompson (Saxophone player on the "A Touch of Frost" theme) who co-wrote the music while struggling against Parkinson's Disease, with her friend Andy Scott the resident composer with Fodens and one of the organisers of the Sandbach Concert Series. Les Neish is now a tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music, Salford University and the Birmingham Conservatoire with his experience and knowledge making him the ideal choice to judge the 2012 Fodens' Band Solo Competition and latterly the BBC Radio 2 "Young Brass Player of the Year".

Tickets for the performance are £9.50 (Adults), £8.00 (Concessions / Senior Citizens), £3.00 (School Children) and a family ticket (2 Adults and 2 Children) £20.00 and are available via the website at [www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk/tickets.htm](http://www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk/tickets.htm) or at Bramwells Opticians (4 Hightown) and Demeters Wholefoods (12 Welles Street) or on the door. 6.30pm Doors Open, 7.00pm Spotlight Concert by Local Talent, 7.30pm Intermission / Raffle for Local Charity / Art Exhibition, 8.00pm Main Concert.

#####  
17 June 2018

#### END OF A LONG AND FRUITFUL ERA

It has come to my attention that the best local photographer of the last thirty plus years has finally hung up his camera and decided to retire from the Sandbach Chronicle / Congleton Chronicle series. Glyn Boon has taken his last picture for the paper and handed in his last SD card to be printed in what has been a wonderful documentation of the history of the area. I for one will miss his quality pictures in the paper and his great friendship not only towards me but the whole community of Sandbach who looked forward to his arrival and his unique way of taking local paper pictures by organizing the people, standing on a chair or platform to get that different angle and the professionalism he brought to the occasion when he blended into the background for those unplanned shots he took at concerts and special occasions.

I first remember him at my first play with the Sandbach Players "Basinful of the Briny", when he unexpectedly for me stood on a chair to take the group picture something I had never seen a photographer do and still today is the only one that regularly does that unexpected shot to give the Chronicle a great picture for the paper, one that captures the occasion perfectly. He probably turned up at my school in the early days to take the picture of a play they were doing or the opening of a new part of the building while I was there but I don't remember. It was only when I was sent out into the community in the 1980's that he seemed to be everywhere from the village fate to the Elizabethan Market. Events, plays, concerts, openings, celebrity appearances, transport festivals, shop openings, Mayor's events, British Legion Ball, Remembrance Day Marches, Armed Forces Day, Charity fund-raises, murders and fires. He even appearing in the background in the BBC's coverage of the Bosley Mill Fire of the 17 July 2015.

In 2009, Glyn Boon was given the title 'Citizen of the Year' by the Rotary Club of Sandbach for his work in the community, an accolade he richly deserves as he has been a big part of that community for many years.

For me he has taught me how to take pictures, not just how a camera works but how to make that picture special by the odd little tip he has given me while on assignment or by watching what he does. He has also taught me never to be afraid of asking someone to do something out of the ordinary like holding a prop or turning in a certain way to make the picture better.

In those early days when Glyn started it was all on film so you were never sure what a photograph would turn out like or if it would turn out at all with faulty film or a light leaking camera, but as Glyn took the picture you could be pretty sure that it would appear in that week's paper and so would rush out to buy it for your archive. As digital cameras started to appear, Glyn was one of the first professionals I saw with one of the new SLR camera kits and he grasped the technology with both hands and was soon confident in this new medium that he was able to show the public what he had taken that day to make sure that they were happy with the results and of course to make sure that he was also happy he had the picture he wanted for the cover or an inside feature. With Digital cameras it is now easy to take hundreds of photographs without worrying about the cost and on many occasions, Glyn has said to me he had better stop taking pictures of an event as he had only one page to fill.

As a Hospital Radio presenter our paths crossed at many events over my 35 years of broadcasting and while taking pictures of events and he has always been courteous in letting myself and others take their picture of a setup before moving on to his next shot or assignment.

A few years ago, Glyn thought about retiring but had second thoughts and has continued into his 70's, Chronicling events in the area. The public face of the Sandbach / Congleton Chronicle etc. Glyn's private life has been just that, private but his public life has been welcomed by all as he went about his job of taking pictures.

He will be missed in Sandbach and I am sure the rest of the Chronicle area, so I end with one word for this great photographer on his retirement from all those he has taken pictures of over the years, THANKS.



Fringe Benefits



Edwin Firth Memorial 2018



Citizens of the Years



Remembrance Day

#####

30 June 2018

**ARMED FORCES DAY AND FAMILY FUN DAY IN THE PARK**

A sunny day could not prise the Motor Racing and Football fans off the sofa to go to Sandbach Park for a wonderful "Family Fun Day" on Saturday the 30 June 2018, but many who ventured into the town enjoyed the sunshine and entertainment provided for them by Sandbach Town Council.

It was also Armed Forces Day in the town and so the Royal British Legion in Sandbach conducted a service at the start of the day near the tennis courts with the 'Sandbach and District U3A Brass Band', playing the accompaniment to the hymns while The Rev. Jeff Cuttell of Astbury led the prayers and service to those serving in the armed forces.

At St Mary's Church the Sandbach School CCF (Combined Cadet Force / Army, Navy and RAF) celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by abseiling down the clocktower of the Church to raise money for SSAFA (Soldiers and Sailors Families Association / The Armed Forces Charity). Organised by the previous Contingent Commander at the school, Richard Ayres who is now ACF Cheshire Commandant the 25 or more pupils from both Sandbach School and Sandbach High School climbed the thin, steep, steps inside the tower to the roof where they were greeted with a wonderful view of Sandbach against a deep blue sky before being attached to a rope and lowered over the top for the trip down the outside of the building, only pausing to stretch out their arms to show how safe the ascent was. Sarah Burns the Headteacher of Sandbach School also made the ascent at 11am, having abseiled before many years ago and like the members of the CCF she enjoyed the experience in perfect conditions.

The CCF also had a stall at the entrance of the Fire Station next to a display of police cars and a 60 second bike challenge organised by PCSO Spike Elliott and PC Steve Dutton, who gave members of the public the chance to cycle on a fixed bike for one minute to see how far they can go. Competitors from the age of 8 to 74 years old took part along with a friendly rivalry between the police, fire brigade and armed forces as well as brothers and

sisters trying to beat each other's times. Bob from the police vehicle management team cycled the furthest distance with 2.8km followed by Bob from Alsager (1.99km), with some doing the challenge in special uniforms. Craig Howell of the Fire Cadets cycled in Fire Brigade kit for 1.39km and in ordinary clothes for a distance of 1.73km while J B went for a distance of 1.98km in police armour. I only managed a distance of 1.31km followed soon after by last year's Mayor of Sandbach, Martin Forster at 1.21km a distance that was a great achievement for all who took part in the challenge as many like myself hadn't ridden a bike for a number of years.

Walking past the Fire Station display of equipment and their new fire engine into the park for more fun and entertainment. The sound of the U3A band drifted through the park till 1pm as they played popular brass band tunes like the 'Lincolnshire Poacher', as well as paying their own tribute to Edwin Firth the Foden Band player who died on the 1 June 1918, by playing his composition "Kenilworth March".

The park also had displays from Girl Guiding in Sandbach who looked at 100 years of inspirational women from Princess Diana, Anne Frank, Emmeline Pankhurst, Marie Curie, Mother Teresa to Paralympic Swimmer Ellie Simmonds. Other groups features included The Royal British Legion, Aquarius, Friends of Sandbach Park, The Army Cadet Force as well as a chance at Zorbing and to play games of Quoits, Jenga, Boules and to walk on stilts, have your face painted, cake decorating and willow weaving.

The hundreds who turned up including local MP Fiona Bruce, thoroughly enjoyed the event, one of many planned for the park over the next 12 months.



#####  
6 July 2018

**FIRE AT ARCLID**

Crew's from Congleton and Crewe tackled a fire at a Farm on Arclid Traffic lights.



#####  
 7 July 2018

**PARTY IN THE PARK – FODEN’S BAND**

Foden’s Band failed to light up the sky but impressed the record breaking turn out for the “Party in the Park” on the Saturday the 7 July 2018. This eventful day when England made it through to the Semi-finals of the World Cup had all the makings of a small audience with supporters wishing to follow the football and celebrate the English 2-0 win against Sweden. However, Sandbach must have had a lot of supporters of Foden’s Band and the Sandbach School Big Band as by the time the big band had come off stage all the 750 tickets printed by Sandbach Town Council had been sold and the public were still coming into Sandbach Park to hear, “Musical Theatre Classics” followed by the “Last Night of the Proms” played by Foden’s Band. Unfortunately, after seven years of Party in the Park, the planned Firework ending was cancelled due to high winds, which were apparently in the wrong direction making it unsafe to launch the rockets.

The first part of the concert had John Barber introducing the Sandbach School Big Band with singers including Giorgio, Mark, Matthew, Tom, Alex and Gemma who performed a range of music from Jungle Books ‘The bear necessities’ via ‘Reach for the stars’, ‘Somebody told me’, ‘Are you going to be my girl’, to a five-singer version of the Take That song ‘Relight my Fire’.

After an interval of thirty minutes Foden’s Band was introduced by Cllr Mike Benson who gave a brief history of the band and its celebration this year of the life of Edwin Firth who died in 1918. This was then followed by an introduction to the bands guest conductor Richard Evans who has an association with certain members of Foden’s Band and has deputised for them before as a conductor since 1996. Richard has also been the conductor of the Leyland DAF Band / BNFL Band, YBS Band, Fairey Engineering and various other bands and brought his years of experience to the concert of popular music from the Musicals starting with ‘Strike up the band’, a selection of tunes from ‘South Pacific’ and the Bond theme ‘Live and Let Die’, from soloist Richard Poole. Highlights included ‘I dreamed a dream’ from solo cornet player Mark Wilkinson and ‘Hushabye Mountain’ played on the flugel horn by Melanie Whyle with other solos by John Barber and Gary Curtin in the second half of their concert performance which lead to the usual ‘Last Night of the Proms’ finale which has the traditional patriotic flag waving that the audience had done throughout the show and now hit its climax before they headed off home to chants from the local public houses of “It’s Coming Home”. This beautiful evening and large crowd certainly showed that good music is coming home to Sandbach in a big way, which will see its return to the town next June for another “Party in the Park”.



#####  
 7 July 2018

**PARTY IN THE PARK (Saxon Version)**

On Saturday the 7 July 2018, Sandbach enjoyed a beautifully sunny evening in the Park with music provided by Sandbach School's Big Band and Foden's Band. The seventh "Party in the Park" for Foden's Band was dedicated to tunes from the "Musical Theatre", with favourites from South Pacific, Les Misérables, and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang along with the traditional "Last Night of the Proms" ending, which unfortunately this year didn't include a firework display. Organisers said the cancellation of the fireworks was due to high winds making it dangerous to propel the rockets above the trees in the park.

Record numbers of listeners turned up to see the concert with the allocated 750 tickets quickly running out before the end of the big band's performance, but as there is always a lot of space in the park hundreds more were able to enjoy the music which as usual was played to the highest standard not only by Foden's Band under guest conductor Richard Evans but also the Big Band from Sandbach School conducted by John Barber (Love Music Trust). The Big Band also included singers from the school who sang various pieces including the song from Disney's Jungle Book, 'The bear necessities' and pop songs, 'Reach for the stars', 'Somebody told me', 'Are you going to be my girl' plus a five-singer version of the Take That song 'Relight my Fire'.

The ever-growing success of the July concert staged by Sandbach Town Council means it will be back next year at about the same time.

#####

14 July 2018

### ROBBIE WILLIAMS AND THE ROLLING STONES PLAY SANDBACH

Sandbach saw the greatest line up of musical talent since "Live Aid" with the Rolling Stones and the Beatles from the 1960's playing alongside Robbie Williams and Taylor Swift with Ariana Grande and Coldplay thrown in for good measure with all the profits from the concerts going to local charities. Simon Gregson and Andy Miller (The Chef at the Rugby Club) have put together this event for the second year running to give the people of Sandbach "something for the community" and a great day's entertainment.

The event was also a great opportunity for the AMMF Charity to raise funds for its Cancer appeal. The AMMF is the only charity in the UK to raise money to fund research into Cholangiocarcinoma (Liver Cancer) for which only surgery is a cure that is if it is found in time. As it is hard to diagnose many people are faced with a terminal diagnosis which for Andrea Sheardown of Sandbach was fortunately found early and she has survived the procedure after being found to have the cancer in October 2015. Andrea now along with her family including her three children raise funds for this worthy cause at events like the Rock and Pop Festival where they had a stall and held a raffle, as well as holding their own events like the forthcoming Mad Hatters Cycle Tea Party on the 27 August.

Copy groups or Tribute acts were joined at the Rugby Club on Bradwall Road, by five local performers who not only gave their versions of popular songs but also some of their own compositions. Samantha Lloyd, Harry Holmes and Typical Tricks opened the afternoon performances with Totally Taylor (Melissa Tomlin from Manchester) a Taylor Swift tribute returned from last year's line-up and this time the performer also brought her persona of Ariana Grande to the show.

Desert Rain and Acoustics filled the final two slots of local performers proceeding tributes to Coldplay (The Coldplayer), Rolling Stones (Tumbling Dice) with Dan Budd as Robbie Williams who had the best reception of the evening. The crowds then dissipated from the tent leaving only the 1960's fans who waited patiently for the Beatles Tribute act 'The Cheatles' to take to the stage for the finale of the evening.

Local performer Samantha Lloyd is from Stoke on Trent and composes her own music as well as performing cover songs. She has made an EP called "Now That You're Gone" which reached number 12 on the I Tunes Country Album Chart in 2016 and a follow up single called "So Don't Try" in 2017.

Guitarist Harry Holmes is also from Stoke on Trent and unlike Samantha who plays the Midlands, Harry has been booked to play in Manchester and Birmingham and now lives in Liverpool where he also writes songs like "Dance at the Party".

The group 'Typical Tricks', also played a mixture of their own songs including 'Crying Blue' and cover versions like 'Foxy Lady' the Jimmy Hendrix Song also recorded by Alice Cooper and ZZ Top.

'Acoustic' with drummer (Cajon) Dan Coppock, Guitarist Matt Long, Guitarist Danny Wilde, Bass player Josh Brough and Singer Lauren Hall come from Congleton and have played the Fake Festival as well as local venues including the 'Ye Olde White Lion' and 'Stock at the Pavilion', both in Congleton.

'Desert Rain' is the only true Sandbach band as they rehearse in a small studio in the town and cover songs by Noel Gallagher, Stereophonics, Foo Fighters and the band copied later, The Rolling Stones. The band consists of lead singer Scott Edwards, Nathan (Guitarist), Rob (Bass) and drummer Alex (New to the band). Desert Rain have been seen before in the town at the recent Sandbach Transport Festival in 2018.

Professional performers at the Rock and Pop Festival started with Melissa Tomlin who goes under the stage name of Melissa Tributes and has a number of artists that she performs as from Megan Trainor, Jess Glynne (At Sandbach last year), Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Cheryl Cole and an Abba (Solo) tribute. This year Melissa came back to Sandbach with the popular Taylor Swift impersonation and new to the area Ariana Grande.

Surprise of the day was the Coldplay tribute which turned out to be one-person Seth, who performed as Chris Martin with various songs by him including 'Fix You' which seemed to be the popular song to perform as at least two groups performed the song during the day.

'Tumbling Dice' the Rolling Stones tribute band is one of many bands with the same-ish name. There is the Manchester Band, 'Tumbling Dice' do a number of tributes while a similar named band in the USA do a Rolling Stones set and "The" Tumbling Dice from Aberdeenshire and one from Peterborough also join the list of tributes to the Rolling Stones, but the group that appeared in Sandbach was possibly the best as they had impersonations of Mick Jagger and others in the band that were impeccable.

Dan Budd as Robbie Williams was for the audience the highlight of the event, with looks that were very close to the original and the performance that was a typical Robbie show with all the popular songs and banter even when presenting the raffle ticket numbers for the AMMF (Cancer Charity) he kept up the style. Coming from Stoke on Trent like Robbie Williams, Dan Budd has become one of the best impersonators and was one of the artists on the "Let it Shine" show on the BBC and was at the time described by Gary Barlow, "It's unbelievable how much you sound and look like Rob". Having been in a number of cover bands, Graham Wilkes told Dan that he sounded like Robbie and he should concentrate on the one performer which he did to the delight of the Robbie Williams fans in the audience. Later in the year Dan Budd will be joining a Gary Barlow tribute (Jon Fisher) at the new 'Jollies Cabaret Venue' for a special tribute night.

As soon as Dan left the stage the audience started to disappear and those young ladies who had come dressed in 1960's gear with headbands and mini skirts came into their elements as the Beatles tribute, "The Cheatles" performed songs from the Beatles back catalogue, even letting their Ringo Starr drummer sing one of his songs. The band have performed all over the country including Liverpool's Albert Dock, Cruise Ships and the Natural History Museum so as darkness fell over the Rugby Club the band brought the music of the Beatles back to life (With a few minor technical issues) for a fitting end to the days events.



#####

14 July 2018

### ROBBIE WILLIAMS THE BEATLES AND THE ROLLING STONES PLAY SANDBACH (Saxon Magazine Version)

For the second year running Simon Gregson and Andy Miller have put together an event at Sandbach Rugby Club to bring the best in tribute bands and singers to the town for the benefit of the local community. The Sandbach Rock and Pop Festival was held on the 14 July 2018 with Totally Taylor (Taylor Swift) and Almost Ariana (Ariana Grande) performed by Melissa Tributes, The Coldplayer (Coldplay), Tumbling Dice (Rolling Stones), The Cheatles (Beatles) and Dan Budd as Robbie Williams who was for the audience the highlight of the evening. The tribute acts were joined by five performers from Staffordshire and Cheshire from solo artists Samantha Lloyd and Harry Holmes and groups Typical Tricks, Desert Rain from Sandbach and Acoustics from Congleton who all played their own songs plus versions of popular songs.

Fundraising during the evening took place for the AMMF which, is the only charity in the UK to raise money to fund research into Cholangiocarcinoma (Liver Cancer) which Sandbach resident Andrea Sheardown survived and now raises money for the charity at various events including a number at the Rugby Club.

#####

26 July 2018

### SANDBACH MARKET HALL OFFICIALLY OPENED

Improvements to the Sandbach Market Hall have finished after work started at the end of May to make the building into something that the people of Sandbach could be proud of and hopefully improve the footfall of the market to bring back the numbers of visitors it used to enjoy. The added publicity surrounding the renovations have certainly helped with the shoppers visiting the market and with a plan that includes special events it looks as though the market is starting to get back on its feet.

Culminating in an opening ceremony on the 26 July 2018, when Sandbach Mayor Richard Hovey cut the green ribbon, a colour that matches the paintwork of the new look stalls around the sides of the hall, the event attracted a large crowd of people connected to and interested in the final results.

The day also included a visit from “Punch and Judy” (Ian Davis from Staffordshire), Elsa (Frozen Character) and Spiderman (Crime Fighter) along with street magician Ian, who all entertained the children who were off from school and the adults coming to the market.

Architects David Trowler Associates oversaw the painting of the ceiling, new electrics, lighting above each stall new facades for the stalls, signage and new sliding doors which in winter will keep the building a lot warmer than it has been in the past. Councillors and Staff at Sandbach Town Council have also kept a close eye on the project which has been a collaboration between them and the Market traders who wanted the improvements to the Market to help restore it back to the vibrant facility it once was for the town.

Each of the shutters on the stalls has a picture from Sandbach’s Past supplied by the Minshull Archive. Managed by Stephen Minshull who has taken over his father’s archive of pictures of the town the archive consists of images taken from old postcards and photographs (On Slides) that his father John Minshull captured of the streets and shops of the town from the 1960’s until his death 20 years ago in 1998. Stephen has digitised the archive of about 6,000 images and picked the best ones that reflected the town’s history along with a journey from the Wheat Sheaf down Hightown and around the town via its historic buildings, with the foyer shops decorated with images from the town’s former industries of Fodens, ERF and the Silk Mills. Stephen then had to upgrade the images from 35mm film to a very high quality digital image that could be enlarged to fill the shutters. These were then made into plastic transfers which were added to the shutters and can now be seen when the market closes or on dates when the hall is open for other events like the record and craft fairs.

A few minor alterations will finish off the project, which most people who saw it on the opening day and surrounding market days says is a great improvement and will be an asset to the town.



#####

1 August 2018

#### ALL INCLUSIVE PLAY DAY IN SANDBACH PARK

The first Wednesday in August each year since 1991 has been a National Play Day in Great Britain with the Sandbach Partnership organising the event in Sandbach Park each year since the 4 August 2014.

The event in Sandbach Park on the 1 August 2018 enjoyed the sunshine with children of all ages taking part in various events and attractions including an Egg Race, Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Community Scrap Shack (Making things from old items), Cheshire Arts for Health, Sandbach Arts Room, Demolition Zone, Everybody – Leisure for Life (Wellie Throwing and Football Game) with the Friends of Sandbach Park holding a friendly competition to identify trees in the park which Sandbach Mayor Richard Hovey decided to take part in and wondered round the wooded area to see what he could name. The other two attractions included animals which were provided by Nessa’s Ark a collection of interesting animals which the public could touch and get to know their origins. The group has just won the “Best Educational Care Home Entertainment” award in the GHP Social Care Awards for 2017-18 and brings animals to schools and events of which the Play in the Park in Sandbach has been a regular booking. Animal brought to Sandbach included snakes, dogs, frogs, Iguana, Chameleon and a weird looking creature with a runny nose called a Tenrec from Madagascar which was both cute and also intriguing. The other highlight was Frank the wandering giant tortoise who wandered round the park, much to the delight of the children who could pat it and have their photograph taken with it.

The National Play Day started in 1986 by Mick Conway, Paul Bonel and Kim Holdaway after threatened cuts to School based play centres they held a meeting of playworkers which was not well attended. However, they were determined to start a day of play in the UK and held the first events in 1987 which like the meeting was not well organised with only a few venues taking part. The following year’s the event grew to take in about twelve events in London in 1989, with a National Event taking place across the country in 1991. In 2017 there were more than 850 events nationally including Sandbach.



#####  
 18 August 2018

**STORMTROOPERS INVADE SANDBACH MUCH TO THE DELIGHT OF THE INHABITANTS**

The latest event to draw the public to see the new look Market Hall in Sandbach on Saturday the 18 August 2018, included an invasion of the town by Imperial Stormtroopers from the Star Wars film series, much to the delight of the inhabitants. I'm not sure who was more excited the young children or the older adults who all wanted to have their pictures taken with the armoured men and other characters from the films.

Members of the 'Staffs Imperial Stormtroopers', are a non-profit-making group who dress up in characters from the film to take part in various events including this weekend when they were raising funds for the Donna Louise Trust (Children's Hospice in Stoke on Trent), a charity close to their hearts and for whom they recently attended a 'Superheroes Picnic', at Dorfold Park near Nantwich. Mainly publicising the film series, they have been in great demand at Comic Conventions like the Nantwich Comic Con on the 9 June 2018 and at the opening screening of the new films including "Solo: A Star Wars Story" at Cineworld in Stoke on Trent. On a sunny day in Sandbach their planned 60 minutes soon turned into a three hour walk around the town posing for pictures at every opportunity allowing children and adults to play with their blasters and pose in true Star Wars style with everyone knowing exactly what to do.

John Beddows of Sandbach Market said that "It was a fab day in Sandbach, the team were brilliant and made it a really great day. You can tell they love what they do especially with the children. There will be another invite to Sandbach very soon".

The next events at Sandbach Market will be a 'Face Painting Event' on Thursday the 23 August and a 'Cheshire Police and Sandbach Air Cadets' event plus extras on the 30 August.



18 August 2018

#### AUTHORS SIGNING EVENT AT TOWN HALL

Eleven writers attended an author signing event in Sandbach on Saturday the 18 August 2018.

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> event held at Sandbach Town Hall and organised by Sandbach Town Hall's Conference and events officer, Laura Surgenor (Writer Elizabeth Morgan) who was the only face from the previous events to appear this year.

Like the previous occasions it was a great opportunity to talk to local writers and to find out about the wide variety of subjects covered in the new self-publishing world.

Writers came from all over the North West including our own home town.

Sarah Lysaght who has lived in Sandbach for over 20 years is the writer of three books, "37 Downing Street" which is based on her own family tree and was published in 2012 is about a bricklayer turned fishmonger in Farnham and chronicles the family from the time of Queen Victoria to the 1930's through tragedy and pain with an unexpected ending. Based on her own family history, which Sarah has been researching for the last 20 years the saga continues into her second book "Loyalty on the Home Sweet Home Front" which looks at the life of George who in 1944 is suddenly taken ill and starts to reminisce about his life including his time in the Boar War and the Army Canteen as a NAFFI inspector.

Sarah's third book "The Manchester Bradshaw's" is another book based on family history but this time it is her husband's family connection that is featured with over five generations of exceptional men she explores their lives mixed with a hint of fiction that is seen in all her novels.

Published and available on Amazon this was the first time Sarah had been involved with a publicity event for her books which she wrote as a hobby rather than as a commercial undertaking and through word of mouth has managed to gain a good recommendation with between 4 and 5 stars on Amazon.

Susi Osborne lives in Cheshire with her Scottish husband and actress daughter. This former library assistant has been writing for about 12 years and writes contemporary fiction starting with "The Ripples of Life" (2008), "Grace and Disgrace" and "Secrets, Lies and Butterflies" (2013) which are all linked together and are about family dramas with plenty of humour. Her fourth book "Angelica Stone" (2017) is very much a book about the lives of the homeless and mental illness and was researched by Susi meeting those without a home on the streets as well as her experience with her own mother's Alzheimer's and the incidents she had looking after her. Looking after her mother also gave Susi the opportunity to start writing as she had time to sit down and think as well as it being a time when her children had left home so she could spend a couple of hours a day writing her novels without being disturbed.

(Nigel) N J Cartner, writes about a trip to Las Vegas, when the main character Ricky Lever comes to a crossroads in his life. "Lost in Manchester found in Vegas" shows how sin city can influence a man in life after he has split from his girlfriend and lost his job at the same time with this theme planned to continue in N J Cartner's next instalment which he is writing at the moment. Having written reviews for fanzines and some community radio experience, Nigel decided it was time for his first novel and sat down to write about his experience in the USA with added musical references including songs that have played a big part in his life and the back of the book he has compiled a discography of the music featured in the book itself so you can play the tunes as you read the book to give it a film like quality which has influenced his writing.

K Spencer has three books out with the central character of Canyon Devils MC and who appears in "Angel" (2016), "Princess" (2017) and the latest instalment "Sparky's Treasure" which was published on the 8 August 2018.

Other authors at the event were Lucy Felthouse (Erotic Romantic novels), Scribbelious (various books), Paul Bernardi (Historic Suspense Novels, “To the Devil his Due” and “Thurkill’s Revenge”), (Tracy) T N Traynor (Mystical Quest Novel Series, “Oracle’s Quest”, (Charlotte) C A Keith (Ghostly Writes Anthology), Claire Plaisted (Female secret investigator and also featured in the Ghostly Writes Anthology of short stories), and Elizabeth Morgan (Urban Fantasy and Erotic Horror).

Elizabeth / Laura hopes to stage another event next year with more writers hoping to promote their books.



#####  
20 August 2018

#### END OF AN ERA – THE SAXON MAGAZINE CLOSES

Started in February 2013, although the date read 2012, the Saxon Magazine was started by Mark Hilditch and was designed to inform the people of Sandbach what was going on in a small news format. At the time I was doing a programme on Congleton based “Beartown Radio” called “Sandbach Soundbites” which as my Soundcloud page continues to do, reports on events and people in Sandbach, so I arranged a meeting with Mark to discuss the newspaper and ended up supplying the magazine with a What’s On Page from information gathered for my programme which to give us some publicity and in a way payment was originally in association with Beartown Radio and then in September 2013 after Beartown Radio cut the programme on Sandbach I decided to change the sponsorship of the What’s On Diary to Hospital Radio Leighton who I have been broadcasting for over the last 35 years (Started in 1983) and now through myself have provided the events list for the magazine ever since.

Published by Volume PR (Founded 2008) at Frederick House, Princess Court, Beam Heath Way, Nantwich the magazine was delivered free to 14,000 readers with advertising making up the cost of publication and was part of a number of similar magazines including “The Dabber” (Nantwich). The Saxon Magazine set up a twitter account in October 2012, Facebook a little later and also a website to show the latest news before the paper version could be published.

Some of the early photographs were supplied by Simon J Newbury (Professional Photographer) with regular back page rugby features from Sandbach Rugby Club and stories from the public with Stewart Green (me) being the only featured writer for the magazine and who over the years has attended a large number of events in the town covering them for both the Saxon and also Hospital Radio Leighton. Stewart’s first item was a letter reply to the question what was available in Sandbach shops to which the reply was there are 276 shops in the town with a variety of different things to sell. The first feature by me was in the April 2013 edition and was an update on the proposed plans to improve the information boards around the Saxon Crosses.

Coverage of the planning proposals seemed to dominate the front pages of the first few editions with sad news of locals who have died in tragic circumstances scattered among the monthly covers including the tragic death of a young boy in Platt Avenue a story that continued to appear up until the penultimate edition. Another regular feature was the Sandbach Transport Festival with headlines as to what was coming and features about what had been with the added advantage in the early days of more pictures from the event being published on the website with the single photograph only available in the magazine itself due to a lack of editorial space.

The April 2014 edition was the last to have the year clearly stamped on the cover as the June edition became the June / July edition and subsequent magazines straddled two months with the next edition being July / August. Having supplied pictures for the front-page coverage of the referendum of the Sandbach Town Neighbourhood Development Plan in the January / February 2015 edition and the following month's Transport Festival funding feature it was not until the August / September issue of 2015 that I finally got a feature on the Front Cover with an article about the demolishing of the old Magistrates Court in Middlewich Road and other developments in the town.

The political rows over who did what in Cheshire East and the demise of Michael Jones also caught the headline along with planning permission rows both knocking down, Heritage sites to be saved and of course the planned suspended ceiling to the Town Hall Market which was eventually abandoned in favour of a renovation of the market hall area to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century all dominating the covers in the 63 editions of The Saxon. With the closure of the magazine, the hope is to continue to cover events in Sandbach for social media and also as a filler for the Sandbach Chronicle as well as continued coverage on Hospital Radio and Soundcloud. It's been a wonderful time in my life even if it has meant late nights up until 2am getting articles ready for publication.

Many thanks Mark Hilditch and all involved.



1<sup>st</sup> Edition

My First Article

Last Edition

My Last Article

#####  
27 August 2018

**MAD HATTERS BIKE RIDE FOR CHARITY**

August Bank Holiday Monday the 27 August 2018 was a fundraising day for the AMMF Charity to raise funds for its Cancer appeal. The theme of the event was the Alice in Wonderland characters “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” which involved three bike rides round the county with each branch of the ride ending back at the Sandbach Rugby Club in Bradwall Road for part of the overall tea party.

There were about 70 riders booked to do the three-loop challenge with some only managing to do part of the routes, including a lady called Emma who took her dog Treacle in a basket attached to the front of her bike along the trail.

Loop one was named the “White Rabbit” and took in 34 Kilometres starting at the S.R.U.F.C. turning right out of the car park and heading towards Middlewich, past Kinderton Park and then back via Warmingham Lane, Clay Lane, over the M6 towards Malkins Bank and then back via Newcastle Road to end at the Rugby Club for the first course of Sandwiches.

Loop two, “The Cheshire Cat” route was another 34 Kilometres heading towards Brereton Pool and the Swettenham Arms coming back via Sandy Lane, Congleton Road, New Inn Lane and again via Malkins Bank to the Rugby Club and the second part of the meal, Cake.

The “Mad Hatter” Loop, three was a 31 Kilometre (19 Miles) ride via Back Lane, the Bears Head, School Lane, Blue Bell Pub, Brownlow Pub, down the A34, Betchton and again via Malkins Bank and back to the Rugby Club for a final drink and a rest.

Each “Loop” took in some stunning Cheshire scenery with the added bonus of a spot prize as one of the characters from Alice in Wonderland was positioned somewhere along the route and cyclists were asked to take their picture with the character with the best framed image winning a prize.

Andrea Sheardown, the organiser of the event was also running a raffle with many prizes donated by Halfords (Crewe and Congleton), Bicycle Remedies (Wheelock), The Cycle Store (Congleton) who also donated water

bottles for each participant with the main attraction being a cycle jersey supplied by “Team GB” with signatures from medal winners Cullum Skinner, Katy Merchant and Ryan Owen. Andrea tells us that Team GB have also supplied two other signed jerseys by other team members, which will be raffled off as part of other events later in the year and next year to raise more money for the AMMF Charity.

The AMMF is the only charity in the UK that raises money for research into Cholangiocarcinoma (Liver Cancer) for which there is at the moment only surgery available as a cure if it is found in time. As it is hard to diagnose many people are faced with a terminal diagnosis which thankfully for Andrea Sheardown of Sandbach who in October 2015 was found to have the cancer was able to have the surviving surgery.



#####

30 August 2018

LAST DAY OF PROMOTIONAL EVENTS FOR MARKET HALL

Thursday the 30 August 2018 was the last day for events to publicise the reopening the Market Hall after its refurbishment and improvements.

Starting with the official opening on the 26 July with Punch and Judy, A Magician along and appearances by Elsa and Spiderman the event drew a large crowd to see the new building with the proposal by the Council to stage events to keep the interest going in the indoor market over the next few weeks. The Council pulled out the publicity machine and with local involvement from groups and traders they have had a six-week events list to attract shoppers to the town over the School Summer Holidays.

The 2 August had an arts event outside the town hall with a chance to paint tiles with pictures connected to the market with illustrations of products to stall holders adorning the tiles with this event being staged by the Sandbach Arts-room based over the road in the high street. The following week, the 9 August was designed to bring back the stall holder’s participation in promoting the market as shown in the Elizabethan Markets of the 1970’s as traders dressed up in fancy dress including, Jayne Sanderson of Sugar Fairies who dressed as Little Bo Peep, the Penkridge Bedding stall holder dressed as a member of ABBA and Stephen Kidwell of Kitchen Corner dressed as a Nurse.

Week four of the events on the 16 August was moved to outside the Black Bear with a Petting Zoo of various animals with the chance to find out about the creatures and of course handle them in a safe environment.

Week four also included an event on the Saturday with the visit to the town of Star Wars, Stormtroopers who raised money for the Donna Louise Trust with week five bringing face painting to the town and in week six there was a chance to have glitter tattoos along with the appearance of Cheshire Police and Sandbach ATC who were available to chat to those in the town on the 30 August 2018.

Cheshire Police in the form of PCSO "Spike" Elliott and PC Steve Dutton parked a couple of police vehicles on the Market Square and gave the public a chance to sit inside their Land Rover Defender (25 Years Old) which had been used in the Macclesfield area as a four wheel drive vehicle and is now a training vehicle for new drivers as well as a transporter for pulling a trailer and a display model to take to events as one of the older vehicles in the car pool. Joining the Land Rover was a new Peugeot used by PC Dutton in the execution of his duty. Surprisingly, the older model was the more popular vehicle with the youngsters on the Market Square. Spike and Steve were asked about a variety of issues including parking in the town, nuisance neighbours as well as promoting 'Cheshire Alert', a new internet facility which keeps Cheshire East residents informed about crime issues in the county as well as promoting events via an E Mail Alert as well as appeals from Cheshire Police for information relating to ongoing cases in your area. Spike, who has been a PCSO for about 10 years has seen a lot of changes in policing including the introduction of social media on the internet with Facebook and Twitter pages to pass on information not only for Cheshire Police but also town "beats" like Sandbach Police where the officers post items about events in their town and what they are doing in the area including the latest event on the Market Square which had a picture and small write up on Sandbach Town Police's Twitter and Facebook pages soon after they had set up their stand.

The other promotion stand on the 30 August was for the ATC 1873 (Sandbach) Squadron which has been going since 1941 and hold meetings twice a week on a Wednesday and Friday between 7pm and 9pm in Flat Lane off Union Street. Their meetings include a parade designed to build up individuals into a team and developing each member's characteristics. The group also has various members of the RAF coming to talk to the ATC about life in the Forces. During the Summer and Easter breaks there are opportunities to go on trips to various MOD and RAF Stations to gain an insight into what life would be like in the forces.

Corporal Wilkinson who spoke to me at the event said that his experience with the ATC had made him want to join the RAF Regiment, a military arm of the RAF and having spoken to personnel at the RAF Stations they had shown him how to apply and what was involved in his choice of career.

The Market Hall promotion has certainly been a success with the public taking part in the events and stall holders have seen an increase in trade over the last few weeks, either due to the sunny weather, School Holidays spent at home or the promotions so it has certainly been worth while doing to boost the market in Sandbach.



#####  
 9 September 2018

**LLOYDS CLOSE COUNTERS IN BANK RUNDOWN**

With the unexpected closure of Congleton Post Office on the 7 September 2018 it shows that nothing is secure in the world of personal banking and this applies to the banks in Sandbach as this year both Barclays Bank (Closed 20 July 2018) and the Royal Bank of Scotland (Closed on the 9 August 2018) have closed their doors in Sandbach and now Lloyds Bank are closing their counter facilities in the town which will then mean the end of the personal service we have come to expect when we visit our own banks.

Due to close on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November for a refit to remove the "over the counter" smiles and good service the branch will reopen on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> November when new changes coming into operation.

Lloyds are hoping that many of the facilities currently made over the counter will be taken up by the Post Office in Sandbach. Facilities like paying in coinage and change giving will be taken over by the Post Office or the branch in Crewe according to letters sent out to customers which have outlined the proposed schedule of the branch closure for the refitting to install new self-service points and easy to use tablets that will give customers access to common banking services. According to the letter once the bank reopens one member of the bank will be on hand to help customers with the new technology however, paying in or withdrawing coins and making bill

payments using Bank Giro Credit will no longer be available. Customers with Passbook accounts will also not be able to have access to their accounts as they cannot be dealt with by machines with the nearest branches available for these services at Crewe and Tunstall. Talking to staff at the branch they tell us that no one will be made redundant with all three counter staff available to show customers what to do and re-educate them in what is essentially internet banking in branch.

Lloyds Bank in Sandbach will not allow coins to be paid in, more than 5 cheques in one transaction will need to take up more transactions via their computers, Cheques of more than £100,00 will not be supported and anyone with more than 50 notes will be asked to do more than one transaction forcing them to bank at the Post Office if they want to save time. Other facilities being dropped are Bill Payments, ISA Payments other than a transfer from a Lloyds Account, Deposit Point and the Travel money facility for changing UK money into Euros or Dollars etc. will all be dropped by the bank.

This is another blow to the high street shops as change giving will be unavailable at Lloyds as well as depositing the days banking which will have to be done via the Post Office at their busiest time of day when they have their last collection of post. Lloyds seem to have made the decision to downgrade the Sandbach branch without consideration for the size of the Post Office in the town and its ability to hold large amounts of money as well as the long queues during the day which will delay shops getting their services. Local Charities will also be affected as takings from a days fundraising will be unavailable to be banked straight into their account as they will have to deposit them into the Post Office. Some charities will also find it difficult to get a float for events as the post office do not have an agreement with Lloyds for change giving as the Post Office needs a Santander based change giving account to access this facility.

Is this a sign of things to come as account holders will be forced to use hole in the wall machines, which many of the older generation have tried to avoid over the years feeling that the mechanical transaction is not as reliable as the over the counter experience and is open to computer hackers, scammers and in some cases thieves who hang around these un attended machines ready to snatch pensioners withdrawals, as have been reported on a regular basis in nearby Congleton. Two people in Congleton this year have been assaulted by bag snatchers in the town, one in a shop after withdrawing £600 from their Post Office account via a machine and one outside a cash dispenser who ended up in hospital with broken bones.

It seems banks are working towards a cashless society with them becoming a place to store money rather than give investment advice or that personnel service we have enjoyed for the 164 years there has been a bank on that site. A 'Sandbach Savings Bank' was opened on the site of Lloyds in 1854 becoming the Sandbach Trustee Savings Bank in May 1966. By the 1990's the TSB had extended the building into what was Pimlott's Fashion and between 1999 and 2013 traded as Lloyd's TSB before the bank was forced to split again by the monopolies commission. We now wait to see what future developments happen to the banks in the run up to Christmas.

#####  
9 September 2018

#### LORRY BAN IN SANDBACH DUE TO FALSE READINGS FROM

Cheshire East Council are to discuss the banning of HGV Lorries from Sandbach, Crewe and other town centres in a move to cut pollution levels in the area.

Councillors are due to discuss a 'Local Air Quality Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan and Low Emissions Strategy', at a meeting of the Environment and Regeneration and Scrutiny Committee at Macclesfield Town Hall on the 17 September 2018.

Sean Hannaby the Cheshire East Director of Planning and Environment said "While Cheshire East generally has good air quality, we can always take action to improve it and these papers set out how we will do this over the next five years".

However, at a Cabinet Meeting of the Council on the 12 July 2017, 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 so to judge the air quality so soon after these unknown figures have been published would be unfair to the people of the town and a proposed ban on HGV and Diesel vans would be a blow to business who would then be unable to get deliveries. This would include the supermarkets, public houses and flower shops all of whom have long HGV's delivering their products during the daytime. Waitrose and Iceland have container like vehicles plus small transit vans for home deliveries which will be affected while the pubs have beer waggons delivering barrels during the daytime and Williams Delicatessen has cheese deliveries by Fridge containers which will also be kept out of the town centre according to the proposals by Cheshire East.

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. Last year 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 but recent statistics which put Sandbach towards the top of the list of polluted areas of Cheshire East were considered unfair to judge the town as two of the monitors are situated at both the M6 Junction and Middlewich Road near the Ashfields Surgery making them the most polluted area of the town as traffic lights next to the Middlewich Road monitor 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 to this the tailbacks of traffic caused by roadworks during the monitor period which dogged the Middlewich Road at the time and has added up to give a false impression of Sandbach as an over 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 from 2017 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). We wait for the results of the meeting on the 17 September to see how it will change Sandbach and the surrounding area.

**FIGURES FOR THE SANDBACH AREA 2017. (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>

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15 September 2018

**SANDBACH TODAY EVENT 20 YEARS AND STILL GOING**

It is twenty-one years since the first Sandbach Today Event in the town and there are still large numbers of people who volunteer and enjoy the various groups and clubs in the town and who were available to put on displays at St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday the 15 September 2018 to attract more people to their organisations and inform the people of Sandbach and the surrounding area that they exist. It was also a good opportunity to networks with other like-minded organisations or to see what other people are doing in the town. Twenty-six groups attended this year's event, which was organised by the Sandbach Partnership. Started in 1997 at Sandbach Town Hall by Congleton Borough's Arts officer Carol McGregor and Cllr Dorothy Flint the Sandbach Partnership took over when it was formed to look after community projects and funding for local organisations and events. The event moved to St Mary's Church Hall after the cost of the Town Hall became too expensive and has now become a fixture in the diaries of many local groups. Some of the organisations have attended all of the events including the History Society, the Rotary Club and the RNLI (Lifeboat) but most of the organisations attending this year have been formed since the event started with an increase of public involvement groups like the Woodland and Wildlife group and the Sandbach Footpaths. Other organisations have taken over some of the responsibilities of the County Council by improving the parks in the area and public spaces (Friends of .... and the Clean Team) with the usual health and wellbeing organisations for humans and animals attending the mornings events, including the Sandbach Animal Rescue which were joined at the event by the more human based groups dealing with Dementia, Disability and the new organisations of 'Migraine and Me' and the 'Smile' Group (Postnatal Depression). The core element of all the events over the 21 years have been a chance to enjoy life or retirement with the original line up of the Ladies Association, Scouts, Folk Club

and Transport Festival missing from this year a new set of organisations have appeared over the years including the U3A and the SADOS (Sandbach Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society) which is a reformation of the old Sandbach Players who attended the early events in the 1990's and who disbanded many years ago.

In 2007, Dot Flint one of the organisers of the event wrote "I had only intended to do this as a one off, but I am pleased to have been a part of it and seen how it has grown over the past 10 years". With 21 years under her belt the organisation of the Sandbach Today Event has changed very little but the number of organisations attending had gone down with many using social media to advertise their existence rather than attend events like this. The only other change was the talked about catering with the Sandbach Partnership taking over the catering duties this year with Dot Flint in charge of the vegetarian platters available with the exception of the famed Bacon Butties that have been a feature for a number of years at the hall, not even a vegetarian bacon butty was in sight. Sandbach Mayor Richard Hovey and Local MP Fiona Bruce attended the event and chatted to the organisations including the Brereton Bell Ringers who in 2007 met at the Bradwall Methodist Chapel, but due to its closure have found another home at Ettiley Heath and at the event gave Fiona Bruce a crash course in the art of hand bell ringing.

Groups attending the event were as follows - Sandbach Footpaths, Sandbach Animal Rescue (Cats Home), Sandbach Choral Society (were Sandbach Voices), Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Sandbach Photographic Society, Grass Roots Disability / Sandbach Connected (Disabled Group), Friends of Sandbach Park, Sandbach Concert Series, Brereton Bell Ringers, Sandbach Clean Team, Sandbach Police, Woodland and Wildlife Group, Care 4 CE, Dementia awareness, Sandbach History Society, The Lifeboat, Rotary Club of Sandbach, Sandbach Cancer Research UK, SADOS (Sandbach Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society, U3A, Sandbach Arts for Health, Probus, Sandbach Allotment Society, Sandbach Garden Trail, Migraine and Me and the Smile Group (Postnatal Depression).



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16 September 2018

#### SANDBACH STRIDERS RUN FOR 2K AND 10K

The Sandbach Striders are keeping the tradition of road racing alive with their 11<sup>th</sup> year of staging a race in Sandbach. Originally starting at Elworth Cricket Club the race was moved last year to Bradwall Village Hall and has produced one of the best 10k races in the country according to competitors.

A record 85 children took part in the 2k race at 10am on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018, which this year was won by a young lady called Ellie Hudson (Vale Royal) in a course record time of 7 minutes 29 seconds with Harry Parker McLean (Crewe and Nantwich) coming second for the second year running, with exactly the same time of 7 minutes 35 Seconds that he had last year. Thomas Stokes also of Crewe and Nantwich came third with a time of 7 minutes 52 Seconds.

After a bit of rain just before the children's race and a rather dull sky at the start of the run, conditions which were ideal for running, the sun came out for the senior 10K race at 11am which like last year started halfway down Pillar Box Lane just past Bradwall Manor. Sandbach Mayor Richard Hovey started both races and handed medals to the first three winners across the line. At a prize giving ceremony the Mayor, along with a representative of the events sponsors Butcher and Barlow (2K) and British Salt (10k) who gave prizes in various categories making it an equal opportunity for all age groups and abilities to win something.

The 10k race was won by Andrew Miles of Vale Royal in a time of 34 minutes 14 seconds followed by Matthew McCormack (Crewe and Nantwich – 35 minutes 01 seconds) in second place and Mark Ward (Unattached) in third place with a time of 35 minutes 03 Seconds. The women's race was won by Chloe Clarke (Wilmslow) with a time of 40 minutes and 28 Seconds just 18 seconds slower than last years winner, with Shelly Fairey (Matlock) second in a time of 42 Minutes 45 Seconds and Rebecca Loton (Sandbach Striders) in third with a time of 44 minutes 17 seconds. This year there were 364 competitors in the race with the last person under the finishing line in a time of 1 hour 26 seconds.

Various other Categories were then awarded by the organisers with the men's 40-plus award going to James Ainsworth (Vale Royal), 50-plus winner Neil Skellern (Unattached) and Paul Norris of Wilmslow won the 60-plus category. The women's awards were as follows, 40-plus Emma Jane Hough (Unattached), 50-plus Glennis Richardson (Hyde Village Striders) with Bev Holding winning the 60-plus category.

Another award handed out at Sandbach was for the best local runners which this year were won by Rory Barton (Men – Sandbach Striders) and best out of the top three women was Karen Dickson (Unattached).

With live music and various charity stalls on site the profits from the food and other fundraising activities like a collection in the car park went to the three charities supported by the Sandbach Striders, Aquarius (Disabled Swimming group), New Hope and Child of Mine.

Crowds of supporters lined the end of the route and cheered on all the athletes including those who came in last place with all of them deserving a medal and applause for their performances around South Cheshire.



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